



REEL LUMIERE

July 2022

WOMEN
OF TRUE GRIT[®]
PRESENTS
CHRISTY
CARLSON-
SWAID

The ELVIS
CONNECTION
Connected to
The King
By Blood,
By Business,
By Love

ANITA CORDELL
An Angel Among Us

Abby Glover

On the Set of "George and Tammy"

REEL LUMIERE



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Reel Lumiere is a news, information and interview journal for female filmmakers and film industry professionals.

Our mission is to create a resource that covers news and information valuable to women in the film and television industry, while spotlighting key players and introducing the brightest new lights on the scene.

Reel Lumiere features new projects, not only in Hollywood, but in a bevy of production hotspots across the nation. We spotlight women in leadership roles, noteworthy film festivals, and key events that independent filmmakers should add to their schedules.

As an arm of Nashville Women in Film & TV, the Magazine also spotlights what WIFT is doing, not only domestically, but around the world.





REEL LUMIERE

July Contributors

Paula Mosher Wallace



Paula is a Media Executive, Producer, Publisher, TV Host. Her show, Bloom Today, airs on Christian television in over 200 countries

Eddie Hand



Eddie Hand's "Women of True Grit" series encourages women to share their stories and passion from the trials they face to their triumphs.

Morelia Cuevas



Morelia Cuevas is the daughter and granddaughter of Nashville fashion trailblazers, Manuel and Nudie, both tailors to the stars.

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Letter from the Publisher

Dear Readers,

Hope you are enjoying this summer with sweet escapes now and then, and especially to the Movies. We all need one right about now, as summer beckons, the COVID funk lifts, and our understandable desire to savor the moment intensifies. Women empowering women is a cornerstone for Reel Lumiere, and we find an example of this in our mission is to empower women in the film industry to strive and flourish.



Lynda Eyjen, President Nashville Women in Film & TV

As we further our mission to inspire and connect women, we continue to champion our roots in the southern United States, and this is no less true when it comes to the arts and film making. Festivals and competitions are happening all over the south and we are proud to partner with all the southern states. We are pleased to announce our partnership with the Tennessee Entertainment Commission as we begin our WIFT ACADEMY for all who want to learn about the film business from start to finish. The WIFT ACADEMY is from August to October and the final film made will be put into the film festivals.

WIFTNashville Impacts, we can engage our members and amplify their self-identified industry skills. You will be getting info on how to submit for our website and please submit so we can refer you when jobs and work becomes available. We hope you have renewed for another year and let us hear from you and what you are doing to bring success to your life. I want to thank all who contributed to Reel Lumiere this month and it is becoming one of the best read online magazines in the industry. Thanks for sharing it.

Each of the articles today are about women who have made a difference in the lives of others and have given us the example to challenge ourselves through the examples of others, searching the unknown and always seeking knowledge is our purpose.

We hope you enjoy this issue and as Elvis once said:

"I ain't no saint, but I've tried never to do anything that would hurt my family or offend God...I figure all any kid needs is hope and the feeling he or she belongs. If I could do or say anything that would give some kid that feeling, I would believe I had contributed something to the world."

- Elvis commenting to a reporter, 1950's.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynda Eyjen".



“BELLE” Is the June **DOG OF THE MONTH**



Photo: [Karen Will Rogers](#)

Hi All of you REEL LUMIERE Dog Lovers— There are some great and beautiful pups in the world and one of them is **“BELLE ”**! She loves to go to poise for any photo shoot and loves to be photographed. **“BELLE ”** is a poodle who is Nancy Lee Andrews’s pride and joy. And **“BELLE ”** says **“I love Pet Supplies Plus <https://www.petsuppliesplus.com/> and *Happy Summer Time for all and Happy 4th of July*”**

Royal Society of Arts Fellowship Awarded to PLA Media Founder Pam Lewis During Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee Year

Pam Lewis, President and CEO of PLA Media, has been awarded a fellowship in the Royal Society of Arts based in the United Kingdom.

Since its inception in 1754, the prestigious society has bestowed honor to 30,000 individuals worldwide for “outstanding achievements and social changes and development.” Along with her entrepreneurship and business success, RSA judges chose Lewis for her decades of charity work, social activism, and generous philanthropy.

Pam Lewis’s recent induction onto the RSA sees her becoming a fellow alongside the likes of an elite group of leaders. Among the fellows listed are Benjamin Franklin, Martin Luther King Jr., Judi Dench, David Attenborough, Prince Charles, Helen Keller, Stephen Hawking, Anne Frank, and Marie Curie. As a fellow she is titled to include FRSA after her name.

“I am both honored and pleasantly surprised to be bestowed this title,” say Lewis. “Especially in 2022 during her Majesty Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee Year, commemorating her 70-year reign. I am very grateful to join this historic group of change-makers and, moreover, inspired to do more for the world.”

Lewis, a native of upstate New York, is an entrepreneur, preservationist, philanthropist and author. A graduate of Wells College with a B.A. in Economics/Marketing and a minor in French and Communications.

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About PLA Media

An award-winning public relations and marketing agency, PLA was founded in 1985 by business marketing guru Pam Lewis. With over 35 plus years of PR/Marketing experience, Lewis’ past and present clients have included TV shows, personalities, museums, festivals, radio programs, entertainers, entrepreneurs, hotels, perfume manufacturers, restaurants, TDOT, Lighthouse Immersive, etc. This boutique firm offers public relations, award winning graphic design, website creation and maintenance services. In addition, PLA also offers social media coordination to build and implement campaigns, understand audiences, monitor trends and engage with the fans/followers on the client’s behalf. For additional information on our services and clients, visit www.plamedia.com.



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REEL LUMIERE

BENTLEY NASHVILLE

PAM LEWIS

Lewis spent a year in Paris studying at COUP (Center of Overseas Undergraduate Program) affiliated with The Sorbonne University. In New York City, she did additional graduate course work at Fordham University, The New York School for Social Research, The Publicity Club of New York and Scarritt Bennett. Lewis is also a graduate of University of Tennessee's Institute of Public Service Local Government Leadership Program (third level), of the Belmont University College of Business Administration's Scarlett Leadership Institute Mini Executive MBA program, of Leadership Music, of the Citizen's Police Academy and of the Leadership Middle Tennessee 2020 program.

Lewis was relocated to Nashville from New York City to accept the position of National Media Director at RCA Records helping to shape the careers of top country stars such as Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, The Judds, and Alabama.

In 1985, Lewis opened her own PR firm, Pam Lewis and Associates (which later became PLA Media). In 1987, she formed award-winning Doyle/Lewis Management with partner Bob Doyle. The first client Lewis agreed to represent was an unknown Oklahoma crooner named Garth Brooks, who she worked with until 1994. Lewis also managed Trisha Yearwood's early career, landing her a record deal at MCA Records. Under Lewis' guidance, Yearwood released her debut self-titled album in 1991, becoming the first female country musician to sell one million records off her first single "She's In Love With The Boy." The album went on to be certified double platinum, and Yearwood went on to win the Academy of Country Music award for Top Female Vocalist later that year.

The two enjoyed a successful partnership which broke new ground in music winning all of the following: Performance Magazine's "Country Music Managers of the Year" two consecutive years '92 and '93, Pollstar Award "Personal Manager of the Year '92, Country Music Association's "Artist Manager of the Year", SRO Award '01 (The first female executive to win this award), Nashville Business Journal's 40 Under 40 listing in '95 & '96, Who's Who in Executives, International Society of Poets Distinguished Member, Franklin Police Department Order of Excellence '15 & Tennessee Association of Museums Award in recognition of superlative achievement for publications PR kit. Eventually, Doyle and Lewis parted ways, and Pam turned her focus solely to PLA Media.

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PAM LEWIS

Lewis' community outreach efforts include historic preservation and green space causes, women and children's advocacy, educational scholarships, fair housing and environmental and animal rights protection. Since its inception, the Pam Lewis Foundation has given away a million dollars to numerous charities.

She is currently involved in a global mental health and music initiative, The Road to Nashville with Liverpool, UK City Council and Nashville, Tennessee City Council through The Unity of Faiths Foundation (TUFF), a global non-profit organization. The project is saving hundreds of musicians with mental health issues and fighting the stigma of mental illness.





