

# Innovation

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FOUNDATIONS



450 West 33rd Street  
New York NY 10001-2605  
www.thirteen.org

## press information

### *Biographies*

#### **BETH HOPPE**

*Executive Producer*

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

Beth Hoppe joined New York's leading public television station in 1998 as director of Science Programming. 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 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*, *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 *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.

#### **WILLIAM R. GRANT**

*Executive in Charge*

*Director of Science, Natural History and Features Programs, 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 *Made*

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**SIEMENS**



The Arthur  
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*in America?* and *Living Against the Odds*.

At Thirteen he has been executive producer of *Going Places*, *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*, and *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow*. He has been responsible, as executive in charge of production, for *Nature*, one of public television's most watched continuing series, and the mini-series *Savage Planet*, *Secrets of the Dead*, *Secrets of the Pharaohs*, *Warship*, *The 1900 House*, *Frontier House*, *Manor House*, and *The Secret Life of the Brain*.

Prior to his time at WGBH, he was 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. He began his journalism career while in high school at the Winchester (KY) Sun and also worked at the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and the *Lexington Herald-Leader*. In 1979-80, he was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

## **JARED LIPWORTH**

*Series Producer*

Jared Lipworth joined the science programs department at Thirteen in 1999. He is the series producer for Thirteen's new technology series, *Innovation*. Mr. Lipworth served as series producer for the Emmy-nominated *Secrets of the Dead III* and coordinating producer for all of the department's projects, including *Warrior Challenge*, previous seasons of *Secrets of the Dead*, *Secrets of the Pharaohs*, *Frontier House*, the Emmy Award-winning *Secret Life of the Brain*, *Warship*, *Taxi Dreams*, *Echoes from the White House*, and *Savage Planet*. Additional credits at Thirteen include post-production producer for *The American President*, and *The 1900 House*, and production assistant for *Savage Seas*, *On The Trail of Mark Twain*, *The Great Balloon Race*, and *Stories of Lupus*. Prior to his work at Thirteen, Mr. 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 his bachelor's degree in Business Management from Cornell University.

## **MARO CHERMAYEFF**

*Producer, "Brain Fingerprinting" (working title)*

Maro Chermayeff wrote, produced and directed *AMERICAN MASTERS: Juilliard* and co-authored that film's companion book. In 2002, she produced and directed the highly acclaimed PBS series *Frontier House*, for which she received an Emmy Award nomination in the category of Outstanding Non-Fiction Series. Her past work includes the award-winning film *The Kindness of Strangers* (HBO), *Nashville: Crossing the Line* (Learning Channel) and *Role Reversal* (A&E). Among her numerous editing credits are *Frontline*, *Barnum* (Discovery Channel) and the Academy Award-nominated

*Jim Dine: A Self-Portrait on the Walls*. Ms. Chermayeff served as post-producer and editor for more than 10 *Charlie Rose* specials.

**PHIL CRAIG**

*Producer/Director, "Future Combat" (working title)*

Phil Craig is an award-winning documentary series producer and a best-selling historian and biographer. In 2000, his *The Battle of Britain/Finest Hour* for the BBC and WGBH earned praise from *The Wall Street Journal*: "Television has never seen this history told to better effect than in this production." In 1999 he made *Hostage* for Channel 4, and in 2001 he produced *Diana, Story of a Princess* for The Learning Channel and ITV.

**MICHAEL CHRISMAN**

*Producer, "Miracle Cell"*

Michael Chrisman is a highly regarded television producer and journalist with 15 years of award-winning achievement in the fields of documentary, news magazine and other news programming in the U.S. and U.K. With Frank Simmonds, he co-produced the landmark Carlton TV/WGBH *FRONTLINE* series *Organ Farm*, which garnered 10 international television awards. He has contributed to and worked on a range of top network flagship programs on both sides of the Atlantic, including *Prime Time Live*, *CBS Evening News with Dan Rather*, and *48 Hours*. For PBS, in addition to his work on *FRONTLINE*, he produced *Catastrophe*, the two-part lead off for Thirteen's highly-acclaimed science and history series *SECRETS OF THE DEAD*.

**DAVID DARLOW**

*Producer/Director, "Air Safety" (working title)*

David Darlow received Emmy Awards for *The Sword of Islam*, for which he spent several months undercover in Lebanon filming Muslim extremists, and *Decoding Nazi Secrets*, which was presented on *NOVA*. For the BBC, he worked as a television producer of the flagship current affairs program *Panorama* and as senior producer of the Granada Television investigative series *World in Action*. In 1988 he and a colleague formed the independent production company Darlow Smithson. There, he directed its first venture, *Tailspin*, a TV movie about the shooting down of a Korean airliner by the Soviet Union, for HBO and Granada. Shown in 40 countries, *Tailspin* was Granada's most successful single drama ever.

