

# NEWS

## 'LIVING OUT LOUD'

### PRODUCTION BIOS

**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 TV movie "Why I wore Lipstick to my Mastectomy," starring Sarah Chalke, earned them the 2007 Gracie Award, a 2007 Humanitas Prize nomination, and 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, producing telefilms for CBS, NBC, ABC and HBO, as well as some of the newly emerging cable channels. Among their productions have been "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," "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*. In the half-hour series arena, Grossbart executive produced the Valerie 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.

For the last four years, Grossbart has been an Adjunct Professor at the USC School of Cinema and Television in the Production Division.

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**IRA PINCUS (Executive Producer)** – In September 2005, Ira Pincus entered into an executive producer deal with Blueprint Entertainment for series and movies, and oversees the

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company's slate of numerous telefilms. He executive produces the series "Til Death Do Us Part" with Blueprint for Court TV/TruTV, starring John Waters. With Blueprint, he recently executive produced the following Lifetime movies: "How I Married My High School Crush" starring Katee Sackhoff ("Battlestar Galactica"), "Absolution" starring Samantha Mathis and "The Road to Christmas" starring Jennifer Grey.

Before joining Blueprint, Pincus Films had a producer deal at Von Zerneck/Sertner Films, a top supplier of long-form television, where he executive produced several films. Prior, Pincus focused on the business side of Hollywood while an agent at Creative Artists Agency (CAA), representing the agency's top directors, actors and production companies. From 1991 to 1996, Pincus was a development executive at Citadel Entertainment, an HBO owned production company, where he was involved with the sales and development of more than 120 hours of network programming and the production of a dozen films a year.

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**MICHAEL YUDIN (Executive Producer)** – Michael Yudin is a true maverick in the television industry. He began his career as a page at NBC and has been in the business for more than 25 years, working on the corporate side and independently as head of his own production company. A pioneer who combined marketers with television properties, Yudin helped innovate brand messaging as a revenue stream for advertisers and networks. With 15 years of experience in the media and programming side of the advertising business, he spearheaded major accounts like Coca-Cola and Miller Beer, among many others. Always keeping an eye to production, Yudin moved to the 'other side,' working at Reeves Communications and opening the cable arena for Alan Landsburg Productions.

In 1993, he joined Viacom Entertainment as a SVP of Programming, and continued in the same role through Viacom's transition to Paramount Television, where he stayed until 1994. In 1995, Yudin became President of the Montreal-based Telescene Entertainment and produced several shows including "Student Bodies," "Live Through This," and "Big Wolf on Campus."

In 2000, Yudin opened MY Entertainment Company LLC, an independent production, packaging and consulting company. As part of this venture, Yudin consulted for Viacom in Advertiser Supported Programming and helped to retool TNN, which is currently Spike TV.

MY Entertainment has recently produced shows for Comedy Central, Spike TV, Food Network, and Logo, including "Comedy Central's Bar Mitzvah," "Autorox," "King of Vegas," "Pros vs. Joes" and "Stolichnaya presents BE REAL."

MY Entertainment believes in the power of personalities as can be seen with the success of John Cleese's "Wine for the Confused," which aired on Food Network in 2004 and was subsequently sold on DVD both nationally and internationally. MY Entertainment has recently

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made exclusive arrangements with Natalie Krinsky, author of *Chloe Does Yale*, and Daniel Bentley, former White House Secret Service Agent. MY Entertainment secured development and distribution at Oxygen for Krinsky and at Court TV for Bentley.

In February 2005, Yudin was retained to create Carat Entertainment and was named Managing Director. Carat Entertainment, a division of Carat USA, is charged with creating branded entertainment opportunities for Carat's Fortune 500 clients. Carat Entertainment's first entry into this market was Schick's participation in "King of Vegas," which premiered in January 2006 on Spike TV.

"Pro vs. Joes," which premiered in March 2006, was Spike TV's highest rated show outside of Ultimate Fighting Championship, and delivered more men in the hard-to-reach demographic of Men 18-34 and Men 18-49 than ESPN's coverage of NCAA men's basketball.

Yudin recently oversaw production of the pilot "Bodyguards," for Fox Reality Channel.

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**NOREEN HALPERN (Executive Producer)** – Noreen Halpern co-founded Blueprint Entertainment with John Morayniss in 2002. In the past seven years, Blueprint has grown into a thriving independent studio involved in the development, production, financing and packaging of innovative programming for the worldwide marketplace. As president of Blueprint Entertainment, Halpern oversees all aspects of the company's extensive development and production slate that encompasses a large number of half-hour, one-hour primetime and children's series, movies, and miniseries targeted at a mix of broadcast and cable/satellite networks based in the US, Canada and international marketplace. Recent productions developed and executive produced by Halpern include the dramatic series "Whistler," "The Best Years," "Til Death Do Us Part," starring John Waters as the host, "Groom Reaper," as well as the Lifetime television movies "Be Careful What You Wish For" starring Katee Sackhoff ("Battlestar Galactica"), "Absolution" (starring Samantha Mathis) and "Chasing Freedom" (starring Juliette Lewis).

