

American MASTERS

thirteen
WNET NEW YORK

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thirteen.org

press information



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

Production Bios

AMERICAN MASTERS David Hockney: The Colors of Music

SETH SCHNEIDMAN *Producer/Director*

Seth Schneidman has a background both in film and in opera. He has a dozen art documentary films to his credit whose subjects include Roy Lichtenstein, George Rickey, Bernard Venet, Harry Callahan, Christo, Robert Rauschenberg, Picasso, and Braque. He also stage directed several operas from 1984 to 1988, including *Salome* in Bonn and *Elektra* for the Paris Opera, both starring Hildegard Behrens, as well as a new production of Janacek's *Die Sacke Makropulos* for the Munich State Opera.

MARYTE KAVALIAUSKAS *Producer/Director*

Maryte Kavaliauskas began a career recording sound for documentary films in 1966. Her diverse credits include: *Miles Davis*, *Benny Carter*, *Down and Out in America*, *Heartland*, *Eddie and the Cruisers*, *The American Friend*, *Lightning Over Water* and *Girlfriends*. She has worked together with her husband Fred Murphy, the renowned feature film director of photography, on many full-length features.

With her interest in art documentary films and her experience in dramatic film, Kavaliauskas began collaborating with Seth Schneidman in 1989. Among others, they have produced or co-produced films on numerous artists and exhibitions, including Roy Lichtenstein, James Rosenquist and Ken Tyler, Frank Stella, Joan Mitchell, and Helen Frankenthaler. Several of their films have won ribbons from the American Film and Video Festival.

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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