

LÉA POOL

Director and writer

Born on September 8, 1950 in Geneva, Switzerland, Léa Pool emigrated to Québec in 1975.

In 1978, she completed a bachelor's degree in Communications at Université du Québec à Montréal. Since then, she has directed numerous videos, shorts films, films and television programs.

Léa Pool has pursued a unique cinematographic path. In 1978, she co-directed and edited **Laurent Lamerre, portier** and in 1979, she wrote, shot, produced and directed a one-hour fiction film, **Strass Café**, which won awards in four festivals, including Sceaux, in France, in 1981.

From 1980 to 1983, she directed ten programs on cultural minorities for Radio-Québec, and the following year, **Eva en transit**, a program on the French singer, Éva.

From 1978 to 1983, she gave cinema and video classes at Université du Québec à Montréal.

In 1984, she wrote and directed her first feature film, **La Femme de l'hôtel**, which was enthusiastically acclaimed by the critics and the public. It won seven awards, including the International Press Award at the World Film Festival, the award for best actress, Louise Marleau, at the Genie in Toronto, and the Public's Award for fiction at the Women's Film Festival in Créteil, France. She then wrote and directed **Anne Trister**, in 1986, the last volume in a trilogy on the complex issue of feminine identity. This film was invited to fifteen international festivals, including the Berlin Festival (official competition) and won, amongst others, the People's Choice Award at the Women's Film Festival in Créteil (France), the Critic's Award at the Troia Festival in Portugal, and the Genie Award for best cinematography in Toronto.

À corps perdu, shot in 1988, an adaptation of Yves Navarre's novel **Kurwenal**, confirmed the importance of Léa Pool on the Canadian film scene. It garnered First Prize from Première magazine at the Festival of Namur and the Award of Excellence at the Atlantic Film Festival in Halifax; it was also chosen for official competition at the Venice Festival, the World Film Festival, and at the International Film Festival, in 1988. In 1990, Léa Pool shot her first documentary film, **Hotel Chronicles**, part of the series of the National Film Board of Canada, **Talking about America**. It won the Gold Medal in the documentary category, at Chicago's 26th International Film Festival, and participated in numerous international festivals. In 1991, Ms. Pool directed her fourth fiction film, **La Demoiselle sauvage**, co-written with Michel Langlois and Laurent Gagliardi, adapted from a short story by Corinna Bille. The film was presented in the official competition at the Montréal World Film Festival, where it won the Super Écran Award for best Canadian film and the award for best artistic contribution (photography). It also won the award for best direction at the French film festival in Saint-Martin (West Indies).

In 1992, she wrote **Rispondetemi**, one of the sketches of the movie **Montréal vu par...**, co-directed by Patricia Rozema, Denys Arcand, Michel Brault, Atom Egoyan, and Jacques Leduc. In 1992-1993, she wrote and directed her fifth fiction film, **Mouvements du désir**, nominated in eight categories at the Genie Awards, including Achievement in Direction and Original Screenplay. It was also presented at the Sundance Film Festival in California, in 1994.

In October 1994, the Bloies Festival (France) presented a retrospective of the cinematographic work of Léa Pool, and the "Ordre des Arts et des Lettres de France" awarded her the title of "Chevalier".

In 1994-1995, she directed two documentaries for a six episode bilingual television series titled **Women: A True Story**, on the emancipation of women, based on scenarios by Rina Fraticelli and Léa Pool, and hosted by Susan Sarandon. In 1996, she directed a short fiction film, **Lettre à ma fille**, for *Le Musée de la civilisation* (Québec). In 1997-1998, she directed a documentary film on the life of one of Canada's most important authors, Gabrielle Roy.

In 1998-1999, she co-wrote with Nancy Huston and directed her sixth feature film entitled **Emporte-moi**. This wildly acclaimed film was selected for the opening of Les Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois and won the Special Prize of the ecumenical jury of Berlin's 49th International Film Festival.

