

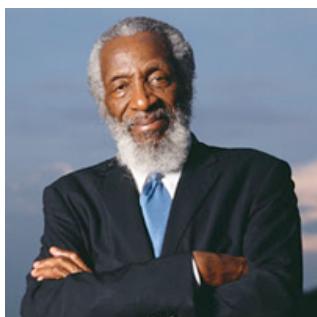
INDEPENDENT LENS PANELIST BIOS

BYRON HURT (Producer and Director, *Soul Food Junkies*)



Byron Hurt is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, published writer, anti-sexism activist, and lecturer. Hurt is also the former host of the Emmy-nominated series, *Reel Works with Byron Hurt*. *The Independent* named him one of the "Top 10 Filmmakers to Watch" in 2011. His most popular documentary, *Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was later broadcast on *Independent Lens*. In 2010, MSNBC's *TheGrio.com* named *Beyond Beats and Rhymes* one of the "Top 10 Most Important African-American Themed Films of the Decade." Hurts's writings have been published in several anthologies and in the media he has been covered by *The New York Times*, *O Magazine*, AllHipHop.com, NPR, CNN, Access Hollywood, MTV, BET, ABC News, *World Tonight*, *Black Enterprise*, C-Span, and many other outlets.

DICK GREGORY (Comedian and Social Activist)



Dick Gregory is an African American comedian and civil rights activist whose social satire changed the way white Americans perceived African American comedians since he first performed in public. Gregory entered the national comedy scene in 1961 when Chicago's Playboy Club (as a direct request from publisher Hugh Hefner) booked him as a replacement for white comedian, 'Professor' Irwin Corey. Gregory's activism continued into the 21st century when Gregory protested at CIA headquarters and was arrested. In 1992 he began a program called "Campaign for Human Dignity" to fight crime in St. Louis neighborhoods. In 1973, the year he released his comedy album *Caught in the Act*, Gregory moved with his family to Plymouth, Massachusetts, where he developed an interest in vegetarianism and became a nutritional consultant. In 1984 he founded Health Enterprises, Inc., a company that distributed weight loss products. In 1987 Gregory introduced the Slim-Safe Bahamian Diet, a powdered diet mix that was immensely profitable.

MARY-LOUISE PARKER (Actress and Host of *Independent Lens*)



Mary-Louise Parker is an award-winning actress with a diverse career in film, television, and theater. Her work in television on Showtime's *Weeds* has garnered five Golden Globe nominations, including one Golden Globe win, four SAG nominations, four Emmy nominations, and one Satellite win and three nominations. In addition to her awards for *Weeds*, Parker is also the winner of another Golden Globe, a Tony, an Emmy, two Obies, as well as numerous other nominations for her other works seen throughout her career. Audiences most recently saw Parker on the big screen in the hit action-comedy *RED*, and in supporting roles in *Solitary Man* and the Sundance hit *Howl* with James Franco as Allen Ginsberg. Parker's remarkable film oeuvre includes the dark comedy *Saved!* and *Romance & Cigarettes*, written and directed by John Turturro. Parker is known widely for her starring roles in *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *Grand Canyon*, *Reckless*, *Boys on the Side*, *The Client*, *Naked in New York*, *Bullets Over Broadway*, *The Best Thief in the World*, *Longtime Companion*, *Pipe Dream*, *Red Dragon*, *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, and *The Five Senses*, for which she was nominated for a Genie Award for Best Actress. Parker is currently a contributing writer for *Esquire*.

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INDEPENDENT LENS PANELIST BIOS CONTINUED

LOIS VOSSEN (*Independent Lens*, Senior Series Producer)



In its first nine seasons, *Independent Lens* has received five Emmy Awards, including a Primetime Emmy, three Best Documentary and Outstanding Arts & Cultural Documentary Emmy awards, 10 Peabody Awards, and three DuPont Awards, and has been nominated for five Academy Awards. Prior to her work at ITVS, Vossen was associate managing director of the Sundance Institute, manager of Sundance Labs, and programmed Sundance Cinematheque at Robert Redford's Sundance Resort. Vossen previously worked with feature film director Philip Kaufman on *China: Wild East* and she was program director at The Loft, a writer's center in Minneapolis. She has served on the jury at SXSW, DOCNZ, and Toronto International Film Festival, among others.

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