

American MASTERS

20
years

thirteen
WNET NEW YORK

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press information

Press Tour Biographies

A Production of
Thirteen/WNET
New York for PBS

AMERICAN MASTERS Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film

RIC BURNS

Producer, Director, Writer



Ric Burns is an internationally recognized documentary filmmaker and writer, best known for his epic series *New York: A Documentary Film*, which premiered nationally on PBS to wide public and critical acclaim. The eight-part, seventeen-and-a-half-hour film chronicles the city's rise from a tiny Dutch trading post down through its continuing preeminence as the undisputed economic and cultural capital of the world.

The first five episodes of *New York* were broadcast in November 1999; the sixth and seventh episodes in the fall of 2001; and the eighth and final episode in September 2003. The first episodes earned the prestigious Alfred I. du Pont-Columbia University Award for excellence in broadcast journalism, an Emmy for outstanding achievement in non-fiction editing, and two other Emmy nominations, for outstanding non-fiction special and achievement in cinematography. In 2002, episode seven of the series was awarded the American Cinema Editors award for best edited documentary, as well as the CINE Golden Eagle Award. The eighth and final episode received an Emmy and an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, among other awards.

Burns has been writing, directing and producing historical documentaries for nearly 20 years, since his collaboration on the celebrated PBS series *The Civil War* (1990), which he produced with his brother Ken, and wrote with Geoffrey C. Ward. He received numerous awards for his work on the series, including two Emmys (for producing and for writing), the Christopher Award, the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, and the Producer of the Year Award from the Producer's Guild of America.

Since founding Steeplechase Films in 1989, he has directed some of the most distinguished programs in the award-winning public television series, *American Experience*, including *Coney Island* (1991), which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and went on to receive the Erik Barnouw prize of the Organization of American Historians. Burns also wrote and directed *The Donner Party* (1992), which premiered at the Telluride Film Festival and received a Peabody Broadcasting Award from the University of Georgia, a Writers Guild of America Award for Outstanding Achievement of 1993, and the D.W. Griffith Award of the National Board of Review for the best television program of 1992.

In 1995, Burns wrote, directed, and co-produced *The Way West*, which received an Alfred I. du Pont-Columbia University Award, the Writer's Guild of America Award for outstanding achievement, and the National Educational Media Network's Gold Apple Award. In April 2002, Burns completed *Ansel Adams*, a co-production of Steeplechase Films and Sierra Club Productions for *American Experience*. It received both an Emmy for Outstanding Cultural Programming and an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia

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University Award.

Burns's most recently completed project, *Eugene O'Neill*, released at the end of March 2006, tells the story of the life and work of America's greatest and only Nobel Prize-winning playwright. The *Wall Street Journal* wrote: "Superbly told narrative of America's greatest playwright that grows stronger and surer as it moves toward its end, much as O'Neill's own creative life did."

Burns is co-author, with James Sanders and Lisa Ades, of *New York: An Illustrated History*, the companion book to the *New York* series, as well as co-author, with Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns, of the companion book to *The Civil War*. Both books are published by Alfred A. Knopf.

Burns was educated at Columbia University and Cambridge University. He lives in New York City with his wife and two young sons.

DAVE HICKEY

Art Critic

Dave Hickey is a freelance writer of fiction and cultural criticism. He has served as owner-director of A Clean Well-Lighted Place gallery in Austin, Texas, as director of the Reese Palley Gallery in New York City, as executive editor of *Art in America* magazine in New York City, and as contributing editor to *The Texas Observer*, *The Village Voice*, *Art Issues*, *Parkett* and *Context*. He has written for most major American cultural publications, including *The Rolling Stone*, *Art News*, *Art in America*, *Artforum*, *Interview*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Vanity Fair*, *Nest*, *The New York Times*, and *The Los Angeles Times*.

