



acts of imagination

Biography

Carolyn Combs was born in New York City, but moved to Hamilton, Ontario, at the age of six months, where she spent her formative years. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theatre from Concordia University and a Master of Education from the University of Manitoba. She has taught drama in various settings, including the faculties of education at the University of Manitoba and McGill University

She has been an active member of Videographe and Main Film (Montreal), Video Pool (Winnipeg) SIFT (Ottawa) and Cineworks (Vancouver), where she developed her own work while also attending a variety of professional training workshops.

She wrote, shot and edited her first work, a half-hour documentary entitled *Stories From the Diner*, in 1998. It captured the intensely moving struggle of a short order cook coming to terms with his past, and displayed an ability to build a compelling story through a precise and unhurried balancing of image and word.

From 2002 to 2005, with the support of the Canadian Centre for Disability Studies and the Canadian Independent Film and Video Fund, she finished a four part documentary series entitled *Art & Ability*, focused on the subjective experience of adults with a variety of disabilities as they pursue their artistic talents. Also in 2005, she delivered *Protest & Prayer*, a well researched documentary capturing the attempts of a group of women to change United Church policy in the Middle East.

In the fall of 2005 she directed her first feature, which is set in and around Commercial Drive in east-end Vancouver, where she currently resides.

In 2006 she was selected as one of two candidates for the Mentorship Program of Women in Film and Video in Vancouver.