

THIS EMOTIONAL LIFE



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pbs.org/thisemotionallife

This Emotional Life The Producers

Vulcan Productions

Vulcan Productions is the independent film production company founded by investor and philanthropist Paul G. Allen in 1997. Vulcan Productions devotes itself exclusively to producing independent films of unique vision and artistic quality. With feature film projects such as *Hard Candy*, *Far From Heaven* and *The Safety of Objects* and documentaries such as *The Blues*, *Evolution*, *Black Sky: The Race for Space*, *Black Sky: Winning The X Prize* and *Rx for Survival*, the company commits its talent and resources to creating films of substance and enduring significance. Through collaborative partnerships with established and emerging filmmakers, Vulcan Productions explores creative opportunities that result in engaging and inspirational storytelling.

Paul G. Allen, Chairman, Founder, Executive in Charge, Vulcan Productions

Investor and philanthropist Paul G. Allen creates and advances world-class projects and high-impact initiatives that change and improve the way people live, learn, work and experience the world through arts, education, entertainment, sports, business and technology. He co-founded Microsoft with Bill Gates in 1976, remaining the company's chief technologist until he left Microsoft in 1983, and is the founder and chairman of Vulcan Inc. and chairman of Charter Communications (a broadband communications company). In addition, Allen's multibillion-dollar investment portfolio includes large stakes in DreamWorks SKG, Oxygen Media and more than 40 other technology, media and content companies. Allen also owns the Seattle Seahawks NFL and Portland Trail Blazers NBA franchises.

Named one of the top 10 philanthropists in America, Allen gives back to the community through the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, whose mission is to transform lives and strengthen communities by fostering innovation, creating knowledge and promoting social progress. Allen is also the sponsor of SpaceShipOne, the first civilian effort to successfully put Man in suborbital space; founder of Experience Music Project, Seattle's critically acclaimed interactive music museum; the Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame; the \$100 million Allen Institute for Brain Science and its cutting-edge Allen Brain Atlas initiative; and Vulcan Productions, the independent film production company behind Todd Haynes' *Far From Heaven*, the *Evolution* series on PBS and the award-winning film series, *The Blues*, executive produced by Martin Scorsese in conjunction with Allen and Jody Allen.

A Co-Production of the
NOVA/WGBH Science Unit and
Vulcan Productions, Inc.
A film by Kunhardt McGee Productions



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Jody Allen, President Executive in Charge, Vulcan Productions

Jody Allen, president of Vulcan Productions, is responsible for managing all elements of Vulcan Productions film and development projects. Allen's creative vision defines the composition of the slate of projects undertaken by Vulcan Productions, and she has served as producer or executive producer on various projects including features such as *Hard Candy*, *Far From Heaven* and *Titus* and documentaries such as *Black Sky: The Race For Space*, *The Blues*, *Cracking The Code Of Life* and *Evolution*. Allen is also president and CEO of Vulcan Inc., the project and investment management company founded by investor and philanthropist Paul G. Allen. Allen is co-founder of Experience Music Project, Seattle's one-of-a-kind interactive music museum, and the Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame. In addition, Allen is the executive director of the Paul G. Allen Family Foundations and is on the board of Charter Communications. As an active member of the education community, Allen serves on the board of directors of the University of Washington Foundation.

Richard Hutton, Vice President, Senior Executive Producer, Vulcan Productions

Richard Hutton oversees Vulcan Productions and its feature film and documentary units and also directs all of Vulcan Inc.'s media development projects, including initiatives in the education, museum and entertainment sectors.

Under Hutton's direction, Vulcan Productions has produced or co-produced a wide range of shows for PBS: *Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial*, a two-hour, Peabody Award-winning program for NOVA chronicling the latest battle in the war over evolution; *Strange Days on Planet Earth*, a four-part series on the environment; the Emmy Award-winning *Rx for Survival*, a six-part series on global health; the Peabody and Grammy Award-winning *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*; and the Emmy and Grammy Award-winning *Martin Scorsese Presents The Blues*. Hutton was also the executive producer of the critically acclaimed, Emmy-nominated PBS series *Evolution*; the Peabody Award-winning *Black Sky: The Race for Space*; and the blues concert film *Lightning in a Bottle*.

Feature films produced or co-produced under Hutton's direction include the forthcoming *Humanitas* Prize-winner *Where God Left His Shoes*, starring John Leguizamo; the critically-acclaimed *Hard Candy*, starring Ellen Page; Bickford Shmeckler's *Cool Ideas*; and Independent Spirit Award winner for Best Picture, *Far From Heaven*.

Prior to Vulcan, Hutton was senior vice president of creative development at Walt Disney Imagineering. Previous to that, Hutton served as vice president and general manager of the Disney Institute, where he directed the transition of the organization from concept into an operating business.

Prior to Disney, Hutton was senior vice president, television programming and production, for WETA Television in Washington, D.C., and, earlier, director of public affairs programming for WNET Television in New York. There, his projects included the award-winning *The Brain* and *The Mind*. Hutton has authored or co-authored nine books and medical texts, as well as articles for national publications, including *The New York Times Magazine*, *Omni* and *Cosmopolitan*.

