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## We Are Made For Big Dreams

### 2nd Annual Women in the Spotlight Gala a Testament to Success

For many Vancouverites, February means the height of the monsoon season, but for those of us lucky enough to have a ticket February meant the second annual Women in the Spotlight gala, held at the Hotel Vancouver. Once again WIFVV, Wired Women Society, Women in Music, and Canadian Women in Communications - BC Chapter joined together to celebrate our successes and hand out sculptor Claudia Cuesta's silver-plated awards.

Our host for the evening was Jennifer Mather, who took every opportunity to "shamelessly prostitute" herself to Moses Znaimer, now the boss of Global. Mather's desperate self-promotion was an act, an example of her wonderful sense of humor in the face of adversity. I hope Znaimer got the joke; it would be a shame to see such funny public self-humiliation go unrewarded.

"When a man receives an award, people say 'Behind every great man is a woman.' The same can be said when a woman receives an award." Or so Wired Women recipients Drs. Mary Bryson and Suzanne de Castell claimed. And, true to the new adage, WIFVV's Woman of the Year was the duo of Sharon McGowan and Peggy Thompson, who elicited a room full of chuckles for their One Highly Effective Habit Of Success which they dubbed "The Delusional Dare." It goes something like this: "I dare you to write a feature film comedy about lesbians."

"Okay, but I double dare you to get Anne Wheeler to direct it. And I double double dare you to raise the money for it. And then, after we've made it, I triple dare you to fly to L.A. and sell it to the Americans." Funnily enough, it worked.

The event took a more serious note with the Lifetime Member Award, now renamed the Sharon Gibbon Lifetime Member Award in honor of our late friend. Sharon's widower, Tony Papa, introduced the award, handling a tough moment with grace and aplomb. I was thrilled to see Sharon honored in this way and equally thrilled to see her namesake awarded to Justine Bizzocchi, whose own commitment and contribution to WIFVV is equally extensive. Hopefully the award will also serve as a reminder to us to always

fight the good fight and forget everything else. In the words of Bizzocchi: "When I feel that life is spinning out of control, I focus on the things I prize most, and make those the priorities in my life. You learn to let go of the rest."

Speaking of the good fight, Friend Of recipient Tom Adair quoted Elizabeth Cady Stanton, her words ringing as true today as they did in 1892: that women, like men, "...must make the voyage of life alone, and for safety in an emergency they must know something

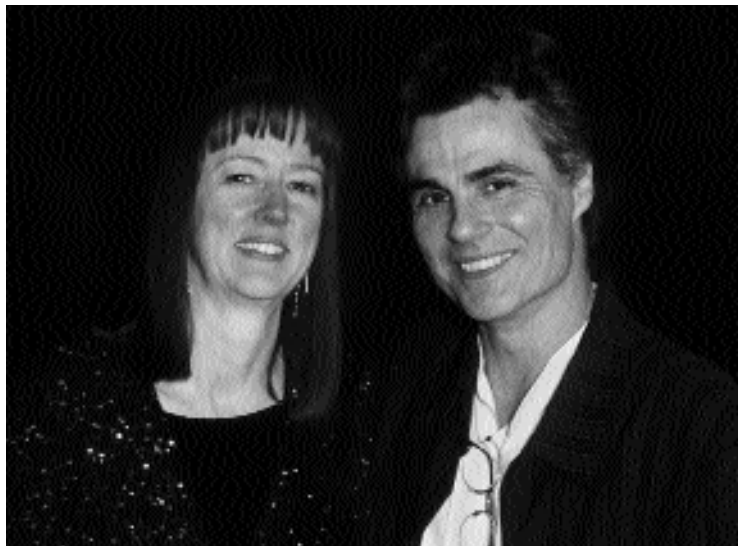
of the laws of navigation. To guide our own craft we must be captain, pilot, engineer; with chart and compass to stand at the wheel, to match the wind and waves and know when to take in the sail, and to read the signs in the firmament over all." To add a contemporary voice, I echo the assertion of Wired Woman of the Year recipient, President and CEO of Motorola

Micheline Bouchard, that "We are made for big dreams." Well said.

Although we may never find the fight is over completely, it's a testament to how far we've come that Adair admitted "being honored by a group of women is intimidating." He was also thankful for the opportunity to satisfy "what every man desires: making mom happy." This explains why Mom Adair was in attendance and perhaps why mothers have been the escort of choice among Friends Of recipients to date. Will follow through on this theory next year.

Final notes on the event have to make mention of the fabulous goodie bag which included a wonderful CD featuring local musicians ranging from Sarah McLachlan to Women in Music's Woman of Note, Veda Hille. Then there were the door prizes — phones from Clearnet and Motorola — which I didn't win despite sending out earnest prayers to the gods to replace the one I dropped in the pond at Capilano canyon. But best of all were the scrumptious desserts laid out just before the awards ceremony (against the wishes of the organizers — so there is a god after all) which kept our blood sugar at a sustainable level for the rest of the evening or, more exactly, for the rest of the week.

Michelle Demers



Sharon Gibbon Lifetime Member Award winner Justine Bizzocchi was presented with her award by Sharon's widower, Tony Papa. Photo by Dina Goldstein.