He has published a volume of short fiction, *Prior Convictions*, with the SMU Press. His critical essays on art have been collected in two volumes published by Art Issues Press, *The Invisible Dragon: Four Essays on Beauty* (1993), which is in its sixth printing, and *Air Guitar: Essays on Art and Democracy* (1998), now in its eighth printing. His most recent book, *Stardumb* (Artspace Press, 1999), is a collection of stories with drawings by artist John DeFazio. He has written numerous exhibition catalog monographs on contemporary artists, including Anthony Caro, Ann Hamilton, Lari Pittman, Richard Serra, Robert Gober, Edward Ruscha, Terry Allen, Andy Warhol, Gerhard Richter, Sigmar Polke, Tom Wesselmann, Vija Celmins, Vernon Fisher, Luis Jimenez, Sol Lewitt, Sharon Ellis, and Michelangelo Pistoletto. He has two books in production at the University of Chicago Press: *Connoisseur of Waves: More Essays on Art and Democracy* (2006) and *Feint of Heart: Essays on Individual Artists* (two volumes) (2008) as well as a new edition of *The Invisible Dragon*.

Hickey has lectured extensively at universities and institutions in America and abroad. These include Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cornell, Brown, Stanford, the Rhode Island School of Design, the University of Texas at Austin, Art Center in Pasadena, Otis Institute in Los Angeles, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, the Dia Center for the Arts, the Walker Art Center, the Dallas Museum of Fine Art, and the Kimbell Museum in Fort Worth, in the United States; as well as the Tate Modern, The Royal College of Art and the Institute of Contemporary Art, in London. He has served as a visiting professor at numerous institutions, including the University of Texas at Austin; The University of California, Santa Barbara; the Otis Parsons Institute, Los Angeles; The Graduate School of Design at Harvard University; Cambridge; and Rice University, Houston. He has also received assorted grants and fellowships.

Hickey has organized numerous exhibitions for the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Texas Gallery in Houston; Diverse Works in Houston; the Contemporary Art Museum at the University of South Florida; Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles; and the Museo Tamayo in Mexico City. He was the curator of the international exhibition Beau Monde, the fourth SITE Santa Fe biennial held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, July 2001-January 6, 2002, which won the 2001-2002 Best Show in a Kunsthalle exhibition from the Association of International Critics of Art.

Hickey presently holds the position of Schaeffer Professor of Modern Letters at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He served as Distinguished Visiting Professor at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles from 2004 to 2006. In 1992, he presented The Preston H. Thomas Memorial Lecture Series on architecture theory at Cornell University; in 1994, he received The Frank Jewett Mather Award for Distinction in Art or Architectural Criticism for the Year 1993, presented by the College Art Association; in 1997 he served as the Cullinan Chair of Architecture at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Profiles of Hickey have appeared in *Time*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *The Economist*, *Flaunt*, *Spirit*, *Texas Monthly* and other publications. Interviews with Hickey have appeared in *The Los Angeles Times*, *Bomb*, *New Art Examiner*, Public and other newspapers and journals. He has been interviewed on PBS television and National Public Radio programs. He was awarded a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship for 2002-2007. In May 2003, he received an honorary degree from The Rhode Island School of Design.

STEPHEN KOCH

Author

Stephen Koch's most recent book, from Counterpoint Books, was *The Breaking Point: Ernest Hemingway, John Dos Passos, and the Murder of Jose Robles* (2005), the true story of the murder that shattered the friendship between two of America's greatest writers, set in the tumult of the Spanish Civil War.

In 2003, Koch published *The Modern Library Writer's Workshop: A Guide to the Craft of Fiction* (Random House), a definitive writing guide. For many years, Koch was chair of the graduate writing program in the School of the Arts at Columbia University.

In 2004, Koch revised his controversial 1994 book, *Double Lives: Stalin, Willi Munzenberg, and the Seduction of the Intellectuals*, which tells the story of how propaganda and the clandestine world of secret services merged in the events that led to the Second World War. Koch is also the author of *Stargazer: The Life, World and Films of Andy Warhol*, first published in 1973 and most recently updated in 1995.

