

# NEWS

## 'SMART COOKIES'

### PRODUCTION BIOS

**LINDA KENT (Executive Producer)** – Linda Kent started her career in the art world, beginning with an internship at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, followed by positions at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and finally as the Corporate Art Curator for Atlantic Richfield Oil.

In 1978, Kent made a career change and began anew at Lorimar Television as an assistant to the VP of movies and mini-series. After two and half years there, she ran her own business, The Research Dept, providing research services to journalists, screenwriters, and authors. In 1984, Kent joined NBC as publicity coordinator for movies and mini-series. That experience led to a position as director of development for Gross-Weston Productions and, in turn, to a similar position with Fries Entertainment.

In 1986 Linda joined Jack Grossbart as his vice president of development. By 1989, the company grew to include Joan Barnett as partner. For the next 15 years the company succeeded in producing 30 plus movies for television for all the major networks and cable channels, with subject matter that often focused on hard-hitting issues and reality based stories, including "The Preppie Murder," "Something to Live For: The Alison Gertz Story," "Any Mother's Son," "In the Blink of an Eye," "Unforgivable," "Last Wish," "Comrades of Summer" and "Echoes in the Darnkess."

Kent and Grossbart became partners upon Barnett's retirement in 2004, forming Grossbart Kent Productions. They have since produced "Heartless" for CBS and received a 2007 Emmy® nomination for the Lifetime movie "Why I Wore Lipstick To My Mastectomy," based on Geralyn Lucas's life story.

Kent is also in post-production with Anne Carlucci Productions on two Lifetime movies, "Killer Hair" and "Hostile Takeover," based on the book *Crime of Fashion*. At present, Kent is VP of development and production for Anne Carlucci Productions.

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**ROBERT ISCOVE (Director and Executive Producer)** – Robert Iscove was born in Toronto, Canada. He attended the prestigious Juilliard School of Music in Manhattan, New York, studying under Antony Tudor and Jose Limon. While at school he appeared on Broadway in *Henry, Sweet Henry*, choreographed by Michael Bennett. He was associate choreographer on *Two Cities* in London's West End and choreographed *Session* for the National Ballet of Canada. Shortly thereafter, he choreographed the highly acclaimed film version of "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Silent Movie" with Mel Brooks and "The Duchess and the Dirtwater Fox" starring Goldie Hawn. As a choreographer, he worked with such stars as Better Midler, Tina Turner, Stevie Wonder, Burt Bacharach, Liza Minnelli and Ben Vereen.

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Iscoe has also directed Alice Cooper's worldwide tours of "Welcome to My Nightmare" and "King of the Silver Screen." His other tours include acts for Ann-Margret, Raquel Welch and Sandy Duncan. He reunited with Duncan, directing and choreographing the highly successful revival of *Peter Pan* for Broadway and a new production of *South Pacific*.

On Broadway he also directed and choreographed *Copperfield*, based on the Dickens novel. His other original musicals include *Jack- a Flash Fantasy* starring Victor Garber and Gilda Radner, *Clowns*, *Hometown*, and *All For One*.

Iscoe produced, directed and choreographed "Romeo and Juliet on Ice," for which he won the coveted Peabody and Emmy® Awards. His other Emmy nominations were for "Ann-Margret Smith" and "Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" starring Whitney Houston. For HBO he directed "The Last Great Vaudeville Show," "Philip Marlowe," "Broadway" and "Pajama Tops." His other television credits include "Mary" starring Mary Tyler Moore, "Dancing in the Wings," "Star Trek – The Next Generation," "Tour of Duty," "Faerie Tale Theatre," "Chataqua Girl," "Love and Larceny," "Miami Vice," "All for One," "Alfred Hitchcock Presents," "The Incredible Ida Early," "The Prodigious Hickey," "21 Jump Street," "Wiseguy," "My Secret Identity," "Sonny Spoon" and "Janek."

Iscoe also worked on many television movies including "Mission of the Shark," "Miracle on I-880," "The Flash," "Murder in Black and White," "Shattered Dreams," "Without Warning," "Without Consent," "Dying to Love You," "Murder on the Rio Grande," "Breaking the Silence," "Dark Angel," "Firestarter 2: Rekindled" and "Profit."