NOVA

Now in its 36th season, *NOVA* is the most-watched primetime science series on American television, reaching an average of five million viewers weekly. The series remains committed to producing in-depth science programming in the form of hour-long (and occasionally longer) documentaries, from the latest breakthroughs in technology to the deepest mysteries of the natural world. *NOVA* airs Tuesdays at 8pm ET/PT on WGBH Boston and most PBS stations. The director of the WGBH Science Unit and senior executive producer of *NOVA* is Paula S. Apsell. Funding for *NOVA* is provided by ExxonMobil, Pacific Life, David H. Koch, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and public television viewers.

Paula S. Apsell, Senior Executive Producer, *NOVA*, & Director of the WGBH Science Unit

As director of the WGBH Science Unit and senior executive producer of the PBS science series *NOVA*, now in its 36th season, Paula S. Apsell has overseen the production of hundreds of acclaimed science documentaries, including such distinguished miniseries as *The Elegant Universe With Brian Greene*, *Origins* and *Evolution*. In 2005, Apsell introduced a spinoff in *NOVA scienceNOW*, a critically acclaimed science magazine series hosted by Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson. Today, *NOVA* is the most watched primetime science series on American television and has won every major broadcasting award, including the Emmy, the Peabody and the duPont-Columbia Gold Baton. Apsell has been recognized with numerous individual awards including the New York Hall of Science's Distinguished Service Award for Public Understanding of Science and the Carl Sagan Award given by the Council of Scientific Society Presidents. Apsell has served on several boards, including that of the Smithsonian's

National Museum of Natural History and Brandeis University's Science Advisory Council. She is also a trustee of the International Documentary Association.

Kunhardt McGee Productions

Kunhardt McGee Productions (formally Kunhardt Productions) was founded in 1987 by Peter W. Kunhardt, a veteran of ABC News and the winner of three national Emmy Awards. Dyllan McGee, Kunhardt's longtime colleague, became a partner in the company in 2008. The company specializes in multi-platform documentary programming, crafted to bring cutting-edge scholarship to popular audiences. In addition to *This Emotional Life*, it is currently in production on a four-hour documentary for PBS, *Faces of America With Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*

Over the years, Kunhardt McGee Productions has produced many multi-part historical series. Notably, in 2006, it created the four-hour series *African American Lives* for PBS with Thirteen/WNET and Inkwell Films. This series, hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., looked at the deep roots of the African diaspora by focusing on the genealogies and family histories of well-known African Americans. *The New York Times* called it "the most exciting and stirring documentary on any subject to appear on television in a long time." In February 2008, a four-hour sequel, *African American Lives 2*, was broadcast on PBS to similar acclaim.

Other works include *Lincoln* (ABC 1992), a four-hour biography; *The American President* (PBS 2000), a ten-hour series profiling the then forty-one presidents of the United States; *In Memoriam: New York City, 9/11/01* (HBO 2002), a one-hour co-production with HBO that recounts how Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and his staff coped with the terrorist attacks of September 11; *The Road to 9/11* (PBS 2005), about the historical roots of Islamic terrorism; and *'til the River Runs Clear* (PBS 2007) the story of Pete Seeger's grassroots effort to clean up the Hudson River.

In addition to its documentaries, Kunhardt McGee Productions headed the creative team responsible for developing the International Freedom Center on Ground Zero in New York, a cultural institution that was designed to connect the tragedy of September 11 to larger themes in world history.

Peter Kunhardt, Executive Producer

Peter Kunhardt founded Kunhardt McGee Productions (formerly Kunhardt Productions) in 1987.

During the past 20 years, he has overseen more than 120 hours of programming for PBS, the networks and cable.

Before founding the company, Kunhardt worked for 10 years at ABC News. He is the winner of three national television Emmy Awards, including for *JFK: In His Own Words* (HBO 1988). He is co-author of two books published by Knopf, *Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography* (1992) and *Looking for Lincoln* (2008). He served as producer and director of the ABC mini-series *Lincoln*. He co-produced a 10-hour series for PBS, *The American President* (1999). In 2003, he served as an executive producer for *In Memoriam: New York City, 9/11/01*, a one-hour co-production with HBO and Brad Gray Television recounting how Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and his staff coped with the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

In 2006, he received the First Amendment Award from the New York Press Association for his work as creative director of the International Freedom Center at Ground Zero in New York City. Most recently, he served as executive producer for the PBS Series *African American Lives* and *African American Lives 2* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and *Looking for Lincoln*. He also serves as the president of the Meserve-Kunhardt Foundation board.

Dyllan McGee, Executive Producer

Dyllan McGee joined Kunhardt Productions (now Kunhardt McGee Productions) in 1993 and now serves as executive producer for all documentary and Web programming. Recent multi-platform projects include *African American Lives* and *African American Lives 2* (PBS); *Oprah's Roots* (PBS); *Freedom: A History of US* (PBS); *The American President* (PBS), and Emmy-nominated *In Memoriam: New York City, 9/11/01* (HBO).

In 2002, McGee was appointed the executive director of the Meserve-Kunhardt Foundation, a not-for-profit dedicated to the preservation of photography. The foundation is based in Pleasantville, New York, and specializes in 19th century photography, but in 2006, acquired the Gordon Parks photography collection rounding out its collection to 20th century works.

From 2003 to 2005, McGee served as the director of content and operations for the International Freedom Center on Ground Zero in New York, a cultural institution that was proposed as part of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation's redevelopment of the World Trade Center site.

McGee serves on the advisory board for Table Local Market, a Westchester-based local food organization, and served on the board of The Taft School from 1996 to 2006.