

# AMERICAN MASTERS



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<http://pbsamericanmasters.tumblr.com>, <http://youtube.com/AmericanMastersPBS>,  
<http://instagram.com/pbsamericanmasters>, #AmericanMastersPBS***Patsy Cline: American Masters***

*Premieres nationwide beginning March 4 on PBS (check local listings)  
during Women's History Month*

**TCA Panelist Bios****Beverly D'Angelo***Film Interviewee; Actor*

Intriguing, inspiring and never less than interesting — key adjectives in describing the career of Beverly D'Angelo — always an object of fascination and the one to watch...whatever the role. Hollywood has counted on her for her colorful personality, down-to-earth demeanor and scene-stealing capabilities.

D'Angelo was born in Columbus, Ohio, the daughter of musicians Priscilla Ruth (Smith), a violinist, and Eugene "Gene" Constantino D'Angelo, a bass player who also managed a TV station. Her maternal grandfather, Howard Dwight Smith, was the architect who designed the Ohio ("Horseshoe") Stadium at Ohio State University. Her mother had English, Irish, Scottish and German ancestry, and her father was of Italian descent. D'Angelo once attended an American school in Florence, Italy.

Initially drawn to art, D'Angelo worked as an animator/cartoonist at Hanna-Barbera Productions before moving to Canada to pursue a rock singing career. To make ends meet, she worked as a session vocalist and sang anyplace she could — from coffeehouses to topless bars. At one point, the teenager was invited to join rockabilly legend Ronnie Hawkins.

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*American Masters*

D'Angelo's acting career started up when she left the Hawkins band and joined the Charlottetown Festival repertory company. She was touring Canada as Ophelia in *Kronborg: 1582*, a rock musical version of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, when the renowned Colleen Dewhurst caught a performance and saw promise in both D'Angelo and the show. Eventually, musical director Gower Champion got into the mix and the show was completely revamped, becoming the rock musical *Rockabye Hamlet*, which made its way to Broadway in 1976. While the show itself was short-lived, D'Angelo's Ophelia attracted attention and she soon found herself on the west coast with film and TV opportunities. After this point, she seldom returned to the stage but did star alongside Ed Harris in the 1995 off-Broadway production of Sam Shepard's *Simpatico*, which earned her a Theatre World Award.

A role in the TV miniseries *Captains and the Kings* (1976) led to bit parts in *The Sentinel* (1977) and in the Woody Allen classic *Annie Hall* (1977). A string of co-starring roles followed with *First Love* (1977), the Clint Eastwood starrer *Every Which Way But Loose* (1978) and the film adaptation of the hit counterculture musical *Hair* (1979). Best of all for D'Angelo was her powerhouse featured performance as the one-and-only Patsy Cline in the acclaimed Loretta Lynn biopic *Coal Miner's Daughter* (1980). Both she and Oscar-winner Sissy Spacek (as fellow country singer Lynn) supplied their own vocals.

An interesting gallery of offbeat characters came her way in a number of features: *Paternity* (1981), *Finders Keepers* (1984), *Big Trouble* (1986), *Maid to Order* (1987), *High Spirits* (1988), *Cold Front* (1989), *Daddy's Dyin'...Who's Got the Will?* (1990), *The Pope Must Diet* (1991), *Man Trouble* (1992), *Lightning Jack* (1994), *The Crazysitter* (1994), *Merchants of Venus* (1998) and *Sugar Town* (1999).

D'Angelo attracted mainstream notice as beleaguered wife Ellen Griswold in the comedy spoof *National Lampoon's Vacation* (1983) and its three sequels. Other roles came with such films as the English/Irish production *The Miracle* (1991) and the neo-Nazi film *American History X* (1998). She was also a favorite of director John Schlesinger, who used her in *Honky Tonk Freeway* (1981) and *Eye for an Eye* (1996), among others. She also starred and served as an associate producer in the spoof *Pterodactyl Woman from Beverly Hills* (1997).