BARRY SCHULMAN

Director of Cultural and Arts Programming

Barry Schulman is an award-winning television executive with over three decades of in-depth experience at cable networks and broadcast stations, holding senior management positions in programming, production and development. In April 2005, Schulman joined public television as executive producer of *Great Performances* and director of cultural and arts programming at

Thirteen/WNET New York, overseeing Emmy Award-winning programming for PBS, including *Great Performances* and *AMERICAN MASTERS*. Schulman's passion for the arts grew from his family heritage, as his grandfather was a noted theater owner and producer of Yiddish theatre in New York. He was instrumental in establishing one of the first nationally syndicated station campaigns to encourage arts programming, *You Gotta Have Arts*.

His previous positions include senior vice president of programming for the PAX Television Network and vice president of programming and program strategy at A&E, where he was responsible for new program development, long term planning, programming strategy, scheduling, and acquisitions. Prior to his role in this newly created position at A&E, Schulman was vice president of programming for USA Networks' Sci-Fi Channel, one of the fastest growing cable networks. He launched the channel in 1992, and received a Cable Ace Award nomination from the NCTA for original programming in 1993. Prior to this pivotal role at Sci-Fi, Schulman was director of programming for WBZ-TV, a Group W Television station and the number-one rated station in Boston. He launched and executive produced the nationally syndicated series *This Evening* for Group W Productions, which was later sold to the Lifetime cable network.

Schulman's industry awards include the Peabody, duPont-Columbia, Emmy, Iris, Action for Children's Television, AP, UPI, and International Film & Video Festival. Many of the programs he has produced are part of the permanent collection of the Museum of Television and Radio.

SUSAN LACY

Series Creator and Executive Producer

A producer of the widely acclaimed *AMERICAN MASTERS No Direction Home: Bob Dylan* – which most recently won the Grand Prize at the 2006 Banff World Television Festival – 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 20th anniversary 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*, 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 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*

Bob Dylan, 31 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. 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.

PRUDENCE GLASS

Series Producer

Prudence Glass began working in public television when she joined the core staff at Thirteen/WNET New York in the spring of 2000, fresh from writing and producing *AMERICAN MASTERS Sidney Poitier: One Bright Light*, directed by Lee Grant, which aired nationally on PBS in February of that year. Coming originally from a strong background in community based work and political organizing, Glass previously researched, wrote and co-produced a series of social-issue documentary films with Grant, which aired as part of HBO's *American Undercover* series. *When Women Kill* profiled women serving prison sentences for homicide convictions; *What Sex Am I?* explored transvestite and transsexual life-styles; the Academy Award-winning *Down and Out in America* examined homelessness across the United States; *Battered* revealed myths about domestic violence; and *Women On Trial* exposed child custody battles. For the Lifetime channel, Glass collaborated with Grant on *Say It! Fight It! Cure It!*, which educated about breast cancer, and *Bella*, a portrait of the life and work of former Congresswoman Bella Abzug.

Glass received a B.A. in literature from The New School and an M.A. in community studies from New York University. She left her teaching assistantship in the doctoral program there to work directly in providing community mental health, alternatives to incarceration and homeless services during a long career in social work before turning to full-time documentary filmmaking. She is a member of the Writers Guild of America, New York Women in Film and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. She received primetime Emmy awards for the 2002-2003 and the 2003-2004 *AMERICAN MASTERS* seasons.

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Thirteen/WNET New York is one of the key program providers for public television, bringing such acclaimed series as *Nature*, *Great Performances*, *AMERICAN MASTERS*, *Charlie Rose*, *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly*, *Wide Angle*, *Secrets of the Dead*, and *Cyberchase* - as well as the work of Bill Moyers - to audiences nationwide. As the flagship public broadcaster in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metro area, Thirteen reaches millions of viewers each week, airing the best of American public television along with its own local productions such as *The Ethnic Heritage Specials*, *The Thirteen Walking Tours*, *New York Voices*, and *Reel New York*. With educational and community outreach projects that extend the impact of its television productions, Thirteen takes television "out of the box." And as broadcast and digital media converge, Thirteen is blazing trails in the creation of Web sites, enhanced television, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, educational software, and other cutting-edge media products. More information about Thirteen can be found at: www.thirteen.org.

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