Since 1989, she received many honors around the world, from Switzerland, France, Japan (Tokyo), Belgium, Sweden, Canada (Toronto), and in the United States from Denver, Berkeley, Princeton, Chicago, Boston, New York (at the Museum of Modern Art) and Seattle, to name a few.

In 1993, she received the Prix d'excellence Émergence from Université du Québec à Montréal.

In 2000, she directed **Lost and Delirious**, starring Piper Perabo, Jessica Paré, Mischa Barton and Graham Greene. It was a co-production between Québec and Ontario, written by Judith Thompson, based on the novel **The Wives of Bath** by Susan Swan.

In 2002, she directed the feature film **The Blue Butterfly**, starring William Hurt and Pascale Bussière, a co-production between Québec and England, written by Peter McCormack, based on the life of George Brossard.

In 2004-2005, she gave acting workshops for UDA members and in 2004-2006, she teaches film directing at Université du Québec à Montréal.

In 2006, she is honoured with three life achievement awards; the first from Université du Québec à Montréal (Prix Reconnaissance), the second from the Foundation of the Woman's Y (Prix Femmes de mérite) and the third from the Quebec government (Prix Albert-Tessier), Quebec's most important award in recognition of her exceptional talent and contribution to the Quebec cinematography.

In 2007, Léa Pool wrote and directed for CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Company) one of the series of documentaries entitled Hidden Lives, inspired by the stories of our neighbours and she will direct a feature film entitled Pieds Nus, written by Isabelle Hébert.

She has also often been invited as a jury member of International film Festivals, such as Chicago, Locarno (Switzerland) and Taormina (Italy).

Her current projects, which are in development stage, include directing a feature film entitled Plainsong, adapted from the novel by the award winning writer Nancy Huston (Le Cantique des Plaines) and the film adaptation of another novel by another award winning writer, Gil Courtemanche's Une belle mort.

LIST OF AWARDS AND PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS

LA FEMME DE L'HÔTEL (1984)

- The International Press Award, Montréal World Film Festival, 1984
- Award of Excellence in Canadian Cinema, Festival of Festivals, Toronto, 1984
- The People's Choice Award, Women's Films Festival of Créteil, Paris, 1985
- The Critic's Award, Québec, 1985
- Genie Award, best original song, Toronto, 1985
- Genie Award, best leading actress (Louise Marleau), Toronto, 1985
- The Award for Best Actress (Louise Marleau), Chicago International Film Festival, 1984
- Canadian Selection for the Young Cinema Forum, Berlin Film Festival, Berlin, 1985

Also, ***La Femme de l'hôtel*** received a César nomination (Paris) for Best Film of the French Countries Outside of France, 1985.

ANNE TRISTER (1986)

- Official Competition, Berlin International Festival, Berlin, 1986
- Genie Award, best photography, Toronto, 1986
- Genie Award, best song, Toronto, 1986
- Tribute in Recognition of Outstanding Achievement in the Art of film, Denver Festival, USA, 1986
- The People's Choice Award, Women Film Festival, Créteil, Paris, 1986
- The Critic's Award, Troia Festival, Portugal, 1986

Others festivals and events in which the film participated:

- Edinburgh Festival, April 1986
- Melbourne Festival, June 1986
- Sydney Festival, June 1986
- Jerusalem Festival, June 1986 (on invitation)
- Tokyo Festival, June 1986
- Los Angeles Festival (Week of Québec cinema), April 1986
- Brussels Festival (Week of Canadian cinema), October 1986
- Salso Majore Festival (Italy), 1986
- Budapest Cultural Forum (representing Canada), October 1986
- Cuba Festival, 1986

LIST OF AWARDS AND PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS (cont'd)

À CORPS PERDU (1988)

