

American MASTERS

thirteen
WNET NEW YORK

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press information



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

AMERICAN MASTERS PRESENTS AN INTIMATE LOOK AT THE MEN BEHIND THE LIGHTS, CAMERAS AND ACTION OF THE WARNER BROS. STUDIO

Film By Harry Warner's Granddaughter Includes Home Movies, Rare Footage And Recollections From Family And Colleagues

(New York- August 22, 2008) – Harry, the little-known major player. Albert, the “Honest Abe.” Visionary Sam. Volatile Jack. Together, this band of brothers started a movie business that revolutionized Hollywood. They did this with no education, a lot of chutzpah, and the belief that if they were told they couldn’t do something, they knew they were on the right track. Their history unfolds in *The Brothers Warner*, an *AMERICAN MASTERS* presentation, premiering nationally Thursday, September 25 on PBS (check local listings).

“I was riveted by this story,” said Susan Lacy, creator and executive producer of *AMERICAN MASTERS*. “It’s a wonderful, intimate, deeply interesting film about the actual Warner brothers, illuminating the personal history behind the studio. It beautifully dovetails with our other *AMERICAN MASTER* presentation, *You Must Remember This: The Warner Bros. Story*.”

Narrated by filmmaker and author Cass Warner Sperling (Harry Warner's granddaughter), the 60-minute film gives an insider look at the four original Hollywood independent filmmakers, their disparate personalities and their canny business sense. Industry icons Norman Lear and Roy Disney, Jr.; actors Dennis Hopper, Debbie Reynolds, Angie Dickinson, and George Segal; film historians, and family members all contribute to this extraordinary story.

Old footage, family photos and personal documents trace the brothers’ scrappy rise to fortune from their meager immigrant beginnings as working-class Russian Jews. The personal tragedies and professional battles they overcame are an integral part of the story. From opening their first storefront

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theater by hanging a sheet on the wall and borrowing chairs from a local funeral parlor in 1907, these four brothers built an empire on a dream, transformed Hollywood and created one of the top studios in America.

“*The Brothers Warner* is a well-made, fascinating documentary,” said Barry Meyer, Chairman & CEO, Warner Bros. “Cass has not only honored her grandfather’s legacy with this work, she’s also paid homage to one of the guiding principles of the four Warner brothers who founded the studio by producing a film that will educate, entertain and enlighten audiences.”

AMERICAN MASTERS is produced for PBS by Thirteen/WNET New York. *The Brothers Warner* is a production of Warner Sisters. The film is produced, written and directed by Cass Warner Sperling. Susan Lacy is the Creator and Executive producer of *AMERICAN MASTERS*.

AMERICAN MASTERS is made possible by the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional funding for *AMERICAN MASTERS* is provided by Rosalind P. Walter, The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation, Jack Rudin, The André and Elizabeth Kertész Foundation, and public television viewers. More information about *AMERICAN MASTERS* can be found at: www.pbs.org/americanmasters

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