

TESSA MCWATT: H O M E



A 'LITERATURE ALIVE' DOCUMENTARY
CREATED AND PRODUCED BY FRANCES-ANNE SOLOMON
Leda Serene Films/ Caribbean Tales
24 minutes Colour DVD, VHS, BetaSP Canada 2005

TESSA MCWATT: HOME

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Literature Alive is a 13-part documentary series that profiles Caribbean-Canadian authors and follows the evolution of Caribbean-heritage fiction from the 1960s through to the hip-hop generation. These revealing and provocative documentaries explore the lives and creative process of these brilliant authors. In doing so, we discover the links between personal experience, ancestry, and migration; between Canada and the Caribbean; between an artist and their art.

One of the documentaries in the series is TESSA MCWATT: HOME. Based in Britain, acclaimed author Tessa McWatt takes a rare trip to Toronto, Canada to visit her family. While there, she discusses her life and work, her past and passions, and her evolving understanding of the concepts of 'belonging' and 'home'.

TESSA MCWATT: HOME

CREDITS

Created and Produced by
Director
Line Producer
Associate Producer
Production Manager
Cinematographers
Editors
Composer
Online Editor
Technical Coordinator
Production Coordinator
Publicity

Frances-Anne Solomon
Ngardy Conteh
Susan Fueg
Regan Macaulay
Ngardy Conteh
Colin Akoon
Cameron Esler
Mauri Hall
Anthony Baird
Johnny Vong
Stacey Lee Maughn
Victoria Lord Public Relations

TESSA MCWATT: HOME PRODUCTION COMPANIES

LEDA SERENE FILMS

Leda Serene Films is a film, television and new media production company based in Toronto, Canada.

The Company has produced an impressive range of award-winning programs - from feature films to more innovative multi-media projects - and is dedicated to placing people of colour in front of as well as behind the camera.

The company has made its name as a producer of high quality dramas and documentaries, which celebrate diversity - strong personal stories from different cultural perspectives in the global diaspora.

CARIBBEAN TALES

Founded in 2004 by Frances-Anne Solomon, Caribbean Tales is an innovative not-for-profit multimedia company committed to producing Educational films, videos, and new media that celebrate the rich traditions of Caribbean-heritage storytelling. Caribbean Tales' projects use any and all new media to reflect the diversity and invention of Caribbean culture.

Projects include the website, [Caribbeantaes.ca](http://caribbeantaes.ca), "A People's History of the Caribbean Interactive Website", a vital anti-colonial history that documents the diverse histories that make up the Caribbean and makes them available to all on the worldwide web; an E-newsletter, a quarterly multi-media E-newsletter that features multi-media content including interviews with Caribbean storytellers and artists across different genres (written, audio and video). The Literature Alive documentary series; the Literature Alive Online Website (see <http://literaturealiveonline.ca>), a unique, storytelling project that makes literature accessible to the general public. Other initiatives include: The Writing Contest: "My Voice... My Story" Writing Contest intended to lead young people of all heritages to embark on a voyage of self-discovery, providing a way for them to understand the world they live in by encouraging them to write about themselves as Canadians sharing a unique identity that is enriched with distinctive heritage, cultures and an Annual film festival which screens the latest in Caribbean Tales productions.

For more information visit www.caribbeantaes.ca

TESSA MCWATT: HOME

FRANCES-ANNE SOLOMON

SERIES CREATOR AND PRODUCER



Frances-Anne Solomon is a Director, Producer and Writer in film, TV and new media. She is the Founder and President of Leda Serene Films, and Artistic Director of its sister company Caribbean Tales, a not for profit company developing multimedia educational tools that draw on Caribbean heritage storytelling.

Born in England, Frances-Anne grew up in Trinidad, moved to Canada and studied Theatre Arts at the University of Toronto before moving to the UK where she lived and worked for several years. Frances-Anne's previous credits as a director include the feature film Peggy Su! (BBC Films, 1997); the dramas What My Mother Told Me (Channel 4 1995), and Bideshi (British Film Institute 1994); and documentaries Reunion (BBC, 1993), and I Is A Long Memored Woman (Arts Council of England 1991). Her latest feature film,

"A Winter Tale", is currently in production in Toronto.

Alongside directing, between 1992-98, Frances-Anne also worked as a Script Editor, Producer and Executive Producer for BBC Single Drama & Films, where she was responsible for several films and TV movies, including the Black Screen strand, (for black writers, producers and directors) and Screen on the Tube (for new feature directors). Productions include, Speak Like A Child, director John Akomfrah, Love Is The Devil, director John Maybury, The Sixth Happiness, director Waris Hossein, Flight, director Alex Pillai and Siren Spirits, directors Ngozi Onwurah, Pratibha Parmar and Dani Williamson. She also worked as a radio drama producer/director for the BBC, responsible for some 35 productions including Monsoon by Maya Chowdhry, Nadir by Parv Bancil, Afrogoth by Pete Kalu, The Adoption Papers by Jackie Kay and Her Father's Daughter by Winsome Pinnock.

She is the Creator, Producer and Director of "Literature Alive", a series of half hour documentaries exploring the life and work of Canadian Caribbean authors from the 60's through the hip-hop generation. The series aired on Bravo! (2005). A companion website Literature Alive Online! launched in January 2006, along with a series of 5 Audio Books by Caribbean Authors including Nalo Hopkinson, Tessa McWatt and Olive Senior.

She produced and directed "Coming Home", a 1-hour documentary special on Indo-Trinidadian author Ramabai Espinet for OMNI Television; and was the Co-creator, Producer and Director on Lord Have Mercy! Canada's first multi-cultural sitcom, which aired on Vision TV, Toronto/one, Showcase and APTN and was nominated for two Gemini Awards, including Best Comedy series.

Her current feature film production, A Winter Tale, is scheduled for release in 2006. She originally developed the story through a collaborative process with a group of talented Canadian actors, and in January 2006 had it adapted for a highly successful run as a stage play.

TESSA MCWATT: HOME
NGARDY CONTEH
DIRECTOR



Ngardy Conteh was born in Sierra Leone and moved to Canada as a child. She is a graduate of the University of New Orleans's Film and Video program, and in 2003 directed the documentary "*Soldiers for the Street*" for the National Film Board's Momentum program. Ngardy worked as production manager for the Literature Alive series and directed three of the documentaries, "*Dwayne Morgan: The Man Behind The Mic*", "*Richardo Keens-Douglas: Believe*", "*Tessa McWatt: Home*" and co-directed "*Nalo Hopkinson: Fabulous Spaces*"