



Make it!

Presenter Biographies 2023

If you've ever watched a TV show and thought to yourself, "That camera shot was so cool!" There's a good chance that **Dave Aronson** was behind it. As a Jib op, Camera op, and Director of Photography, Dave has worked on thousands of productions over the past 12+ years. He's known for working live events like the Super Bowl, Stanley Cup, and Presidential Inauguration, Studio shows like SportsCenter and Meet the Press, and commercials for brands like Dewalt, Lego, and the DC Lottery.

A former ballet dancer and current rock climber, Dave finds beauty in movement and believes that a moving shot tells a story. Using Jibs, Steadicams, Sliders, and Dollies, he adds depth and scale to a scene. He shows relationships and connections through the camera lens, putting the viewer right in the middle of the action. Above all else, he believes that everything and everyone has a story, and he's just here to help tell it!

Sara Barger has been editing videos for 24 years. She started editing with the original Final Cut Pro software and is now a (spicy) seasoned Adobe Premiere Pro editor (and DP, director, & producer) who creates videos full-time for the Defense Health Agency as well as numerous other clients. She has taught editing courses at Old Dominion, George Mason and American Universities. She specializes in non-fiction storytelling, but also edits scripted and unscripted videos as well. She believes that editing is the final script writing stage and the only way to be amazing at your job on set, is to actually sit down and edit your own work. A good editor can save a bad film.

Joan Darling was the first woman nominated for an Emmy® for television direction. She was nominated four times, winning both the Emmy® and the DGA Award. She is considered the first woman director of the modern age. She is widely recognized for her talents as a director and actress. In the early 1970s, Joan had a recurring character role in the television series OWEN MARSHALL, COUNSELOR AT LAW. In her early directorial career, Joan directed the pilot and many other episodes in the first season of the hit TV series MARY HARTMAN, MARY HARTMAN. She also directed episodes of M*A*S*H*, RICH MAN, POOR MAN, and MAGNUM P.I., among others. She directed the *Chuckles Bites the Dust* episode of THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW, which was named "the number one TV episode of all time" by *TV Guide* and *The New York Times* named it "the funniest episode ever on TV". Her first film, FIRST LOVE, was released in 1977, and was named one of the year's ten best by CBS. Joan created the Directing the Actor workshop for the Sundance institute and has taught directing at the Sundance Lab for 30+ years.

Since 1996, **Louise Herson** has worked as an electrician or gaffer on commercials, documentaries, series television, and feature films. She is currently working as a lighting director at NBC News.



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Lily Klein is a freelance picture editor based in New York City. She began her career in post-production working on a feature-length documentary with Florentine Films. After that, she spent time living and working in Spain before returning to the US to complete her MFA in Post-production from the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. Lily has now edited numerous episodic, short form, and feature narrative projects, and has done branded work for clients like Mercedes Benz USA, Adidas, Lindblad Expeditions & National Geographic, Blackmagic Design, Cosmopolitan Magazine, NY Comic Con, and more. Lily also post-supervised the first season of NYC Media's new series, HALF LIFE.

Daniela Mileykovsky is a director and cinematographer, working on narrative films, TV shows, commercials, and documentaries. She is also an ICG 600 camera operator. Daniela has worked on several projects for networks including National Geographic, Discovery, Netflix, and many more. She has also worked as a cinematographer for notable directors such as Yvette Nicole Brown and Vivica Fox for a BET network series.

Originally a painter with a passion for narrative film and inspiration from improv jazz, Daniela has blended these art forms into the lens through which she views the cinema world. Her goal is to capture the aura of each individual and their story in a cinematic analogy. Digging into visual and emotional research has been a major factor in her pre-production process. The balance between planning and preparation, and the jazz of the unpredictable world has been the most exciting part of creating for Daniela whether she is working on documentaries, commercials, narrative film projects, or any other form of film making.

Grace Novak is an assistant editor and post technician based in Brooklyn, NY. They have experience as a freelance editor, colorist and has been working in the field of post-production since 2017. They are currently staffed at the commercial editorial house WAX.

Maureen A. Ryan is a producer based in New York concentrating on narrative and documentary feature films. She is the co-producer of James Marsh's MAN ON WIRE, a documentary that won the 2009 Academy Award® for Best Documentary and the 2009 BAFTA Award for Best British Film. Her other co-producer credits include DICK JOHNSON IS DEAD which won the 2020 Sundance Special Jury Prize for Innovation in Non-Fiction Storytelling, garnered the top two 2020 Critics Choice Documentary awards for Best Picture and Best Director, 2021 EMMY award for Best Director (Documentary) and was nominated for two IDA awards and two EMMY awards. She is currently producing a short video project to be projected on-site of the new Los Angeles Terminal expansion project for 2024.

