

press release

PERRY MILLER ADATO TO BE HONORED BY THE PALEY CENTER FOR
ACHIEVEMENTS IN FILM AND TELEVISION

Public Broadcasting Pioneer And Frequent Filmmaker For Thirteen/WNET Will Be Honored In
December 6 Ceremony In New York

Documentarian Perry Miller Adato is being recognized by The Paley Center for Media (formerly The Museum of Television & Radio) as a new honoree for *She Made It: Women Creating Television and Radio*, the major initiative launched in 2005 to celebrate the achievements of creative and business women in the industries of television, radio and new media. Spanning the generations from early trailblazers to current innovators, *She Made It* honors writers, directors, producers, journalists, sportscasters, and executives by preserving the legacy of women who have had an enormous impact on the media. Other honorees this year include Gracie Allen, Candice Bergen, Linda Ellerbee, Salma Hayek, Gwen Ifill, Andrea Mitchell, Suze Orman, Rosie O'Donnell, Martha Stewart, Meredith Vieira, and Paula Zahn.

Adato, whose public television documentaries on the arts were produced for Thirteen/WNET, the PBS flagship station in New York, has won numerous major awards and honors for her films and is recognized as a pioneer and innovator in the film biography genre. She has won four Director's Guild of America awards for her documentaries, including the first ever given to a woman for *Georgia O'Keeffe* in 1977. Adato's first film with NET, the predecessor to WNET, was *Dylan Thomas – The World I Breathe*, a 1968 biography of the Welsh poet, which won an Emmy for Cultural Documentary. But it was her 1970 film *Gertrude Stein – When This You See Remember Me* that brought her to the attention of a wider audience. The influential film

gained critical acclaim, two Emmy nominations, wide distribution, and praise from her peers. Recently Ken Burns described Adato's films, especially the Stein film, as "a major influence on my work."

For Thirteen/WNET's *American Masters* series, Adato wrote, produced and directed *Alfred Stieglitz – The Eloquent Eye* (2001), which premiered at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and *Eugene O'Neill: A Glory of Ghosts* (1986), which included dramatizations that Adato directed and produced from eight O'Neill plays with Jason Robards, Zoe Caldwell, Blythe Danner, and other noted actors. The film not only won her a fourth Director's Guild of America award, but *The New York Times* called it "the best documentary of the year." Among her many other works produced for Thirteen/WNET are *Mary Cassatt – Impressionist from Philadelphia* (1975), *Frankenthaler – Toward a New Climate* (1978), *Picasso – A Painter's Diary* (1980), and *Art of the Western World* (1986-89), a series of nine, one-hour programs.

Adato's current project with Thirteen is one she has wanted to make for more than 30 years: *Paris – The Luminous Years*. The two-part, two-hour film explores the unique role Paris played as a major center and catalytic force in the creation of the modern arts from 1905 to 1930.

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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*, *Stage on Screen*, *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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The Paley Center for Media, with locations in New York and Los Angeles, leads the discussion

about the cultural, creative, and social significance of television, radio, and emerging platforms for the professional community and media-interested public. Drawing upon its curatorial expertise, an international collection, and close relationships with the leaders of the media community, the Paley Center examines the intersections between media and society. The general public can access the collection and participate in programs that explore and celebrate the creativity, the innovations, the personalities, and the leaders who are shaping media. Through the global programs of its Media Council and International Council, the Paley Center also serves as a neutral setting where media professionals can engage in discussion and debate about the evolving media landscape. Previously known as The Museum of Television & Radio, the Paley Center was founded in 1975 by William S. Paley, a pioneering innovator in the industry. For more information, please visit www.paleycenter.org.

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