

**press release**

Production Biographies

***CURIOUS***

**MARK MANNUCCI**

*Producer/Director/Writer*

Mark Mannucci is an independent producer and director with an extensive list of television credits. Most recently, he was series producer and co-creator of *EGG the arts show*, the critically acclaimed visual and performing arts series. *EGG* earned the 2002 Peabody Award, four 2002 national Emmy nominations, five New York Emmy Awards, a Chicago International Television Competition Silver Hugo Award, 19 Cine Golden Eagles, a Special International Prize from the City of Montreux, and a place on the *Los Angeles Times*' Best of Television 2000, among other honors. Mannucci also spearheaded the design of *EGG*'s award-winning Web site.

For six years he produced the first hour of *The Tony Awards* on PBS, whose format he also co-created. Mannucci was also the co-creator and series producer of *City Life*, which received a Peabody Award in 2001, as well as 14 Emmy Awards and two CINE Golden Eagles.

Mannucci's recent work includes *The Music in Me*, a documentary series for HBO about kids who've made music a central part of their lives (recipient of a 2006 Peabody). *The Leopards Take Manhattan*, about the relationship between a group of young jazz percussionists and their teacher, will air on HBO in January '08. Mannucci also produced and directed *Bill Irwin: Clown Prince*, for PBS' *Great Performances*, about the career of actor, director, writer and clown, Bill Irwin. The show was awarded a Chicago International Television Competition 2005 Gold Hugo. In the fall of '06 Mannucci directed four episodes of *Johnny and the Sprites* for the Disney Channel. *Sprites* is a puppet-based musical comedy for kids created by Avenue Q's John Tartaglia.

Prior to joining Thirteen/WNET New York's culture and arts department in 1998, he worked on numerous productions, including 36 episodes of PBS' *Reading Rainbow*, the documentary-based children's show for which he received a Peabody in 1993. He expanded the series' format to include topics such as homelessness, racism, teen violence, adoption, and physical disability. Mannucci's other children's programming credits include Sesame Workshop's *Big Bag*, and *Brainstorm: The Truth About Your Brain on Drugs: a 3-2-1 Contact Special*. For National Geographic, he produced episodes for *Really Wild Animals* and the pilot for *Tales from the Wild*. He has garnered numerous awards throughout his career, including 10 Emmy Awards for directing and producing.

**TARA THOMAS**

*Co-producer*

**-more-**

Tara Thomas is the co-producer of *Curious*. Prior to *Curious*, Thomas was a coordinating producer and promotions producer for several Thirteen/WNET New York series, including *African American Lives*, the Emmy-nominated *Colonial House* and *Manor House*. Thomas has also been the post production supervisor for Thirteen's Emmy Award-winning series *DNA*, Nickelodeon's Emmy Award-winning series *Dora The Explorer*, A & E's *Live By Request*, and Thirteen/WNET's *Secrets of the Dead*, *Taxi Dreams*, *Slavery and the Making of America*, and the Peabody Award-winning *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow*.

She has also produced and production managed satellite video press tours, electronic press kits, artist profiles, and video presentations for Sony Music, Columbia Records and Epic Records for recording artists Jennifer Lopez, Shakira, Ricky Martin, Mandy Moore, Mariah Carey, Jon Secada, *Sesame Street*'s Elmo, and for *Harlem Song*, the New York musical. Prior to moving to New York 11 years ago, Thomas was a news reporter and host of the local broadcast of the *All Things Considered* radio program at KOSU, the NPR affiliate in northern Oklahoma.

### **JARED LIPWORTH**

*Director, Science Programs, Thirteen/WNET New York*  
*Executive Producer*

As director of science programs at Thirteen/WNET New York, Jared Lipworth is responsible for commissioning and executive producing all science programs produced by the station. Current projects in production or development include *Secrets of the Dead VII*, *The Human Spark*, *The Mysterious Human Heart*, *Ground War*, *Aftershock*, and more. Recently completed projects include *Warplane* and *Secrets of the Dead V* and *VI*.

