

# Appalachian Films by or about Women

A videography by Steve Fesenmaier- July 28, 2004  
Most films and videos are available from WVLC in Charleston, WV

## Introduction

Since I first came to West Virginia in September 1978 I have been very aware of the importance of women to filmmaking in Appalachia. Shortly before I moved here from Minneapolis I watched the Oscar winning documentary by Barbara Kopple in the very suburban movie theater I visited as a child – The Edina Theater. I was stunned, never having seen such a film about our own country. When I arrived in Charleston there was a brand-new 16-mm print of the film sitting in my office. I had met Kopple at The American Film Festival in June in New York City, and immediately began promoting its showing around the state. Since then I have worked with many women filmmakers, both from in-state like Susan Burt and B.J. Gudmundsson and out-of-state, most notably Mimi Pickering from Appalshop and Mari-Lynn Evans from “The Appalachians.” Thanks to friends like Phyllis Moore I have discovered long-lost films like “Amy,” based on a book by Margaret Prescott Montague, and “Roseanna McCoy,” a famous version of the Hatfield and McCoy feud made in 1949. There have been landmark films about Appalachian women like “Coal Miner’s Daughter” and award-winning films about mountaintop removal like “Razing Appalachia” by Sasha Waters. The list below is based on my cumulative lists based on my annual Goldenseal filmographies. Goldenseal, because of its G-rated audience, has excluded descriptions of many of the most unusual films made by and about Appalachian women. Those films are included in this list. “Lost Love,” considered by several experts to be the best short fictional film made in West Virginia by a West Virginia filmmaker, is one such film.

Since I am a man of lists, as are most film reviewers, here is my own personal list of “Ten Greatest Documentary Films by or about Women in Appalachia.”

1. Harlan County, USA – Barbara Kopple
2. Stranger with A Camera – Elizabeth Barrett
3. Ashes to Glory – Deborah Novak
4. Dreadful Memories – The Life of Sarah Ogan Gunning – Mimi Pickering
5. Out of the Storm – B.J. Gudmundsson
6. The Texture of Life – The Tusing Sisters of Lost Creek – Judy and Ray Schmitt

7. Breaking Silence – The Story of the Sisters at Desales Heights by Tommie Dell Smith and Susan Pointon
8. Hazel Dickens – It’s Hard to Tell the Singer from the Song – Mimi Pickering
9. A Principled Man – Rev. Leon Sullivan – Diana Sole.
10. Belinda – Mimi Pickering

Mimi Pickering, a founder of Appalshop, is without a doubt the best and most productive woman filmmaker in Appalachia. I included her excellent film on Hazel Dickens in my recent “West Virginia Film Week” at the Pioneer Theater in NYC because Dickens is of course from WV and Mimi herself has made several of her best films in WV – two Buffalo Creek films and “Chemical Valley.” You should also note that Kopple has made several other films about Appalachia other than “Harlan County” – she made the official UMW history film, “Out of Darkness” and a fine film about the Ravenswood Aluminum lock-out, “Locked Out in America: Voices from Ravenswood.”

If you would like to obtain a copy of the complete filmography “Appalachian Films by and about Women”, please contact me at: [fesenms@wvlc.lib.wv.us](mailto:fesenms@wvlc.lib.wv.us) .

You can see many more lists, articles I have written on Appalachian films, etc. at my homepage - <http://www.ferrum.edu/applit/bibs/WVFilmIndex.htm>. Thanks to Judy Teaford at Mountain State University for posting all of this material and keeping it updated.

### **The Abby Spirit**

2004 30 mins. Real Earth Productions

Abby Wathen grew up in Eastern Kentucky. While a teenager she discovered that she had a rare disease - reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD). Her parents visited scores of doctors and hospitals, never finding any improvement. Finally they found a treatment in Texas that used magnets to relieve the pain. Abby is now a rising model and actress in New York City, thankful to have survived one of modern medicine’s least understood conditions. Photos of some of her national ads, a clip from a national TV series, and clips from her indie films are included. Access: Real Earth Productions

### **Amy**

1981 100 M.

Greenbrier County native Margaret Prescott Montague is WV’s most filmed novelist. She won the O. Henry Award in 1919 for her story “England to America,” which was published in The Atlantic Monthly, September 1918. Her “The Sowing of Alderson Cree” was made into the film Seeds of Vengeance in 1920. A film with the same name was also made of her book. Uncle Sam of Freedom Ridge, also in 1920. In 1922 a film, Calvert’s Valley, was made from her book, In Calvert’s Valley. Her collection of short stories, Closed Doors (1915) was based on seven teachers and children she met while she visited her brother, R. Cary Montague, who was the director of the WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND. The film is about a woman leaving her wealthy husband to teach at the WV School for the Blind & Deaf. The director, Vincent McEveety, directed

many of the original Star Trek episodes on TV and in the nineties directed Columbo episodes. This film was originally made for TV and called Amy on the Lips. Distribution – available at [www.half.com](http://www.half.com).

