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Inventing LA: The Chandlers and Their Times

TCA Press Tour panelist bios

HARRY BRANT CHANDLER

For more than 25 years, Harry Brant Chandler was a successful Los Angeles-based media executive at companies including 20th Century Fox, Showtime, the *Los Angeles Times* and Overture Services (now Yahoo Search). He now devotes much of his attention to photography. His training in photography began at prep school at Phillips Andover Academy and then continued at Stanford University, where he studied under art historian Albert Elson, MOMA's chief curator of painting and sculpture Kirk Varnadoe and noted Bay Area photographer Leo Holub. A fifth-generation southern Californian, Chandler is a descendant of prominent Angeleno families whose dreams helped shaped the city of Los Angeles; from the founding and running of the *Los Angeles Times* to numerous civic, business and real estate endeavors.

Source: California Museum

TOM JOHNSON

Wyatt Thomas ("Tom") Johnson is a journalist and media executive, best known as the former CEO of CNN, where he served for 11 years. Prior to CNN, he was publisher of the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper for nine years.

Johnson also worked for President Lyndon B. Johnson (no relation) during his administration and continued to work for the former president after he retired to Texas. After Lyndon Johnson's death, Tom Johnson returned to journalism, where his career began after college, working for a newspaper in Dallas before accepting a post at the *Los Angeles Times*. Johnson went on to serve as president and then publisher during his 13-year tenure at the *Times*.

It was CNN founder Ted Turner who asked Johnson to serve as president of the news channel. Johnson's first year at CNN saw the outbreak of the Persian Gulf War, an event that helped place CNN firmly in the public consciousness. Johnson ran CNN until his retirement in 2001.

Source: Wikipedia

PETER JONES, filmmaker

Two-time Emmy® award-winning filmmaker Peter Jones, a native of Los Angeles, began his career as a broadcast journalist. A graduate of Stanford University with a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University, Jones served as a news and feature reporter for KVUE (ABC) in Austin, Texas; an anchor for WSLS (NBC) in Roanoke, Virginia; and an assignment editor for KCBS-TV in Los Angeles. Jones won numerous honors, including several Outstanding Achievement Awards from United Press International and the Associated Press.

In 1987, he formed Peter Jones Productions, originally specializing in documentaries related to the history of the Hollywood film industry. The company produced 85 profiles for the A&E series *Biography* over a ten-year period. Jones became well known for securing previously unattainable rights without relinquishing editorial control, including those for such subjects as Sam Phillips, Brian Wilson, Charlie Chaplin, Dr. Seuss and Georgia O'Keeffe. Jones wrote and directed a two-hour special on Judy Garland that won a 1997 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Informational Series, the first for the network. His two-hour special, *Ozzie and Harriet: Adventures of America's Favorite Family*, became the highest-rated documentary in the network's history, earning a 1999 Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Non-Fiction Series. In 2001, his film *Goldwyn* premiered on the critically acclaimed PBS series *American Masters*. In 2002, he received the Producer of the Year Award from the Producers Guild of America for *Biography*.

In 2003, Jones produced and directed *Sunset Junction*, a feature-length verite documentary about a Beverly Hills hairdresser who became an unlikely father figure to gang members and the neglected children of illegal immigrants. The film had its world premiere at The Los Angeles International Film Festival (AFI FEST) in November 2003.

In 2006, *Stardust: The Bette Davis Story* had its U.S. premiere on Turner Classic Movies, garnering Jones and his team the best reviews in the company's history, an Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing for Nonfiction Programming and an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Nonfiction Special.

In 2009, *Inventing LA: The Chandlers and Their Times*, the story of the *Los Angeles Times* and the city's most powerful family, premieres on PBS stations nationwide.

Bohdan Zachary, KCET Vice President, Broadcasting & Syndication

In 2008, Bohdan Zachary was appointed to the newly created position of Vice President, Broadcasting and Syndication for KCET, public television for Southern

and Central California. In this role, he oversees the national distribution of *BBC World News* to PBS stations across the country as well as oversees KCET's national presentations such as the highly anticipated documentary *Inventing L.A.: The Chandlers and Their Times*, and new episodes of the Emmy® winning *Craft in America* – both airing nationally on PBS in October 2009. Previously he was KCET Executive Director of Broadcast and Special Projects. Zachary, who joined the station in 1997 as Executive Producer for pledge production, has served as executive producer on programs produced for PBS and American Public Television. Zachary also served as executive in charge of production for the Emmy-nominated program *Bracing for a Quake: A Survival Guide*. He is also the president of the Public Television Programmers Association, an organization dedicated to the professional development of public television programmers. Prior to joining KCET, Zachary won an Emmy Award for his work on the top-rated daily live newscast, *Live at Five*, at WNBC-TV in New York City.