

WORKSHOP LEADERS



Mike Aaron, Director of Production, Mother

Michael arrived at Mother in 2007, and began overseeing the production department. He joined the shop after spending 8 years producing for the celebrated creative ad agency Fallon, in Minneapolis. Concurrent with his responsibilities at Fallon, Michael assumed the role of Executive Producer of Uncle Forehead Filmworks, producing both commercials and new media projects for blue-chip clients, including Lee Jeans' interactive three-episode miniseries, "Buddy Lee, Guidance Counselor," airing on MTV. The program allowed viewers to vote, in real-time, on the optional endings to each episode. This was a first for narrative television content. In 2004, "Suspension," a short film Michael produced (Directed by Jon Nowak) screened in the Sundance Film Festival -- and was one of the three winning films in Kevin Spacey's Triggerstreet Film Festival. Most recently, Mother launched a full-service production company, Mother Productions, giving Mother the ability to self-produce content for all of its clients, from concept to completion – at an industry-standard level.



Becca Bender, Archival Consultant, Filmmaker, Realization Pictures

Becca Bender is a documentary & television producer and archival consultant. She's currently producing season 2 of the LOGO docusoap *Be Good Johnny Weir*. Recent feature documentaries include *Gerrymandering*, (Tribeca Film Festival), *Pop Star on Ice* (Sundance Channel), and *Garbage Dreams* (Independent Lens). Becca discovered her love of archival research as the associate producer of the Peabody Award-winning *Chisholm 72 – Unbought & Unbossed*.



Barbara Caver, Manager, East Coast Production, HBO

Barbara Caver graduated from NYU/Tisch and joined the television world in 2001. She worked as programming manager and producer for A&E, where she supervised the production, and delivery of 88 episodes of the Emmy-award winning "Biography" series. Later Barbara joined HBO as a production supervisor for documentaries. At HBO, Barbara has worked on and delivered great documentaries like *Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired*, *La Corona*, *Smile Pinki*, *Le Cirque: A Table in Heaven*, and *Hear and Now*. Barbara manages HBO's annual Academy Award qualification. A filmmaker herself, Barbara's short film *Blocked* is up on <http://medialab.ifc.com>.



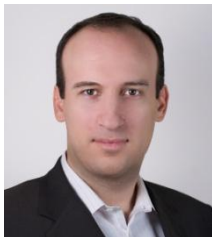
Barry Cole, Founder & President, Spot Music

Barry Cole is founder and president of Spot Music, an independent music supervision and consulting firm with more than 60 film credits, including *Trouble the Water*, *Sling Blade*, *Notorious*, *Two Girls and a Guy*, *Next Stop Wonderland*, *Belly*, *Brown Sugar*, *Super Troopers*, *Roll Bounce*, *Beautyshop* and *Talk To Me*. In addition to music supervision for films, Spot Music has a proven track record in soundtrack A&R, music clearance, musical score and post-production music clearance. Barry Cole's exceptional talent and artistry as a Music Supervisor caught the attention of Chris Blackwell, founder of Island Records, leading to his management of Blackwell's publishing catalog of over 8,000 songs including the catalogs of Bob Marley, Free, Spooky Tooth, Grace Jones, Black Uhuru and Third World. Cole also manages the Blue Mountain Music Publishing catalog for North America, and oversees licensing for the Bob Marley catalog worldwide. He is a Voting Member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Science.



Victoria Cook, Partner, Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz

Victoria S. Cook is a partner of the firm and a member of the Entertainment Group. She focuses on motion picture and television work, and is immersed in all aspects of the entertainment business -- from major studio films to cutting-edge political documentaries. Ms. Cook lectures regularly on film and television finance and production at film schools, law schools, conferences, and film festivals including NYU, Columbia, Producers Guild of America, Cannes and Sundance. Ms. Cook is co-founder of the New York Underground Film Festival and currently serves on the board of Other Israel Film Festival, a festival for independent minority filmmakers from Israel. She has co-produced "Screwed", a feature-length documentary about New York pornographer Al Goldstein, worked at CourtTV, and was the head of domestic sales at Cinetic Media. Ms. Cook is a graduate of Columbia University (BA, 1991), Tisch School of the Arts (MA Cinema Studies, 1995) and University of Pennsylvania (JD, *cum laude*, 1998).



Tom Cunha, Partner, Co Founder, Brigade

Tom Cunha is a highly accomplished digital marketing executive having handled hundreds of film and television campaigns over the last decade, including *No Country for Old Men*, *The Queen*, *Precious* and *Winter's Bone*. He is Partner and Co-Founder of the entertainment publicity and digital marketing agency BRIGADE. His expertise covers both the strategic and creative realms, having spearheaded numerous critical and award-winning digital campaigns.