Following these television movies, he made his big screen debut with "She's All That" starring Freddie Prinze Jr., which at that time had the largest opening weekend in Miramax history. He followed that the year later with "Boys and Girls" also for Miramax and "From Justin to Kelly" for Twentieth Century Fox. He directed Val Kilmer in *The Ten Commandments* onstage at the Kodak Theater and "Spectacular" for Nickelodeon and the independent feature film "Love n' Dancing." His latest credits include "Whiskey Business" for CMT.

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**JACK GROSSBART (Executive Producer)** – Jack Grossbart is an independent producer who has produced nearly 40 telefilms in the last 20 years. Partnered with Linda Kent in Grossbart Kent Productions, their recent credits include "Heartless," starring Melanie Griffith for CBS, and Lifetime's "Why I Wore Lipstick To My Mastectomy," starring Sarah Chalke, for which they received the 2007 Gracie Award, were finalists for the 2007 Humanitas Prize, and received a 2007 Emmy® nomination for Outstanding Made for Television Movie.

Before forming Grossbart Kent Productions, Grossbart was partnered with Joan Barnett in Grossbart/Barnett Productions for 15 years and produced telefilms for CBS, NBC, ABC and HBO, as well as some of the newly emerging cable channels. Among their productions have been

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"Any Mother's Son," "The Marriage Fool," starring Walter Matthau and Carol Burnett, "Unforgivable" starring John Ritter, the award winning "Something to Live For: The Alison Gertz Story" starring Molly Ringwald, "Leave of Absence" starring Brian Dennehy and Jacqueline Bisset, "Last Wish" starring Patty Duke and Maureen Stapleton, and HBO's "The Comrades of Summer" starring Joe Mantegna.

Grossbart executive produced the Emmy® nominated miniseries "Echoes in the Darkness," based on the best-selling Joseph Wambaugh book, "The Preppie Murder," starring Billy Baldwin and Lara Flynn Boyle, and "Rockabye" and "I Was a Mail Order Bride," both starring Valerie Bertinelli. In the half-hour series arena, Grossbart executive produced the Bertinelli series "Sydney" for CBS and "Café Americain" for NBC.

Grossbart graduated from Rutgers University with a B.A. in English and Dramatic Arts and started working in the mailroom at ICM, where he worked his way up to become an agent in their Theater Department. After four years, he moved to Los Angeles to work for the William Morris Agency, where he was an agent in the television department for five years. In 1980 he formed Litke-Grossbart Management and shortly after that he started his producing career.

An active member of the Caucus for Producers, Writers and Directors for many years, Grossbart was head of its membership committee. He has been a member of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for 15 years and has served on the awards committee and the Producer's Peer Group Executive Committee. In 1997, he was elected a Governor representing the Producers Peer Group, a post he held for four years.

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**ALLEN LEWIS (Executive Producer)** – As Vice President of Production at Front Street Pictures, Allen Lewis is fortunate to be involved in many aspects of film making; from early development and budgeting, to a hands on approach with all facets of production and final delivery. Lewis has proudly worked on over 20 films for US and Canadian cable TV as well as several independent films. Most recently he was executive producer on "Duke," (Steven Weber) "Debbie Macomber's Trading Christmas," (Tom Cavanagh, Faith Ford) "Time After Time" (Richard Thomas) and Supervising Producer on "Kiss at Pine Lake" and "Call Me Mrs. Miracle" (Doris Roberts) for the Hallmark Channel. Additionally he was Supervising Producer on "The Pastor's Wife," (Rose McGowan) the highly acclaimed "Sins of the Mother," and the award winning "Taken From Me: the Tiffany Rubin Story" (Taraji Henson) for Lifetime. Lewis was also production manager on "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," (Henry Winkler) "Freshman Father," "Edge of the Garden," and co-producer for "Lies Between Friends"- all for the Hallmark Channel.

Lewis began developing his producing career at Front Street Pictures in the early 2000's after he received his M.A. in International Relations in Japan. He is a member of the Directors Guild of Canada and lives in Vancouver BC.