### **The Appalachians – series**

2004 240 mins Evening Star Productions

Mari-Lynn Evans, executive producer, was born and raised in Bulltown, Braxton County, WV. After more than two decades producing hundreds of health and other films, she returns home to her beloved Appalachia. The four parts are -1. "First Frontier," - Pre-History-1870 - native Americans, European pioneers, Civil War 2. "Barons, Feuds & White Lightning" - 1871-1929 - feuds, timber and coal, labor wars, moonshine and roaring 1920s 3. "Boom & Bust" - 1929-1965 - Great Depression, WWII, Migration in 1950s, War on Poverty 4. "Memories in a Modern World" - 1965-present - Legacy, Music, Land in Conflict (MTR), People and future of Appalachia. The Sierra Club, a sponsor, has built a good website for the series - [www.sierraclub.org/appalachia](http://www.sierraclub.org/appalachia). Random House published a book in conjunction with the series, edited by Ms. Evans, "The Appalachians." Access: PBS Store

### **Ashes to Glory – DVD**

2000 (2003) WVPBS

Deborah Novak, a native of Huntington, and her partner, John Witek, have released an expanded version of their 2000 documentary on Marshall University's recovery from the worst sports disaster in history.

On the DVD, we have the original two hour version of the documentary, plus four bonus features:

1. HUNTINGTON AND MARSHALL IN 1970 - This video offers rare archival footage of the city and the campus in the 1970s, and shows a variety of vanished landmarks.
2. THE MAKING OF ASHES TO GLORY - a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the PBS documentary. Featuring never-before-seen footage, highlights include interviews with Chad Pennington, Nate Ruffin, and Coach Jack Lengyel that didn't appear in the original program. The video follows the story of the project right up to the premiere at the Keith-Albee Theatre--and also includes the Emmy Awards ceremony.
3. THE 1970 MARSHALL UNIVERSITY THUNDERING HERD - a tribute to the football players who died in the plane crash. Utilizing 3-D graphic effects, it incorporates a photograph of every player who made the trip to East Carolina, intercut with footage of the last game they played.
4. THE YOUNG THUNDERING HERD - The fourth new video is a salute to the 1971 team--the courageous players who carried on the tradition of Marshall football. Charting their victory over a powerful Bowling Green

team, it presents rarely seen coaches film of a great victory. Access: herdnation.com

### **The Biography of Gwen Clingman**

40 mins. 2003

This film tells the story of a founder of modern Lewisburg, Gwen Clingman. Written and narrated by Joan Browning, produced and directed by Gary Aide. Access: PatchWork Films.

### **Blenko Retro: Three Designers of American Glass**

2001 South Carolina ETV 120 M.

Witek and Novak's follow-up to their earlier Hearts of Glass. After WWII the Blenko Glass Company of Milton, WV hired a series of three designers who later became world famous, both for their glass designs and for their other designs. The glass works were considered some of the most creative in the world during the fifties, sixties, and seventies. To purchase: contact

SCETV at <http://www.scetv.org/blenko/>.

### **The Captives**

2004 Jude's True Blue Prod. 58 mins.

Roane County teacher Judy Miller responded to the 9/11 Disaster with this film. She wrote, produced, and co-directed the film after raising \$50,000. Filmed entirely inside WV, she tells the famous story of Mary Draper Ingles – how she is captured, survives, and finally escapes her Indian captors to her home in eastern Virginia. The film had its world premiere at the oldest continuous movie theater in the US – The Robey Theater in Spencer, Roane County, WV. Access: Jude's True Blue Productions. (304) 927-4793

[flapjack@wvadventures.net](mailto:flapjack@wvadventures.net)

### **Coalmining Women**

1982 Appalshop 40 M.

Interviewed at home and on the job, women coal miners tell of the conditions that led them to seek employment in this traditionally male-dominated industry and the problems they encountered once hired. Directed by Elizabeth Barret, the film traces the significant contributions women have made to past coalfield struggles and the importance of their newer position as working miners.

### **Cold Mountain**

152 mins. 2003

Film version of best-selling novel by Charles Frazier, filmed in Transylvania. In the waning days of the Civil War, a wounded soldier played by Jude Law embarks on a perilous journey back home to Cold Mountain, North Carolina to reunite with his sweetheart played by Nichole Kidman. Renée Zellweger won an Oscar for best supporting actress. Access: amazon.com or any video distributor.

### **Cross Roads**

1995 Cambridge 30 M.

Provides an intimate look at the elements of a successful art exhibit. Following West Virginia artist Paula Clendenin, the viewer gains insight to how the painter approaches her work technically as well as thematically for this three dimensional show. Interviews with collaborators and curators further the understanding of Clendenin's work.