Prior to becoming executive producer and then director of science programs, Lipworth was the series producer for the department's technology series, *Innovation*. He also served as series producer for the Emmy-nominated *Secrets of the Dead III* and coordinating producer for many of the department's projects, including *Warrior Challenge*, *Secrets of the Pharaohs*, the Emmy Award-winning *Frontier House*, *Warship*, *Taxi Dreams*, *Echoes From the White House*, and *Savage Planet*. In 2003, Lipworth was nominated for a writing Emmy for *Secrets of the Dead: Mystery of the Black Death*. Lipworth worked with filmmaker David Grubin on *The Secret Life of the Brain*.

Before arriving at Thirteen, Lipworth produced, directed and edited *In the Footsteps of the Black Rhino* for the BBC's *Animal Zone*. He received his master's degree in broadcast journalism from New York University, where he won the award for academic excellence, and he earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Cornell University.

### **WILLIAM R. GRANT**

*Director, Science, Natural History and Features Programs, Thirteen/WNET New York*  
*Executive-in-Charge*

William R. Grant is director of science, natural history and features programs at Thirteen/WNET New York, the flagship station of the Public Broadcasting Service. He joined Thirteen in 1995 after 12 years at WGBH in Boston, where he was managing editor of *Frontline* and executive editor of *Nova*. At WGBH he also served as executive producer of *Living Against the Odds* and *Made In America?*

At Thirteen, Grant is in charge of one of public television's largest documentary production

departments, which brings to national broadcast an average of 60 hours of programs a year in the areas of natural history, science, history, business, travel, and other topics. While at Thirteen he has also been executive producer of *Innovation* and *Going Places*, two PBS anthology series, and numerous miniseries, including *America on Wheels*, *Savage Skies*, *Savage Earth*, *Savage Seas*, *Knife to the Heart*, *Stephen Hawking's Universe*, *On the Trail of Mark Twain*, *The American President*, *In Search of Ancient Ireland*, *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow*, *Slavery and the Making of America*, *African American Lives*, and most recently *The Supreme Court*.

He has been responsible, as executive-in-charge of production, for *Nature*, one of public television's most watched continuing series, and the miniseries *Savage Planet*, *Secrets of the Dead*, *Secrets of the Pharaohs*, *Warship*, *Africa*, *1900 House*, *Frontier House*, *Manor House*, *The Secret Life of the Brain*, *Colonial House*, *Texas Ranch House*, and *Warplane*.

Prior to joining WGBH in 1983, he spent 14 years as a reporter and editor at two of the nation's largest daily newspapers – the *Detroit Free Press* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, where his work won numerous awards. In 1979-80 he was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. He was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame in 2001 and in 2005 was named to the University of Kentucky's Hall of Distinguished Alumni. Programs produced under Grant's supervision have won 11 national News and Documentary Emmy Awards, including one for the 2005 series *Slavery and the Making of America*, one for the 2004 series *DNA*, and six George Foster Peabody Awards, including one for the 2002 series *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow*.

**Featured Experts in CURIOUS:**

**MARK E. DAVIS** (Nanoparticle Cancer Drug Engineer)  
*Professor of Chemical Engineering, Caltech*

Dr. Mark E. Davis is the Warren and Katharine Schlinger Professor of Chemical Engineering at the California Institute of Technology and a member of the Experimental Therapeutics Program of the Comprehensive Cancer Center at the City of Hope. He has over 325 scientific publications, two textbooks and over 40 patents. Davis is a founding editor of *CaTTech* and has been an associate editor of *Chemistry of Materials* and the *AIChE Journal*.

He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Colburn and Professional Progress Awards from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and the Ipatieff, Langmuir and Murphree Prizes from the American Chemical Society. Davis was the first engineer to win the National Science Foundation's Alan T. Waterman Award. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1997.