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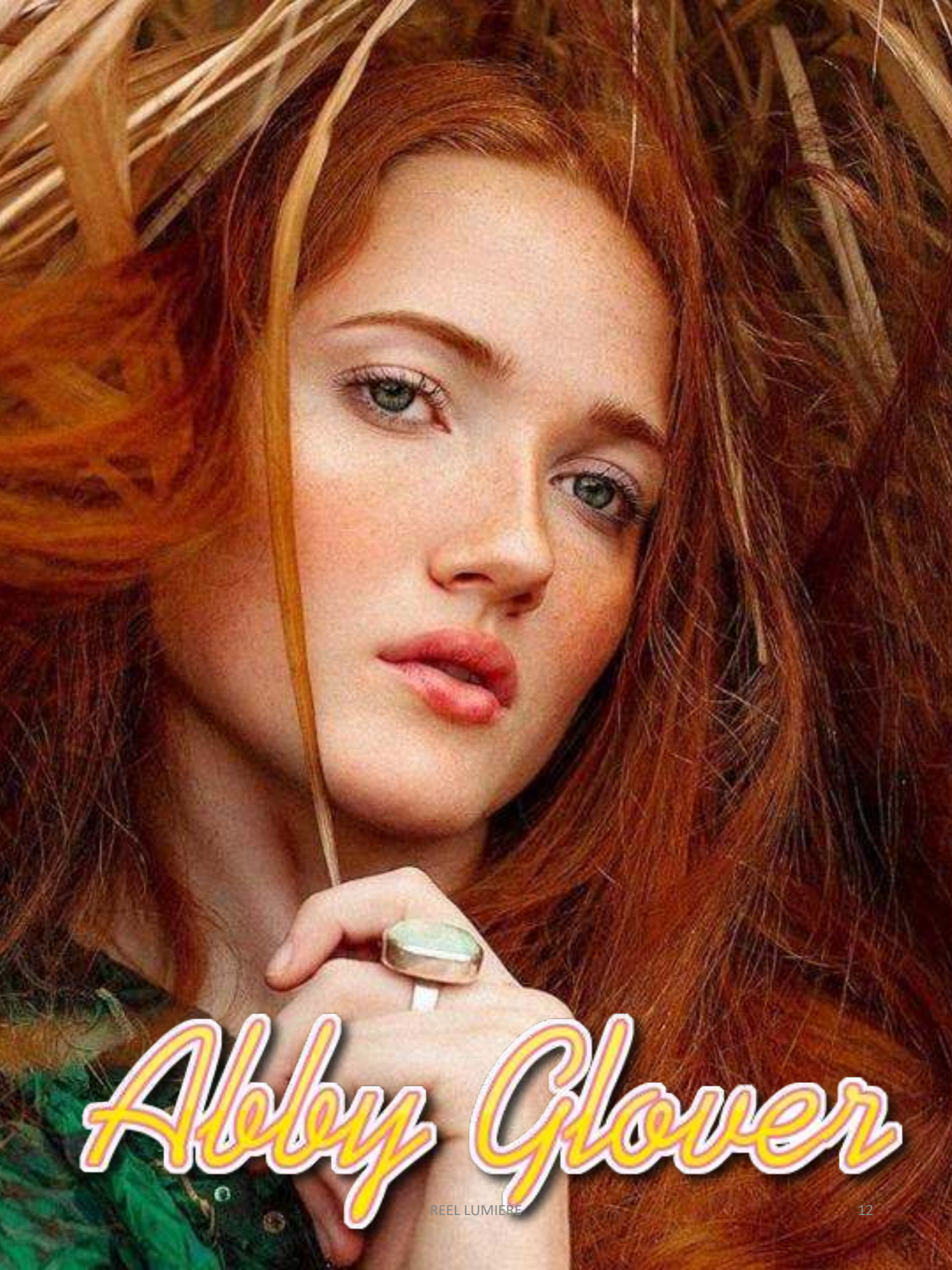
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Abby Glower

Acting Is My Jam!

By Donna Caldwell

Abby Glover knew she wanted to be an actress at seven years old. And even though she grew up in a small rural town in West Tennessee, she convinced her parents that the key to her happiness was acting. As there were no TV or film acting opportunities in Milan, Tennessee (population 8,171) her parents persuaded her to pursue her passion on the stage, so Abby dove into local theatre. Over the next decade, she honed her craft and explored lead roles in musical theater.

“Theater did not feed me the way I needed to be fed,” Abby admits. “I say that because theater is very repetitious - you get the show down and then you do the same thing every night for six months! I'm too A.D.D. for that. I truly get bored of doing something over and over again, and so I was just like yeah - when's the show over like I'm ready for the next one already! But I love doing the musicals because singing is a little bit more fun to do.”

Abby eventually moved to the Nashville area to pursue more opportunities in acting. And it was during that move that an accidental meeting accelerated her career path.

“We were looking for houses at the time,” she recalls. “I was at an open house and the realtor lady stopped me and asked if I was a model. I'm pretty tall 5'9” and she told me ‘I have a friend that you need to talk to.’ I told her that I was interested in getting into acting, not modeling and she said that her friend knew all about that, too. So, I agreed to talk to her and when I was in that meeting, she convinced me that it was important to know how to model. She explained that it was important to know how to hold yourself in front of a camera, and I never thought about that. As a model you learn your best angles and how to always look good on camera.”

Abby's strategy paid off as she started getting small roles in big projects, like Netflix thriller, “The Devil All The Time,” and popular series, “Stranger Things,” eventually landing a recurring role in the AC series, “Kevin (Probably) Saves the World.” “It was a slow roll at first,” she recalls. “I think it's always going to be a ladder crawl for anybody - you do extra work here and there and then you book your first line on a show and you're like a preppy student or something like that. That's kind of what happened with me. I would do music videos and I would do extra work and then my first big thing that I booked was “Kevin (Probably) Saves The World” as a recurring character, which was really cool. It was also my first deep dive into a real set experience, my first network series that I'd ever done.”

“That only ran for one season,” she continues. “It didn't get picked up again, but I think that it was because of that show that stuff started to pick up a little quicker. After the ABC show, it was like my whole career has expanded. From that ABC show, I've booked “Stranger Things,” and I booked “Ozark.” From there I booked a movie on Fox called “The Hate You Give” and then I booked “Messiah.” It was like once one recognizable thing was on my resume, I feel like other things started to pop up a lot more frequently.”

“I did ‘The First Lady,’” she continues, “I did ‘Shazam 2’ that hasn't come out yet and then I booked “George & Tammy” which is coming out this year.”

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53rd Nashville Film Festival
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 5, 2022

A black rectangular graphic with a gold border. At the top is the Nashville Film Festival logo in a gold oval. Below it, the text 'VIP BADGES ON SALE NOW' is written in large white letters, with two gold stars on either side of 'NOW'. At the bottom, the dates 'SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 5, 2022' are written in white, with a gold arrow pointing downwards.

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NashFilm's nonprofit mission is generously supported by the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission, the Tennessee Arts Commission, and the Tennessee Entertainment Commission.

Abby Glover



“I got to work with Jessica Chastain, Michael Shannon and Steve Zahn and the whole experience was super wild. I got to meet the real-life Georgette Jones and we're friends now. I'm very happy to say I love her, she's so awesome! We hang out now just for fun, but we're definitely kindred spirits, like bosom friends,” she laughs. “I had a really long time to just sit with my role and do my research and I was super interested in reaching out to the real life Georgette and obviously she's very much alive and young and I basically D-M'd [direct messaged] her on Instagram and I was like, ‘hey this is super random, I know that you wrote a book and this show is being written around the basics of your book’ and she met with me and she was very helpful. She helped a lot with facts and making sure that they were keeping things true and that was really cool! The cast did a really good job of reaching out to people portrayed in the film and making sure that they're representing them and portraying them in the best way and the most truthful way.”

“George & Tammy” is a new television miniseries created by Abe Sylvia and directed by John Hillcoat, starring Jessica Chastain as Tammy Wynette and Michael Shannon as George Jones. It is set to premiere on Spectrum Originals, Paramount Network and Paramount+.

The series will chronicle the relationship of the country music power couple, who were married in 1969 and divorced in 1975. It is based on the book, “The Three of Us: Growing Up with Tammy and George,” written by the couple's daughter, Georgette Jones, who Abby portrays in the project.

And it just so happened that Jessica Chastain has been an idol of Abby's for a long time. “Jessica Chastain is literally like my person, that I look up to, and she looks like me and her career's literally inspirational to me. And she got to be my mom and that was like a super surreal, out of body experience and I basically projectile word vomited to her how much I was obsessed with her. I have never done that before with anyone, and I've worked with a lot of really amazing people, but for some reason she just had me shaking all the time!”

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Abby Glover



“Jessica was also co-executive producer on the show, and she is a girl boss – literally! I was just in awe watching her because we would be on set and she would just be like ‘this needs to be like this and this is how that is gonna go’ and everyone was like ‘yes ma’am,’ and I’m like ‘Oh my gosh she is awesome!’”

The series, which has already premiered in Europe, will premiere on Spectrum later this year, and after an exclusive run, will air on the Paramount Network and Paramount+. In the meantime, Abby can be seen in the Showtime series, “First Lady” and is working on a new series called “Way Back in the Woods.”

The pilot is based on a music video by country artist, Alexis Ebert, about four young girls growing up in the back woods of Tennessee. Abby, Alexis, Hallie Rose and Maddi Thompson were cast in the video and each reprises her role in the pilot.

“We all were involved in the music video process, which was fun and so cool that we were thinking that this could be a show. This plot that they had created for the music video was so compelling, the storyline about these four girls and they’re deep in the woods and this song is so eerie and haunting. So [producer] Tammy [Hyer] suggested they write this pilot and so they did, and we shot the pilot and now we’re in the process of distribution.”

“I’ve actually gotten the opportunity to be taken on as a writer for the series,” she continues. “That’s going to be super exciting. We have summaries for, at least, the first five seasons, so we know where the story is going. So, if it gets picked up, we’ll be prepared to have the first the first few episodes prepped and ready to go. That is super exciting and super cool for me.”

“Behind the scenes was like *my jam*, being in the industry and getting a front row seat to what it takes to bring something to life, it’s really putting the work that I’ve already done into perspective, but it’s also inspiring and helpful for me in the future, if I ever choose to bring something from my own brain to the screen!”

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Abby Glover



Abby would love to see the path made a little easier for other talented young people trying to make it in this industry. She noted that many of the hurdles that she faced could have been avoided if information was provided for acting hopefuls about all the pitfalls out there.

“When I was just starting out, I didn't know what was real and what wasn't,” she says. “I didn't know how the business worked in general. That is weird, because everyone knows how to become a doctor, everyone knows how to become like a lawyer – there are step by step instructions for every other occupation, but when it comes to the entertainment industry, there's no one who knows how to get into it! Everyone is confused which is why it was so stressful.”

