

# Colonial HOUSE



## *Producer Biographies*

### **WILLIAM R. GRANT**

*Executive In Charge*

*Director of Science, Natural History, and Features Programs for Thirteen/WNET New York*

William R. Grant joined Thirteen in 1995 after 12 years at WGBH in Boston, where he was managing editor of *Frontline*, and then, for 10 years, executive editor of *Nova*. He also served as executive producer of both *Living Against the Odds* and *Made in America?* At Thirteen, he has served as executive producer of *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow*, *Innovation*, *Going Places*, *America on Wheels*, *Savage Skies*, *Savage Earth*, *Knife to the Heart*, *Stephen Hawking's Universe*, *On the Trail of Mark Twain*, *The American President*, *Echoes From the White House*, and executive in charge of *Warship*, among others. Previously, Mr. Grant was a reporter and editor at *The Detroit Free Press* and *The San Francisco Chronicle*, where his work won numerous awards. He began his journalism career while in high school at the *Winchester (Kentucky) Sun* and also worked at the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and the *Lexington Herald-Leader*. From 1979-80, he was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

### **Beth Hoppe**

*Executive Producer, Thirteen/WNET New York*

*Director of Science Programs at Thirteen/WNET New York*

Beth Hoppe joined New York's leading public television station in 1998 as director of science programs. In this capacity, she is continuing Thirteen's tradition of presenting top quality documentaries to viewers nationwide. She has executive produced all of Thirteen's "hands-on history" programs, including the highly rated *Frontier House* (2002), and the Peabody Award-winning *The 1900 House* (2000). Additional credits at Thirteen include executive producer for all four seasons of the *Secrets of the Dead* series and specials, *The Secret Life of the Brain* (winner of an Emmy award for outstanding Science, Natural History and Technology program), *Warship*, *Taxi Dreams*, and the *Savage* strand. Ms. Hoppe is currently overseeing several major science series in the Thirteen pipeline, including *DNA*, *Innovation*, *Colonial House*, and *Warplane*.

Ms. Hoppe was previously series producer for the award-winning *NOVA*, at WGBH in Boston. She also produced and directed several key programs in the series, including

- more -



[pbs.org/colonialhouse](http://pbs.org/colonialhouse)

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450 West 33rd Street  
New York NY 10001-2605  
[www.thirteen.org](http://www.thirteen.org)

*Avalanche!*, *Great Moments from NOVA*, hosted by Bill Cosby, and *The Universe Within*, an exploration of the wonders of the human body. Her career has also included directing *The Ten O'Clock News* in Boston and editing the weekly newsmagazine *New Hampshire Journal*. Ms. Hoppe graduated magna cum laude from the University of New Hampshire and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

**Leanne Klein**

*Executive Producer, Wall To Wall*

A graduate of Cambridge University and Goldsmith's College Film School, Leanne began her television career as a producer/director for the BBC. In 1994 she joined Wall To Wall to make *A Baby's World (Baby It's You)* for The Learning Channel/Channel 4, for which she was awarded an Emmy as Best Director. The series has gone on to sell in over 70 television territories, and is still Wall To Wall's greatest international hit.

Leanne continued to direct and produce many of Wall To Wall's most acclaimed productions, including the groundbreaking *Body Story* (Discovery Channel/Channel 4), which was nominated for a BAFTA and won several awards on both sides of the Atlantic.

By the late 1990s she had become – and continues to be – a key member of the company's editorial team, and in 1998 she developed and executive produced the first of the hugely popular and successful “House” shows: *The 1900 House* (Channel 4/WNET for PBS) which won both a Peabody and an RTS Award. The show has spawned five further “House” series, including *Frontier House* and *Colonial House*.

Leanne's other executive producer credits include: highly acclaimed docu-drama *The Day Britain Stopped* (BBC2), *Things I Hate About You* (Bravo), *Scribbling* (BBC2), *Art Crime* (Bravo/BBC4), *Global Medics* (Discovery Health), *Ice World* (Discovery Channel/Channel 4), *A Child's World* (Discovery Channel/BBC2)

**Sallie Clement**

*Series Producer*

Sallie Clement has spent her career as a documentary filmmaker, lately thriving in the “reality show” genre. She began at the BBC in 1987 as a clerk in the sports department, but quickly moved through the ranks working on shows such as the award-winning children's series *Blue Peter*, to become a program director on *Boxpops*, the successful series of 40-minute documentaries on BBC2. After leaving the BBC to travel the world, Clement returned to work as associate producer and/or director on several programs for ITV, including *The Good Sex Guide Abroad*, an award-winning sex education series that involved world-wide shoots; *Getaways*, an insiders look at vacation destinations around the U.K.; and *Goonah Ghana*, a well-received documentary partly shot by Clement herself in Africa.

In 1997, Clement began to work extensively with Channel 4. She produced and directed several observational documentaries including two series and a one hour special of *Great Estates*, an historical documentary series looking at English stately homes and the aristocracy still in residence. She then moved in to “reality shows,” working as story producer and gallery producer

on the hugely popular *Big Brother II*. Clement then took up the post of senior producer, responsible for training new producers as well as overseeing the live gallery and show content for *Big Brother III* and *Celebrity Big Brother*.

