

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 Biographies

AMERICAN MASTERS John James Audubon: Drawn from Nature

LAWRENCE R. HOTT

Director and Producer

Lawrence R. Hott has been producing documentary films since 1978, when he left the practice of law to join Florentine Films, Inc. His honors include an Emmy, two Academy Award nominations, a George Foster Peabody Award, five American Film Festival Blue Ribbons and 11 CINE Golden Eagles as well as screenings at the Telluride Film Festival and first-place awards from the San Francisco, Chicago, National Educational, and New England film festivals.

Hott was the Fulbright fellow in film and television in the United Kingdom in 1994. He received the Humanities Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities in 1995, a Massachusetts Cultural Council/Boston Film and Video Foundation Fellowship in 2001 and the Rosalynn Carter Fellowship for Mental Health Journalism in 2001. He has been on the board of non-fiction writers at Smith College and has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Massachusetts Cultural Commission and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Directors Guild of America.

In 2002-2003, Hott completed three films for PBS broadcast: the one-hour *Imagining Robert: My Brother, Madness and Survival*; the two-hour *The Harriman Alaska Expedition Retraced* and the one-hour *Ohio: 200 Years*. He recently completed *Niagara Falls* for WNED-TV, Buffalo and PBS; and *Through Deaf Eyes* for WETA-TV, Washington, D.C.

DIANE GAREY

Producer

Diane Garey has had a distinguished career as a documentary and feature editor and producer. She edited and co-produced *Wild By Law*, which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 1992 and was broadcast as part of the *American Experience* series on PBS. In 1997, she edited *Divided Highways*, winner of an Emmy Award for Outstanding Historical Programming, a George Foster Peabody Award and Best Documentary at the New England Film Festival.

In 1996 and 1997, Garey produced and edited her first feature film, *The Boyhood of John Muir*, winner of the Gold Hugo at the Chicago Television Festival and the Gold Award from Parents'

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Choice. The film was also the Christmas Day Special on PBS in 1998. Her two-part series *The People's Plague: Tuberculosis in America* won a Gold Apple at the National Educational Media Competition and was featured as a national special on PBS. P.O.V. broadcast her award-winning short film *Tell Me Something I Can't Forget* in 1993. She edited *Knute Rockne and His Fighting Irish*, which was broadcast on *American Experience* that same year. Garey's most widely distributed film is the one-hour *Sentimental Women Need Not Apply: A History of the American Nurse*, which is in use in most nursing and medical schools in the country and was also broadcast on PBS.

Her recent writing and editing credits include *Ohio: 200 Years*, a one-hour Ohio PBS special for the state's bicentennial; *Imagining Robert*, a one-hour film broadcast on PBS that was also shown as part of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Outstanding Documentaries of 2002 series; and *The Harriman Alaska Expedition Retraced*, a two-hour film broadcast nationally on PBS in 2003. She recently edited and co-produced *Niagara Falls* for WNED-TV, Buffalo for national PBS broadcast in 2006 and *Through Deaf Eyes* for WETA-TV, Washington, D.C. for PBS broadcast in 2007.

Diane Garey shares ownership of Florentine Films/Hott Productions, Inc. with her husband Larry Hott. The couple received the Humanities Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities in 1995.

KEN CHOWDER

Writer

Ken Chowder has written more than 20 documentary films (and one feature film) broadcast on PBS, NBC, TBS, Discovery and BBC. He has also published three novels. One of the novels received the Harper-Saxton Prize and another was an Editors' Choice at *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

His credits include seven films for PBS' *American Experience* and another six *National Geographic* films. Films he has written have been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary and named Best History Film at many festivals, including the American Film Festival.

His articles have been published in *Smithsonian* magazine, *Travel & Leisure*, *The New York Times* *Sophisticated Traveler*, *American Heritage*, *Modern Maturity*, *The New York Times*, *The London Sunday Times Travel Magazine*, and elsewhere.

His fellowships, grants and prizes include the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, the Ingram Merrill Foundation Fellowship, the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation Fellowship, the Shifting Foundation Fellowship, the Artists Foundation Fellowship, the Oregon Arts Commission Grant, the Mary Roberts Rinehart Foundation Fellowship, and the Harper-Saxton Prize.

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 seven 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*, and *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*, 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 made an indelible impact on the media landscape. 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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