### **Dental Farmer**

15 mins. 2002.

Meet dental farmer Dr. Art Rybeck, a man who combines his passion for organic farming with dentistry in West Virginia. (outside Wheeling) Rybeck sees no reason why anyone should go without dental care, so he has set up a second clinic in a farmhouse with a pay-as-you-wish policy. Directors Ellen Brodsky and Dunya Alwan follow this "radical" dentist as he works and ponders life. It's both entertaining for its peculiar subject matter, and inspiring for Rybeck's vigor and good nature.

Access: \$ 20. Ellen Brodsky 34 Sherman St Cambridge, MA 02138-6732 (617)547-2989

### **Dreadful Memories: The Life of Sarah Ogan Gunning**

**1988 Appalshop 38 M.**

For decades Sarah Gunning wrote and performed hauntingly beautiful ballads about the lives of working people. This video documentary introduces viewers to the woman and her music and reveals the influence she has had over the years. Directed by Mimi Pickering, the video intercuts Sarah's most affecting songs with rare documentary film clips and photographs of early mining life. Comments from relatives and such friends as Pete Seeger, Hazel Dickens, and Archie Green help to tell Sarah's story and speak of her personal strength and cultural significance.

### **East Wind, West Wind- The Life and Times of Pearl Buck**

90 mins. 1994

The extraordinary life of Pearl Buck (1892-1973), the child of missionaries who was raised in China and developed a deep affection for the Chinese people. She was born in Hillsboro, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, where her birthplace is a museum dedicated to her memory. She became one of the most popular American writers of the 20th Century, especially for her best-selling novel "The Good Earth." Archival footage and interviews provide unique insight into China in the first half of the 20th century. Produced by Donn Rogosin, past director WSWP-TV in Beckley, shown at the London and East-West Film Festivals but never on TV. Access: Patchwork Films in Lewisburg.

### **An Evening with Cal Price**

55 mins. 2002 PatchWork Films

Directed by WV woman filmmaker B.J. Gudmundsson. Greenbrier historian Robert Conte performed a one-man play based on the writings of Pocahontas Times editor Cal Price.

The play is mixed with photos of Price and his world. Price was an early environmentalist along with Teddy Roosevelt, fighting to save our great natural resources. He is by turn hilarious and tragic, just as a contemporary, H. L. Mencken was in Baltimore. Parts of this film will be utilized in the coming feature-length film on Price – 30 – Cal Price and the Pocahontas Times. For purchase and website: <http://www.patchworkfilms.com/>

### **Fight to Save Kayford Mountain**

1998 Lisa Millimet 15 M.

GOLDENSEAL contributor Lisa Millimet, a New Hampshire resident who once lived in West Virginia and still owns land here, videotaped the effects of mountaintop removal mining in the Kayford area. Larry Gibson, who is leading a one-man fight to save his family's 50 acres at Kayford Mountain from mountaintop removal, is the focus of this short documentary.

### **Fond Memories Scrapbook**

1994 WSWP-TV 60 M.

This nostalgic look at life in southern West Virginia is one of two videos produced by local television station WSWP. It features the reminiscences of longtime residents, personal photographs, home movies, archival film, and present-day video of life in the Mountain State.

### **Fond Memories Scrapbook II**

1996 WSWP-TV 30 M.

This video is the second installment in WSWP-TV's nostalgic series about life in southern West Virginia. This video includes railroad steam engines, G.C. Murphy's department store, and recollections of the State Fair of West Virginia.

### **From My Grandmother's Grandmother Unto Me**

52 mins. 1990 Facets

The storytelling tradition of the southern Appalachians comes to life through actress/writer Clarinda Ross's portrayal of four generations of her maternal ancestors. The video takes viewers on an intimate tour through the past, following the family's lineage from an 1890 homesteader to a modern-day actress who left the mountains to pursue her craft in the big city. This is the story of America itself, in its transition from Indians and the wilderness frontier to an industrialized land where economic opportunity and foreign wars began to tear families apart for the first time and change the traditional roles of women. Access: Facets.

### **Hazel Dickens – It's Hard to Tell the Singer From the Song**

2001 Appalshop 55 M.

From the coalfields of West Virginia to the factories of Baltimore, Hazel Dickens has lived the songs she sings. A pioneering woman in Bluegrass and hardcore country music, Hazel has influenced generations of songwriters and musicians. Her songs of hard work, hard times, and hardy souls have bolstered working people at picketlines and union rallies throughout the land.

Her powerful, piercing vocals power the soundtracks for Harlan County USA and Matewan. The Washington Post called her "a living legend of American music, a national treasure" and in 2001, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded her with a National Heritage Fellowship. In this intimate portrait, interviews with Hazel and fellow musicians such as Alison Krauss,

Naomi Judd, and Dudley Connell are interwoven with archival footage, recent performances, and 16 powerful songs.– from Appalshop website <http://ns.appalshop.org/film/hazel.htm>.

