



international documentary association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Eddie Schmidt, IDA Board President, is an Academy Award nominated filmmaker, writer/producer, and commentator. Feature credits include producing & co-writing the acclaimed *This Film Is Not Yet Rated* for IFC, producing and shooting HBO's powerful *Twist Of Faith* (for which he was nominated for an Oscar), and producing the groundbreaking teenage mosaic *Chain Camera* (seen on Sundance Channel and BBC). All three films were released theatrically and premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. For television, Schmidt has directed and produced documentary and comedy series and specials for HBO, Lionsgate, IFC, PBS, A&E, Adult Swim, and E! He has appeared on NPR's *This American Life*, been a frequent guest on G4's *Attack Of The Show*, and can be seen in the Starz/Encore documentaries *Sex And The Cinema* and *In The Gutter*. Schmidt is currently producing a feature documentary on the singer/songwriter scene in late 60/early 70s Los Angeles which will debut in 2011. He has served on IDA's Board of Directors since 2006, as its President since 2009, and, during the latter half of 2008, stepped in as the organization's Interim Executive Director.

Adam Chapnick, IDA Board Vice President, is Chief of Distribution at IndieGoGo, where he serves as CEO of Distribber.com, a new-model flat-fee distribution service that places independent films on digital sales platforms such as iTunes, Netflix and Amazon while allowing filmmakers to keep 100% of their revenue. Adam speaks regularly on cutting edge distribution strategies at markets and festivals including Sundance, South By Southwest, Digital Hollywood, AFM, WestDoc, Distribution U at USC, The Conversation, American Cinematheque and elsewhere. Adam proudly serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the International Documentary Association.

Laurie Ann Schag, IDA Board CFO/ Treasurer, is a director and producer. A native Californian of Hispanic descent, Laurie Ann has worked in international film and TV production since 1991. With her own entertainment marketing and production firm, she has worked extensively in the United States, Latin America, Brazil and Europe for such companies as Netflix, Columbia-TriStar, HBO Hungary, Televisa and on international joint ventures Cinecanal and Telecine for Fox, Paramount, MGM, Universal, Multivision, Mexico and GloboSat, Brazil. She consults on post production, distribution and marketing for films such as; *Chevolution*, *Crude*, *The Baader Meinhof Complex*, *Naco es Chido*, *180° South*, *Los Que Se Quedan*, *Yellow*, *The End of The Line* and *A Day Without A Mexican*. A documentary filmmaker, Laurie Ann is currently in production on a second film in Cuba, which follows folk rocker Carlos Varela as his career navigates between factions charged by the political relations between the US and Cuba. Her first film, *Great Day in Havana* was ten years in the making and documents the politics, culture and daily life of contemporary Cuba as seen through the eyes of its artists. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of the International Documentary Association, she is a consultant for The William C. Velasquez Institute, The Southwest Voter Registration Education Project and The National Latino Congress.



Moises Velez, IDA Secretary, is a Peabody award winning producer and Director of Development & Current Programming for NBC Universal owned cable network mun2. He is responsible for series development, alternative programming and identifying films and series for acquisition. Moises has produced documentary, music and brand projects for companies from Warner Bros. to Universal Music Group to Nike. Additional work includes collaborations with the LA Philharmonic and new project development with Universal Studios Theme Parks. He was senior business analyst for MTV west coast development and new series programming. In addition he developed projects for national PBS carriage for the NLCC, a consortium for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Moises Velez currently is on the board of directors for the International Documentary Association, the leading organization promoting the documentary form and advocating for documentary filmmakers. He is based in Los Angeles.

Gilda Brasch, Member-at-Large, is a producer and director who has created international non-fiction entertainment for some of the biggest names in the industry. For the past decade, Gilda has collaborated with Ms. Oprah Winfrey to launch a philanthropic production division at Harpo Studios. Working closely with Ms. Winfrey, Gilda produced and directed several humanitarian projects including *Building A Dream* (about Ms. Winfrey's Leadership Academy in South Africa), *Christmas Kindness* (a special that benefited 1,000 orphans living with AIDS) and *Oprah's Katrina Special* (about the construction of 100 homes for Katrina survivors). In addition, Gilda has produced reality series for ABC, NBC, CBS, A&E, FOX, PBS, Discovery, TNT, Disney, TLC, HGTV, and ABC Family. Currently, Gilda is consulting as series-creator/show-runner for the worldwide television powerhouse, Endemol – and is also creating television formats and featured documentary projects for her own company, Vusi Filmworks, in partnership with Prospect Park.