On TV, D'Angelo played matricide victim Kitty Menendez in *Menendez: A Killing in Beverly Hills* (1994) and earned an Emmy-nomination as Stella Kowalski opposite *Hair* co-star Treat Williams in the TV remake of *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1984). Other TV mini-movies included *Sweet Temptation* (1996) and *Judgment Day: The John List Story* (1993), in which she played Robert Blake's devout wife. On primetime she has been cast on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* (1999) as a defense attorney and on *Entourage* (2004) as a talent agent.

These days, D'Angelo's career on camera has remained secondary to the raising of her children. Occasionally, she has made use of her vocal talents performing at L.A. nightclubs and with a jazz band that included her brother, Jeff. Even with her family as her number-one priority, she still lights up the screen with her performances.

## **Mickey Guyton**

*Film Interviewee; Singer and Songwriter*

Born in Arlington, Texas, Mickey Guyton moved around the Lone Star state as her father's engineering job took them to Waco, Tyler, Dallas and Fort Worth. Music was a constant in her nomadic life. She began singing gospel in church when she was only five and grew up listening to a variety of artists, including Dolly Parton, LeAnn Rimes, Whitney Houston and gospel innovators BeBe and CeCe Winans.

"Those were huge influences," she says, recalling a particularly pivotal moment. "I was at a Texas Rangers baseball game and LeAnn Rimes was singing the national anthem. This was right when she came out with 'Blue'. I was completely mesmerized."

Guyton knew instantly what she wanted to do with her life, and although she possesses the kind of strong, evocative voice that could succeed in any genre, country music is her passion.

Guyton moved to Los Angeles after high school to attend Santa Monica College. She worked long hours at two jobs, struggling to make ends meet, but held on to her dream of becoming a country singer. A chance encounter turned everything around. A friend introduced her to producer Julian Raymond (Glen Campbell, the Wallflowers), who was immediately impressed. He connected her to Gary Borman and his partner Steve Moir, the company that built the careers of Faith Hill, Keith Urban and Lady Antebellum from day one. Guyton moved to Nashville in 2011 to pursue her dream and has embedded herself in the town's songwriter community the last three years.

Also in 2011, Guyton signed to Capitol Records Nashville and made her first appearance on stage at the White House during an all-star concert that included James Taylor, Dierks Bentley, Kris Kristofferson, The Band Perry, Darius Rucker and Lyle Lovett. The show was broadcast on PBS as part of the *In Performance at the White House* series. Guyton's riveting rendition of **Patsy Cline**'s classic "Crazy" was one of the highlights of the night.

Guyton released her self-titled debut EP last year. She co-wrote two of the four tracks featured on the EP, including "Better Than You Left Me," and collaborated with award-winning producers Nathan Chapman (Taylor Swift), Dann Huff (Keith Urban) and Luke Laird (Kacey Musgraves). "Better Than You Left Me," Guyton's powerful debut single, which she co-wrote with Jennifer Hanson, Jenn Schott and Nathan Chapman, made Country Aircheck history as the single highest one-week add total for a debut first single.

Last spring, Guyton made her national daytime TV debut on ABC's *Good Morning America* with a performance of the single. Also in 2015, Guyton toured with Brad Paisley on his *Crushin' It* World Tour and released the holiday single "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" from Disney's *Frozen*. With performances on ABC's *CMA Country Christmas* and Disney Channel's *Fa-la-la-lidays Celebrates a Radio Family Holiday*, the single was a holiday favorite.

Last spring, Guyton was nominated for her first Academy of Country Music Award for New Female Vocalist of the Year and has appeared on many "Who to Watch" lists, including NPR, *Billboard*, *Rolling Stone Country*, Spotify, *Yahoo! Music*, *Huffington Post*, *Mashable*, *Taste of Country* and *Nashville Lifestyles*. Recently, *CBS This Morning*'s Gayle King featured

Guyton in an in-depth profile piece. Guyton has also been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today* and *Access Hollywood*. *Rolling Stone* named her Best First Impression on their 2015 “50 Best Things at SXSW” list.

In 2016, Guyton released her new single “Heartbreak Song,” which she co-wrote with Mark Trussell and April Geesbreght. She is in the studio putting the finishing touches on her debut album.