“What I would tell people,” she continues, “is that I've been scammed out the wads of money and it was horrible because I was young, and this wasn't my money but my parents. I'm out here now feeling bad because they saw how badly I wanted it. I think that's what the sad thing is - that people really do prey on other people's passions and their dreams, and it's sad because it's not getting anyone anywhere but it's just leading them to false hope. I've been there, so I understand how it feels, like you're so desperate to be in a real actual legitimate situation that you're kind of willing to do whatever it takes to like get yourself there. But it's not money that does that and as soon as someone starts bringing up money, that's a huge flag that it's not real.

“I would say no legitimate agency will ask you to pay money. Never pay someone to find you an agent or pay someone to be your agent before you booked anything - no no no!! Also, investigate any potential agent. Look them up and individually search them and see what their clients have done while being represented by them. What I'm saying is just do your research and do your due diligence and the flags are there. if you are asked to pay money run away! Basically, that's what I wish someone had told me and no one did.”

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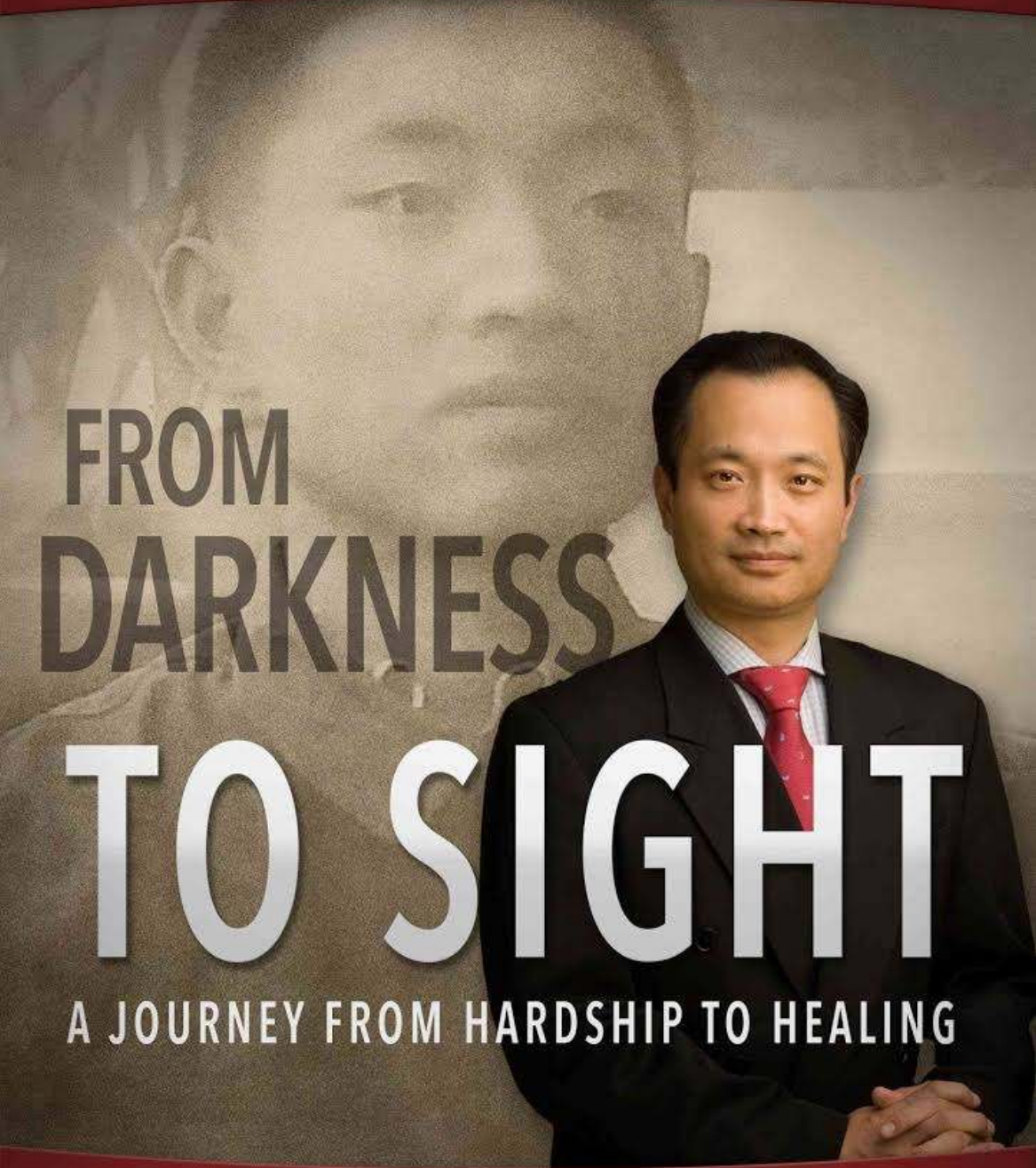
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FOREWORD BY SENATOR WILLIAM FRIST, MD



FROM
DARKNESS
TO SIGHT

A JOURNEY FROM HARDSHIP TO HEALING

MING WANG

Harvard/MIT (MD)
PhD (laser physics)

Ms. Edie Hand's
WOMEN
OF TRUE GRIT™



Christy Joy Carlson-Swaid

Christy Joy Carlson-Swaid

Faith, Family, and a Disciplined Lifestyle

Led Me to Capture 6 World Championships and Financial Independence.

Both the Pain and Glory of Each Championship

Serves as a Tool for Mentorship. My Passion is to Help Children and Families

Enjoy a Better Quality of Life through Health, Education, and Financial Independence.

My mom was a transparent and multifaceted woman, totally authentic. Her parents were a colorful, adventurous, and fashionable couple. Grandpa flew open-cockpit prop planes, became an architect, and played violin. He could hunt, fish, and golf. Grandma was a fashionista who also maintained an impeccable home and garden. They raised my mom and her brother in a loving home, teaching us to honor God and country while balancing hard work with lots of fun. My mom's favorite hobby was riding horses and barrel racing. She was fine with getting dirty but also knew how to dress and behave like a lady. Mom became what she always wanted to be, a wife and a mother.

I also loved school and worked hard to maintain my grades, but high school was real challenge. I was no longer able to hang on to a good chair in the first violin section in high school. For some reason, it took me an hour to read things that my classmates finished in twenty minutes. I was embarrassed that I was a slow reader. Mom had my eyes examined and I had 20/20 vision. I regrettably accepted that I wasn't necessarily the smartest or the best at anything.

When Alabama Governor Kay Ivey appointed me to the grade-level-reading executive committee, I was surprised. I politely reminded her that my expertise was health and wellness, not reading. She told me that healthy children perform better academically and charged me with helping develop the health component for the state reading initiative. One of the first meetings revealed what life looks like through the eyes of a person living with dyslexia. I choked back tears the entire lecture because the presentation perfectly described my own experiences. The presenter explained how people with dyslexia tend to be resilient, determined, and solve problems in unusual ways. The meetings inspired me and within six months, I had authored and published my first children's read-aloud book, "The Ultimate Treasure Hunt."

Lessons in life taught me to accept my weaknesses rather than resent them and to never give up. I always encourage my kids to do their best at everything and forgive themselves if they under-perform. No one is great at everything, but everyone should try everything. Weaknesses can lead us to

Continued on Page 23

Women of True Grit is a multi-media series that shares stories of women with extraordinary life experiences and others as leaders sharing unique roadmaps to success. This concept is based on "a pearl," as genuine pearls begin as a speck of grit that becomes irritated and comes from the shell at just the right time to form the perfect pearl. Much like the pearl, these women know how to turn hard things into beautiful situations.

NASHVILLE WOMEN IN FILM & TELEVISION

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Lyn Plantinga
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Christy Joy Carlson-Swaid

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discover new strengths if we work through it and ask for help. We all win when we use our strengths to lift each other up. Enduring disappointments grows grit, character, humility, and the ability to empathize with others. Humility gives us permission to try and fail as well as forgive and be forgiven. Humility is not hiding in the shadows. It is letting your light shine brightly for the glory of God and the good of others.

When my mother soaked up the words and teachings of Jesus with the neighbors through the Bible Study group, the weight of the world began to fall off her shoulders. Over the years my brothers and I found our way to Jesus too. I am grateful for every influence that led to our family growing in faith beginning with our Catholic foundation and now nurtured by the Church of Christ. I believe God looks for authenticity in the hearts of believers wherever they may worship.

While struggling to find funds for college an option presented itself: professional jet ski racing. That seemed ridiculous. After my parent's divorce, my father was living in Texas and bought a dozen stand-up jet skis from a Kawasaki dealer that had gone out of business. Ever the entrepreneur, Dad started the first jet-ski rental business. My brothers and I spent the summer of 1978 with him in Texas. I was seven the first time I rode a jet ski, and my brothers thought it was fun challenging me to keep up with them. I strove to hold my own for fear of being left behind.



The national jet ski racing tour was gaining popularity during this time and came to our hometown of Ft. Myers where Dad moved to after his stay in Texas. I begged my dad to let me participate. He helped me choose the best rental jet ski we had on the line, a hunk of junk compared to the professional racers' skis, but I didn't care. I borrowed a helmet and finished in a respectable position surprising the sponsors. After that, I entered any race I could. By the time I was a junior in high school, sponsors reached out to my Dad and offered to help me to go pro.

