

The Last Word by Bebe Demelo

Another Banff Festival under my belt and all I wanna know is why do I continue to spend \$90 on a ticket and \$500 on a dress so I can stand while I eat my dinner? Instead of demurely leaning over the table to shake the hand of that handsome distributor with the delightful jokes and a empty spot on his roster, I have to perch my wine glass on my head while my left hand holds my plate off to the side to avoid painting his Armani with something else Italian. Granted I wanted to look like a goddess, but Kali wasn't what I had in mind. And I don't think this is what my doctor means by finding a balance.

Speaking of finding a balance, kudos to Nancy Eagles for taking this daycare initiative firmly in hand. It's high time this industry started to recognize the importance of our families, and stopped making us choose between caring for our loved ones or just putting bread on the table. What we in the biz truly need is accessible quality care by educated professionals who stimulate the intellect and imagination, offer plenty of hugs, and spank only executives. And then one next door for our kids.

Forget all those Alien/New World Order/Papal conspiracy theories—it's actually Trish Dolman who's gonna take over the world. WIFVV's VP not only won a CTV fellowship to Banff, she got into the mighty NSI pitching workshop, was followed around by a documentary team at the

Festival, landed the podium at Two in a Room on the strength of a proposal she took all of 45 minutes to write, and walked away with interest from the BBC. Go girl, go! And when you get there make room at the table for me.

Me, that is, and Esta Spalding. She landed a job as story editor and co-writer on *Da Vinci's Inquest* on the back of some award-winning poetry—that's right, *poetry*—and word on the street is that her scripts are actually *good*. Proof that every once in awhile in this nepotism-ordered universe of ours talent wins. Or, to put it this way, "I know of a woman named Esta/who won in a poetry contesta/an award for her work/not the height of her skirt/she's truly a model for the rest of us." (Did you hear that, Chris? Chris? Why are you walking away from me? Chris?...)

And on the subject of getting by on something other than our hem line/breast size/hair-style, I was saddened to hear advocacy has hit bottom on our list of priorities, while personal gain leads the way. Why is it that whenever we women get up a rung we forget where we came from and how hard it was to crawl up? Or is it just that with cutback after cutback, producing has become like shopping at the January sales—and we all need that same pair of Gucci's? It's become, like, get out of my way, sister, or I'm gonna leave my footprint on your back.

M A N D A T E

Women in Film and Video Vancouver (WIFVV) is a non-profit organization of professional women founded to support, advance, promote, and celebrate the professional development and achievements of women involved in the British Columbia film, video, and television industry. Vancouver Women in Film and Video is an independent entity internationally affiliated with Women in Film chapters throughout North America, Great Britain, Europe and Australia. Membership is open to all professionals in film, video and television and includes representation from creative, technical, administrative and service fields.

Women In Film &
Video Vancouver
PO Box 1238
Station A,
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada, V6C 2T1
Tel: (604) 685-1152