

# 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 Jerome Robbins: Something To Dance About*

#### **JUDY KINBERG**

Producer/Director

Judy Kinberg, recipient of six Primetime Emmy Awards, was a member of the producing triumvirate which originated *DANCE IN AMERICA*, the pioneering series broadcast as part of Thirteen/WNET New York's *GREAT PERFORMANCES* on PBS. Ms. Kinberg went on to produce 49 *DANCE IN AMERICA* programs, documenting much of the 20th century's finest choreography while working with virtually every major contemporary American choreographer and dance company. During her 30-year tenure, the series received a total of 20 Emmy Awards, the Peabody Award, and numerous other accolades, and was seen around the world.

Highlights from *DANCE IN AMERICA* produced by Ms. Kinberg include the three-hour *Balanchine Celebration; Choreography by Jerome Robbins; Frederick Ashton's The Dream; The Wrecker's Ball* featuring the Paul Taylor Dance Company; the landmark documentary *Balanchine; Nureyev and The Joffrey: In Tribute to Nijinsky; Baryshnikov Dances Balanchine*; the Emmy Award-winning biography *Agnes, The Indomitable de Mille*; and the Emmy-Award winning *Swan Lake* with American Ballet Theatre. She also produced *The Search for Nijinsky's Rite of Spring*, for which she directed a documentary on the original 1913 historic production and its reconstruction at The Joffrey Ballet.

Ms. Kinberg produced and directed the documentaries *Born to be Wild: The Leading Men of American Ballet Theatre*; the Emmy-Award winning *Bob Fosse: Steam Heat*; and *A Renaissance Revisited*, a celebration of *DANCE IN AMERICA*'s twentieth anniversary; as well as *The World of Jim Henson* for *GREAT PERFORMANCES*. For NBC, she co-produced the Academy Award-winning film *He Makes Me Feel Like Dancin'*, also winner of the Peabody Award. Subsequently, she produced and directed a follow-up, the feature documentary *Who's Dancin' Now?*, which received the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival. From Broadway, she produced a television recording of the Tony-Award-winning musical *Fosse*; and for the PBS *STAGE ON SCREEN* series, a live broadcast of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, starring Nathan Lane; and *The Women*, starring Cynthia Nixon.

Ms. Kinberg began her career at CBS Television, where she participated in a wide variety of productions, including the long-running weekly cultural program, *CAMERA THREE*.

#### **AMANDA VAILL**

Film Writer/Robbins biographer

Amanda Vaill is the author of *Somewhere: The Life of Jerome Robbins*, for which she received a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the best selling *Everybody Was So Young: Gerald and Sara Murphy* –

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*A Lost Generation Love Story*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics' Circle Award in biography. She is also co-author of *Seaman Schepps: A Century of New York Jewelry Design*, an illustrated study of the work of her designer grandfather, and *Making It New: The Art and Style of Sara and Gerald Murphy*, the catalogue for the landmark 2007 museum exhibit of the same name. Before turning to writing full-time Ms. Vaill worked in publishing, most notably as executive editor of Viking Penguin, where her authors included Iris Murdoch, Ingmar Bergman, T. C. Boyle, and Dame Margot Fonteyn. Her journalism and criticism have appeared in such publications as *ArtNews*, *Ballet Review*, *Esquire*, *New York Magazine*, *Town & Country*, the *Washington Post*, and *Architectural Digest*, where she is a contributing writer. She lives in New York City.

## 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/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, 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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