### **Barbara J. Hall**

*Producer and Director*

Barbara J. Hall boasts 20 years of experience in all aspects of development, producing and directing of original documentary programming. She oversees TH Entertainment’s music-based productions, including 22 episodes of the documentary series *Song By Song*, and continues to manage the company’s Canadian productions.

As an independent producer, Hall has enjoyed a long history of working with many broadcasting networks, both domestic and international. She has worked with public television in both production and consultation on rights and clearances. TH Entertainment brings along a production team with extensive history in documentary-style and music-based productions and relationships in the industry, along with knowledge and skills in rights and clearances – an asset critical to successful production.

Her production credits include *Titanic: Band of Courage* (PBS); *Song By Song* (Ovation Network); *Biography* (A&E) episodes on Blondie, Carrie Underwood, Reba McEntire, The Mamas & The Papas, and The Monkees, which received an Emmy-nomination, Davy Jones, Selena, Drew Carey, Weird Al, and Billy Ray Cyrus; *Lovin’ Spoonful: Do You Believe in Magic* (PBS); the 12-episode series *Impact: Songs that Changed The World* (Bravo U.S., Canada, Israel, MTV Latin America, Poland, Italy, Discovery India, Australia, Finland), and the eight-part series *Four Strong Winds* (CMT & W Network).

In addition, she is the founder and president of the international rights clearance company Clear Cut Inc., fostering long-standing relationships with music industry professionals all over the world.

Hall graduated from York University, Toronto, and is a Canadian transplant living in Nashville, Tennessee.

### **Michael Kantor**

*American Masters Series Executive Producer*

For more than two decades, award-winning filmmaker Michael Kantor has created outstanding arts programs for television. He joined ***American Masters*** as the series’ executive producer in April 2014 during its 28<sup>th</sup> season on PBS, and founded its theatrical imprint American Masters Pictures in January 2016. American Masters Pictures was represented by three films at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival: *Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You*, *Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise* and *Richard Linklater – dream is destiny*.

Prior to his joining **American Masters**, his PBS documentary series *Superheroes: A Never-Ending Battle* (2013), hosted by Liev Schreiber, was nominated for an Emmy Award. Random House published the companion book. Kantor's Peabody Award-winning film *Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy* (2013) aired as part of the *Great Performances* series on PBS. Narrated by Joel Grey, it included performances by Matthew Broderick, Kelli O'Hara, David Hyde Pierce, Marc Shaiman and many other Broadway talents. In 2012, Kantor produced *The Thomashefskys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theater* with Michael Tilson Thomas, which aired on PBS and was nominated for a Primetime Emmy. Kantor served as executive producer of the special *Give Me the Banjo*, hosted by Steve Martin, and created *Make 'Em Laugh: The Funny Business of America* (2009), the critically acclaimed six-part documentary series hosted by Billy Crystal. His script for episode four, *When I'm Bad, I'm Better: The Groundbreakers*, co-authored with Laurence Maslon, was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award. His landmark six-part series *Broadway: The American Musical* was hosted by Julie Andrews and honored with the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Nonfiction Series in 2005. That same year, he created three hours of DVD extras for 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary release of *The Sound of Music*.

Kantor wrote, directed and produced the award-winning profile **American Masters: Quincy Jones: In the Pocket**. With Stephen Ives, he co-directed *Cornerstone: An Interstate Adventure* for HBO, and produced *The West* (executive producer Ken Burns). His 20 years of work in documentaries include projects as varied as *EGG: the arts show*, *Coney Island*, *The Donner Party*, *Margaret Sanger* and Ric Burns' *New York* series. As a writer, Kantor created *Lullaby of Broadway: Opening Night on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, co-authored the companion books to *Broadway* (Bulfinch) and *Make 'Em Laugh* (Grand Central Publishing) and has published numerous essays and articles. He is president of Almo Inc., a company that distributes the American Film Theatre series, which includes Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (starring Katharine Hepburn), Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh* (Lee Marvin) and Chekhov's *Three Sisters* (Laurence Olivier) among its titles. Kantor has served as a Tony nominator and taught documentary filmmaking at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. He was born in New Haven, Connecticut, and lives in Scarsdale, New York.

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