Carol Dysinger, Editor

Carol Dysinger is a filmmaker based in New York City. She began her career editing music videos for the Clash and winning awards for her short narrative work. She moved between writing features, editing feature length narratives and feature length documentaries until she made *Camp Victory Afghanistan*. Her editing credits for documentary include *Deadline* with Kate Hirson, directors Katy Chevigny and Kirsten Johnson and *PUNK* directed by Ted Haimes. She wrote for 20th Century Fox, Disney and HBO Independent. She is a member of Writer's Guild West. Dysinger has worked on many documentary films as a story editor and editing consultant. She is fondly referred to as "The Closer". Due to her extensive experience in Afghanistan she was made a Fellow at the Center on Law and Security at NYU Law School and has held the position for the past two years. She also teaches editing at the New York University Graduate Film School.



Tom Efinger, Founder, President, Chief Engineer, Dig It Audio

Tom Efinger was born in Greenwich, Connecticut and attended Phillips Andover Academy and later graduated from the University of Vermont, where he studied music, English literature, and theater. He began his film career in New York City in the early 90's, and has since worked on numerous film and television projects as supervising sound editor and re-recording mixer. As founder, chief engineer, and president of Dig It Audio, Tom brings over 20 years of professional audio experience to the table. He has Supervising Sound Editor, Sound Supervisor, and Re-Recording Mixer credits on over 125 feature film projects.

Penelope Falk, Editor

Editor Penelope Falk, winner of the 2010 Sundance Award for Editing for her work on *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*, has been working in the documentary field for over 15 years. Her credits include *A Letter Without Words* (Sundance Film Festival), *Bombay Eunuch* (winner of the New York Gay and Lesbian Film Festival), *Stagedoor* (debuted at the New York Film Forum), *Toots Shor: Bigger Than Life* (Tribeca Film Festival), *Election Day* (SXSW Film Festival), and *Smile 'Til It Hurts* (Slamdance). She has also completed numerous films for television. These credits include *Afghan Stories* (the Sundance Channel), *Uncle Sam Wants You* (A&E), *Escuela* (PBS) and *Unfinished Country* (PBS).



Tom Hall, Artistic Director, Sarasota Film Festival

Tom Hall is the Artistic Director of the Sarasota Film Festival (2005- present) in Sarasota, FL and Programming Director at newportFILM in Newport, RI (2009-present). Formerly, Hall was Programmer for The Nantucket Film Festival in Nantucket, MA (2002-2005) as well as a former Director of New Media for Bravo/The Independent Film Channel (1997-2000). He has also worked in the Industry and Guest Services Offices at The Hamptons International Film Festival (2002-2003). Tom is a member of the indieWIRE blogging community with his blog *The Back Row Manifesto*. A graduate of the University of Michigan ('94), Hall resides in Brooklyn, NY.



Diana Holtzberg, Vice President, Films Transit International, Inc.

Based in New York and with Films Transit since 2001, Diana executive produces and acts as creative producer/consultant on a select number of film projects each year in addition to her acquisition, festival strategy and sales work. She has worked with films including: *Open Secret*, *Genius Within: The Inner Life Of Glen Gould*, *Feathered Cocaine*, *The Art of Failure*, for which she won an Emmy Award in 2009, *End of the Century: The Story of the Ramones*, *Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust*, *Held Hostage In Columbia*, and *Still Doing It: The Intimate Lives Of Women Over 65*.

Diana began her career in the magazine business, working at SPIN and then at Inc. and Details. During this time she produced groundbreaking TV specials for MTV and Fox Sports Network.



Nick Kadner, Executive Producer, Mother New York

Nick's career began modestly enough in feature film and documentary. Nick then turned his efforts to television with MTV and the now non-existent WB, before landing firmly in production for music videos and commercials. In 2005, Nick formed his own production company, Greencard Pictures, which quickly developed an impressive roster of clients, including Universal Music Group, Warner Music, IFC and Kate Spade, among others. In 2009,

Mr. Kadner parted ways with Greencard to join Mother as an Executive Producer, helping to found Mother Productions, the first ad-agency-run production company of its kind.

Nancy Kennedy, Editor

Nancy Kennedy is an award-winning editor based in New York. Her many credits include *Why We Fight*, Sundance Grand Jury prize winner, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, *Riding the Rails*, both Sundance films and *When the Drum Is Beating* and several other independent features. She has worked for all the major networks on such series as *American Experience*, *American Masters*, *National Geographic*, *60 Minutes*. She is currently directing a feature film about women's liberation called *She's Beautiful When She's Angry*.



