

Spirit Talker Key Creative Bios

Shawn Leonard – Lead Character

Shawn Leonard - is a heart-centred Aboriginal/Indigenous (Mi'kmaq) Spirit Talker aka...Psychic Medium. Shawn presently lives in Millbrook First Nation, Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia, Canada and has been working as a professional in his field for over 20 years.

Shawn takes an authentic approach to the Spirit world in his personal readings, Live events, workshops and teaching Spirit Talker Tribe, Radio and TV Appearances.

At 16 years old, just one year after losing his father to a massive heart attack, Shawn received a visitation and a message from his father in Spirit, "We all have a purpose and one day you will help people understand their lives and bridge the gap between the physical world and the Spirit World", said the spirit of his father. In the three decades since that night, Shawn has finely honed his ability as a Spirit Talker/Medium and his connection to the Spirit World.

His gift has allowed him to help people all over the world as he communicates with departed loved ones, spirits and guides. The insights they share help us better understand our journey here on earth and provides healing for many people struggling with grief.

Shawn is a proud aboriginal Mi'kmaq person who works with spirit to heal hearts. Fittingly, a respected Mi'kmaq elder gifted him with the name "White Eagle Spirit Talker."

Producer and Writer (Eps. 12) – Gharrett Patrick Paon

Gharrett Patrick Paon is a producer based in Halifax. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Dalhousie University ('17), is an alumnus of the Canadian Film Centre's - Producer's Lab ('17), the National Screen Institute's Features First Program ('19).

Gharrett is the President of Rebel Road Films. In 2019 the company produced SPIRIT TALKER, a 13-episode doc series for APTN and I AM SYD STONE, a 7-episode LGBTQ+ web series by writer/director, Denis Theriault. Next year his company will produce WILDHOOD, a two-spirit road trip drama by writer director, Bretten Hannam.

WILDFIRE, a short film version of WILDHOOD is currently on the festival circuit and has screened at BFI-Flare, Frameline, Kashish, FIN: AIFF, VIFF, ImagineNative, among others.

In 2018, Gharrett won the TIFF Pitch This! competition with Bretten Hannam. In 2017 he also was awarded the prestigious Nova Scotia Talent Trust Young Artist of Excellence Award and the Shelagh Mackenzie Filmmaking Award.

Executive Producer – Edward Peill

Edward entered the film and TV production business in 1996 after a successful career in sales and marketing in a variety of industries. In addition to having earned a BA in Business & Economics, Edward also speaks French and German in addition to his native tongue English and has an international business perspective having spent six years working in France, Germany, Cyprus, and Vancouver.

Prior to establishing Tell Tale Productions in 2003, Edward was Director of Production for Topsail Entertainment and oversaw the development and production of more than 40 hours of drama, documentaries, lifestyle, and comedy series including the wildly successful Trailer Park Boys and the verité documentary series Tall Ship Chronicles.

Since starting Tell Tale Productions, Edward has produced more than 150 hours of factual series and one-off documentaries for Canadian, US, and International broadcasters. More recently Edward has expanded into video game development and service producing for U.S. broadcaster including History, Discovery, and National Geographic.

Director (Eps 1-4) – Stephanie Clattenburg

Stephanie Clattenburg is an Inuit writer-director with over 13 years experience in the film and television industry. Her first feature length film, a documentary about gender bias in the music industry titled PLAY YOUR GENDER had its world premier in Canberra, Australia in 2016. The film was awarded the 'Edith Lando Peace Prize, which goes to the film which best utilizes the power of cinema to further the goal of social justice and peace' from The Reel 2 Real Film Festival in Vancouver. Stephanie also works as a videographer and radio technician at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

In addition to her career in media production, Stephanie is a professional musician, having been a drummer in a variety of projects including The Superfantastics, Two Deaths and SheMachine.

Clattenburg has recently received the 'Emerging Artist Award' from Arts Nova Scotia for her film and television work. In 2018 'Women in View' partnered with 'Women in Film and Television Atlantic' and 'Telefilm Canada' to shine the spotlight on 5 women directors from the Atlantic region and Stephanie was chosen as one of those '5 in focus' directors. She is currently in post production for her latest film called NIGHT BLOOMS, a gritty coming of age story set in the 1990's.