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Christy Joy Carlson-Swaid



Christy Swaid on her Jet Ski during a Competition - HEAL kids behind Christy at a local event

In 1988, as a seventeen-year-old junior year in high school, I was sponsored to race the national tour and compete in the world finals as an amateur. Once a month, after school on Friday, I flew from Chicago to Los Angeles to train with my teammates. I did homework on the beach between training sessions. Then, caught the Sunday night red-eye flight to Chicago, arriving on Monday morning, and went straight to school. My mom was okay with this as long as my grades didn't suffer.

The national tour started on Memorial Day weekend and ended in mid-August, racing in a different city each week. After the national tour, racers took a short hiatus to gear up for the World Finals which took place in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, in October. The winner of that single event was crowned the world champion. In 1988, I won the amateur national title, sweeping races in almost every city.

Then, at the Lake Havasu World Finals, I pulled a nice lead when a huge rogue boat wake—something I had been warned about—flipped me upside down on the back straightaway while at full throttle. I lost the championship and learned a hard lesson.

To afford to race the tour in 1989 I was required to advance from the amateur division to the pro class. To be ready for the pro class I would have to graduate high school early and immediately move to California to train extensively. To finish by January, I took the extra classes to get the necessary credits, forfeited lunch to swim laps, stayed in the orchestra, and played on the soccer team for extra fitness. I graduated in January and moved the next day to California.

I rode hard laps on my jet ski in private, apart from the competition. I had no idea how my performance would compare to the reigning world and national profession champion,

Christy Joy Carlson-Swaid

Brenda Burns. The moment of truth arrived on May 28, 1989, at Long Beach Marine Stadium. I ended up winning that first pro-national race as a rookie. No one could believe it. Especially me. That was the beginning of a series of wins, sweeping all titles: national, world, world cup, and several international invitationals. Our tour had ESPN ratings comparable to primetime baseball ratings. I carried endorsements from fashion and fitness to fuel, oil, and spark plugs. My dad taught me to balance a budget, negotiate contracts, and live beneath my means. He made sure I put a percentage of every paycheck in a savings or investment account. My mom taught me that God loves a cheerful giver so I should always take time to volunteer and give to good causes. By 1994, when I was twenty-three, I won four international world titles and five national titles.

There were many injuries along the way and I had multiple surgeries. A sports performance and rehabilitation center contacted me about researching the physical demand of various sports. They took control of my training regimen, reminding me to slow down so I would be able to go fast. I healed and reached a peak of fitness like I had never experienced before and was named one of the fittest women in America by Competitor Magazine and Muscle & Fitness. I also reclaimed the national and world titles in 1996.

If not for injuries and defeat, I would never have received the science-based fitness education and experience that is now so much a part of my HEAL program, helping children in impoverished areas learn about disease prevention through proper nutrition and exercise. These lessons learned through hardship are now helping to shape the health of thousands of children across Alabama.



To earn a paycheck so I could afford to spend time volunteering, I secured an agent who helped book me for commercials and to do film and television stunts. Eventually, the watercraft tour called me back one last time in 1999 with a contract to ride for Polaris in the runabout (sit-down watercraft) program. I went on to win the world finals.

In 2000, I flew to the Atalante Super Show (the world's largest sports trade show), to make an appearance at the Versa Climber and Freestyle Watch booths where I signed autographs and explained the benefits of heart rate conditioning. There I met Dr. Swaid, a neurosurgeon. While we appeared to be opposites it didn't take long for us to discover we shared a mutual passion for two important things, our common faith in Jesus as well as the desire to be the best at our craft.

Continued on Page 27



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REEL LUMIERE
<http://www.healunited.org>

Christy Joy Carlson-Swaid



Christy with Edie Hand

Our friendship grew over two years because Swaid was in Alabama, and I was in Los Angeles. I had just landed a great job working on the set of the TV show Baywatch Hawaii, so it was difficult for us to get together. As it happened, I was on a plane from Alabama to LA the morning of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. We were forced to ground at Love Field in Dallas, Texas, with passengers dropped off with no information or plan. After sorting things out, Swaid sent a driver to pick me up and bring me to Alabama.

This tragic event cleared my work schedule and allowed Swaid and me to spend extended quality time together, including bonding with his three kids, Courtney, Mandy, and Taylor. After the cancellation of the Baywatch Hawaii show I picked up jobs hosting and producing shows for Fox Sports Net, Discovery Channel, and commercials, and I also had the opportunity to spend more

quality with Swaid and his kids. On July 27, 2002, I received my two favorite titles, “Mrs. Swaid” and “Mom.” A week after the honeymoon, I moved everything from Los Angeles to Alabama and began figuring out this new life of mine.

While not an experienced homemaker I was determined to improve my skills in the kitchen. I went to culinary school and hired a chef to teach me the basics of cooking. Meals around the dinner table are crucial for family bonding and eating take-out all the time is not healthy.

While focusing on my health and taking steps to become pregnant, I noticed the poor health of kids in our community with one out of three statistically on the path to obesity and chronic disease due to inadequate nutrition and exercise. My husband offered to help me develop a science-based and measurable plan, connecting me with his friends and colleagues, the brightest and best minds in medicine, education, and leadership. Swaid is passionate about optimal healthcare. He brought innovative medical technology to the state of Alabama, recently building one of the most advanced outpatient surgery centers in the country. His practice attracts patients from all over the world.

We started HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) as an experiment in 2002 and are now a 501c3, nonprofit organization, based in Birmingham Alabama. The initial HEAL mission was to transform physical education classes into a measurable personal health and wellness experience for children in elementary schools. The experiment proved to be a smashing success for the teachers and the students. Heart rate technology made it possible for the inclusion of students of all fitness levels as well as students living with special needs. Teachers could reward students fairly and appropriately for their physical effort and no one was shamed or humiliated.

Continued on Page 28

Christy Joy Carlson-Swaid

I became pregnant just after HEAL was born and God blessed us with two healthy boys, Christian, born in 2004, and Cason, born in 2005. We listen to the needs of those we serve and build innovative solutions. Since health is intrinsically connected to poor education and poverty, we built curricula that provide support for students from early grades to college and into the workforce. We provide internship rotations, college scholarships, and job placements. This process is always in motion and that's why HEAL is so effective.

The program grew, and today we serve over 170 schools, 34,000 students, and 90,000 household members statewide with measurable results and a growing waiting list. The same professors that originally dismissed me from the round table discussions later nominated me for the Outstanding Woman in the Community Award. Receiving the award was another unexpected blessing that came as a result of not giving up.

While my mom passed away from cancer in 2020 her support and faith have been a powerful influence in my life, and I am grateful to be able to contribute to the better health of future generations in Alabama and beyond.

Links to HEAL Videos

The HEAL United 123 song

<https://vimeo.com/706285164/6a7bfbf524>

Video on HEAL Day 2022

<https://vimeo.com/704693428/47328684fc/>



More than 30,000 teachers, students, and families enjoyed an action-packed fifteen minutes of fun as we watched American Idol superstar and platinum recording artist, Taylor Hicks launch the new HEAL book and song, “ABCs the HEAL Way.” HEAL gave away 1,800 hard copies of the book to teachers and students and made a digital copy available online to anyone.

You can view this video on the HEAL website <https://healunited.org/heal-day-annual-celebration/>



Taylor Hicks, American Idol Superstar and recording artist promoting the “ABCs the HEAL Way.” book

Learn More about Christy Swaid and her HEAL project at www.healunited.org

For more information on Edie Hand and her current projects visit: www.HnHentertainment.biz



53rd Nashville Film Festival
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 5, 2022

A black rectangular graphic with a gold border. At the top center is an oval containing the Nashville Film Festival logo. Below this, the text 'VIP BADGES ON SALE NOW' is written in large, bold, white capital letters, with two gold stars flanking the word 'NOW'. At the bottom, the dates 'SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 5, 2022' are written in white. A gold arrow points downwards from the date line.

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NashFilm's nonprofit mission is generously supported by the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission, the Tennessee Arts Commission, and the Tennessee Entertainment Commission.

THE ELVIS CONNECTION

With the release of the new Elvis Presley biopic, REEL LUMIERE reached out to three remarkable women who had their own connection to Elvis, one by blood, one due to business and one by means of love.

I have many special memories that the film, “Elvis,” brought back to me. It was an emotional film for me, because my grandmother Alice Hood Hacker, and Minnie Mae Hood Presley, Elvis’ grandmother, were family.

When I was just ending high-school and starting College at Florence State university in Florence, Alabama in 1969, my Aunt Delta, Aunt Nash arranged for me to visit Graceland and meeting my famous cousin, Elvis. I knew a lot of people in Elvis’ circle, including Rick Stanley, his youngest stepbrother, Charlie Hodge, and Jerry Schilling, both close friends and members of the so-called “Memphis Mafia.”

I recall a day that I had driven to Memphis for an American Women In Radio And Television luncheon and had invited Aunt Nash and Karen Sue to join me. Karen Sue was Aunt Nash’s daughter, and her dad, Earl was the groundskeeper at Graceland. Karen Sue was my age, and was also in college, so we became close attended numerous concerts together, including The Osmond Brothers, Gospel artists and of course, Cousin Elvis. On this eventful day, I was the luncheon speaker. I picked them up from their trailer in the back of Graceland and after the luncheon I got to spend the night on the grounds.

After that, I was invited to stay on the grounds on numerous occasions and if Elvis was not home, I was able to stay at Graceland, downstairs in the Blue Room. Other times I stayed at Aunt Nash’s mobile home behind Graceland.



Edie Hand at Graceland

I recall Aunt Nash saying to Elvis in the Jungle Room one afternoon, “Son you do not have to go do the show later this week if you are not up to it.” He said, “Oh, but I do. Just look around Aunt Nash, I have to keep all this up, so I have to see Dr. Nick and keep going.” I understood it more as time went on.