She also co-produced BECOMING which was nominated for four Emmy awards and PROJECT NIM which won the Sundance Best Director of World Cinema Documentary and was shortlisted



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for the 2011 Academy Award® for Best Documentary. Ryan was co-executive producer of the USA Network television pilot STANISTAN and the re-creations producer for Johanna Hamilton's feature 1971 and Alex Gibney's award-winning feature MEA MAXIMA CULPA: SILENCE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD. Her producer credits include WISCONSIN DEATH TRIP, THE GATES and BOMBER.

She is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences and her numerous productions have won many additional awards including a Peabody, two Cinema Eye awards, a Critics Choice award, three AICP awards, a Billboard award, a Freddie, a BAFTA, a CMA award, and an ACM award.

Ryan is a Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia University's MFA Film program, and her books include *Producer to Producer: A Step-by-Step Guide to Low Budget, Independent Film Producing*, 2nd edition and *Film+Video Budgets*, 6th edition. She received her MFA degree in Film from Columbia University's School of the Arts and her website is www.ProducerToProducer.com.

Nina Gilden Seavey is an Emmy Award-winning documentarian with a 35-year career in the non-fiction world. Her media projects can be seen in theaters, on television and in all forms of digital media, in museum exhibitions, heard in podcasts across the globe. Seavey is also the author of numerous articles, books, and essays on a wide range of topics in film, history, and literature. She is the President of Seavey Media.

Seavey is the Founding Director of The Documentary Center in the School of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University where she taught for 30 years. She holds the academic rank of Full Research Professor of History and Media and Public Affairs. She is currently a Professorial Lecturer at the Maine Media Workshops and College.

Seavey's documentaries have won many awards including five National Emmy nominations (one statue awarded), the Erik Barnouw Prize for Best Historical Film of the Year, The Golden Hugo, Cine Special Jury Prize, The Italian National Olympic Cup for Best Sports Film, The Peter C Rollins Prize for Best Film in American Culture, The Signal Award, and many others. Seavey has received numerous professional accolades including being named one of the top 50 professors of journalism in the U.S. Among other industry awards she received a commendation for "Outstanding Service to the Industry" by Discovery Communications, was the Charles Guggenheim Cinema St. Louis Award recipient, and was named a "Woman of Vision" by Women in Film and Video.

In addition to her film and media productions and work as an educator, in 2002, Seavey became the Founding Director of SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival (now AFI Docs). She built the festival into the largest documentary festival in the US.



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Sheila Smith is an award-winning director of photography and Steadicam owner/operator who films documentaries, television programs, commercials, sports, independent features, PSAs, political spots, dance, and music. Her clients include BBC, PBS, NBC, ABC, Lifetime, and many others. She specializes in lighting, visual storytelling, and Steadicam. She has Sony FX9 and F5 camera packages, Steadicam, lighting, etc. She was recently recognized for Best Cinematography for Feature Film in the North Europe International Film Festival 2020 in London. Sheila has filmed all over the US and the world for documentaries, television shows and has operated Steadicam for World Cup Soccer. She specializes in dance films, enjoying the moving camera in Steadicam and gimbles. Sheila is on the board of Women in Film and Video, a contributor to GalsNGear and loves mentoring upcoming DP's and Steadicam operators.

Bill Svanoë is an award-winning screenwriter and playwright. He has written highly acclaimed and rated television movies including MILES TO GO which won a Christopher Award; TERROR ON THE BEACH; RETURNING HOME; THE DREAMMAKERS; THE CARDBOARD HOUSE, and SPARKS. Feature films include WALTZ ACROSS TEXAS, starring Anne Archer, and FATALBEAUTY, starring Whoopi Goldberg. His first play, THENEWSTAND, won awards in New York and Europe. His plays, THE BLACK DUCK, PUNCH AND JUDY, THE LAST LAUGH, and CALLBACK have been published and are performed around the country. For five years he was the playwright in residence for Zephyr Rep in New York. He taught playwriting and screenwriting at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for seven years. Currently he teaches at festivals and forums around the country and also does private coaching.

Jane Barbara, ScriptDC Chair

After graduation with a Fine Arts Degree from Parsons School of Design on a full scholarship from The Rockefeller Scholarship Fund, Jane had a 20-year career as illustrator, publication designer, graphic designer for Forbes 500 corporations. Along the way, she co-founded The Bi-Lingual Theater Company of New York in Williamsburg, Brooklyn where she and partners used their talents to produce plays and musicals for an underrepresented community. In the 1980s, she co-founded Menu Makers Plus, designing hundreds of logos and menus for up-and-coming New York tri-state restaurants and gourmet shops.

After relocating to Maryland, Jane began writing and producing shorts along with WIFV members. Those short films have screened at more than 100 film festivals, including Cannes Short Corner, and won several Best of Awards. Along with producing partner, Oriana Oppice, she is planning to shoot a narrative comedy feature film in 2024.