

# American MASTERS

**thirteen**  
WNET NEW YORK

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## press information



AMERICAN MASTERS  
is produced for PBS  
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## *American Masters: Hollywood Chinese* *Production Biographies*

### **Arthur Dong**, filmmaker

Arthur Dong and his company, DeepFocus Productions, Inc., produce films that combine the art of the visual medium with an investigation of social issues. His early success includes an Academy Award® nomination for *Sewing Woman* (1982), a documentary about his mother's immigration to American from China, and in 1984, being selected a Directing Fellow to attend the American Film Institute's Center for Advanced Film Studies. He followed-up with *Forbidden City, U.S.A.* (1989, American Experience), a documentary on Chinese American nightclubs in 1940s San Francisco, and then produced 13 documentaries for the Los Angeles PBS program on KCET-TV, *Life & Times* (1991-1992). For PBS' first national series on gay and lesbian issues, *The Question of Equality*, Dong directed the premiere episode, *Out Rage '69* (1995). Dong's other films include a trilogy that examines the challenges of America's cultural wars over homosexuality, and includes *Family Fundamentals* (2002, P.O.V.), *Licensed to Kill* (1997, P.O.V.), and *Coming Out Under Fire* (1994, PBS). In addition to an Oscar® nomination, Dong has earned a George Foster Peabody Award, three Sundance Film Festival awards, the Berlin Film Festival's Teddy Award, Asia's Golden Horse Award, and five Emmy nominations.

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**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 Alumnus of the Year at Mary Washington College, the women's college of the University of Virginia.

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