

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 Tony Bennett: The Music Never Ends

CLINT EASTWOOD

Producer

In 2005, Clint Eastwood received the Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Director – his second in both categories – for *Million Dollar Baby*. The film also earned Oscars for Hilary Swank (Best Actress) and Morgan Freeman (Best Supporting Actor) and nominations for three more (Best Actor for Eastwood, Best Editing and Best Adapted Screenplay). In 2003, Eastwood’s critically acclaimed drama, *Mystic River*, debuted at the Cannes Film Festival, earning him a Golden Palm nomination and the Golden Coach Award. *Mystic River* went on to earn six Academy Award nominations (Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, and Best Screenplay) and win two Oscars (Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor). In 1993, Eastwood’s foreboding, revisionist western, *Unforgiven*, won nine Academy Award nominations (Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Production Design, Best Editor, and Best Sound) and four Oscars (Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Editor). Eastwood also received the academy’s Irving Thalberg Memorial Award in 1995.

Eastwood was first honored by the Golden Globes in 1971 with the Henrietta Award for World Film Favorite. In 1988, he was awarded the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award. The following year, he was honored with the Golden Globe for Best Director for *Bird* and in 1993, he was awarded Best Director for *Unforgiven*. Nominated in 2004 for his direction of *Mystic River*, Eastwood took home his third Best Director Golden Globe in 2005 for *Million Dollar Baby*. He was also nominated in 2005 for his score to that film. In addition to the Thalberg Award and DeMille Award, Eastwood’s many other lifetime career achievement awards include honors from the Directors Guild of America, the Producers Guild of America, the Screen Actors Guild, the American Film Institute, and the Film Society of Lincoln Center, the French Film Society, the National Board of Review, the Henry Mancini Institute (Hank Award for distinguished service to American music), and the Hamburg Film Festival (Douglas Sirk Award). He is also the recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor, awards from the American Cinema Editors and the Publicists’ Guild, an honorary doctorate in fine arts from Wesleyan University, and, as a five-time winner of Favorite Motion Picture Actor from the People’s Choice Awards, a 1999 nominee for Favorite All-Time Movie Star. In 1991, Eastwood was Harvard’s Hasty Pudding Theatrical Society’s Man of the Year and, in 1992, he received the California Governor’s Award for the Arts.

No stranger to the Cannes Film Festival, Eastwood served as president of the jury in 1994 and has earned Best Picture Golden Palm nominations for *White Hunter, Black Heart* in 1990; *Bird* in 1988 (which won for Best Actor and Best Sound); and *Pale Rider* in 1985.

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His films include *Letters from Iwo Jima* (2007) – directed, produced; *Flags of Our Fathers* (2006) – directed, produced; *Million Dollar Baby* (2004) – directed, produced, starred; *Mystic River* (2003) – directed, produced; *Blood Work* (2002) – directed, produced, starred; *Space Cowboys* (2000) – directed, produced, starred; *True Crime* (1999) – directed, produced, starred; *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (1997) – directed, produced; *Absolute Power* (1997) – directed, produced, starred; *The Stars Fell on Henrietta* (1995) – produced; *The Bridges of Madison County* (1995) – directed, produced, starred; *A Perfect World* (1993) – directed, produced, starred; *In the Line of Fire* (1993) – starred; *Unforgiven* (1992) – directed, produced, starred; *The Rookie* (1990) – directed, starred; *White Hunter, Black Heart* (1990) – directed, produced, starred; *Pink Cadillac* (1989) – starred; *Thelonious Monk: Straight, No Chaser* (1988) – executive produced; *Bird* (1988) – directed, produced; *The Dead Pool* (1988) – starred; *Heartbreak Ridge* (1986) – directed, produced, starred; *Pale Rider* (1985) – directed, produced, starred; *City Heat* (1984) – starred; *Tightrope* (1984) – produced, starred; *Sudden Impact* (1983) – directed, produced, starred; *Honkytonk Man* (1982) – directed, produced, starred; *Firefox* (1982) – directed, produced, starred; *Any Which Way You Can* (1980) – starred; *Bronco Billy* (1980) – directed, starred; *Escape from Alcatraz* (1979) – starred; *Every Which Way But Loose* (1978) – starred; *The Gauntlet* (1977) – directed, starred; *The Enforcer* (1976) – starred; *The Outlaw Josey Wales* (1976) – directed, starred; *The Eiger Sanction* (1975) – directed, starred; *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot* (1974) – starred; *Magnum Force* (1973) – starred; *Breezy* (1973) – directed; *High Plains Drifter* (1973) – directed, starred; *Joe Kidd* (1972) – starred; *Dirty Harry* (1971) – starred; and *Play Misty for Me* (1971) – directed, starred.

He also starred in *The Beguiled* (1971); *Kelly's Heroes* (1970); *Two Mules for Sister Sara* (1970); *Paint Your Wagon* (1969); *Where Eagles Dare* (1968); *Coogan's Bluff* (1968); *Hang 'Em High* (1968); *The Witches* (1967); *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* (1966); *For A Few Dollars More* (1965); and *A Fistful of Dollars* (1964). Starting in 1955, he also appeared in a number of other feature films and television programs.