I did meet Colonel Parker at Graceland one Sunday afternoon through Uncle Vernon. While they discussed business, I did get to interact with Elvis a little that day and help Aunt Delta with a very young Lisa Marie, maybe three or four years old. I do remember that she had one throttle, full speed!

Continued on Page 32



AUSTIN
BUTLER

TOM
HANKS

A BAZ LUHRMANN FILM

ELVIS

STORY BY BAZ LUHRMANN AND JEREMY DONER

SCREENPLAY BY BAZ LUHRMANN & SAM BROMELL AND BAZ LUHRMANN
& CRAIG PEARCE AND JEREMY DONER DIRECTED BY BAZ LUHRMANN



ONLY IN CINEMAS



REEL LUMIERE

THE ELVIS CONNECTION

I only got to meet a Genuine Elvis, a kind polite guy that loved life, music, family and friends. I was not in his circle because I was too young and was taught to respect his privacy.

The movie "Elvis" showed the humanness of life. How a manipulator can win over your very being. Austin Butler seemed to have embodied Elvis' spirit. Tom Hanks was believable as Colonel Tom and the entire cast was extraordinary. Baz the director really captured a Genuine Elvis!

Priscilla and Jerry Schilling's contributions showed because they lived the real story. Lisa Marie Presley, through her endorsement, says it all. No film is exact, but for an icon like Elvis, it was close to home.

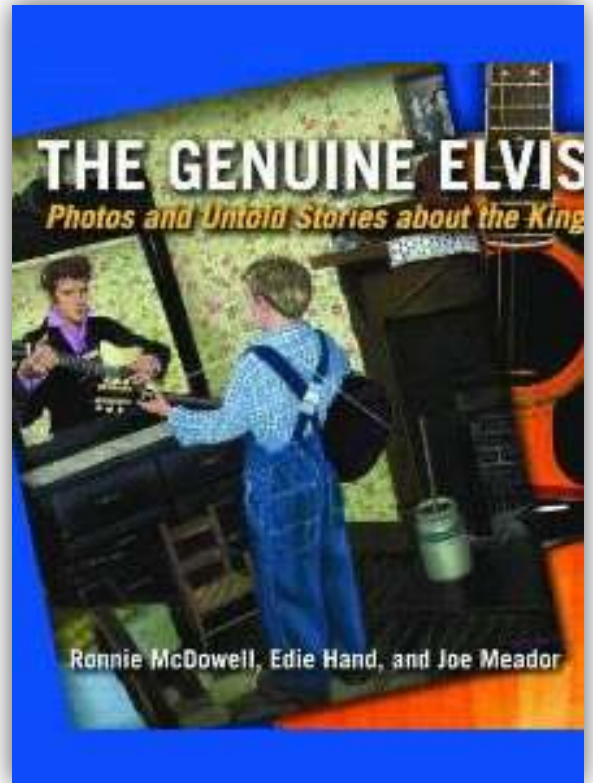
This is a must-see film whether you are a fan or not. You cannot help but feel his real-life heartbreaks and feel the genius of his music. Elvis you are remembered, and you did it!!!

Eddie noted many of her memories in the book "The Genuine Elvis," co-written by Ronnie McDowell (who wrote and sang "The King is Gone") and industry insider, Joe Meador,

Some factoids attached to "Genuine Elvis"

Ronnie McDowell and Edie Hand did voice work & stories on the behind the scenes at the end on the DVD of the 1979 Elvis telepic, starring Kurt Russell.

Ronnie McDowell released an album called *The King Is Gone* and sold 8 million copies on the Curb label.



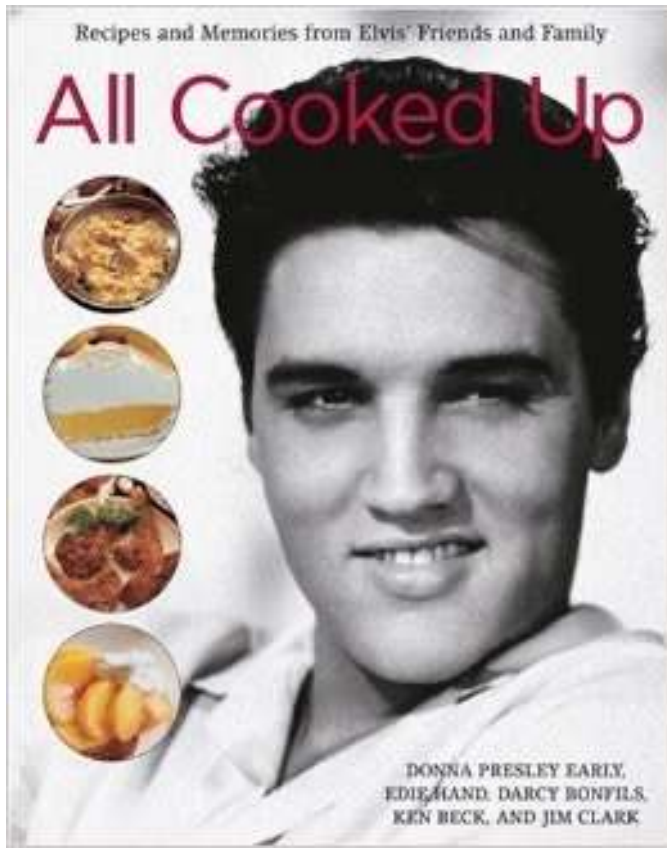
Priscilla hand-picked Ronnie to be the voice of Elvis on some musical films.

Ronnie and Edie met through a mutual friend, the late Buddy Killen (an icon in the publishing of music industry) originally from Florence, Alabama.



Edie Hand with Ronnie McDowell

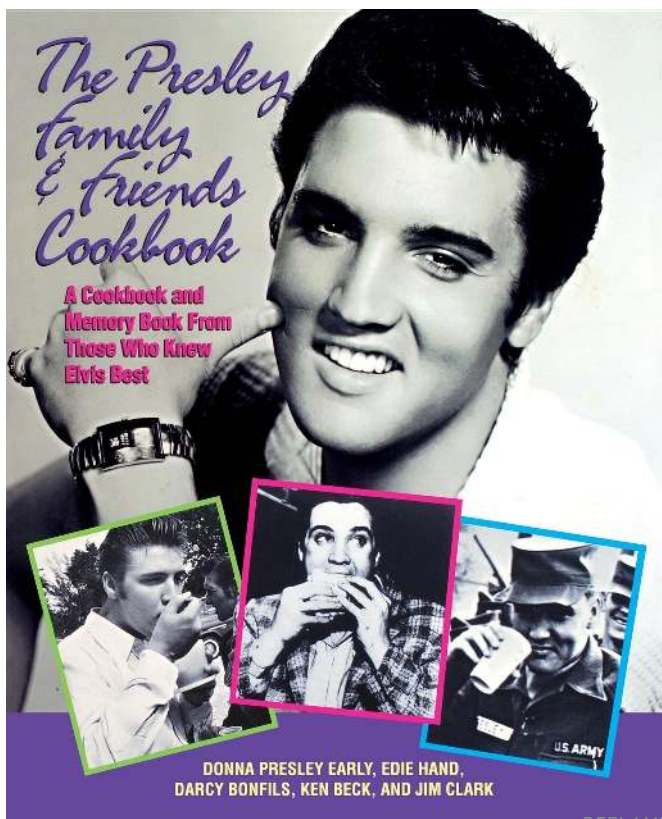
THE ELVIS CONNECTION



Other Elvis books Edie co-wrote include "All Cooked Up," and "The Presley Family & Friends Cookbook."



Elvis & Colonel Parker



Edie w/ Rick Stanley, Elvis' stepbrother

[All Books Available on Amazon](#)

THE ELVIS CONNECTION

Morelia Cuevas is the daughter of iconic fashion designer Manuel, and the grand daughter of Nudie Cohn, the creator of the iconic “Nudie Suits” worn by a bevy of entertainers, including Elvis.

The buzz is hot, and the film ”**ELVIS**” directed by Baz Luhrmann is a must see. At first, because of his because of his auteur approach to previous projects – “Strictly Ballroom,” “Moulin Rouge!”, “The Great Gatsby” - I wasn’t sure about him directing this movie, but he made the story emotional and gave us an exciting portrait of one the hugest American artists ever. Austin Butler’s performance as Elvis is phenomenal. I suggest that you go see it and see it again!

Luckily, I got to see a preview of the film and I’m so glad I did! I have a better understanding of Elvis’ effect on audiences, especially bringing sex to the mind of teenage girls with his “wiggle” movements on stage, something no one had seen before. He used African American music and moves during a time when such things were looked down upon. As the only white man doing such on stage, he made himself a target, but soldiered on without fear.

The movie also notes that it was Col. Tom Parker who created Elvis’ career, marketing the star as a pawn for his own habits, but getting the job done. It’s not mentioned in the film, but a crucial component of Elvis’ branding was the infamous \$10,000 golden lamé suit.

The Colonel commissioned my grandfather, Nudie to make this suit, not a favorite of Elvis nor of my father, Manuel, (working with lame isn’t that easy) but has become one of the industry’s most mimicked outfits. This original masterpiece is today located on permanent display at Graceland.



Nudie with Elvis in the iconic Gold Lame Suit

THE ELVIS CONNECTION



Morelia's mom, Barbara Lee Cuevas & Elvis

My brief memory of the Colonel was that he was a circus show nut. As a kid, I was always trying to figure him out - who is this guy? He always brought pins, coloring books and stuffed animals to the store for us. Wish I had saved these things over the years, but I just have classic memories I hold inside and now can share.