Davis' research efforts involve materials synthesis in two general areas, namely, zeolites and other solids that can be used for molecular recognition and catalysis, and polymers for the delivery of macromolecular therapeutics such as nucleic acids. He is the founder of Insert Therapeutics Inc., a company based in Pasadena, California, focused on the use of cyclodextrin-containing polymers for drug delivery applications ([www.insertt.com](http://www.insertt.com)) and Calando Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ([www.calandopharma.com](http://www.calandopharma.com)), a company based in Duarte, California, that creates RNAi therapeutics. He is currently or has been a member of the scientific advisory boards of Symyx (Nasdaq: SMMX), Alnylam (Nasdaq: ALNY) and NovoDynamics.

**CALUM CHISHOLM** (Artificial Leaf Researcher)  
*Vice President and Co-Founder,*

*Superprotonic, Inc.*

Dr. Calum Chisholm is vice president and co-founder of Superprotonic, Inc., an energy technology company established to develop and commercialize a new, revolutionary type of fuel cell called a “solid acid fuel cell” (SAFC). As a graduate student and then post-doctoral scholar in materials science at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Chisholm investigated the fundamental properties of a class of materials known as superprotonic solid acids, named such for their capacity to conduct protons at a rapid rate under specific temperature conditions. In the course of that research he and his colleagues in Professor Sossina Haile’s materials research group demonstrated that a superprotonic solid acid can function as a powerful and stable fuel cell electrolyte. A fuel cell is an electrochemical device that converts chemical energy from a fuel (hydrogen, ethanol, gasoline, bio-diesel, etc.) into electrical energy. What distinguishes one fuel cell type from another is primarily its electrolyte, an ion-conducting material which permits only protons to pass through the cell, while electrons are blocked and drawn out of the cell as electrical power. A superprotonic solid acid electrolyte is the first new fuel cell electrolyte in a half-century and offers competitive advantages over incumbent technologies.

In 2003 Chisholm and his research partner, Dr. Dane Boysen, founded Superprotonic with the goal of developing their patented SAFC technology into a commercially viable product for portable, auxiliary and commercial/industrial power applications. Superprotonic raised start-up seed money in 2004 from its founders’ friends and family. Since then, the Pasadena-based company has secured two rounds of venture capital financing and grown to 12 employees.

Chisholm has published 23 scientific papers in peer review journals, notably in the eminent periodicals *Science* (January 2, 2004) and *Nature* (April 19, 2001). As a widely respected authority on superprotonic conductors, he has been invited to present his research at numerous academic and industry conferences. He is a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Electrochemical Society and the American Academy for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Chisholm received a B.S. in physics from Yale University (Pierson, ’95) and an M.S. and Ph.D. in materials science from Caltech.

**DANE A. BOYSEN** (Artificial Leaf Researcher)  
*Vice President and Co-Founder,*  
*Superprotonic, Inc.*

Dr. Dane Boysen is vice president and co-founder of Superprotonic Inc. Shortly after finishing his Ph.D. in materials science at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Boysen co-founded the energy technology company Superprotonic Inc. with Dr. Calum Chisholm. Boysen helped to develop the core technology, which Superprotonic is based upon while working in Professor Sossina Haile’s Laboratory at Caltech. This work has resulted in the development of a new class of proton conducting electrolytes for fuel cell applications known as “solid acids” and led to numerous patents and publications in prestigious scientific journals, such as *Science* (January 2004) and *Nature* (April 2001).

In 2005, Superprotonic Inc. was established to commercialize the revolutionary solid acid fuel cell (SAFC). For more than 150 years, many (GE, UTC, Siemens – just to name a few) have sought fuel cell power generators due to their potential for ultra-high efficiency and environmentally benign operation, yet none have achieved commercial success. Solid acid electrolytes represent the first new class of fuel cell electrolytes (the core fuel cell component) in nearly half a century.

This radically new class of fuel cell has properties ideal for fuel cell operation, giving them the potential to have high performance at low cost, while utilizing renewable fuels such as ethanol, methanol, and hydrogen. Located in Pasadena California, Superprotonic has grown to more than 12 employees and has secured two rounds of institutional financing.

After graduating from UW in materials science in 1997, Boysen attended graduate school at Caltech.

.....

Press Contact:

**Caroline Oman**

Thirteen

212.560.3057

oman@thirteen.org

**Zenobia Costa**

Thirteen

212.560.3018

costaz@thirteen.org