- Official Competition, Venice Festival, Venice, September 1988
- Official Selection (non competing), Montréal's World Film Festival, September 1988
- Official Competition, Chicago's International Film Festival, Chicago, October 1988
- Award of Excellence, Atlantic Film Festival, Halifax, October 1988
- First Prize from Première Magazine, Festival of Namur, September 1988
- Official Competition, 13th Cleveland international film Festival, United States, Cleveland, April 1989
- Official Competition, XI^e Festival international des films de femmes, France, Créteil, 1989
- Official Competition, 18th international film festival, Portugal, Figueira de Foz, 1989
- Official Competition, 2^e Festival du cinéma francophone, Martinique, Fort-de-France, November 1988
- Official Competition, 16^e Festival international cinématographique de Flandre, Belgique, Gand, 1989
- Official Competition, 8th international Istanbul film days, Turkey, Istanbul, April 1989
- Official Competition, 5th Annual Woman in Film Festival, United States, Los Angeles, 1989
- Prix de l'Association québécoise des critiques de cinéma, Canada, Montréal, January 1989
- Prix de la Sogic, Canada, Montréal, 1989
- 4th gay film festival, Italy, Turin, 1989
- Official Competition, 8th international film festival, Sweden, Uppsala, 1989
- XIVth international film festival, Italy, Venice, 1988

Other festivals and events in which the film participated:

- Les cinémas du Canada, France, Beaubourg, February-June 1993
- 1st Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, December 1990
- 1^{er} Festival du cinéma québécois en France, Blois, October 1991
- Festival de Nantes à Bouguenais, France, January 1992
- Festival de Nantes à Clisson, France, February 1992
- 5th Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Denmark, Copenhagen, October-November 1990
- Insight 89 – Women's Film Video Festival, Canada, Edmonton, 1989
- Glasgow Festival, Scotland, Glasgow, May 1989
- 13th Hong Kong International Film Festival, Hong Kong, 1989
- 13th Houston International Film Festival, United States, Houston, April 1991
- 6th Jerusalem Film Festival, Israel, Jerusalem, 1989
- 6th Piccadilly Film and Video Festival, England, London, 1989
- 7th International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, United States, Los Angeles, July 1989
- Academy of Canadian Cinema Special Screening, United States, Los Angeles, March 1989
- 9th "International Film Di Venezia a Milano", Italy, Milano, September, 1988
- Festival de Nantes à la Montagne, France, Montagne, January 1992
- 7e Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois, Canada, Montréal, 1989
- Filmex 89, Canada, Montréal, March-April 1989
- 3^e Festival international cinématographique de Wallonie, Belgique, Namur, 1988
- 10^e Festival de films de femmes, France, Nantes, March 1991

LIST OF AWARDS AND PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS (cont'd)

- 11^e Festival Ciné-Femmes, France, Nantes, February 1992
- 12th International Film Festival of India, India, New Delhi, January 1989
- The New Festival, United States, New York, June 1990
- 10th Independent Feature Festival Project, United States, New York, 1988
- 3^e Festival international du film de Québec, Canada, Québec, 1988
- 5th international festival of film, television and video, Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, 1988
- 7^e Festival du cinéma international en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Canada, Rouyn-Noranda, 1988
- 6th Festival on Screen 90 - Women in Films, January 1990
- San Francisco International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, June 1990
- Festival of New Québec Films, United States, Santa Monica, November 1988
- 3rd International Film by Women Directors, October-November 1988
- Canadian Season in Stockholm, Sweden, Stockholm, March 1989
- 13th Festival of Festivals, Canada, Toronto, 1988
- Out on Screen Festival, Canada, Vancouver, August 1990

HÔTEL CHRONICLES (1990)

- Gold Medal, Documentary category, 26th International Film Festival, Chicago, October 1990

Participation in other festivals:

- Festival of Festivals, Toronto, September 1990
- International Festival of Films by Women Directors, Seattle, USA, October 1990
- 22nd International Documentary Film Festival, Nyon, Switzerland, October 1990
- Festival international du nouveau cinéma et de la vidéo de Montréal, Montréal, October 1990
- Festival of Québec Cinema, Winnipeg, October 1990
- International Film Festival, Valladolid, Spain, October 1990
- 34th Film Festival, London, England, November 1990
- Annual Film Festival, Olympia, USA, November 1990
- International Forum of Amascultura Cinema, Odevelas, Portugal, November-December 1990
- International festival of documentary cinema and short films, Bilbao, Spain, November-December 1990
- Film Meetings *l'Errance*, Manosque, France, January 1991
- 14th International Film Festival, Portland, USA, February-March 1991
- Cinéma du réel – international festival of ethnographic and sociological films, Paris, March 1991
- Canadian Film Celebration, Calgary, March 1991
- USA Film Festival and Kid Film Festival, Dallas, April 1991
- Silence elles tournent – 7th women's film and video festival, Montréal, June 1991
- International Documentary Film Festival, Yamagat, Japan, October 1991
- International Festival of Film Directed by Women, Madrid, Spain, November 1991
- Women's Film Festival, Nantes, France, February 1992
- Week of Québec's Cinema, Bordeaux, France, February 1992
- 10th International Cinematographic Festival, Montevideo, Uruguay, April 1992

LIST OF AWARDS AND PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS (cont'd)

LA DEMOISELLE SAUVAGE (1991)

- Official Competition, World Film Festival, Montréal, 1991
- Official Selection, Festival of Festivals, Toronto, September 1991
- Official Competition, International Francophone Film Festival, Namur, Belgium, September-October 1991
- Official Competition, Film Forum, Cannes, December 1991
- Award for best artistic contribution (photography), World Film Festival, Montréal, 1991
- Super Écran Award: best Canadian film, World Film Festival, Montréal, 1991
- Genie Award, best original music (Jean Corriveau), 1991
- Award for best direction, Francophone Cinema Festival, St-Martin, West Indies, December 1991

MOUVEMENTS DU DÉsir (1993)

- Quality Bonus from the Office fédéral de la culture, Switzerland, 1994

Participation in festivals:

- Sundance Film Festival, Park City (Utah), January 1995
- International Francophone Film Festival, Namur, Belgique, 1994
- Blois Festival, France, 1994
- Mill Valley Film Festival, California, 1994
- Vancouver Festival, Vancouver, BC, 1994

FEMMES : UNE HISTOIRE INÉDITE / WOMEN: A TRUE STORY (1995)

- Chris Award, 1st prize, Social Stakes category, 45th International Festival of Film and Video of Columbus, (Ohio)
- World Medal, New York Festival
- Gemini nomination for Best Documentary Series
- History & Biography Programs nomination at the Banff Rockie Awards

GABRIELLE ROY (1998)

- Rockie Prize for Best historical and biographical documentary at the Banff Television Festival (Canada), 1998
- Téléfilm Canada Prize for Best Canadian television production in French at the Banff Television Festival (Canada), 1998
- Gêmeaux Award for Best documentary film
- Gêmeaux Award nomination for Best photography: all categories, film
- Gêmeaux Award nomination for Best sound: all categories

LIST OF AWARDS AND PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS (cont'd)

EMPORTE-MOI / SET ME FREE (1999)

- Chosen for the opening of Les Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois, 1999
- Special prize from the Ecumenical Jury – 49th Berlin International Film Festival, 1999
- Silver Gryphon for Best Film – 29th Giffoni Film Festival, 1999
- Special prize from the Jury – Toronto International Film Festival, 1999
- Gold Bayard for Best Actress – Festival international du film francophone de Namur, 1999
- Silver Hugo for Best Screenplay – Chicago International Film Festival, 1999
- Youth Prize – 44th Valladolid International Film Festival, 1999
- Best Canadian Film Award by the Toronto Film Critics Association, 1999
- Best Feature Film Prize from Les Prix du cinéma Suisse, 2000
- Quality Bonus from the Office fédéral de la culture (OFC), Switzerland, 2000
- Four Jutra Awards, 2000
- Special mention – 6th Sarajevo Film Festival, 2000