Sara Kiener, Director of Marketing & Outreach, Co-Founder, Film Presence

After 2 years as Exhibitor Relations Manager at Magnolia Pictures, Sara Kiener began her grassroots outreach tenure with Frederick Wiseman's *La Danse: The Paris Opera Ballet*, Andrew Jacob's *Four Seasons Lodge*, and Nicole Opper's *Off and Running* before joining forces with Merrill Sterritt in 2010 to create Film Presence. Since then, Film Presence has implemented outreach campaigns for over 15 films as they prepare for their theatrical, DVD, broadcast and festival premieres with an emphasis on organizational partnerships for social issue documentaries. Highlights include Lucy Walker's *Waste Land*, Yael Hersonski's *A Film Unfinished* and Doug Block's *The Kids Grow Up*. Sara currently resides in Brooklyn and she makes exceptional margaritas.



Nathan Larson, Composer & Writer

Nathan Larson is the former lead guitarist for art-punk band *Shudder to Think*. Larson is a producer, performer, and writer of music and prose, but his primary focus is composing film music. His substantial credits include *Boys Don't Cry*, Todd Solondz's *Storytelling* and *Palindromes*, songs for Todd Haynes' *Velvet Goldmine*, Joel Schumacher's *Tigerland*, *Prozac Nation*, Lukas Moodyson's *Lilja 4-Ever*, Stephen Frears's *Dirty Pretty Things*, *Choke*, *The Messenger*, and *The Woodsman*, for which he was honored with the Gras Savoye Award for Best Music at Cannes 2005. Recent projects include *Margin Call*, *Our Idiot Brother*, and *Silent House*, all of which premiered at Sundance 2010. Larson lives in New York City with his wife and son. His first novel, entitled *The Dewey Decimal System*, was published May 2011 on Akashic Books.



James Lawler, Producer, *The Lottery*

James Lawler has produced narrative features, feature length documentaries, and short films, including the feature films: *Don't Let Me Drown*, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival in 2009 and aired on HBO in 2010; *Lovely, Still* starring Academy Award-winners Martin Landau and Ellen Burstyn which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and was released on screens across the country by Monterey Media in 2010; the Academy Award short-listed documentary *The Lottery* with Madeleine Sackler; and most recently one of ESPN network's 30-for-30 series, *Fernando Nation*, about renowned pitcher Fernando Valenzuela. He is currently producing *Unstable Elements*, a documentary about the Belarus Free Theater, and is the founder and CEO of Constellation.tv, an online theatrical exhibition platform launching this summer.

Samara Levenstein, Executive Producer, Sound Lounge

Samara Levenstein has worked on such well-known films as *Man on the Moon*, *Before Night Falls*, and *Cecil B. Demented*. Her other credits include *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Find Me Guilty*, *Why We Fight*, *Dave Chappelle's Block Party*, and *Definitely, Maybe*. Most recently she has worked as the Post Production Supervisor for Academy Award-winning documentarian Alex Gibney, collaborating on three films: *Magic Trip: Ken Kesey's Search for a Kool Place*, and *Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer*, as well as the soon-to-be-released, *The Road Back: Lance Armstrong*. Levenstein is now the Executive Producer at Sound Lounge, an artist-owned and operated company, leading in specialized audio post-production services. Under her supervision, the Entertainment Division has overseen films including *Limitless*, *Magic Trip*, *Another Earth*; the Oscar nominated feature film *Blue Valentine* as well as *Semper Fi: Always Faithful* and *Catching Hell*. Current projects include the fourth season of *Damages* and the feature film *Trespass*.



Mary Manhardt, Editor

Mary Manhardt is a documentary film editor and consultant based in New York City. Her work has won awards in major festivals, including Sundance, Hot Docs, SXSW, SilverDocs, Tribeca and IDFA, and aired on HBO, PBS, MTV, ABC, A&E and AMC. Among the films she has edited or co-edited are: *The Farm*, *The Execution of Wanda Jean*, *girlhood*, *Farmingville*, *Street Fight*, *American Teen*, *Racing Dreams*, *Mystic Ball*, *A Son's Sacrifice*, *Bronx Princess*, *Camp Victory*, *Afghanistan* and *Monica & David*. Upcoming premieres include *Wham! Bam! Islam!*, *Pelotero* and *Valley of Saints*.

