

# Women of Vision



## HONOREE



**Kate Beyda**

EVP, Physical Production at  
New Line Cinema

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**Phylicia Rashad**

Actor/Producer/Director/  
Educator

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**Cheryl Ottenritter**

Senior Mixer/Founder of  
Ott House Audio

**Kate Beyda** is Executive Vice President of Physical Production for New Line Cinema, overseeing all facets of physical production for the division's slate of theatrical features.

Beyda joined New Line Cinema in 2002 as Senior Vice President of Physical Production and stepped into her current role in 2015. Over the years, she has helped bring to life a remarkably wide range of films across the globe, spanning 2025 hits like *Weapons*, *Final Destination: Bloodlines*, and *The Conjuring: Last Rites*; action favorites such as *Mortal Kombat*, *Shazam!* and *San Andreas*; major franchises including *The Conjuring* Universe, *Final Destination*, *The Hobbit* trilogy, *IT* and *IT Chapter Two*; and comedy breakouts like *Game Night*, *We're the Millers*, *Horrible Bosses*, and *Wedding Crashers*. She has earned the "Queen of Christmas films" title with a holiday filmography that includes *Christmas Vacation*, *A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas*, *Four Christmases*, *Elf*, and *8-Bit Christmas*.

New Line's upcoming slate continues the momentum with titles such as *Mortal Kombat II*, *The Conjuring: First Communion*, and *The Lord of the Rings: The Hunt for Gollum*, among others.

Beyda began her career in the world of low-budget independent film, taking on a variety of production roles on memorable projects including the cult classic *Tapeheads*; Paul Bartel's *Scenes from the Class Struggle in Beverly Hills*; Taylor Hackford's *Everybody's All-American*; and two John Hughes favorites, *Christmas Vacation* and *Uncle Buck*. After serving as Senior Production Coordinator at Disney Touchstone, she returned to

freelance production and worked as a Production Coordinator, Unit Production Manager, and Associate Producer on films including *While You Were Sleeping*, *A Civil Action*, Francis Ford Coppola's *The Rainmaker*, and *Austin Powers in Goldmember*. Her work on *Goldmember* ultimately led her to join New Line's executive team.

Beyda is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Directors Guild of America. She also teaches a graduate-level course at UCLA titled Physical Production for Creatives.

An accomplished actor and stage director, **Phylicia Rashad** became a household name when she portrayed Claire Huxtable on "The Cosby Show", a character whose enduring appeal has earned her numerous honors and awards. She has appeared in NBC's "This Is Us", Fox TV's "Empire", and the OWN Network's series "David Makes Man". While television was a catalyst in the rise of Ms. Rashad's career, she has also been a force on the stage, appearing both on and Off Broadway, often in projects that showcase her musical talent such as "Jelly's Last Jam", "Into the Woods", "Dreamgirls" and "The Wiz".

In 2016, Ms. Rashad was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame and received the 2016 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Leading Actress in a Play for her performance as Shelah in Tarell Alvin McCraney's "Head of Passes" at the Public Theater. On Broadway, Ms. Rashad has performed in Dominique Morriseau's "Skeleton Crew" (Tony and Drama Desk Awards), "August Osage County", Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (a role that she reprised on the London stage), August Wilson's "Gem of The Ocean" (Tony Award nomination) and in Shakespeare's "Cymbeline" at Lincoln Center. Ms. Rashad received both the Drama Desk and the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play for her riveting performance as Lena Younger in the 2004 Broadway revival of Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in The Sun".

Respected in the academic world as well, Ms. Rashad is Dean Emerita of the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts at Howard University and inaugural holder of the university's Toni Morrison Endowed Chair in Arts and Humanities. Ms. Rashad has conducted Master Classes at many colleges, universities, and arts organizations including Howard University, New York University, Carnegie Mellon, The Black Arts Institute of the Stella Adler Studio of Acting, and the prestigious Ten Chimneys Foundation. Ms. Rashad also holds the distinction of being the first recipient of the Denzel Washington Chair in Theatre at Fordham University.

**Cheryl Ottenritter** is the Senior Mixer and creative force behind Ott House Audio, bringing over 20 years of audio post-production expertise to her work.

A member of both the Motion Picture Sound Editors and the Cinema Audio Society, Cheryl's background is rooted in music, holding degrees in Jazz Studies and Theory & Composition from Auburn University.

Her distinguished career has spanned both coasts, where she has mixed projects for prominent clients, including PBS, National Geographic, Smithsonian Channel, TVOne, and Discovery Channel. Cheryl is a specialist in non-fiction storytelling, with an extensive portfolio of feature and short-form documentaries including the Emmy-nominated *Human Footprint*, *Public Defender*, and *Chautauqua at 150 Wynton Marsalis All Rise*. Her diverse experience also includes mixing national advertising campaigns, promos, and branded content for various NGOs.

Cheryl is a leader in immersive and spatial audio, renowned for her innovative approach. She has cultivated a unique niche, creating intricate soundscapes for installed environments and experiences. This focus led her to install the East Coast's first near-field Dolby Atmos suite. Her collaborative drive and passion for pushing technical limits are showcased in acclaimed projects like *The People's House* (DC), *The Siege at Yorktown* (Williamsburg), *The College Football Hall of Fame* (Atlanta), and *The Cyclorama* (Atlanta).

Her current leadership in crafting immersive experiences continues with upcoming experiential projects for National Geographic's new Base Camp/Boundless Theater and the Theodore Roosevelt (North Dakota) and Herbert Hoover (Iowa) presidential libraries, all set to open this summer.

Cheryl also shares her expertise with the new generation of sound artists by being an Adjunct Professor at American University in the Audio Technology Program.

In her time away from the mixing console, Cheryl enjoys playing the piano, reading, supporting local artists, and cheering on her favorite sports teams. She lives in Kensington, Maryland, with her husband, John, and their two daughters.

## 2026 Women of Vision Awards Program Moderator



**Connie St. John** is the President and Founder of No Weapon Productions (NWP), a company that specializes in family-friendly film and television programming, along with stage plays and other live events that feature no gratuitous sex, profanity or violence. She is also President of the St. John Consulting Group, where she works with cultural influencers on leadership development, strategic communications, and employee engagement. Through both companies, Connie and her teams use entertainment and other innovative techniques to create life

change for individuals, strengthen corporations and nonprofits, and address social issues.

As a corporate and entertainment executive, Connie has worked with several high-profile companies in marketing and PR, including Columbia TriStar (Sony)

Television and the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF) in Los Angeles, Sara Lee Corporation and Harpo Productions, Inc. / The Oprah Winfrey Show in Chicago, and Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. in Atlanta. Connie oversaw all public relations activities for Oprah's highly successful Tina Turner series – "Oprah Runnin' Wild with Tina". She also worked on the PR launch of such series as "Party of Five", "Mad About You", and "The Nanny".

Connie's current brainchild is the Don't Be a Bully Project™, a ground-breaking, national initiative that combats bullying through a 30-minute musical – "We Don't Do that Here!" – performed by high school students for middle school students. The mission of the DBAB Project is to eliminate bullying in middle schools, where bullying is statistically the worst, and prevent any more tragic suicides due to bullying.

Based in the DC area, Connie recently served as the board president of Women in Film & Video and as co-president of the LACHSA Foundation, which funds the arts programs at the number one arts high school in the country – L.A. County High School for the Arts. She is also a member of Mensa.