Participation in festivals:

- 49th Berlin International Film Festival (Germany) – February 10th to 21st 1999
- Festival international de films de femmes (Créteil, France) – March 12th to 21st 1999
- Festival international de films de femmes (London, England) – April 7th to 12th 1999
- Forum de Cannes (France) – May 12th to 23rd 1999
- Seattle International Film Festival (USA) – May 13th to June 6th 1999
- Sydney Film Festival (Australia) – June 11th to 25th 1999
- San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (USA) – June 17th to 27th 1999
- Ciné Découvertes / Prix de l'âge d'or (Brussels, Belgium) – July 1st to 20th 1999
- Jerusalem Film Festival (Israel) – July 8th to 17th 1999
- Giffoni Film Festival (Italy) – July 18th to 24th 1999
- Sao Paulo Jewish Film Festival (Brazil) – August 3rd to 8th 1999
- Toronto International Film Festival (Canada) – September 9th to 18th 1999
- Festival du cinéma francophone en Acadie (Moncton, Canada) – September 10th to 16th 1999
- Making Scenes (Ottawa, Canada) – September 16th to 25th 1999
- Atlantic Film Festival (Halifax, Canada) – September 17th to 25th 1999
- Carrousel international du film de Rimouski (Canada) – September 19th to 26th 1999
- Cinefest Sudbury (Canada) – September 21th to 26th 1999
- New York Film Festival (USA) – September 24th to October 10th 1999
- Festival international du film francophone de Namur (Belgium) – September 24th to October 2nd 1999
- Vancouver International Film Festival (Canada) – September 24th to October 10th 1999
- Chicago International Film Festival (USA) – October 6th to 21st 1999
- AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival (USA) – October 21st to 29th 1999
- Semana Internacional de Cine De Valladolid (Spain) – October 22nd to 30th 1999
- Shanghai International Film Festival (China) – October 22nd to 31st 1999
- London Film Festival (United Kingdom) – November 3rd to 18th 1999

LIST OF AWARDS AND PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS (cont'd)

- Thessaloniki International Film Festival (Greece) – November 12th to 21st 1999
- Cinemental (Winnipeg, Canada) – November 16th to 21st 1999
- International Film Festival Bratislava (Slovakia) – November 30th to December 8th 1999
- Washington Jewish Film Festival (USA) – December 2nd to 12th 1999
- Palm Springs International Film Festival (USA) – January 13th to 24th 2000
- Porto Rico International Film Festival (USA) – January 26th to February 5th 2000
- International Lesbian Film Festival (Bologna, Italy) – February 24th to 27th 2000
- Journée internationale de la francophonie (Rome, Italy)
- Singapore International Film Festival (Malaysia) – March 31st to April 15th 2000
- Journée internationale de la francophonie (Barcelona, Spain)
- Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival (Argentine Republic) – April 6th to 16th 2000
- Hong Kong International Film Festival (China) – April 12th to 27th 2000
- International Istanbul Film Festival (Turkey) – April 15th to 30th 2000
- Barcelona's International Film Festival (Spain) – June 12th to 18th 2000
- Sarajevo Film Festival (Bosnia) – August 18th to 26th 2000
- Aichi International Women's Film Festival (Japan) – September 5th to 10th 2000
- Jakarta Film Festival (Indonesia) – November 3rd to 12th 2000
- Journées du cinéma canadien (China) – November 10th to 15th 2000
- Black Nights (Estonia) – December 3rd to 10th 2000
- Festival Internacional Del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano (Cuba) – December 5th to 15th 2000
- Taipei – December 25th 2000 to January 3rd 2001
- Flanders – February 26th to March 4th 2001
- Festival Internazionale Cinema Delle Donne (Italy) – March 6th to 11th 2001
- Semaine de la francophonie (Athens, Greece) – March 12th to 20th 2001

LOST AND DELIRIOUS (2000)

Participation in festivals:

- Sundance Film Festival (Utah, USA) – January 18th to 28th 2001
- Berlin Film Festival (Germany) – February 7th to 18th 2001
- Mar Del Plata International Film Festival (Argentina) – March 8th to 17th 2001
- Women's Film Festival (Seoul) – April 15th to 22nd 2001
- The New Festival (USA) – May 31st to June 10th 2001
- Sydney Film Festival (Australia) – June 8th to 22nd 2001
- Provincetown Film Festival (USA) – June 13th to 17th 2001
- San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (USA) – June 14th to 24th 2001
- Valladolid Film Festival (Spain) – October 26th to November 3rd 2001

THE BLUE BUTTERFLY (2002)

- 3rd place "Free to fly" (children 9-12), Giffoni Film Festival (ITALY) – July 17th – 24th 2004
- Award for Outstanding Technical Achievement, SpudFest Film and Music Festival (California, USA) – August 3rd – 7th 2004

- Award for Outstanding Cinematography, SpudFest Film and Music Festival (California, USA) – August 3rd – 7th 2004

LIST OF AWARDS AND PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS (cont'd)

- Directors Guild of Canada Awards nomination for "Outstanding Team Achievement in a Family Feature Film"
- Directors Guild of Canada Awards nomination for "Outstanding Achievement In Direction – Feature Film"
- European Children's Film Prize, 9th International Film Festival "Schlingel" Chemnitz for Children and Young Audience (GERMANY) – October 4th - 10th 2004
- Silver Plate (1st position, section "Teenage Audience"), Festival Internazionale Cinema delle Donne – In viaggio con noi Associazione Culturale LA MO-VIOLA (ITALY) – October 8th - 14th 2004
- « Best photography» and finalist for « Film s'étant le plus illustré à l'extérieur du Québec », La soirée des Jutra (Canada), 2005
- Finalist « Best foreign movie» and « Meilleure interprétation dans un long métrage étranger, premier rôle jeunesse », Young Artist Awards, 2005

Participation in festivals:

- Tribeca Film Festival (New York, USA) – May 1st to 9th 2004
- Maui Film Festival (Hawai, USA) – June 16th to 20th 2004
- Shocomotion (UK) – July 1st to 10th 2004
- Giffoni Film Festival (ITALY) - July 17th to 24th 2004
- Brisbane (AUSTRALIA) – July 31st to August 8th 2004
- Spudfest Film Festival and Music Festival (USA) - August 3rd to 7th 2004
- Festival do Rio de Janeiro (BRASIL) – September 23rd to October 5th 2004
- Idaho International Film Festival (USA) – September 30th to October 3rd 2004
- International Film Festival for Children and Young Audience Schlingel (GERMANY) - October 4th to 10th 2004
- 27th Mill Valley Film Festival (California, USA) – October 7th to 17th 2004
- International Women's Film Festival (TURIN, ITALY) - October 8th to 14th 2004
- Cinekid (Amsterdam, HOLLAND) – October 17th to 24th 2004
- The 21st annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival, CICFF (USA) – October 21st to 31st 2004
- CinemAmbiente, International Environmental Film Festival (ITALY) – October 22nd to 29th 2004
- Festival internacional de cine para la infancia y la juventud
- First Annual Children's Film Festival in Atlanta (USA) – November 13th and 14th 2004
- 23rd Oulu International Children's Film Festival (FINLAND) – November 15th to 21st 2004
- Seagate Foyle Film Festival (IRELAND)
- Bahamas International Film Festival (Nassau, BAHAMAS) – December 9th to 12th 2004
- Environmental Film Festival (Washington, USA) – March 18th to 28th 2005
- Ecrans noirs du cinéma africain et francophone (CAMEROUN) - June 4th to 12th 2005
- Orinda Film Festival- film d'ouverture, (USA) - Sept. 22th to 25th 2005
- Kingston Film Festival (CANADA)
- Mar del Plata (ARGENTINA)