**Nicolas Roether Brown**

*Director, Episodes 1 & 3*

Prior to working on **COLONIAL HOUSE**, Nicolas Roether Brown made films for Wall To Wall Television in London, England, including the previous hands-on history installment, *Frontier House*, which was nominated for an Emmy Award. Recent credits include director on *Medieval Tournament* for Discovery, series director and cameraman on *Enduring Extremes* for Discovery Health, and director and cameraman on *GEO 360° Reportage* for ARTE. His film subjects have ranged from hunting dinosaur bones in Mongolia, to hunting serial killers in the United States. His job has taken him to the depths of the Dead Sea in Israel and to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Prior to working with Wall To Wall, Nicolas made numerous extreme sports and adventure films, as well as two environmental documentaries about the American West entitled *Western Ranching* and *The Forest Wars*. In 1993, he received an Emmy for cinematography for *Mt. Cook: Summit of Extremes*, and has won several other prestigious industry awards. He grew up in Vail, Colorado, attended Dartmouth College, and now lives alternately in London and New York with his wife, Lisa.

**Kristi Jacobson**

*Director, Episodes 2, 4 & 8*

Kristi Jacobson is an independent documentary filmmaker whose body of work tackles a wide range of significant social concerns through character-driven storytelling. Kristi's debut feature length documentary, *American Standoff*, produced by Barbara Kopple, premiered at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival and was broadcast on HBO. Directed and filmed by Jacobson, the film captures the Teamsters Union's high-stakes battle to organize non-union trucking giant Overnite Transportation and looks at the role of unions in modern times. Kristi has collaborated with Kopple on several projects, including *Justice for All* about widespread injustice in the capital punishment system and *Defending Our Daughters* about women survivors of the war in Bosnia (broadcast nationally on Lifetime television and winner of the Voices of Courage Award). Also for Lifetime, Kristi recently directed *Together: Stop Violence Against Women*, a one-hour documentary produced Rory Kennedy and Liz Garbus of Moxie Firecracker Films. Her work has been featured on HBO, A&E, Lifetime, ABC Television and PBS.

Kristi's current project is a documentary film about her grandfather, Toots Shor and his famous self-named New York City saloon of the 1940s and 1950s – an exploration of a bygone era of sports and nightlife in New York City's history. She graduated summa cum laude from Duke University and lives in New York City.

**Sally Aitken**

*Director, Episodes 5 & 7*

With a background in socio-political, historical and observational documentary, director Sally Aitken felt **COLONIAL HOUSE** was a unique combination of all three and an opportunity she

could not pass up. Although based in London, she is from New Zealand, thereby contributing to the international scope of the production. Location work has taken Sally from Ibiza, Spain, to filming in Israel's West Bank during the second intifada.

Her film *Me and My Girl* about an elderly couple living with dementia won a Royal Television Society Award for Best Factual Programme (1999) and was invited to various international film festivals, including Sheffield (UK, 1999), WOW Festival (Australia, 1999) and Femme Totale (Germany, 2000). Ms. Aitken was the recipient of a TVNZ scholarship on completion of her undergraduate degree in 1996. She also holds a distinction for her MA in Television Documentary from Goldsmiths College, University of London. Television credits include PBS, BBC, C4 and TVNZ

### **Philippa Ross**

*Director, Episode 6*

Philippa Ross began directing social documentaries at 24. Having received a degree in politics at Bristol University, she spent a year teaching in Namibia, Africa before returning to London to work as a news journalist at CNN. She found her niche in character-driven documentary, and has since directed over 18 films for Channel 4, ITV and Channel 5. **COLONIAL HOUSE** is the most recent addition to her credits, which include biographies of Alfred Hitchcock and Sir Alec Guinness, the award-winning *Perfect Match*, a series following a helicopter emergency rescue team, and a one-off special about female menstruation.

### **William Edwards**

*Cinematographer*

Will Edwards, a freelance cameraman for the past eight years, is particularly interested in "observational" documentaries. He has spent his career traveling the globe to film a diverse range of subjects. Armed with a degree in philosophy from Leeds University and a Master of Arts in Philosophy from Sheffield University, Edwards began his career as a camera assistant on film and television dramas for England's Channels 4, 5 and ITV, including *Love In Leeds*, a series following courtship among different ethnic groups, and *Godfathers: "Protection"* and *"Blood Brothers,"* two programs within a six-part series on contemporary crime in British series. Then in 2000, because of his mountaineering background, Edwards worked on a series of climbing films, including shooting an ascent of the Eiger north face for Channel 4 (England), entitled *Climbing for the Fatherland*.

In 2001, Edwards worked for Wall To Wall on the hands-on history series *Frontier House*, followed by such diverse documentaries as *Emperor's Eternal Armies*, a one-hour special on the life and times of China's fifth emperor, *Leicester Football Academy*, four hours following the fortunes of trainee soccer players over three years, and *In Power and Under Pressure*, two programs investigating the medical issues affecting the Reagan and Kennedy presidencies. Edwards lives in Leeds, England.