Sara Hutchison, Member-at-Large, is a producer, writer and director specializing in non-fiction television production and concept development. She is the co-founder of Good Gravy Entertainment, a media company producing for television, the internet and other platforms. Sara's entertainment career began at National Geographic Television as part of the Emmy-award-winning team responsible for primetime documentary specials on NBC and PBS. A passion for education and cutting edge media production led her to UniversityAccess.com where she produced website content to compliment educational programming for PBSU. From there, she joined Greystone Television and Films as Producer and VP of Development, where she successfully developed over 100 hours of programming as series and specials on A&E, Court TV, Fine Living, The Food Network, The Travel Channel, and the History Channel among others. Sara serves on the Executive Board of the International Documentary Association, the Non-fiction Peer Group Executive Committee of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and is an active member of the Director's Guild.

Marjan Safinia, Member-at-Large, is an Iranian documentary filmmaker. Her feature debut, *Seeds*, premiered as the Opening Night Film at SilverDocs and played at over 50 international film festivals. The film was broadcast in the US, UK, New Zealand, Jamaica and across the Arab world. Her first film, *But You Speak Such Good English* (UK), premiered at the prestigious Sheffield International Documentary Festival and played at over 20 festivals internationally, including the Margaret Mead Documentary Festival in New York, the acclaimed "Women in



Iranian Film” festival at the Barbican Centre in London and the Asia Society in New York. Marjan is one of four co-hosts of The D-Word, the premiere online community for documentary professionals and was a Filmmaking Fellow for Jehane Noujaim’s global Pangea Day. She is based in Los Angeles where she frequently consults with filmmakers and produces work through her company, The Department of Expansion.

Thomas G. Miller, Member-at-Large, has worked on documentaries and in public television since 1994. He produced and directed the award winning feature documentary *One Bad Cat* (Ovation) as well as associate-produced the Sundance award-winning film *Licensed To Kill* (PBS). He has made many other award-winning documentaries including co-producing and editing *Fender Philosophers* (PBS) and *Camp Out* (Logo), and editing the feature documentaries *Good Kurds, Bad Kurds* (PBS), *Rock The Boat* (HBO), *Home of the Brave* (Sundance/Court TV). Miller has been teaching documentary filmmaking and editing at the USC School of Cinematic Arts since 2003. He is also a board certified pediatrician and has served as medical consultant for Sesame Street and other film and television series.

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Beth Bird is a documentary filmmaker whose work engages vital contemporary social issues such as globalization, popular resistance, and local community empowerment, drawing attention to and putting a human face on struggles for social justice. *Everyone Their Grain of Sand*, Bird’s first feature-length film, won the 2005 Jury Award for Best Documentary at its U.S. premiere at the Los Angeles Film Festival, Best San Diego Feature at the San Diego Film Festival, and Festival Favorite at the Oxnard Film Festival. Bird’s other films include *D2KLA* (2000), which documents clashes between the police and protesters outside the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles in August, 2000, and *Love Knows No Borders* (1997), which examines discrimination in U.S. immigration law against lesbians and gay men.

David Erikson is a California attorney who has represented a broad range of clients, from individuals and small businesses to Fortune 500 companies. He spent six years focused on commercial litigation at a leading global law firm, before founding our boutique practice in 2004. Erikson now heads our group of experienced lawyers, who counsel clients in business litigation and transactions, new ventures, intellectual property, real estate, and internet, fashion and art law.

Brian Gerber is a Los Angeles based producer. Brian recently produced *The 11th Hour*, a feature documentary on the state of the environment produced and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio. *The 11th Hour* had its world premiere at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, and will be released by Warner Independent Pictures. Brian also produced the feature mockumentary comedy *Sunny and Share Love You*, about a washed up rock duo that reinvents itself as a wildly inappropriate children’s act, directed by Matthew Buzzell. Previously, Brian has produced Buzzell’s acclaimed documentary *Jimmy Scott: If You Only Knew*, which won the Audience Award on PBS Independent Lens in 2005

Karen Hori currently serves as the Executive in Charge of Production for Langley Productions, overseeing financial, operational and business affairs matters for the company. In addition, she



has recently begun developing several independent feature documentary projects. Karen joined the company as a producer on reality series CODE 3 and has since served as a development executive and/or supervising producer for several of the company's fiction and non-fiction series including ANATOMY OF CRIME, VIDEO JUSTICE, THE TONY ROCK PROJECT, and HOLLYWOOD VICE. Before joining Langley, Karen worked in development and production for Twentieth Television and as a production manager for Fox Entertainment News. Prior to her work in production, Karen was the Director of Human Resources and Public Affairs for the Fox Television Stations group in Los Angeles.

Kevin Iwashina is the Managing Partner of Preferred Content, a film, television and digital production, finance advisory and sales company. Prior to Preferred Content, Iwashina spent 10 years at the Creative Artists Agency (CAA), where he was a talent agent, specializing in film packaging, financing and distribution. Iwashina holds a B.A. in English Literature with a minor in French Language and Culture from U.C.L.A. He is a native of Los Angeles where he currently resides.