But, of course, my fondest memory is my mom telling me her story of going into the cafe with Elvis and he asked for some sugar. With innocence and naiveté she brought him some sugar, and he looked into her eyes and said, “no, this kind of sugar,” which was a kiss as he leaned over and kissed her. Till this day, I imagine a roar, hearing the cheers of young girls screaming when I heard and now tell that story. Be still, my heart, lol!

I even have a fun picture of Lisa Marie and me taken in my later years. We laughed together as she admitted that it was “weird hearing folks say...they dated your father,” but then we both laughed and totally got it. She was very guarded back then, but I could tell she was out of her shell for a brief moment, just before the storm took over.



Today the suit is on permanent display at Graceland





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REEL LUMIERE

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THE ELVIS CONNECTION



In the July & August 2020 issues of REEL LUMIERE, Diana Goodman shared her Elvis story, how she met Elvis Presley and learned about who the real man was. She talked about her adventures with Elvis, his decline in health, and how she moved on in her career in and in her life after Elvis in amazing and different ways.

Here is an excerpt from her story.

Though, when I was in the Miss USA pageant, when they say your name and the first introductions to the audience, the MC asked me, “If you could meet anyone in the world, who would it be?” I don’t think they really want to know who you’re going to name, but they’re more interested in the way your reply grabs the audience and the judges. So, I said, “Elvis Presley.” And, literally two months after that, I found myself in his living room at his invitation. It was like the MC spoke it into existence, almost.

As I got to know him, it was clear that he kind of went from jammies to really dressed. There wasn’t anything in between there. He always like to put himself together, and his jammies were silk, or jogging suit type things. He gave the sense that he liked to fix up. He told me that when he was growing up, they didn’t have money for him to have anything nice, and he had to wear denim overalls a lot. And didn’t like that, so he asked if I would not wear blue jeans, because it reminded him of not having anything.

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THE ELVIS CONNECTION

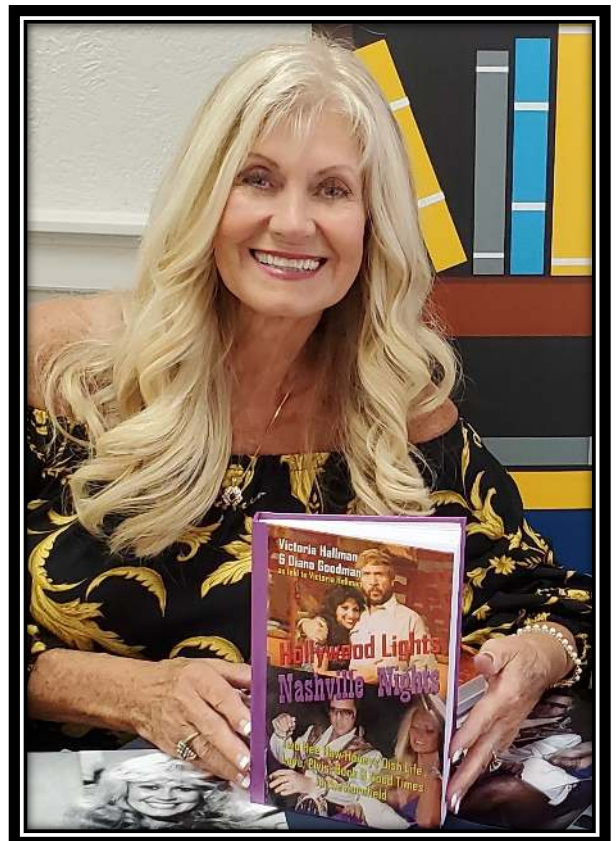
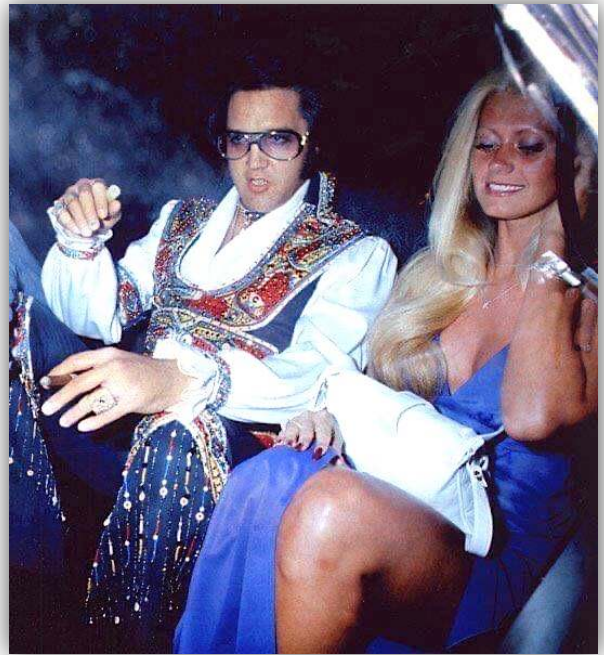
Rarely was there much alone time. But he was good at carving out time, and he'd tell the others to not disturb him. We did normal things like just talking, or watching game shows, or going up to the roof and sit in the sun because it was hard for him to go anywhere, and so he didn't have a tan. He lived his life at night, especially on the road, and even though it wasn't necessary while he was at home, it became part of how he lived.

We weren't together every minute of the following year, but we talked often, and not too long after that show, he went into the hospital, and that started the decline of his health, the reality of it.

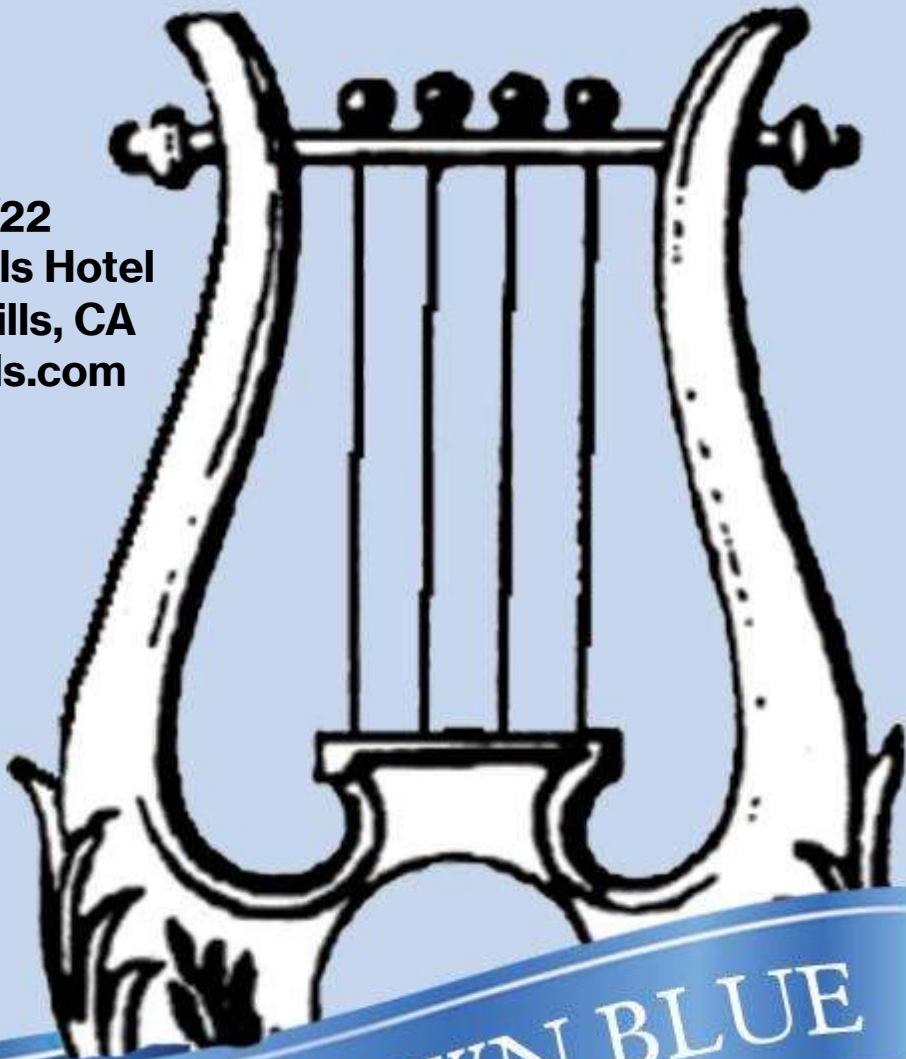
While he was ill, he didn't want everybody coming to the hospital to see him. It's very private, and you're humiliated a little, because who you are is so vulnerable and not in control. I sent him flowers and books because he loved to read. He read about a lot of different things, but also the Bible. He was a Believer, and he was a very spiritual person. He struggled with how to live like a normal person in a world where he took up so much of it. He did some things that weren't healthy, you know, his diet wasn't the best, and he struggled taking advice in those areas.

But time goes on and we'd talk while he was in the hospital. Then, he canceled some concerts. And in time we stopped communicating as much, and I decided to go on with life.

Steve Bender, who had produced the 1969 Elvis Comeback Special, connected her with the producers for the hit television show, "Hew Haw." They offered her a five-year contract. And the rest is history.



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Anita Cordell

Motivated By Passion, Led By Faith

“And the Angel Award winner for Best Director for a Documentary is....ANITA CORDELL!!!” When the announcer said her name, Anita Hintz Cordell was shocked and amazed. The International Christian Film & Music Festival had notified her that she was a finalist, but to actually win? Wow!