Ben Murray, Digital Optical Editor/Online Editorial-Conform, Deluxe New York

Ben Murray's select documentary credits as a Colorist, Supervising Conform Editor, and/or Online Editor at Deluxe New York include Eugene Jarecki's *Reagan*, Alex Gibney's *Magic Trip*, *Client 9*, and *Casino Jack and the United State of Money*, Tom Zimney's *The Promise: The Making of The Darkness on the Edge Of Town*, Martin Scorsese's *George Harrison*, *Freakonomics*, and Michael Moore's *Capitalism: A Love Story*, among many others. He recently completed his own documentary *Unfinished Spaces*, which will premiere at the Los Angeles Film Festival.



Caspar Newbolt, Co Founder, Version Industries

Caspar Newbolt co-founded the international graphic design company Version Industries in 2003. He has remained creative director and lead designer for the company since its inception producing websites, printwork and video pieces for clients like Daft Punk, Jennifer Lopez, Disney, Saatchi + Saatchi, Topspin and David Yurman. Over the years Version Industries has shown a particularly astute understanding of musicians and filmmakers and Caspar spends most of his free time art directing bands and giving independent filmmakers the support they need online. Caspar's critical writings on design and advertising have earned him the respect of such design luminaries as David Carson. His parents are both fine artists and he has no formal training in design.



Marissa Shrum, Strategist, Mother New York

Marissa lives at the intersection of creativity, business, global youth culture, innovation & entertainment...aka EPCOT Center. The foundation of her creative/social work was built at Vanderbilt University where she focused on media and social change. Marissa's worked for last 2 Presidential campaigns and though she loves the world of politics, she does not miss sleeping under her desk. At Cuning, McCann Erickson and SPLIT Co-operative, Marissa has worked for clients like HSBC, Scion, NYC & Co., SCI FI, Verizon, and The High School for Innovation in Advertising and Media. Her work for these clients has ranged from experiential marketing production, reality game / contest development, B2B communications, branding, engagement planning, and digital strategy. When she's not working in marketing to connect people, things, and ideas in a meaningful way, she's working on a new organization, www.ifweranit.com <http://www.ifweranit.com>, a website that explores power, positive youth culture and the "Gen-Y economy."



Merrill Sterritt, Co Founder, Film Presence

Prior to co-founding Film Presence with Sara Kiener in 2010, Merrill Sterritt spent three years with Women Make Movies, the world's leading distributor of films by and about women. Merrill managed the Production Assistance Program, working with emerging and established independent filmmakers to produce and complete their films through its workshop series, resources and newsletters, and fiscal sponsorship of projects directed by women. Films completed in the Program have received Academy Award nominations, Sundance Film Festival awards, and numerous television broadcasts. She also works as an editor, with films that have premiered at Sundance and the Palm Springs International Film Festival.



John Walter, Filmmaker & Editor

Filmmaker Magazine says “In the field of documentary, John Walter has emerged as the medium’s most eloquent and entertaining cultural historian.” In 2002, Walter directed and edited his documentary feature debut *How to Draw a Bunny*, a portrait of the artist Ray Johnson, which won the Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and received an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Documentary. In 2008 he directed and edited *Theater of War*, described by the *New York Times* as an “inspired, inspiring essayistic documentary” about German poet and playwright Bertolt Brecht. He has also edited a number of projects, including Amir Bar-Lev’s *My Kid Could Paint That*, and Michael Moore’s *Capitalism: A Love Story*.



Miao Wang, Director, *Beijing Taxi*

Miao Wang is a filmmaker who splits her time between New York and her hometown of Beijing. Wang immigrated to the U.S. in 1990. Her first documentary, *Yellow Ox Mountain*, screened at over 20 festivals and institutions and was broadcast on WNET Thirteen. She has worked as an assistant at Maysles Films, and has edited a feature-length PBS documentary and programs for National Geographic. *Beijing Taxi*, Wang’s first feature, premiered at Best Feature Documentary at SXSW 2010, took Best Feature Documentary at Sidewalk Film Festival 2010 and Best Director at Duke City Docfest 2010. It received a grant from the Sundance Documentary Fund, the Jerome Foundation and NYSCA, with additional support from IFP and Women Make Movies.



Adam Zucker, Filmmaker & Editor

Adam has cut dozens of feature length documentaries, including *Carol Channing: Larger Than Life* (Tribeca Film Festival 2011) and *Lost Bohemia* (upcoming IFC run). Other selected films include *American Hollow*, *Show Business*, *Gotta Dance*, *Broadway: The American Musical* and *The West*. His film *Greensboro: Closer to the Truth* screened at over 35 festivals in the U.S. and abroad, and at dozens of community settings, including the United Nations and Lincoln Center. He is currently in production on *Regeneration*, a film about a generation of young Poles in Warsaw who were brought up Catholic and discovered in their teens that they’re Jewish.