

# 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 You Must Remember This: The Warner Bros. Story*

#### **RICHARD SCHICKEL**

*Director, Writer and Producer*

Richard Schickel is a documentary filmmaker, movie historian and film critic who has published more than 30 books and produced, written and directed more than 30 films for television. Among the most recent of the latter are *Charlie: The Life and Art of Charles Chaplin*, *Woody Allen: A Life in Film*, *Scorsese on Scorsese*, and *Watch the Skies! A History of 1950s Science Fiction*.

In May 2007, Turner Classic Movies broadcast Schickel's *Bienvenue a' Cannes*, a portrait of the film festival, and in July 2007, TCM aired *Spielberg on Spielberg*, the 19th portrait Schickel has made over the course of his television career about an American film director. Among his other television titles are *Eastwood on Eastwood*, *The Harryhausen Chronicles* and the legendary PBS series, *The Men Who Made the Movies*, which were the first-ever TV portraits of movie directors, including such seminal figures as Alfred Hitchcock, Howard Hawks and Frank Capra.

A second such series of TV portraits, *The Moviemakers*, profiled Elia Kazan, Stanley Donen and Arthur Penn, among others. Schickel's reconstruction of Sam Fuller's classic war film, *The Big Red One*, which restored over 45 minutes cut from the original release print, has been an international success, listed as one of the 10 Best Films in 2004 by the *New York Times* and winning awards from The National Society of Film Critics, the Los Angeles and Seattle Film Critics Associations and Anthology Film Archives.

The latest among Schickel's many books are *Elia Kazan: A Biography*, which was named a *New York Times* "Notable Book," and *The Essential Chaplin*, an anthology of critical writings about the great comedian. Among his other titles are *The Disney Version*, a study of the life, times, art and commerce of Walt Disney; *His Picture in the Papers*, a pioneering work about the modern beginnings of the celebrity system; *D.W. Griffith: An American Life*; *Intimate Strangers: The Culture of Celebrity*; *Brando: A Life in Our Times*; *Clint Eastwood: A Biography*; *Matinee Idylls* and *Schickel on Film*, both collections of his longer essays on film; and *Good Morning Mr. Zip Zip Zip*, a memoir of his formative movie-going years. *Film On Paper*, a collection of essays, was published in spring, 2008.

Schickel began his reviewing career at *Life* in 1965 and began reviewing for *Time* in 1972. He also writes a monthly review of current books about movies for the *Los Angeles Times Book Review*. He holds an honorary doctorate from the American Film Institute; has held a Guggenheim Fellowship; and was awarded the British Film Institute Book Prize, the Maurice Bessy prize for film criticism, and the National Board of Review's William K. Everson Award for his contributions to film history.

*You Must Remember This*, his five hour history of the Warner Bros. studio, premiered in a shortened version at the Cannes Film Festival in May, 2008. He is the co-author of a book based on the series which will be published by Running Press simultaneously with the series TV debut on PBS.

#### **SUSAN LACY**

*Series Creator and Executive Producer*

Susan Lacy has been an award-winning originator of primetime public television programs since

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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 22nd 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, and 2004 as well as 15 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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