

## *Women Behind the Camera*

### **FILMMAKER BIOS:**

#### **Alexis Krasilovsky: Writer/Director/Producer**

Alexis Krasilovsky's global feature, *Women Behind the Camera* is based upon her book of the same name (Praeger, 1997), the first in-depth look at the lives of camerawomen and their struggles to succeed in a male-dominated field. She says, "More important than being the director of a film, I've become a facilitator, enabling grassroots connects to grow from country to country and woman to woman on a cross-cultural basis."

After studying film history at Yale University, Alexis Krasilovsky embarked on a career as an independent filmmaker and holographer. Krasilovsky was the first to include the film techniques of zooming and dissolving in a motion picture hologram, *Created and Consumed by Light* (1975). Her pro-choice hologram, *Childbirth Dream*, was exhibited at the Georges Pompidou Center, Paris and other museums and festivals here and abroad. She later received an MFA in Film/Video Graphics from California Institute of the Arts. As head of her own production company, Krasilovsky has written, directed, produced and shot numerous documentaries, video-poems and art films, including *Beale Street*, *Exile*, *What Memphis Needs*, *Blood*, and *End of the Art World*, which *Artforum* praised for its "quality of humor possible only with depth of understanding." Her films have aired nationally on PBS and The Learning Channel and screened in museums and festivals here and abroad.

Alexis Krasilovsky is currently a professor in the Department of Cinema and Television Arts at California State University, Northridge, teaching film production, screenwriting and film studies and continuing to make her own movies. She and her son live in Los Angeles.

#### **Vanessa H. Smith: Executive Producer/Associate Producer**

After graduation from Stanford University, Vanessa Smith lived and worked in India, Nepal, London, New York and Los Angeles. She has worked on productions for PBS, BBC, Encore, and Columbia Pictures, and served as Historical Consultant and Location Manager for *In Search of Kundun with Martin Scorsese*. Vanessa is the recipient of an Amnesty International Award for her production of a program on women in Nepal for the BBC.

#### **Reseda Mickey: Associate Producer/Music Editor**

Reseda Mickey has worked as Associate Producer on several of Alexis Krasilovsky's previous films and videos, including the award-winning *Best Gal in the West*, *What Memphis Needs*, and the underground video, *Camp Terezin*. She has worked on numerous projects in Los Angeles and New York including films, videos, books and music and also works around the world as a musician, most recently as a member of The DonkeyBiters in Switzerland. Reseda is currently working at Warner Brothers.

#### **Katey Bright: Editor**

A graduate of the Art Center College of Design, Katey Bright studied editing with Howard Heard and Monte Bramer and served as president and founder of Art Center's women's group, focusing on the woman's role in filmmaking. She currently specializes in film editing and post-production in Los Angeles.

**Elizabeth Sellers: Composer**

Elizabeth Sellers composed, orchestrated and conducted the score and title song for the independent feature, *UnBowed*, which premiered in Hollywood and won festival awards, and received Primetime Emmy honors for contributing to the Emmy Award winning achievement of Outstanding Music Direction for the 2002 Winter Olympics. She has studied with leading teachers from Aspen, Juilliard and Yale and completed advanced studies in Scoring for Films at the University of Southern California. Her work as director of the newly established Media Composition Option for the Music Department at California State University, Northridge was recently featured in *FilmScore* Magazine.

**Our Camerawomen and Unit Directors include:**

1. **Kristin Glover: (Hollywood)**

A founding member of Behind the Lens: An Association of Professional Camerawomen, and currently National Chair of the International Cinematographers Guild's Diversity Committee, Kristin Glover has worked in Hollywood as Camera Operator on such films as *Star Trek VI*, *The Undiscovered Country* and *The Rocketeer*. She has also served as Director of Photography/Camera Operator on documentaries such as *The Legacy of the Hollywood Blacklist*, and Unit Directed, interviewed and shot our interviews with Steadicam Operator Liz Ziegler and Director/DP Haskell Wexler, ASC.

2. **Sabeena Gadihoke: (Delhi, India)**

A member of India's renowned Media Storm Collective, Sabeena Unit Directed, interviewed and shot our interview with Vijayalakshmi, India's first feature Director of Photography.

3. **Divya Pande: (Bollywood, India)**

An Assistant Director on major Bollywood films, Divya Pande served as Unit Director, interviewer and camerawoman on interviews with Nirmal Jani, one of Bollywood's most important cameramen, as well as shooting and assist directing on our other interviews in Mumbai. Divya Pande is currently working on her own documentary, comparing the wealth of Bollywood to the poverty of Mumbai.

4. **Hilda Mercado: (Mexico City and Los Angeles)**

The first female Director of Photography in Mexico City's camera union, and a member of the International Cinematographers Guild, Local 600 (Hollywood), Hilda Mercado served as Unit Director, interviewer and camerawoman for our interviews with Celiana Cardenas (Mexico City) and Stephanie Martin (Argentina/Los Angeles).

5. **Mairi Gunn: (New Zealand)**

New Zealand's first female Director of Photography, Mairi Gunn's films include *Point Your Toes*, *Cushla*. Mairi Unit Directed, interviewed and shot our interview with Hollywood camerawoman Michelle Crenshaw while visiting Los Angeles as a guest of the Women in Film International Summit. She is currently directing and shooting a film about water.

6. **Lisa Seidenberg: (New York)**

After shooting news for ABC, Lisa Seidenberg started her own company, Metro Video, working as an independent television producer and camerawoman in Southeast Asia, the Soviet Union/Russia, the Middle East, China, and Europe. She served as Unit Director, interviewer and camerawoman on our interview with the pioneer video documentarian, Joan Giummo in New York City.

7. **Madelyn Most: (London/Paris)**

Starting her camera career as a Camera Assistant on *Star Wars*, *Superman*, and *The Empire Strikes Back*, Madelyn Most currently works as a documentary filmmaker based in London and Paris, producing and directing opera, theater and dance films. Madelyn was one of our Unit Directors and camerawomen interviewing Sue Gibson, BSC, England's foremost female Director of Photography.

8. **Erika Addis: (Australia)**

One of Australia's foremost documentary cinematographers, Erika Addis Unit Produced, interviewed and shot our interview with Jan Kenny, ACS in Sydney, Australia.

9. **Eva Testor, AAC: (Vienna, Austria)**

Working with Unit Producer Herbert Krill, Eva Testor, AAC shot our interview with producer/camerawoman Astrid Heubrandtner, AAC in Vienna. Astrid worked as Director of Photography - 2nd Unit on the famous European television action series, *Medicopter*.

10. **Susan Walsh: (Hollywood)**

A specialist in filming underwater and on mountaintops, Susan Walsh's credits as a camera assistant included *Personal Best*, *Silverado* and *Continental Divide*. Currently a psychotherapist and martial arts instructor in addition to being a camerawoman, she is an expert on sexual harassment issues. Susan Walsh served as the first president of Behind the Lens: An Association of Professional Camerawomen.