Laurie Kaman is Vice President of Branded Entertainment at Endemol, the global leader in entertainment programming. Laurie is responsible for overseeing Endemol's IP across platforms from a brand partnership perspective, working with Producers, Development Execs, Network Sales & Marketing and major brands. Prior to joining the management team at Endemol, Laurie spent eleven years as VP of Sales & Marketing at Univision. Laurie's professional experience also includes work in local ad sales for an NBC affiliate and six years at television ratings giant Nielsen Media Research. Laurie began her professional career as a broadcast journalist after earning a BA in Communications from the University of California, San Diego. Laurie also holds an MBA in Marketing from Loyola Marymount. Laurie sits on the L.A. County High School for the Arts Board of Directors and was previously a long time member of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Los Angeles chapter, holding positions as both Vice-Chair and Chairman. Laurie was born and raised in Los Angeles and currently resides in Pacific Palisades, CA.

Senain Kheshgi is a Pakistani-American filmmaker who has produced, written and directed projects for numerous companies including, CNN, ABC NEWS, PBS, Discovery, as well as the BBC and Channel 4 in the UK. Senain co-produced her first feature documentary, *The First Year* with Academy Award winning director, Davis Guggenheim (*An Inconvenient Truth*) which was broadcast on PBS in 2001 and was awarded the prestigious George Foster Peabody Award. She has also produced and developed projects with Academy Award winner, Ross Kauffman, Shari Berman and Robert Pulcini (directors of Sundance Award Winner, *American Splendor*) as well as with Sophie Fiennes (sister of Ralph and Joseph Fiennes and director of the BBC film, *Hoover Street Revival*). Senain recently completed *Project Kashmir*, a feature documentary filmed by Ross Kauffman (Oscar-winner for *Born Into Brothels*) in which she and her Indian-American friend (and co-director, Geeta V. Patel) investigate the war in the Kashmir Valley and find their friendship tested over deeply rooted religious and cultural divides. Senain recently received a Sundance development grant to direct a coming of age story about a young girl in Pakistan and she is developing a narrative feature script based on her father's journey from being the most famous television game show host in Pakistan in the 1960's to his life in the American South in the 1980's.



Jack Lerner is Clinical Assistant Professor of Law at the USC Gould School of Law. As Director of the USC Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic, Professor Lerner leads law students as they counsel and represent filmmakers, artists, nonprofit organizations, and policymakers worldwide as they confront a wide range of challenges at the intersection of law and technology. Under his supervision Clinical Interns successfully achieved an exemption to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act on behalf of a wide coalition of documentary filmmakers that helped them exercise their fair use rights, and filed comments on behalf of documentary and independent filmmakers in the Federal Communications Commission urging the Commission to preserve "network neutrality" on the internet so that revolutionary new independent distribution systems can survive and flourish.

Bob Niemack is executive producer at GRB Entertainment, currently producing season 5 of *Untold Stories of the ER* for TLC. Bob's films and series have won many awards, including 7 Emmys, 2 Cable Aces, and a Peabody. He began as an editor and cut the Oscar winning *Scared Straight!*. He has taught production at UCLA and USC, and has been an IDA member for 25 years.

Steven Reich is an Emmy-nominated writer/producer who began his career as an actor. As Vice President of Creative Affairs at IRS Media he supervised the creative development and production of over a dozen feature films including the critically acclaimed *One False Move* and *Shakes the Clown*, aptly described as "the Citizen Kane of alcoholic clown movies." Reich later worked at National Geographic Television where he was nominated for an Emmy for his work on *Avalanche: The White Death*. Other documentary credits include: *Wolves: A Legend Returns to Yellowstone* and *Alien Earths* for National Geographic, *Valley of the T-Rex* for Discovery, *Science at the Edge* for TLC, *Alive From Pop!Tech* for PBS, in addition to a series of short films for George Washington's Mt. Vernon Estate and Gardens. He recently completed *Killer Subs in Pearl Harbor* and is currently working on *Secrets Beneath the Ice* both for NOVA.

Pi Ware began his filmmaking career in Madrid, Spain, but is happy to call Los Angeles his home. Pi is a multiple Emmy Award nominated editor, an award-winning writer/director, and a Sundance Film Festival alumnus. As a film-and-television-maker, Pi's clients include Fox Searchlight, Warner Bros, Universal, Disney, NBC, ABC, CBS, FOX, PBS, Sundance Channel, IFC, ESPN, TBS, TNT, TruTV and many other cable networks. His films have appeared in over 50 festivals worldwide, including Cannes, Sundance and AFI Fest. His expertise in both production and post production has lead him to produce the IDA Awards two years running. Pi is proud to be a part of the International Documentary Association.