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First Degree

Production Bios

Roger Weisberg

Writer/Producer/Director

Roger Weisberg joined public television station Thirteen/WNET New York in 1976. Since founding Public Policy Productions in 1982, Weisberg has written, produced, and directed 31 documentaries, which have won over 150 awards including Peabody, Emmy, and duPont-Columbia awards. Some of his films are vérité style documentaries with no narration, while others are narrated by prominent actors including Meryl Streep, Helen Hayes, and James Earl Jones, as well as distinguished journalists including Marvin Kalb and Walter Cronkite. Weisberg received an Academy Award nomination in 2001 for *Sound and Fury* and in 2003 for *Why Can't We Be A Family Again?*

John Fugelsang

Narrator and Host

John Fugelsang is a New York-based political commentator, comedian, TV & radio personality, performer, and writer. He has appeared in the movie *Coyote Ugly* and on television programs such as *CSI* and *Becker*. He was the host of *America's Funniest Home Videos* and has appeared frequently on news commentary shows on CNN, CNBC, MSNBC, and NPR. He made over 20 appearances on Bill Maher's *Politically Incorrect* and is a regular on Fox News. Recently, Fugelsang was the host of Current TV's daily show, *Viewpoint*, where he analyzed the news and facilitated conversations about current affairs. Currently, he hosts a daily political comedy program called "Tell Me Everything" on the new SiriusXM Insight Channel.

Stephen Segaller

Vice President, Programming for WNET

Since September 2008, Stephen Segaller has had primary responsibility for coordinating all national and local programming from WNET's producing subsidiaries – THIRTEEN, WLIW21 and Creative News Group. Among these productions are: *Nature*, *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, *Secrets of the Dead*, *Wide Angle*, *Religion & Ethics Newsweekly*, *Cyberchase*, *SundayArts*, and *Reel 13*. Previously, Segaller was Director of News and Public Affairs Programming for WNET's subsidiary, Educational Broadcasting Corporation. He created *That Money Show* in 2000-01; *Wide Angle* in 2002, and *Exposé – America's Investigative Reports* in 2006. After 9/11, he and Bill Moyers jointly produced specials that led to *NOW with Bill Moyers*.

Jeff Seelbach

Field Producer

Jeff Seelbach is an Emmy-nominated documentary producer. Recently, he was Co-Producer of the 2013 Primetime Emmy nominated *All the President's Men Revisited* for Discovery, a look back at the Watergate scandal with Executive Producer Robert Redford. He also co-produced *NOVA: Engineering Ground Zero* for PBS, which was nominated for a 2012 News & Documentary Emmy. He served as a Producer for *Innovators: Inspired by Nature* for Bloomberg TV and worked for four years on the PBS international documentary series *Wide Angle*, where he was Story Producer on "Heart of Jenin," which won a 2010 Overseas Press Club award.

John Hazard

Cinematographer

John Hazard is a cinematographer with a long resume of documentary films and a special passion for cinema vérité. He has an eye and an instinct for images that tell stories that reveal our deeply layered human experience. John has traveled the world shooting stories for Discovery, National Geographic, and the New York Times. Recent productions include *NOVA*, *History Detectives*, and biographies about Richard Nixon, the Kennedys, and George Wallace for PBS; *King Tut's Final Secrets* for National Geographic; and *Triangle: Remembering the Fire* for HBO.

Pascal Akesson

Editor

Pascal Akesson has been a film editor for over twenty-five years. His award-winning documentaries have appeared on PBS, HBO, Discovery Channel, History Channel, ABC, Canal+, Arte, NHK and Lifetime, as well as at numerous international film festivals, including Cannes, Berlin, Sundance and Miami. Recent productions include *Women, War and Peace* for PBS, a five-part series on

women's role in war and peace building; *Dirty Business*, a documentary about the myth of clean coal; and *Fire in the Blood*, the story of how Western countries condemned millions of people in the developing world to death by blocking access to AIDS drugs. Pascal also was the Editor for Public Policy Production's *Money and Medicine*, an investigation of the dangers of over-treatment and runaway healthcare spending.

Richard Fiocca

Composer

Richard Fiocca, a two-time Emmy Award winning composer, has a long list of award-winning films and television credits, including scores for films airing on PBS, HBO, the BBC, and all major networks. Recent work includes *Land of the Mammoth* for the Discovery Channel, the CBS newsmagazine *48 Hours*, the IMAX feature *Wildfire*, HBO's Oscar winning *Liberation: A Survivor Remembers*, and CBS's ground breaking special on the World Trade Center attack, *9/11*.

Bill Bergeron

Design and Animation

A designer with over 20 years' experience, Bill Bergeron has created motion graphic design across a variety of disciplines from video and interactive media to product design and architecture. In 2000 he co-founded the broadcast-design firm Verb, whose work for such clients as HBO, Comedy Central, HP, Sony, and Toyota garnered numerous awards and entertainment-industry accolades. Featured in dozens of books and magazines, Bill's output culminated in an Emmy nomination for the opening titles of *THE COLBERT REPORT*. Recent clients include the new Lincoln Center, the Gate's Foundation, and the Port Authority of NY/NJ.

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