“So how am I feeling? I am soooo excited! I’m like a giddy little kid.” Anita posted on social media. “...an award-winning director with God by my side.”

Her documentary, “I Will Rise,” follows the story of Christine C. McDonald through her journey of sex trafficking. Throughout Christine’s story, experts share statistics, describe warning signs, point to available help and highlight the recovery process. The result is a documentary that shows the darkness through the lens of hope and restoration. Go to iwillriseproject.com for more information about the release of this amazing documentary.

Cry Purple is Christine McDonald’s story that will be the basis for the narrative feature film Anita Cordell is producing. Laura Woodworth wrote the script. In preproduction, Anita is looking for additional donors and/or investors to help fund this powerful story of redemption.

“I Will Rise” is also the name of the nonprofit Anita founded to “educate on social issues.”

How her nonprofit began:

The worship team began playing Chris Tomlin's song 'I Will Rise'. While the team led worship, Anita had what many call a 'God Moment'. Her ears could literally only hear the team singing 'I Will Rise.... I Will Rise... I Will Rise", over and over. She opened her eyes and noticed that those around her were singing other words from the song. She asked God what was happening, and He spoke to her heart and said, "Name your project I Will Rise. I will tell you why later."



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Anita Cordell



About 2 days before the cameras rolled on her first short film under her nonprofit, He spoke to her and told her why. He said, "There will be 3 groups of people your films will affect. The 1st group are those who have been abused or who are still feeling pain from their victimization. They will see your films and will find hope in them. Their hearts will find courage to declare 'I will rise from this industry or this pain.' The 2nd group of people your films will affect will be the abusers. There will be drug dealers, pimps, johns, etc. who see your films and will be convicted. You obey. Let Me do the convicting. When I convict, they will say in their hearts, 'I will rise up out of this industry'. And the 3rd group of people who your films will affect will be churches, community members and friends. They will hear what you are trying to accomplish through your nonprofit and will say in their hearts, 'I will rise and help her'.

Dangerous Profession," and "House Mother" for which she has been selected for a variety of awards at many film festivals.

Raised in a minister's home, Anita had many opportunities to perform publicly at church. In her twenties, this turned into a love of speaking, acting, and creating meaningful content. An award-winning actress, Anita has been in 60+ independent projects and 100+ commercials. Now also an award-winning director and producer, Anita is passionate about using media to address important issues.

When not immersed in a film project, Anita loves speaking at all types of events that want motivational and meaningful presentations. In her "free time," Anita has succeeded as a real estate agent in the Kansas City, MO area since 2001, and has had her broker's license for Missouri since 2021. She is married with 3 children, 1 son-in-love, 3 grandbabies, 1 Toy Manchester Terrier, 1 Golden-doodle, and 1 rescue Mastiff mix.

For more information about Anita Cordell and her career, go to anita-cordell.com.



The Leader filmhouse



Founded in Curt Hahn's spare bedroom in 1976, Film House has grown to become the largest film production company in Tennessee and the largest producer of films for the U. S. government. Headquartered in our 40,000 square foot studio, editing and office facility in Nashville, the Film House team produces hundreds of movies and TV commercials for clients from around the world annually. The reason for our success is simple - Film House is a customer-focused company that delivers world class quality at a remarkably reasonable price.

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Leis Jordan

LOIS JORDAN
The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

Lois Jordan is a cancer survivor. She became active on the Friends of Children's Hospital, The Symphony Board for the Schermerhorn Symphony, on the Opera Board, and on the Ballet Board. She volunteers for many functions associated with the Arts. Lois was named Woman of the Month by P.O.W.E.R. in August of 2019. And meanwhile, she's working on a book, called "What's Under the Hat?" She's writing the book for today's youth so they can understand how transcend the circumstances they are born into to become who they are meant to be.

My interest in government and education all started in a Civics class with my favorite teacher. It was a lot of fun to me. We would run for different "things" at school and have different campaigns. Also, at a very young age I would go to council meetings in City Hall and watch them so I could get the feel of what and how they were doing their work. So, I saw the whole process. I also had the opportunity to meet the mayor at that particular time. I explained to him what I was doing. And they introduced me to the City Council. They announced that I was a student who was learning about government and how it works. The whole experience was so exciting, I'd go back to school and tell the other students all about it and we'd follow the Council's way of doing things. I would follow the council meetings and I had the privilege of using an agenda because they had an agenda. We students would pretend we were really in the City Council as part of the learning process for me and all the others.

I lived in south Nashville, TN where there was a daycare center, and I had the privilege to invite Mrs. Lyndon Johnson (Ladybird) to visit. I was able to get her there through someone else, of course. Everybody I knew teased me about getting Ladybird Johnson to visit the daycare center. And that's how my interest in local government got started.

I set up community meetings in my area. We met in different people's homes to talk about the issues of the day. This was a good way to stay in contact with the community. And it turns out that people looked forward to hearing from me. I took it all on my own, and we would meet in a church, where I would invite different people to come in and talk about what was going on in the community and what was going on in the city of Nashville.

That's how I got started.

In 1971, I ran against four blacks and one white for office as City Councilman in my district. I told myself, *You know, Lois, if you're going to win this, you're going to have to go across the railroad tracks.* So, I made it my business to go across the railroad track.

I had a German Shepherd dog and I drove a convertible. And so, I'd park on the street, and walk my dog up and down. I wanted the word to get around and to get people talking about a new person they'd seen in the community. This led to meeting the businesspeople across the tracks. Then an article came

Continued on Page 47

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RENE LUMIERE

46
BONSAI
CREATIVE

Lois Jordan



Lois with Connie Maynard & Lynda Evjen of Nashville WIFT

out in the paper where the headline said, “She’s Our Favorite Candidate.” Here’s how that happened.

One time when I was walking Banner, my German Shepherd, a white man was sitting on his porch in a rocking chair. I introduced myself.

Hello, Sir: I’m Lois Jordan and I’m running for Councilman.

“I don’t vote for N---ers.”

After a moment, I looked at him and said, *I don’t either. But I want you to help me in my campaign. I want to make you Chairman of my campaign committees.*

This man was so excited that he went all over that district telling people, “You know what? She came by to see me! Lois Jordan made me Chairman of her campaign committees. Do you want to join me?”

It turns out, that this man was a prominent member of that community across the tracks. So, he was able to interest all kinds of people in supporting me and talking about me. Of course, I told him how much I appreciated that.

As the campaign grew, they held a big meeting in the fairgrounds where I was the only back person in attendance. I wondered what I was going to do, because honestly, it scared me to death to see how many people filled that fairground.

I had to stand at the microphone and talk . I was nervous! But guess what? Out of the clear blue, while I was standing up there talking, I turned around and here comes the Chairman of my committees. He came up there and stood with me and said, “She’s my Girl!” He was one of my strongest supporters, and because of him, all the businesspeople and companies supported me. When I got elected, they all came over to my house to share their excitement, and when I was installed, they all came up there to see me at the ceremony.

Then when I sat on the City Council, I was the only woman among the men. I think that’s why they ignored me as we were handling the city’s business. They wouldn’t even recognize me during the council meetings. So, one day, I spoke up. I banged on the desk, and said, “Gentlemen! I hope you can hear me. I need your attention! When you talk, I listen. Now, let me say, when I talk, you listen. I want you to know there’s a woman councilman in the chamber. You respect me, and I respect you.” The room fell silent. But from that day on, they did pay me attention.

Continued on Page 48

Leis Jordan

One of the ironies of my being on the City Council was that I was assigned a guard to walk me home simply because I was against bussing.

I made it a point to ride on the school bus with the students from the area. They had to get up extra early to ride the bus. I did too and I was tired. By putting myself in the students' position it made sense to me that if I'm tired, you know they've got to be tired, too. So, by riding the bus with the children, who by the time they got to school were sleepy and hungry, I realized that bussing made no sense for the children in our community. I didn't see how that could work to benefit the children. On top of that, the parents weren't able to go to the PTA meetings or participate in the school events because the children went to school about 50 miles away. So, I fought against bussing and other issues like that. I served on the City Council for one term of four years and learned that was plenty for me.

After my term, I was hired to teach government, economics, geography and the social studies in middle school and high school. I taught my students the importance of voting by involving them in the processes of government in campaigns so they could learn by doing. I always put the students first for more than twenty years."

I want to tell this to the young people today: Your future is what YOU make it. You can do and be whomever you'd like to be. It doesn't matter what kind of house you live in or what your parents do. What's important is what YOU do. I want them to believe that their future is what they put into their own lives. They will need to have confidence and the best way to get it is to develop with a mentor so the mentor can help them take the long journey up the wall. Tomorrow is not promised to them. Tomorrow will be what they planned and worked for. Nothing is free. You have to work for everything you get. Be in charge of your future."



WIFT ACADEMY

Starting in August 2022, WIFT will provide hands on mentoring through its annual WIFT Academy program. The program, which is three months long, with a month dedicated to Pre-production, a month to Production and a month to Post.

LEARN HOW TO MAKE A MOVIE BY MAKING A MOVIE!

WIFT Academy is a premier visual and performing arts program offering a unique mentoring experience.

Students will learn while working on a real project, on real film sets, doing the job, one-on-one with a mentor who is a working professional in the industry.

WIFT Academy is a mentorship program, pairing accomplished members of the film community with burgeoning filmmakers. From pre-production to post, all elements of filmmaking will be explored, including scriptwriting, directing, line producing, production coordination, lighting, sound, music, editing and more.