BRUCE RICKER

Director

Bruce Ricker has directed and produced a number of films, including *Budd Boetticher: A Man Can Do That* (2005) for Turner Classic Movies and Paramount Home Video, with Clint Eastwood as executive producer; and *Clint Eastwood's Piano Blues* (2003) for PBS and Sony Home Video. Ricker also served as producer for Sony Records for the Piano Blues soundtrack. Ricker was the music consultant for Warner Bros. for *Mystic River* (2003), and the coordinating producer for the Warner Bros. Records soundtrack.

Ricker was director/producer for *AMERICAN MASTERS Clint Eastwood: Out of the Shadows* (2000); executive producer for *Music for the Movies of Clint Eastwood* (2000); director/producer for *Jim Hall: A Life in Progress* (1998) about the jazz guitarist for Rhapsody Films Home Video; director/producer of *Eastwood After Hours – Live at Carnegie Hall* (1997), and producer of the soundtrack; music consultant for *The Bridges of Madison County* (1995); producer of *Thelonious Monk: Straight No Chaser* (1988); and director/producer of *The Last of the Blues Devils* (1979).

Ricker has a B.A. in American Studies from the City College of New York (1965) and a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School (1970).

JOEL COX

Editor

Joel Cox has worked with Clint Eastwood for more than 30 years on films, including *Flags of Our Fathers*, *Million Dollar Baby*, *Mystic River*, *Blood Work*, *Space Cowboys*, *True Crime*, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, *Absolute Power*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *A Perfect World*, and *Unforgiven*, for which he won an Academy Award for Best Editor.

Cox has spent his entire career at Warner Bros., most notably on Eastwood's films. The relationship began in 1975 when Cox worked as an assistant editor on *The Outlaw Josey Wales*. Since then, he has cut 20 more films that have, in some combination, either starred, been produced or directed by Eastwood. Cox's credits as co-editor with his mentor, noted editor Ferris Webster, include *The Enforcer*, *The Gauntlet*, *Every Which Way But Loose*, *Escape from Alcatraz*, *Bronco Billy*, and *Honkytonk Man*.

Sudden Impact was Cox's first film as editor, a title he has held ever since on such films as *Tightrope*, *Pale Rider*, *Heartbreak Ridge*, *Bird*, *The Dead Pool*, *Pink Cadillac*, *White Hunter Black Heart*, and *The Rookie*.

TED SARANDOS

Executive Producer

Ted Sarandos has served as Netflix chief content officer since 2000. With more than 20 years of experience in home entertainment, Sarandos leads the content acquisition efforts for the company and is recognized in the industry as an innovator in film acquisition and distribution.

Sarandos oversees strategic content acquisition for Netflix and manages the company's relationships with studios, networks, filmmakers, and producers. Since 2000, the Netflix DVD library has increased tremendously, from 2,000 in 1999 to 80,000 in 2007 and the Instant Watching library is growing every day, with 3,000 titles currently in stock. As Netflix has grown to 6.8 million subscribers this year, Sarandos has established Netflix as a successful film distributor within the entertainment industry.

Sarandos has also spearheaded the company's original content initiative, Red Envelope Entertainment, creating a national platform for films and entertainment programming through unique partnerships with filmmakers, networks and studios, including IFC, HBO, ThinkFilm, and Sundance Channel. These unique deals enable Netflix to provide the broadest variety of films for consumers as well as offer an alternate distribution method for smaller and independent films that might not otherwise be seen. Sarandos ensures that the more than 80,000 titles in the Netflix DVD library satisfy the 6.8 million Netflix subscribers who rent about 1.6 million DVDs per day.

From 1983 to 1988, Sarandos began his home video career managing a metropolitan retail chain. He then moved to video distributor ETD, where he served as Western regional director of sales and operations. Until March 2000, Sarandos was vice president of product and merchandising for Video City, where he negotiated the industry's first DVD revenue sharing agreement and reduced the cost of content from all studios.

Sarandos is a former chapter president and board member for the Video Software Dealers Association. He also serves on the Film Advisory Board for Tribeca Film Festival, the retail

advisory board for the Digital Entertainment Group, FIND Advisory Board and MediaRights.org, as well as serving as a trustee for the International Documentary Association. Sarandos was also most recently included in Variety's Global 50, a list of the 50 most influential people in independent film distribution, as well as number 30 on Hollywood Reporter's Power 50.

NICK TOSCHES

Co-writer

Nick Tosches is the author of the novels *Cut Numbers* and *Trinities*, as well as a collection of poetry, *Chaldea*, and nonfiction works such as *Hellfire*, *Dino*, *The Devil and Sonny Liston*, and *Where Dead Voices Gather*. Thirty years of his writing is collected in *The Nick Tosches Reader*. His most recent novel is *In the Hand of Dante* and his most recent nonfiction book is *King of the Jews*. He is a contributing editor of *Vanity Fair*.

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 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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