

# 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 Bios

#### *AMERICAN MASTERS Orozco: Man of Fire*

##### **LAURIE COYLE**

*Director, Writer, Producer*

Laurie Coyle has worked as producer, writer and researcher on a number of documentary projects, including Lourdes Portillos' *Columbus on Trial* and *La Ofrenda, The Days of the Dead*; Bill Moyers' *Circle of Recovery*; Lorraine Gray's *The Global Assemblyline*; Loni Ding's *Ancestors in America*; and Avon Kirkland's *The Life and Times of Booker T. Washington*.

In 1995, she teamed up with Rick Tejada-Flores and Ray Telles on *The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers' Struggle*, for which she was chief archival researcher and associate producer. She worked in a similar capacity on Paradigm Productions' *The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It* and *AMERICAN MASTERS Ralph Ellison: An American Journey*.

Before becoming a documentary filmmaker, she was an oral historian and co-authored the book *Women at Farah: An Unfinished Story*, which was included in the Prentice-Hall series *Women and Power in American History*. Coyle served as coordinator of programming for the Independent Television Service (ITVS) from 1997-99 and development director of Cine Acción, the Bay Area's organization of independent Latino filmmakers. She majored in political science at the University of California, Berkeley, and studied etching and sculpture at the Ecôle Regionale des Beaux Arts in Amiens, France. She is fluent in Spanish and French, an active member of the Film Arts Foundation Advisory Committee and mother of a teenaged daughter, Chloe.

##### **RICK TEJADA-FLORES**

*Director, Writer, Producer*

Rick Tejada-Flores directed and produced *Rivera in America* and *Jasper Johns: Ideas in Paint*, both for *AMERICAN MASTERS*. With Raymond Telles, he produced and directed the two-hour PBS special, *The Fight in the Fields, Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers' Struggle*. Other credits include the Independent Lens special *Race is the Place*; *The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It*, which aired as a PBS special on Martin Luther King's birthday in 2002; *Si Se Puede!*, winner of a CINE Golden Eagle; *Low 'N Slow, The Art of Lowriding*, which aired as a PBS special in 1984; *Go Chanting, Libre*, produced for KRCB in 1985; and *Elvia, The Fight for Land and Liberty*, which aired on PBS as part of the *Vistas* series.

In 1992, Tejada-Flores directed three films on Hispanic history and culture in New Mexico for the

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American Encounters exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. He has served as coordinating producer for the Latino Consortium at KCET Los Angeles, station manager for NPR station KALW in San Francisco, and program director for PBS station KCSM in San Mateo, California. Tejada-Flores received the 1990 James Phelan Award for Video. He currently has in development *The Road to Chulumani*, a documentary about his family's roots in Bolivia.

**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 seven 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*, and *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*, 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 made an indelible impact on the media

landscape. 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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