

# American MASTERS

**thirteen**  
WNET NEW YORK

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thirteen.org

## press information



**PBS**

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

### Production Bios

#### *AMERICAN MASTERS Good Ol' Charles Schulz*

#### **CALVIN SKAGGS** *Executive Producer*

Calvin Skaggs is the president of Lumiere Productions. He has produced or directed more than 30 dramas and documentaries for television and theatrical exhibition. His first theatrical feature, *On Valentine's Day*, was the official American entry in the Venice Film Festival. His hip-hop drama *Fly by Night* won the Sundance Filmmakers' Trophy in 1993.

He has executive-produced two major documentary series for PBS – *With God on Our Side* and *Local News* – and produced numerous films for Discovery, PBS, HBO and Channel 4 UK. PBS aired his two most recent films in 2006-07: *Democracy on Deadline: The Global Struggle for an Independent Press* and *Kansas to Kandahar*.

His favorite *Peanuts* character is Schroeder.

#### **DAVID VAN TAYLOR** *Director, Writer*

David Van Taylor is the vice president of Lumiere Productions. He joined the company as series producer of *With God on Our Side*. His theatrical feature *A Perfect Candidate* was nominated for an Emmy. Van Taylor has written and directed for PBS, HBO, Discovery, Court TV, Logo, MTV and public radio's *This American Life*.

His first film, *Dream Deceivers*, was honored by the International Documentary Association. He was executive producer of *Ghosts of Attica*, which was awarded a duPont-Columbia Silver Baton. Van Taylor graduated from Harvard College with a degree in sociology and Afro-American studies, and then taught science in a New York City public school.

He has identified with Charlie Brown since childhood.

#### **ALI POMEROY** *Producer*

Ali Pomeroy conceived and produced Lumiere's five-hour series *Local News*, about a struggling TV newsroom in North Carolina. She also produced *Love Lessons*, a portrait of gay and lesbian singles looking for love. Her film *Death Row in Our Town*, about the Texas town that houses the world's busiest death chamber, has been broadcast and honored around the world. Her research for *With God*

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*on Our Side* received a 2005 Emmy nomination. She has also worked for CBS Television, Lucky Duck Productions, and Italy's RAI-TV. Pomeroy graduated from Yale University in 1990 with a degree in English.

She grew up loving Snoopy, but now thinks Lucy is the funniest.

## **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 also 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.

She identifies with Schroeder, but her brother has always told her she's more like Lucy.

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