Prior to Blueprint, Halpern was senior vice president, television for Alliance Atlantis, overseeing the development and production of television movies and miniseries for many U.S. Networks including: "The Inheritance" (CBS), "The Family of Cops" (CBS), "Gridlock" (NBC) and "A Shot Through the Heart" (HBO), as well as dramatic series such as "2GE+HER" (MTV), the MTV pilot "Shotgun Love Dolls," "Beastmaster" (Tribune), "Earth: Final Conflict" (Tribune), "PSI Factor" (Eyemark), and the CBS pilot "Single Wife." Halpern also produced two film franchises, one for CBS, the other for Showtime based on the popular Harlequin novels, shot on location in South Africa, Europe and Canada.

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**JOHN MORAYNISS (Executive Producer)** – John Morayniss co-founded Blueprint Entertainment with Noreen Halpern in 2002. In the past five years, Blueprint has grown into a thriving independent studio involved in the development, production, financing and packaging of innovative programming for the worldwide marketplace. As chairman and CEO of Blueprint Entertainment, Morayniss oversees the strategic growth of the company as well as the international production, development, licensing and distribution operations. In addition, Morayniss serves as Executive Producer on all Blueprint productions, including "The Best Years," "Til Death Do Us Part," starring John Waters as the host, "Groom Reaper," as well as the Lifetime television movies "Be Careful What You Wish For" (working title) starring Katee Sackhoff ("Battlestar Galactica"), "Absolution" (starring Samantha Mathis) and "Chasing Freedom" (starring Juliette Lewis).

Morayniss oversaw and/or executive produced an impressive slate of projects, including award winning movies and miniseries such as "Me and My Shadows: The Judy Garland Story" (ABC) starring Judy Davis, "When Billie Beat Bobby" (ABC) starring Holly Hunter and Ron Silver, and "Haven" (CBS) starring Natasha Richardson and Anne Bancroft. He also executive produced several television series, such as the ground breaking and ratings blockbuster "CSI" (CBS), the two-hour backdoor pilot "Invincible" (TBS), which he executive produced with Mel Gibson and Jet Li, and most recently the two-hour pilot "Riverworld," (Sci-Fi Channel) which he executive produced with acclaimed feature director Alex Proyas.

As head of AAC Kids, Morayniss oversaw the live action series "The Famous Jett Jackson" (Disney Channel) and "Sixth Grade Alien" (Fox Family Channel). As well, he oversaw the innovative stop-motion animated series "Henry's World" and the ground breaking live action/3-D animation series "Ace Lightning," which was produced in association with the award-winning digital animation house Calibre Digital Pictures. As executive producer, he helped to ignite the half-hour comedy series "Kenny vs Spenny," which is aired on Comedy Central in the U.S. and on Showcase in Canada. In addition, Morayniss spearheaded all of Alliance Atlantis international co-production initiatives, including the movie "No Night is Too Long" (BBC - UK, Showcase Network - Canada) and the AAC Kids/BBC co-production arrangement.

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**ANNE WHEELER (Director)** – Born and raised on the prairies, Anne Wheeler grew up entertaining with her mother, a dynamite stride piano player, and exploring the open country north of Edmonton on her Appaloosa pony. She graduated a Science degree in Mathematics, but picked up enough credits in music to allow her to become a High Music School teacher. She soon left this career to travel around the world, spending two years on the road, exploring Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Upon her return, she joined Filmwest, dedicated to making indigenous films that addressed

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universal issues. Driven by their sense of purpose and place, the group of nine was prolific, turning out dozens of films about the environment, native rights, women's rights, western politics and history. Within a year, they were winning recognition at major festivals. After leaving the collective, Wheeler worked primarily for the National Film Board of Canada.

Wheeler has numerous credits as a writer, producer and director on both documentary and drama projects. Her place as one of Canada's foremost filmmakers was established with three award winning features – the documentary "A War Story," relating her father's time in a POW camp during World War II; "Loyalties," a dramatic feature examining issues of sexual abuse and racism; and "Bye Bye Blues," a musical drama inspired by her mother's experience as a musician in a small dance band during WWII.

Since then, Wheeler has gone on to work in Canadian television and film, including "The Sleep Room," for which she won a Gemini for Best Direction in a Mini-Series; "The War Between Us," "Da Vinci's Inquest" and "This is Wonderland." Recently, she has directed the South African-filmed "Jozi-H," along with the TV movies "Christmas on Chestnut Street," "Me, Mom, Dad... And Her" and "Living Out Loud."

Now living in White Rock, just south of Vancouver, B.C., she loves to pass on her enthusiasm to young and old alike. Her films have touched the hearts of her audience, earning her six Honorary Doctorates and The Order of Canada.

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**PAMELA WALLACE (Writer)** – Pamela Wallace won an Academy® Award for co-writing the film "Witness," starring Harrison Ford. She's written or co-written several telefilms, including the Hallmark Channel Original Movies "Straight From the Heart," "Single Santa Seeks Mrs. Claus," "Meet the Santas" and "Love's Unending Legacy," as well as a segment of the award-winning "If These Walls Could Talk," "Borrowed Hearts" and "A Murderous Affair: The Carolyn Warmus Story." In 2008, she served as executive producer on the television movie "A Very Merry Daughter of the Bride."

Wallace has also published more than 25 novels, which have been translated into a dozen languages, and won several awards.

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