**LARRY ENGEL**

*Producer/Director, "Bionic Body Parts" (working title)*

With his brother, Steven, Larry Engel is co-founder of Engel Brothers Media Inc., an independent production company based in New York. He is a writer, producer, director, and cinematographer with more than 20 years of documentary filmmaking experience. His projects include *Titanic's Ghosts*, winner of the Cine Golden Eagle Award; *Coyote: America's Top Dog*; the *Adrenaline Science* series for The National Geographic and Learning Channels; and *Cannibalism in the Canyon*, a *Secrets of the Dead* program for Channel 4 (UK) and Thirteen/WNET New York. Among his many honors are a Daytime Emmy (Best Cinematography, 3-2-1-Contact); the AAAS-Westinghouse Science Journalism Award for Hurricane!, and the Mountain Spirit Award from Mountainfilm in Telluride for *The Height of Courage: The Norman Vaughan Story*. Mr. Engel is currently working on projects for The Discovery and National Geographic Channels.

### **MICHAEL EPSTEIN**

*Producer/Director, "Brain Fingerprinting" (working title)*

Michael Epstein is a Peabody, Emmy and Writers Guild Award-winning producer, writer and director. His *AMERICAN MASTERS: Hitchcock, Selznick & The End of Hollywood* received an Emmy for Best Non-Fiction Series and was named Best Arts Documentary at the Banff International Television Festival. The film appeared at the 1999 Sundance Film Festival and is now part of The Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection. His *Arthur Miller, Elia Kazan and the Blacklist: None Without Sin* recently aired on the *AMERICAN MASTERS* series on PBS. *The Battle Over Citizen Kane* received an Academy Award nomination and has been made into a feature film. Mr. Epstein's work also includes the *Frontline* special *The Choice '92*, *The Hurricane of '38* and Bill Moyers' 10-part series *Genesis: A Living Conversation*.

### **CAROL FLEISHER**

*Producer/Director, "SpyCatchers" (working title)*

Carol Fleisher has spent the last 26 years making documentaries for television on topics ranging from prisoners of war to singing cowboys to Mother Teresa. A recipient of the Writers' Guild of America Award for her film *The Secret White House Tapes*, she also won the CableACE Award for Best Documentary Series for *The Revolutionary War*, narrated by Charles Kuralt. Her work has also garnered eight Cine Golden Eagles, a Golden Hugo from the Chicago International Film Festival, a Gold Award from the Houston Film Festival, a Genesis Award, and two Emmy Awards. Her *Chasing El Niño* was a scientific adventure for PBS' *NOVA* series, and her recent project, the Emmy Award-winning *Why Dogs Smile & Chimpanzees Cry*, aired on The Discovery Channel.

### **JON PALFREMAN**

*Producer/Director, "Fiber Optics" (working title)*

Jon Palfreman has made more than 40 BBC and PBS documentaries, including the Peabody Award-winning series *The Machine That Changed the World*, the Emmy Award-winning *NOVA* special *Siamese Twins* and the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Silver Baton winner *Harvest of Fear*, a *NOVA/Frontline* special. The only television producer ever to receive the prestigious Victor Cohn Prize for Excellence in Medical Writing, Palfreman is three-time winner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science prize for science writing, three-time winner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Writers' Science-in-Society Journalism Award, and winner of the Writers Guild Award for best script. Palfreman has written two books and is an adjunct professor at Tufts University.

### **FRANK SIMMONDS**

*Producer/Director, "Healing Cell" (working title)*

A freelance producer, director and television journalist, Frank Simmonds has 22 years' experience producing network current affairs and factual documentaries, and eight years' experience in print journalism. His three-part 2001 documentary series *Organ Farm* addressed the issue of pig-to-human organ transplants and appeared on PBS on *Frontline*. The series won numerous awards from the Time Inc. Medical Media Awards, the Columbus International Film Festival, the New York Film Festival, and the U.S. International Film and Video Festival. His many other films covered a range of topics, from crime, the monarchy, prison overcrowding, and juvenile arson to profiles of Prince Charles, John "Inspector Morse" Thaw, George Soros, and Ross Perot.

### **VERONICA YOUNG**

*Producer/Director, "Skyscrapers" (working title)*

Veronica Young has produced, written and directed a wide range of long-form programming for PBS, HBO, The Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, National Geographic Channel, Discover Health, The Learning Channel, The Health Network, CNBC, and Lifetime. Her *The Pinks and The Blues* earned the APA National Media Award. *Why Planes Crash*, winner of an Ohio State Film Award, continues to be used for U.S. Air Force and commercial airline training purposes. Young's experience with technology and engineering is also reflected in *Skyscraper*, which she co-produced and directed for Channel 4/WGBH. Other diverse subjects she has covered include blindness, sex differences, behaviorist B.F. Skinner, medical malpractice, oceanography, Latin American religion, poet Emily Dickinson, spirituality, and dreaming.