BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2013

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Marjan Safinia**, IDA Board President, 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.

**Laurie Ann Schag**, IDA Board Vice President, 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 Congreso.
Moises Velez, IDA Board CFO/Treasurer, 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.

Senain Kheshgi, IDA Secretary, 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.
MEMBERS AT LARGE

Adam Chapnick is Chief of Distribution at IndieGoGo, where he serves as CEO of Distribbber.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.

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.

Thomas G. Miller 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.
BOARD MEMBERS

**Fonda Berosini** is currently Executive Director of Communications for the Digital Media team at Disney/ABC Television Group. Over the course of her career in digital marketing at companies such as Participant Media and Warner Independent Pictures she has worked on the following esteemed documentaries: the 2009 Oscar-winning *The Cove, Food, Inc., The 11th Hour, Darfur Now, Jimmy Carter Man From Plains, Chicago 10,* and *March of the Penguins,* among others.

**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.

**Gilda Brasch** 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, HGN, 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.

**Lisa Kirk Colburn** began working in film production on the set of “The Execution’s Song” with Tommy Lee Jones in 1980. Studying at UCLA, Lisa has gone on to
write eleven screenplays, many of them award winning. Her first, “Clouds of Tragedy”, was a finalist in the Eugene O’Neil Playwrights competition in 1994. The feature film, “The Journey” which Lisa co-wrote while working at the Sundance Lab was produced in 1997 starring Roshen Seth and won many national in international film festival awards, including “The Audience Award” at the Miami Film Festival. Lisa produced and executive produced the feature length documentary, “Sacred Stage: The Mariinsky Theater” in 2005, which portrays the survival of the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg, Russia and it’s Artistic Director, Valery Gergiev. The film is distributed by First Run Features and EuroArts and premiered at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC and at Lincoln Center in New York City. It has been seen all over the world. Lisa’s latest feature documentary film, “Gottfried Helnwein And The Dreaming Child” takes place on stage and behind the scenes at the Israeli Opera House in Tel Aviv and tells the story of two artistic titans. Lisa directed, produced and executive produced the film and it is currently distributed by First Run Features and EuroArts. Lisa has served on the Board of The Presidential Advisory Committee for the Arts/The Kennedy Center, the National Foundation for Advancement In The Arts/ Young Arts, the Metropolitan Opera Advisory Board, the Los Angeles Opera Board of Directors, the Byrd Hoffman Foundation/Watermill, the Colburn Foundation and the Board of Directors for the Colburn School in Los Angeles. Lisa currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the International Documentary Association. Lisa resides in Los Angeles, CA.

James Costa is Board Chair for The Hunt’s Point Alliance for Children (HPAC) in the South Bronx. He is Board Member of The California Wildlife Center and is on the President’s Council for the Physician’s Committee for Responsible Medicine, as well as Advisory Committee for Sea Shepherd International. He is former Vice Chair of The National Council for The Humane Society of the United States (2008-2012.) He is Director/Producer of the documentary Lunch Hour: America’s School Lunch Program, and proudly serves as a Board Member of the International Documentary Association. James is originally from Boston, MA and currently resides in Los Angeles, CA.

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.

**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.

**Jack Lerner** is Clinical Associate 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.
Lauren Lexton is the co-founder of Authentic Entertainment, a leading producer of non-fiction television programming. Named to Realscreen Magazine’s “Global 100” list for the last six consecutive years, Authentic has produced such hit series as Ace of Cakes, Flipping Out!, Toddlers & Tiaras, Best Thing I Ever Ate, and Cities of the Underworld. Prior to co-founding Authentic, Lauren worked as a Show Runner, Director, Story Editor, Writer and Producer. She has been awarded several CINE Golden Eagles, the “Life in America” award from the National Association of Broadcasters and numerous Telly awards. Ms. Lexton graduated cum laude from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. She serves on the annual award screening committee for the International Documentary Association, and is a member of the Directors Guild of America. Her greatest passion is finding great talent and stories, and discovering that truth is stranger than fiction.

Caroline Libresco has been Senior Programmer for the Sundance Film Festival, where she selects features in all sections, with expertise in documentary and international film, and acts as conduit between artists and industry since 2001. She spearheaded Sundance’s World Cinema Narrative and Documentary competitions and serves on Sundance’s Women’s Initiative, Creative Producing Initiative, and Film Forward teams. Previously, she was an executive at ITVS, the San Francisco Film Festival, and the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. She produced the award-winning documentary, SUNSET STORY; the Academy Award-winning short, BARRIER DEVICE; associate-produced the HBO documentary CAT DANCEs; and co-wrote and produced the independent feature, FANCI’S PERSUASION. Currently, she is producing the documentary AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY: THE EVOLUTION OF GRACE LEE BOGGS, which will air on POV in 2014. She serves as consultant to Harvard Kennedy School, Hot Docs, and the Zurich Film Festival, and on the Executive Committee of IFP’s Festival Forum. Caroline holds a B.A. from Oberlin College, an M.A. in History of Religion from Harvard, an M.F.A. from UCLA Film School, and mentors in FIND’s Documentary Lab. She has appeared widely on film juries internationally—including the Sarajevo Film Festival, Jerusalem Film Festival, Cartagena Film Festival, Istanbul Independent Film Festival, Seattle Film Festival, and Hot Docs. In June, 2010, Caroline was named among the Top 10 Most Powerful People in Documentary.

Billy Luther belongs to the Navajo, Hopi and Laguna Pueblo tribes. He studied film at Hampshire College and worked on various projects for the New York City-based Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian’s Film & Video
Center. Luther is the director of the award-winning documentary, Miss Navajo, which premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival and aired nationally on PBS' Independent Lens. He has also been selected for the Sundance Institute’s Native Program Fellowship, Film Independent’s Project:Involve, and Tribeca Film Institute’s All Access. Most recently, his documentary feature GRAB premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival and was Consulting Producer on the 2012 documentary short Sousa on the Rez. He currently serves on the Sundance Institute Alumni Advisory Board. Luther is in development on Miss Navajo: The Musical and The Untitled Hopi Project.

**Stephen Nemeth** formed and heads up Rhino Films. He has produced and executive produced dozens of films. He worked with Amnesty International through Artists for Amnesty on developing and producing human rights related projects. His Producer credits include The Surrogate, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, Why Do Fools Fall in Love, Dogtown and Z Boys, What We Do Is Secret and You and I, and the upcoming Radio Free Albemuth and Snake and Mongoose. Nemeth executive produced the Academy Award-nominated documentary War/Dance, Sundance Audience Award winner Fuel, Flow, Climate Refugees, Under the Boardwalk: The Monopoly Story, Mr. Bitchin', Beisbol, Patriocracy and Pick Up The Mic and the upcoming State of Control and A Nuclear Family.

**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.