



half the sky

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HALF THE SKY - PANELIST BIOS



Maro Chermayeff is an award-winning filmmaker, producer, director, author, and former television executive at A&E/ AETN. She is founder and chair of the MFA program in Social Documentary at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and partner with Jeff Dupre in the film and television production company Show of Force. Some of her extensive credits include the six-part series *Circus* (PBS, 2010), *Marina Abramović: The Artist Is Present* (HBO, 2012), *Mann v. Ford* (HBO, 2011), *Parasomnia* (France 2, 2010), the Emmy Award-winning series *Carrier* (PBS/Nat Geo International, 2008), the series *Frontier House* (PBS, 2002), *American Masters: Juilliard* (PBS, 2003), *The Kindness of Strangers* (HBO, 1999), *Role Reversal* (A&E, 2002), *Trauma*, *Life in the ER* (TLC, 2001), and over more than 15 specials for *Charlie Rose*.



Nicholas D. Kristof is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and a *New York Times* columnist since November 2001. In 1990 Kristof and his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, won a Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of China's Tiananmen Square movement. They were the first married couple to win a Pulitzer for journalism. Kristof won a second Pulitzer in 2006 for what the judges called "his graphic, deeply reported columns that, at personal risk, focused attention on genocide in Darfur." Kristof and WuDunn are authors of three best-selling books: *China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power* in 1994; *Thunder from the East: Portrait of a Rising Asia* in 2000; and *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* in 2009. Kristof is also the subject of an HBO documentary, *Reporter*, executive-produced by Ben Affleck, and serves on the boards of Harvard University and the American Association of Rhodes Scholars.



Sheryl WuDunn, the first Asian American reporter to win a Pulitzer Prize, is a business executive, lecturer, and best-selling author. Currently, she is a senior managing director with Mid-Market Securities, an investment banking boutique helping growth companies, including those operating in the emerging markets. Previously, WuDunn has been an executive at Goldman, Sachs & Co. and both an executive and journalist at *The New York Times*. She is co-author of *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, a *New York Times* best-selling book about the challenges facing women around the globe. With her husband, Nicholas D. Kristof, she has co-authored two other best-selling books about Asia: *Thunder from the East* and *China Wakes*. Among numerous awards and journalism prizes, WuDunn won a Pulitzer Prize with her husband for covering China.



Meg Ryan's comedic appeal was widely recognized in her first Golden Globe-nominated performance as Sally Allbright in *When Harry Met Sally*, directed by Rob Reiner and written by Nora Ephron. She went on to star in Nora Ephron's hit romantic comedy *Sleepless in Seattle*, opposite Tom Hanks, garnering a second Golden Globe nomination. Her last collaboration with Ephron and Hanks was the romantic comedy *You've Got Mail*, for which she was awarded her third Golden Globe nomination. Acclaim has also come to Ryan for her distinctive dramatic portraits, including *Courage Under Fire*, directed by Ed Zwick, and her moving performance in Luis Mandoki's *When a Man Loves a Woman*, opposite Andy Garcia. For her performance opposite Kiefer Sutherland in *Promised Land*, she earned an Independent Spirit Award nomination. Ryan is a CARE Ambassador and traveled with CARE to India in 2006.

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HALF THE SKY - PANELIST BIOS CONTINUED



Diane Lane is known as one of Hollywood's premier talents and leading ladies. She steadily top-lines a diverse slate of both independent and major studio releases and has garnered Emmy, SAG, Golden Globe and Oscar nominations for her work. Lane began as a child on the New York stage at La MaMa ETC, the Public Theater, and Lincoln Center, touring the world's theaters with the company from 1972-1976. She recently completed production for Warner Brothers' *Superman: Man of Steel*, directed by Zack Snyder, which will be released in summer 2013. Last year she appeared in HBO's *Cinema Verite*, for which she received Golden Globe, SAG and Emmy nominations. Lane's first film role came at age 13, when she starred in *A Little Romance* opposite Sir Laurence Olivier for director George Roy Hill. In 2002, Lane was hailed as Best Actress by the New York Film Critics and National Society of Film Critics and received an Academy Award nomination for her turn as an adulterous wife in the critically acclaimed Adrian Lyne film *Unfaithful*. She also appeared opposite George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg in *The Perfect Storm* and Ben Affleck in the much praised *Hollywoodland*. She is a favorite of director Francis Ford Coppola, having worked for him in four films, including *The Cotton Club*. As for television, her Emmy-nominated role as Lorena in the CBS world-renowned series *Lonesome Dove*, opposite Robert Duvall, is a personal and professional highlight.



America Ferrera is perhaps best known for her fearless portrayal of Betty Suarez on ABC's hit comedy *Ugly Betty*. This breakthrough role earned Ferrera an Emmy, a Golden Globe, and a Screen Actors Guild Award, as well as ALMA and Imagen Awards. Ferrera secured her place as one of Hollywood's most vibrant young talents with her starring role in the Patricia Cardoso film *Real Women Have Curves*, which earned her a Sundance Jury Award for Best Actress. She recently completed production on Kier Pearson's adaptation of *Chavez*, directed by Diego Luna, starring opposite Michael Pena. Ferrera can soon be seen in David Ayer's *End of Watch*, opposite Jake Gyllenhaal, and Todd Berger's *It's a Disaster*, opposite Julia Stiles and David Cross. Earlier this year, she finished an eight-week run starring as Roxie Hart in the hit musical *Chicago*, and was seen in a recurring role on the second season of the CBS hit series *The Good Wife*. She was last seen in Ryan Piers Williams' *The Dry Land*, which premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and which she executive produced. Other feature film work includes Dreamworks' *How to Train Your Dragon* and Warner Brothers' *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 1 and 2*.



Urmi Basu is the founder of New Light, a secular nonprofit charitable trust that operates as a creche-cum-night-shelter to protect and educate young girls, children and women at high risk in a red light area of Kolkata, India. Basu, an educated woman who was born in Kolkata, credits her parents with raising her with a great deal of freedom and a strong sense of her own social responsibility. After her husband expressed discomfort with the work she was doing and the issues she was talking about, Basu left the marriage. Using her own savings, she founded New Light in 2000. Her goal is to support and educate the children, particularly the girls, and provide opportunities for them beyond the red light district.

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