If you are passionate about filmmaking, attending WIFT Academy will help put dreams into practice. The Academy is open to all WIFT Members, for a nominal tuition fee of only \$75.00.

An application form is available at WIFTnashville.org



Nashville
Women in Film & Television



The Woman Behind The Mask

MULTI- OSCAR WINNING
MAKEUP ARTIST

“I said, ‘Yes, isn’t it fabulous. I’m a girl – so what?’”

Let’s cut to the chase. Ve Neill, makeup artist extraordinaire, a legend in the movie industry, has won three Oscars, nominated for eight. The sheer volume of films she has been involved with, 58, over the years since is breathtaking.

When Ve was five, she wanted to create monsters. She painted the faces of her cousins with lipstick and shoe polish. With no mentors and no schools for makeup artists she took the logical next step and headed to a sci-fi convention where she met some guys dressed up as characters from Planet of the Apes.

“They looked perfect, like they just stepped out of the movie,” she recalled. “I went up to one of them and said, ‘Where’d you guys get those masks?’ and he looked at me and said, ‘These aren’t masks these are makeups,’” and I went ‘OK dude, where did you get the makeups?’ He said, ‘We made them,’ and I said ‘Well, can you teach me how to do that? That’s what I want to do.’ And he said, ‘But you’re a girl.’ And I said ‘Yeah! Isn’t it fabulous?’”

Now Neill is a source for support and encouragement for new talent in the film community. She established a scholarship in her name for aspiring students at the Cinema Makeup School of Los Angeles.”

Some of Ve’s views on the myriad of films she worked on:



Beetlejuice (*Oscar Winner*) - I asked him (Tim Burton) if I could just take Michael (Keaton) back to the trailer, do what I wanted to do, and see how he liked it. I wanted him to look like he crawled out from underneath a rock.



Pirates Of The Caribbean (*2 Oscar Nominations*) - There was so much going on, working in the jungles and trying to keep all that mud makeup on, and the prosthetics...Oh, my god.

9 To 5 and The Incredible Shrinking Woman - Working with Lily (Tomlin) was challenging because she was always questioning herself.

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Ve Neill



The A Team - I worked with pretty much every stuntman in Hollywood during those years. We shot and blew up everybody so many times, but there was never any blood, and nobody died.

Pee-wee Herman (*Daytime Emmy*) - I looked around at all these crazy-looking people, and thought to myself, “Oy vey, they really do need help”

The Lost Boys - I’d always wanted to do a vampire movie, and make them very sexy, beautiful and scary.

Edward Scissorhands (*Oscar Nomination*) - It was basically a kind of clown makeup.

Batman Returns, Batman Forever, and Batman (*Oscar Nomination*) - Poison Ivy really got my creative juices flowing. Her character went through a wonderful development, and even a metamorphosis. I believe I did about eight different looks on the Poison Ivy character.

Mrs. Doubtfire (*Oscar Winner*) - The first time we did his makeup and hair (Robin Williams) it took four hours. I said, “This is never going to fly. This is taking way too long. We’ve got to get him out in two hours, or we’re never going to be able to film anything.” And they did.

Ed Wood (*Oscar Winner*) - When we had to do the Tor Johnson makeup, I said, “This has got to be really bad. We’ve got to make a scar that we can see all the way around, so when we put it on, it looks just like some rubber thing stuck on”

Man on the Moon - I just put my foot down and said, “No, Tony (Kaufman).” “And as Jim (Carrey) was always in character, I said, “wear sunglasses. You’re never going to see your eyes.”

Galaxy Quest. 20 years after Star Trek: The Motion Picture - There was a lot of new technology that Stan Winston’s guys had built for the head where the actor could actually operate parts of that makeup with his tongue. The lips could be moved with the tongue Of course, getting to work with Alan Rickman was just so fabulous because he was the coolest guy ever.



Continued on Page 54



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Ve Neill



A.I: Artificial Intelligence – I’d say we did about four or five tests on Jude Law with everything from gelatin pieces, small pieces on his nose, cheeks and chin, to full-on silicone pieces covering his entire face.

The Private Files Of J. Edgar Hoover - I don’t recall having to do too much to make them look like their respective counterparts. I think the coolest part of working on that picture was I got to work on the Old New York street on the MGM lot before they tore it down.

A Star Is Born - I can’t say enough great things about the both of them (Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper) and together they had such great chemistry. I cry every time I watch the film.

Hunger Games - The four Hunger Games films were kind of like a makeup artist’s dream because we did everything from severe injury, disease and death makeups. We also did high-fashion and avant-garde makeup for all the Capitol people. As a makeup artist, that’s pretty much everything you learn throughout your entire career.”

Let’s take a deeper look at her thoughts about designing make-up for **The Hunger Games** in Neill’s interview by Johnny Caps.

Ve: It was sensational. Each district had a specific look—they were all sort of like Grapes of Wrath, but they all had their own look. The district that did the textiles—we stained everybody’s hands with ink so you could tell they were working with dyes.

Q: How does the process begin?

Ve: We all get together—the director, the actors, the costumer designer, the hair stylist and myself—and we discuss what everybody’s going to look like. It starts with the director’s vision, we’re all trying to bring his vision to life, so we work closely with the director and with each other, so everything comes together as one cohesive package.



Q: What kind of research did you do to prepare for this film?

Ve: A lot of research was already in place—Grapes of Wrath, depression era. But what I did have to do was get a lot of inspirational art and makeups for the Capitol. We put together these fantastic boards of different kinds of makeups that we liked, and I said use these as an inspiration and just go crazy with them. ... we wanted it to be out of the norm, avant-garde, high fashion makeups.

Ve Neill



Q: Did you ever have a revelatory moment during your career?

Ve: Every time I did a new job I had an epiphany. I went, “Oh my god, I figured it out.” There were no schools when I started so I was basically teaching myself or asking as many questions as I could and just figuring it out as I went.

Q: What advice would you give aspiring makeup artists?

Ve: You have to have an incredible education now. There are so many new techniques and new products out there. You really have to have a very good basic education as a makeup artist. You have to take a lot of art classes—take all the art classes you can. Work in the theaters at school, and just participate and practice. Educate yourself, get your chops up, and put a nice portfolio together and you might be able to start with non union films, which is pretty much how everybody starts.

Currently Ve Neill serves as a judge on the Syfy original series *Face Off* which features makeup artists competing for \$100,000. Contestants are challenged to create fantastical characters. “It’s a way for me to give back to the new generation of aspiring makeup artists, and it’s also a thrill to see what they can do every week.”

Her one piece of advice? Never turn down a job. “If somebody offers you a job, take the job. Make all your mistakes on the freebie work. That’s the way we all started.”

As Neill said, “*A makeup artist is one of the director’s tools, someone who helps bring their vision to life.*”

After 58 films and countless other projects, Ve Neill knows whereof she speaks. And as she said early in her career, “Yes, isn’t it fabulous. I’m a girl – so what?”



Pam Tate is a screenwriter, actor and recording artist from New York City. She has a B.A. in Film Studies and a Certificate in Screenwriting from The New School in NYC. For fun, she watches any historical drama she can find, usually over and over. Pam is on the Board of Nashville Women in Film and Television and the Board of Tennessee Screenwriters Association.



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WISDOM & ARTS

BY PATRICIAL LEONARD



Celebration is a key part of the framework of our country; and serves as a reminder of the many aspects of greatness that connects us as individuals, country and the world. July, is the month that seems to be dedicated to freedom, independence, and celebrations of country and culture!

July 4, 1776 is the month and year that the Declaration of Independence was signed; and has since become our guiding national document.

Thomas Jefferson, was the principal author of the Declaration, with a committee consisting of John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston and Benjamin Franklin who presented the document to John Hancock, president of the Congress. These words may be the best-known part of the Declaration of Independence:

*"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness ... " **And the last line may be most significant...** 'we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor'.*

If interested in more; the following URL links you to the text which is a transcription of the Stone Engraving of the parchment Declaration of Independence (the document on display in [the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum.](#)) The spelling and punctuation reflect the original.

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript#:~:text=We%20hold%20these%20truths%20to,their%20just%20powers%20from%20the>

P.S. I personally, found it very interesting and still relevant. It demonstrates the brilliance and foresight of our founders; and should be a part of the décor in every home and business office.

WISDOM & ARTS

BY PATRICIAL LEONARD

Interesting note... John Hancock was president of Congress when the Declaration of Independence was adopted and signed. He is primarily remembered by Americans for his large, flamboyant signature in the middle of the Declaration; so much so that "John Hancock" became an informal synonym or slang term for signatures in the United States.

While celebrating history is important, celebrating the present may even be more important. Make this July the beginning of a new life journey, by celebrating every moment with gratefulness!

The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate. *Oprah Winfrey*

Life is a gift, the way we celebrate it is our choice... and the way we celebrate it has an impact on our lives. Learning to be a celebrator rather than a criticizer is a key ingredient of empowerment. - Patricia Leonard

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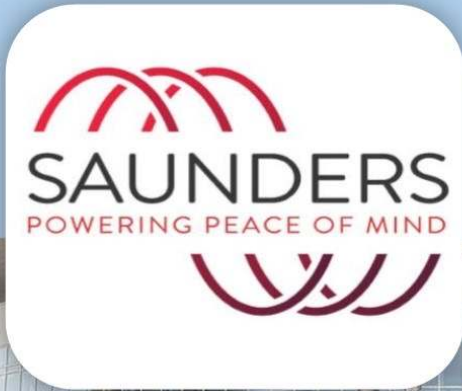


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