

American MASTERS

thirteen
WNET NEW YORK

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press information



PBS

AMERICAN MASTERS
is produced for PBS
by Thirteen/WNET
New York

Production Bios

AMERICAN MASTERS Atlantic Records: The House That Ahmet Built

SUSAN STEINBERG

Writer/Director

Susan Steinberg is an Emmy Award-winning documentary producer and director whose career began in the late 1960s when she worked as a film editor on such classic documentaries as *Woodstock*, *Gimme Shelter* and *Cocksucker Blues*, Robert Frank's notorious suppressed film on The Rolling Stones. She also supervised the editing on *AMERICAN MASTERS*' films on Ray Charles and W. Eugene Smith.

Later, Steinberg was invited to attend the American Film Institute as a director fellow and in 1990 made her debut as a producer/director with *AMERICAN MASTERS Edward R. Murrow: This Reporter*, which won an Emmy Award for Best Informational Program, a CINE Golden Eagle and the DGA Award for Best Director of a Documentary.

In 1993, Steinberg received her second DGA nomination for *AMERICAN MASTERS Paul Simon: Born at the Right Time*, a film that was selected for Sundance and received the prestigious Peabody Award. In 1994, she was brought back to her rock and roll roots when she directed the opening program *Plugging In* for Time Warner's Emmy-nominated series *The History of Rock 'N Roll*. The following year she produced and directed two permanent installations of three screen films for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum called *Mystery Trains*, shown continuously and seen by the millions of people who visit the museum annually.

Between 1996 and 1997, her life was consumed by the writing and directing of *Gold Fever*, an historical docu-drama co-produced and co-written by Ian Bodenham for the PBS series *American Experience*, which told the story of the Klondike Gold Rush. The film received a CINE Golden Eagle Award.

In 1999, she wrote, directed and produced *AMERICAN MASTERS Don Hewitt: 90 Minutes on 60 Minutes*, which earned rave reviews. The film was nominated for an Emmy Award by the DGA for best documentary and received the CINE Golden Eagle.

PHIL CARSON

Music Executive

In a career that has spanned four decades, Phil Carson is firmly established as one of the most

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influential forces in rock music. After a successful career as a recording and touring musician, he was appointed senior vice president at Atlantic Records and was a major contributor at the label in the development of its trio of English mega bands: Led Zeppelin, Yes and Emerson, Lake & Palmer. He signed such multi-platinum artists as AC/DC, Twisted Sister, Gary Numan and Abba to Atlantic, brought Phil Collins to Warner Music Group, America to Warner Brothers, and co-produced the multi-platinum Honeydrippers CD with Robert Plant and Ahmet Ertegun. He was also responsible for bringing Virgin Records to the United States by signing a deal with Richard Branson, giving Atlantic distribution rights to the Virgin label for several years. The first release under that agreement was the multi-platinum “Tubular Bells,” a groundbreaking piece of music used for the soundtrack of *The Exorcist*.

As president of the music division of JVC, he developed the classic rock-oriented Victory Music label. He earned a Grammy nomination for the acclaimed *Muddy Water Blues* album from Paul Rodgers and scored chart positions with new albums by David Bowie, Yes and Emerson, Lake & Palmer.

He is the president of Phil Carson Associates, a management and music company whose client list has included Robert Plant, Jimmy Page, Paul Rodgers, Yes, Motorhead, Asia, Foreigner, Ben E. King, Bad Company, The Who (for tour sponsorship) Twisted Sister, Jason Bonham, and Ronnie Wood. Recent projects include *AMERICAN MASTERS Good Rockin' Tonight: The Legacy of Sun Records*, a documentary and soundtrack album that he produced with Ahmet Ertegun. The film premiered on PBS and the Billboard chart soundtrack CD featured newly-recorded tracks from such luminaries as Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan, Elton John, Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, Tom Petty, Kid Rock, and Sheryl Crow. He also serves as president of the North American division of DVDplus International, the company that developed the invertible hybrid DVD/CD disc technology known as DualDisc and DVDplus.

SUSAN LACY

Series Creator and Executive Producer

Susan Lacy has been an award-winning originator of primetime public television programs since 1979. As the creator and executive producer of *AMERICAN MASTERS*, she has been responsible for the production and national broadcast of more than 140 documentary films about our country's artistic and cultural giants, those who have made an indelible impact on the American landscape. Now celebrating its 21st season on PBS, *AMERICAN MASTERS* has garnered unprecedented awards and is consistently recognized by television critics as “the best biographical series ever to appear on American television.”

In addition to her producing role, Lacy is an award-winning filmmaker. Her 2004 *Judy Garland: By Myself* earned her an Emmy Award for writing and an Emmy nomination for directing. She wrote, directed and produced *Joni Mitchell: Woman of Heart and Mind* (IDA nomination for Outstanding Documentary) and *Leonard Bernstein: Reaching for the Note* (Emmy Award and DGA nomination). She produced the Peabody Award-winning *Paul Simon: Born at the Right Time*, directed and produced *Rod Serling: Submitted for Your Approval*, directed and produced *Lena Horne: In Her Own Voice* and was one of the producers on the widely acclaimed *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan* – all for *AMERICAN MASTERS*.

Under her leadership, *AMERICAN MASTERS* received the Primetime Emmy for Outstanding Non-Fiction Series in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2004. Lacy is also the recipient of five

Primetime emmys for *Lillian Gish: The Actor's Life for Me*, *Broadway's Dreamers: The Legacy of The Group Theater*, *Unknown Chaplin*, *Buster Keaton: A Hard Act to Follow*, and *Edward R. Murrow: This Reporter*. In addition to eight Peabody awards for *John Hammond: From Bessie Smith to Bruce Springsteen*, *Unknown Chaplin*, *Buster Keaton: A Hard Act to Follow*, *Paul Simon: Born at the Right Time*, *Alexander Calder*, *F. Scott Fitzgerald: Winter Dreams*, *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*, and *Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film*, she received Grammy awards for *Lou Reed: Rock and Roll Heart* and *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*, 31 additional Emmy nominations and three Oscar nominations. *No Direction Home* was most recently honored with the 2007 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for excellence in broadcast journalism.

Lacy's career in public television began in 1979, as deputy director of performance programs at Thirteen/WNET New York. She was senior program executive for *GREAT PERFORMANCES* and worked as director of program development with *THE AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE*, where she was a founding member. Lacy then ran the East Coast office of Robert Redford's Sundance Institute from 1984 to 1987. She was a consulting producer at Time-Life Video during the launch of Time-Warner's new initiatives in long-form documentary production. Lacy also led programs at both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Lacy was one of the select 2005 honorees at the Museum of Television & Radio's "She Made It" event, which recognized 50 exceptional women who have created and informed the genre. She serves on the board of governors of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and is a trustee of the Independent Documentary Association. Lacy is a member of the Directors Guild of America, the Writers Guild of America, the Independent Features Project and New York Women in Film & Television. She has a BA in American Studies from the University of Virginia, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and an MA in American Studies from George Washington University. She was a Graduate Teaching Fellow, a Smithsonian Fellow and completed a residency at the American Academy in Rome. In 1994, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from Long Island University and in 1996, she was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year at Mary Washington College, the women's college of the University of Virginia.

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