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**JIMMY HAWKINS (Executive Producer)** – Jimmy Hawkins began his diverse career in the 40's acting alongside some of Hollywood's most prominent figures including Spencer Tracy, Katherine Hepburn, Greer Garson, Lana Turner and Jessica Tandy. Most famously, Hawkins had the distinction of playing Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed's son Tommy Bailey in Frank Capra's classic "It's A Wonderful Life."

In television, Hawkins starred as a Donald Ruggles in one of TV's first family sitcoms "The Charlie Ruggles Show" airing on ABC from 1949-1952. He also starred as Tagg Oakley on The Emmy® Award nominated "Annie Oakley" series airing on CBS from 1953-1958. Hawkins was then reunited with Donna Reed when he was signed to play Shelley Fabares' boyfriend, Scotty, for eight seasons on "The Donna Reed Show." He also appeared on four seasons of "The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet," two years on "Petticoat Junction," "Ichabod and Me," "Leave It To Beaver," "Dennis The Menace," "Gidget," "My Three Sons," "Hitchcock Presents," "Red Skelton" and "Lux Video Theatre."

On-stage, Hawkins starred as Elvis Presley's sidekick in two MGM musicals, *Girl Happy* and *Spinout*.

As a producer, his credits include "Evel Knievel," "Don't Look Back," "Scouts Honor," "Love Leads The Way," "A Time For Miracles" and "The Satchel Paige Story," which won him an NAACP's Image Award.

Hawkins created the three-hour NBC Emmy® Award-winning television special "Motown Returns to the Apollo" for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He also produced the PBS television special all-star radio version celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "It's A Wonderful Life."

Hawkins sits on the Advisory Board of The Jimmy Stewart Museum and for 20 years served on the Board of Directors of the Donna Reed Foundation for the Performing Arts. He is celebrating over 50 years as a member of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts And Sciences.

"Smart Cookies," is based on Hawkins' original story "Be Prepared."

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**KELLI PRYOR (Writer)** — Kelli Pryor writes both novels and screenplays. Her original screenplay, "A Stranger's Heart," was produced for the Hallmark Channel, and her original screenplay, "More Of Me," co-starring Molly Shannon, appeared on Lifetime. She also adapts novels, and her adaptations include "Secret Lives Of Second Wives" and "Hostile Makeover" for Lifetime. All of her novels have been optioned for feature films, and she has developed film projects for Warner Brothers and Dreamworks. A graduate of the University of Missouri's School of Journalism, Pryor has worked for *New York Magazine* and was on the start-up staff at *Entertainment Weekly Magazine*. Her work has appeared in magazines from *ArtNews* to the *Village Voice*. She lives in Maine with her husband and twin daughters (both Girl Scouts).

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**NEAL & TIPPI DOBROFSKY (Writers)** – Neal and Tippi Dobrofsky are a husband and wife writing team, who have written movies for Warner Brothers, MGM, CBS, Sony, Lifetime and USA Network, among others. Their most recent feature “Five Dollars A Day,” directed by Nigel Cole, and starring Christopher Walken, Sharon Stone, Alessandro Nivola and Amanda Peet was released in 2008. That same year, their script, “Mail Order Bride,” was made into a TV movie for Hallmark Channel starring Daphne Zuniga and Greg Evigan.

Before becoming a writer, Neal produced “Bronco Billy” with Clint Eastwood. Tippi graduated UCLA Law School and practiced for nine weeks before being fired, which may be the shortest legal career on record. They fell in love at first sight in a frozen yogurt line.

The Dobrofskys live in Southern California with their two sons, with whom they founded [www.car-parazzi.com](http://www.car-parazzi.com), a website for car lovers around the world. The Car-paparazzi has appeared on Jay Leno, MTV, and the BBC, and made international headlines by capturing footage of two stolen exotic cars worth \$2 million.

The Dobrofsky’s previously wrote Hallmark Movie Channel’s “Goodnight For Justice,” “Goodnight For Justice: The Measure Of A Man” and “Goodnight For Justice: Queen Of Hearts.”

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