

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 **GLASS: a portrait of Philip in twelve parts**

Production Biographies

Scott Hicks, Filmmaker

Scott Hicks is an internationally acclaimed film director, producer and screenwriter who has been nominated for and won many prestigious awards for his work. His 1996 film *Shine* was an international box office sensation and was nominated for seven Academy Awards®, including Best Director and Best Original Screenplay, with Geoffrey Rush winning Best Actor. *Shine* also received BAFTA and AFI awards and nominations from the Golden Globes, the Directors Guild of America and the Writers Guild of America. He received an Emmy® in 1994 for his direction of the documentary series *Submarines: Sharks of Steel*, and his film *Sebastian and the Sparrow* (1988) won awards at three international film festivals for children.

Hicks' first studio film *Snow Falling on Cedars* (1999) starring Ethan Hawke, Max von Sydow and Sam Shepard, was also nominated for an Academy Award®. This was followed in 2001 by the adaptation of Stephen King's novel *Hearts in Atlantis* starring Anthony Hopkins. His more recent Hollywood film *No Reservations* starring Catherine Zeta-Jones, grossed over \$100 million world-wide, and was Village Roadshow's most profitable film for 2007. Following this, Hicks embarked on a more personal project, shooting a feature length documentary about the iconic composer - Philip Glass. *GLASS: a portrait of Philip in twelve parts* premiered at the 2007 Toronto International Festival, to great acclaim, and has since been released theatrically in the U.S. and Australia, as well as at film festivals around the world. In April 2009, ***American Masters*** presents the film in its US national broadcast premiere on PBS. Presently, Hicks is in Post Production on *The Boys Are Back* starring Clive Owen. This is the first film directed in South Australia by Hicks since his Academy Award® winning feature *Shine*.

The director has also enjoyed success in the world of American television commercials (which he terms "multi-million dollar mini-movies") - one of which was inducted into the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

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Hicks is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. Hicks lives in Adelaide, South Australia with his wife and collaborator, producer Kerry Heysen, where they return for post production on all their films and maintain their own Yacca Paddock Vineyard on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Also an accomplished photographer, Hicks has had three exhibitions of his work, which can be viewed at www.scotthickspix.com.

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 150 documentary films about our country's artistic and cultural giants, those who have made an indelible impact on the American landscape. Now celebrating its 23rd 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 executive 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*, and directed and produced *Lena Horne: In Her Own Voice* - all for ***American Masters***.

Under her leadership, ***American Masters*** received the Primetime Emmy® for Outstanding Non-Fiction Series in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2008 as well as 16 other Primetime Emmy® awards in various craft categories. Lacy is the recipient of five of those 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*, 35 additional Emmy® nominations and three Oscar nominations.

Lacy's career in public television began in 1979, as deputy director of performance programs at THIRTEEN. 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, and a 2008 Washington, D.C. Women of Vision Awards recipient, honoring those in film and video who inspire and mentor. She serves on the board of governors of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, on the board of the Film Forum 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.

Lacy 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 Alumna of the Year at Mary Washington College, the women's college of the University of Virginia.

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