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American Masters
James Levine: America's Maestro

**Premieres nationwide Wednesday, June 1, 8-9 p.m. (ET) on PBS
(check local listings)**

Production Biographies

Susan Froemke

Director and Producer

Susan Froemke is a non-fiction filmmaker with over 30 documentary films to her credit: from the classic *Grey Gardens* (1976) to *Lalee's Kin* – nominated for a 2001 Academy Award, to *The Audition* (2009), a revealing backstage look at the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions.

A four-time Emmy Award-winner, Froemke is currently producing a film for the Met about Robert Lepage's acclaimed new production of Wagner's Ring Cycle, having recently completed one on James Levine which celebrates his 40th year as the Met Opera's musical director. Previously, Froemke directed *In Rehearsal: A New Butterfly For The Met* (2006).

For HBO, Froemke co-produced two landmark special event series: *Momentum In Science: The Alzheimer's Project* (2009) and *Addiction* (2007), an unprecedented 14-part documentary series, which won the Governors' Award for Special Programming Emmy.

Before starting her own production company in 2003, Froemke was the principal filmmaker at legendary Maysles Films in New York for over two decades. She has long been a disciple of “direct cinema,” a style of filmmaking pioneered in the 1960s by the Maysles Brothers, which presents the drama of real life as it unfolds with minimal intervention.

Froemke’s tremendous range as a filmmaker can be seen in the diversity of her subjects. She co-produced with Peter Gelb several co-productions between Maysles Films and Sony Classical, including *Vladimir Horowitz: The Last Romantic* (1985), *Karajan In Salzburg* (1988), *Soldiers of Music: Rostropovich Returns to Russia* (1991), and *Recording The Producers: A Musical Romp With Mel Brooks* (2001), which won a Grammy Award.

Froemke produced and directed *Christo In Paris* (1990), *The Beatles! The First U.S. Visit* (1991), and—for the J. Paul Getty Trust—*Concert Of Wills: Making The Getty Center* (1997).

Previously, for HBO, Froemke directed *Abortion: Desperate Choices* (1992), which earned an Emmy, a Peabody Award and a DuPont-Columbia Award, *Letting Go: A Hospice Journey* (1996), and *Lalee's Kin: The Legacy of Cotton* (2001), a powerful exploration of poverty and education in the Mississippi Delta.

Presently, Froemke is also co-producing with Matthew Heineman *A Tale of Two Systems: Following A Healthcare Revolution*, a film about integrative medicine, for Our Time Projects and Ogilvy Entertainment.

Susan Lacy

Series Creator and Executive Producer

Susan Lacy has been an award-winning originator of primetime public television programs since 1979. As the creator and executive producer of **American Masters**, she has been responsible for the production and national broadcast of more than 160 documentary films about our country’s artistic and cultural giants, those who have made an indelible impact on the American landscape. Now celebrating its 25th season on PBS, **American Masters** has garnered unprecedented awards and is consistently recognized by television critics as “the best biographical series ever to appear on American television.”

In addition to her executive producing role, Lacy is an award-winning filmmaker. Her 2004 **Judy Garland: By Myself** earned her an Emmy award for writing and an Emmy nomination for directing. She wrote, directed and produced **Joni Mitchell: Woman of Heart and Mind** (IDA nomination for Outstanding Documentary) and **Leonard Bernstein: Reaching for the Note** (Emmy award and DGA nomination). She produced the Peabody award-winning **Paul Simon: Born at the Right Time**, directed and produced **Rod Serling: Submitted for Your Approval**, and directed and produced **Lena Horne: In Her Own Voice** – all for **American Masters**. She recently produced **LENNONYC**, a film exploring John Lennon’s life in New York City, and is currently directing a film on David Geffen.

Under her leadership, **American Masters** received the Primetime Emmy for Outstanding Non-Fiction Series in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2008 and 2009 as well as 14 other Primetime Emmy awards – five for Outstanding Nonfiction Specials and the other nine in various craft categories. In addition to 11 Peabody awards for **John Hammond: From Bessie Smith to Bruce Springsteen**, **Unknown Chaplin**, **Buster Keaton: A Hard Act to Follow**, **Paul Simon: Born at the Right Time**, **Alexander Calder**, **F. Scott Fitzgerald: Winter Dreams**, **No Direction Home: Bob Dylan**, **Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film**, **Jerome Robbins: Something to Dance About**, **LENNONYC**, and **A Letter to Elia**, she received Grammy awards for **Lou Reed: Rock and Roll Heart**, **No Direction Home: Bob Dylan**, and **When You're Strange: A Film About The Doors**, 28 additional Emmy nominations, an Academy Award and four nominations.

Lacy's career in public television began in 1979, as deputy director of performance programs at Thirteen/WNET New York. She was senior program executive for *Great Performances* and worked as director of program development with *The American Playhouse*, where she was a founding member. Lacy then ran the East Coast office of Robert Redford's Sundance Institute from 1984 to 1987. She was a consulting producer at Time-Life Video during the launch of Time-Warner's new initiatives in long-form documentary production. Lacy also led programs at both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Lacy was one of the select 2005 honorees at the Museum of Television & Radio's "She Made It" event, which recognized 50 exceptional women who have created and informed the genre, and a 2008 Washington, DC Women of Vision Awards recipient, honoring those in film and video who inspire and mentor. She was again honored in Washington, DC in 2010 as the recipient of the Cine Golden Eagle Lifetime Achievement Award. She serves on the board of governors of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, on the board of the Film Forum and is a trustee of the Independent Documentary Association. Lacy is a member of the Directors Guild of America, the Writers Guild of America, the Independent Features Project and New York Women in Film & Television.

Lacy has a BA in American Studies from the University of Virginia, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and an MA in American Studies from George Washington University. She was a Graduate Teaching Fellow, a Smithsonian Fellow and completed a residency at the American Academy in Rome. In 1994, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from Long Island University and in 1996, she was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year at Mary Washington College, the women's college of the University of Virginia.

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