

GAYLE W. Biography



Gayle embarked on her first film, a short documentary called *Hearts of Steel*, after being inspired by the young people who were a part of the youth steel band of which she was a part. Having spent 17 years in the advertising and marketing business, and then several years in the “Mom business,” she had never used a video camera or editing software before. But she saw a beautiful story unfolding as she learned more about the magic of the steel pan instrument and its ability to bring together culturally diverse youth in an urban Canadian setting. It was time to learn about filmmaking!

Hearts of Steel not only reveals individual stories about its members, but follows these teenagers as they prepare and practise rigorously for a musical competition for steel bands, against a backdrop of urban violence. Along the way they learn leadership, commitment, trust, multi-cultural respect and the value of belonging to a musical family. The film captures their hard work, emotional stress, and unbridled joy as they move toward the finish line.

To date, *Hearts of Steel* has been selected to be a part of 25 film festivals around North America and the Caribbean, and has won 10 awards. Gayle believes that it is time to make another film, and is considering one about people learning to re-engage with life after acquiring aphasia.