Director (Eps 5-13) – Dugald McLaren

Dugald holds a First-Class Honours degree in Linguistics, Anthropology, and Film, and graduated with an award for Outstanding Achievement in Philosophy. He is a graduate of the Producer's program at the National Screen Institute in Winnipeg.

His professional career began at a young age on feature film sets and big television series where he worked in many departments including Locations, Art, and even stunts. After a few years he transitioned to primarily television and became a PM, then Producer, and eventually VP of Production at Ocean Entertainment where he worked for more than a decade. During that time Dugald was part of the development team, was a Series Director, and Produced almost 200 hours of quality television. Genres included food, ob-doc, reality, renovation, documentary, crime, travel/adventure, and recreation. He has travelled to over 50 countries and filmed in most of them.

Many of his projects have won and been nominated for awards, including a Gemini nom for Dugald himself on a Food Network special that he wrote, produced, and directed called A Chateau Dinner. It was also up for a prestigious James Beard Award in New York City.

In 2008 Dugald made a foray into the commercial world and enjoyed producing large and small commercials. He also directed pieces for Toyota, NSGEU, Sodexo, Craft Brewers of Ontario, political parties, and more.

In 2015 he moved to the mountains of British Columbia, where he continues to grow and work as a Producer on the acclaimed series Highway Thru Hell for Discovery Network.

Recently he directed Spirit Talker, for APTN, and is the Supervising Field Producer on Season 9 of Highway Thru Hell, and maintains his position as the owner and CEO of Neo-Pioneer Entertainment.

Writer – Donna Gabriel (Eps 1,3,6,7,9,13)

If there's a story there, Donna Gabriel will sniff it out and find the best way to tell it for a TV audience. A journalist by trade, for the past 25 years Donna has specialized in documentary series production with writing credits on dozens of shows for such broadcasters as APTN, CBC, CTV, VISION, DISCOVERY ID and SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL. While a big fan of both true crime and the paranormal genre, as a passionate storyteller, Donna is happy to dive into any subject under the sun and has tackled quite a range of topics from food history and culture, to shipwrecks and gardening for the visually impaired. Before deciding to specialize in documentary television production, Donna spent a decade with CBC Radio, where contracts as a producer and broadcaster sent her off telling stories in a variety of Canadian cities and locales. A stint as a morning show researcher in Quebec City gave her the chance to put her French language skills to the test, and in Yellowknife and Iqaluit a job as a reporter offered her

an immersion in indigenous culture. Landing back in the Maritimes, Donna transitioned from CBC to discover her professional calling as an independent TV researcher and writer and hasn't looked back. While not cranking out scripts for television shows, Donna wears her landlord hat for rental properties that keep her way too busy but she always makes time for her kids, dog and cat, singing in a local choir and regular boot camp workouts.

Writer – Jennifer Adcock (2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11)

A veteran of the Canadian television and documentary scene, Adcock, has been writing, directing and producing in the field of television and documentary production for over twenty years. Several broadcasters have showcased her work including the CBC, IFC Canada, The Movie Network, The Space Channel, Vision and AMI.

She was part of the CBC's Emmy award winning show 'Street Cents' for eight seasons before moving on to work for IFC Canada. As an independent she has directed and written the documentary 'Nightmare in Canada: Canadian Horror on Film' which won a Gold Remi in 2005 at the World Fest in Houston and more recently 'The Halifax Explosion' which aired on CBC, AMI and was part of the Atlantic Film Festival lineup in 2017. Her most recent doc series 'The Big Downsize' is now in production for its second season on Vision.

Director of Digital Media "Spirit Talking" – Bretten Hannam

Bretten Hannam is a two-spirit L'nu filmmaker living in Kespukwitk, Mi'kma'ki (Nova Scotia) where they were raised. Their films deal with themes of community, culture, language, and tradition with a focus on two-spirit and LGBTQ identity. They co-wrote the short CHAMPAGNE which premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, and wrote/directed NORTH MOUNTAIN, a two-spirit thriller that won Best Original Score at the Atlantic Film Festival and the Screen Nova Scotia Award for Best Feature. They are also a Fellow of the Praxis Centre for Screenwriters, Outfest Screenwriting Lab, Whistler's Indigenous Filmmaker Fellowship, and the CFC writer's lab.