### **Immortal Essence: The Life and Writings of Danske Dandridge**

27 mins. 2002 Jim Surkamp Productions

Jim Surkamp profiles Shepherdstown's poet, garden writer, and historian, Caroline "Danske" Dandridge (1854-1914). Ms. Dandridge wrote over a hundred acclaimed poems, 200 gardening articles,

and four history books. A web site of her writings is at <http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/dandridge/index2.htm>. Access: Jim Surkamp Presentations

### **Max & Nellie's Journey with Grief**

25 min. 2000 Old Brick Playhouse

The Old Brick Playhouse, Linda Zimmer, Judy Brussell, and Tom Nicholson created this tale, through the generous help of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. Using a theatrical labyrinth of song, dance, and fantastical characters, this video addresses issues of bereavement and helps children cope with loss while celebrating life. Grace and her two children, Max and Nellie, find their way through a gambit of emotions connected to the loss of their Grandpa Gilbert. On their journey they encounter a magical marionette sequence, Grandpa's eccentric friends, an enchanting story scroll, and other hilarious creatures that guide them through a celebration of memories and hope. It prompts discussions between children and adults

concerning death, dying, and loss. Access: \$30 at <http://members.citynet.net/oldbrick/shows/movie.htm>.

### **Out of the Storm**

2001 PatchWork Productions 60 M.

From their website - The Galford Lumber Co. Documentary Film Project records the story of Glen Galford's sawmill and its workers from 1938-1940 as they participated in the federal government timber removal effort after the New England Hurricane of 1938. It leads the viewer through the devastation created by one of the worst storms in our country's history and how it affected the lives of those Pocahontas Countians who left their homes to work and live in Northfield,

Massachusetts. By WV woman filmmaker B.J. Gudmundsson. To obtain a copy – <http://www.galfordlumber.com/video.html>.

### **A Principled Man – Rev. Leon Sullivan**

57 mins. 2000 Motion Masters

Rev. Leon Sullivan is considered to be the most influential African-American leader after MLK. He created the Sullivan Principles that were used to bring down the apartheid system in South Africa. He was the first African-American to serve on a board of a Fortune 500 corporation. He also founded the national Industrial Opportunity Centers (OICs). He was born and raised in Charleston, and there is now a street named after him. Diana Sole of Charleston directed this award-winning film. Access: Every public library in WV was given a copy. You can purchase it from UC Berkeley Center for Media and Independent Learning - <http://ucmedia.berkeley.edu/default.html>.

### **Razing Appalachia**

72 mins. 2002 Room 152 Productions

By Iowian filmmaker Sasha Waters. The place is Pigeonroost Hollow, Blair, West Virginia. The time is May 1998. On one side is Arch Coal, America's second-largest coal company, who plans to expand its mountaintop strip mine above the town. The coal company is joined by state political leaders and 400 union miners whose jobs are on the line. On the other side? The forty families remaining in Blair whose remarkable fight saved their community from being buried under the rock and soil debris of this massive expansion. Access: Bullfrog Films 55 min. version [www.bullfrogfilms.com](http://www.bullfrogfilms.com).

### **Remembering Patsy Cline**

1996 ABC 60 M.

This heartfelt celebration features 17 great Patsy Cline songs and 10 rare television appearances, recently discovered and never before seen on home video. You'll meet Patsy through her intimate home movies, her personal letters, and fond reminiscences of Charlie Dick, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, George Jones, Mel Tillis, Roy Clark, Eddy Arnold, Bill Anderson, Jan Howard, Trisha Yearwood, K.D. Lang, Ronna Reeves, Lisa Stewart, Marsha Thornton and Michelle Wright.

### **Roseanna McCoy**

In 1949 Irving Reis, a media pioneer (he founded CBS Radio's Columbia U. radio workshop), directed a film version of WV author Alberta Hannum's book, Roseanna McCoy. Nicholas Ray (famous for Rebel Without A Cause) assisted, as did Ben Hecht. Both were uncredited. It starred Farley Granger as Johnse Hatfield, Joan Evans played the heroine, Roseanna McCoy, Charles Bickford played Devil Anse Hatfield, Raymond Massey played Old Randall McCoy, and Richard Basehart played Mounts Hatfield. The storyline is – young lovers from the two feuding families reopen old wounds. Access: Facets Multimedia at <http://www.facets.org/> has it for sale for only \$14.95. Order No. is VHS: S32354. Samuel Goldwyn Home Entertainment remastered the soundtrack

### **Rough Side of the Mountain**

1997 Appalshop 57 M.

In the past 20 years, many mining companies and factories have closed their doors, leaving behind rural communities with crumbling infrastructures, soaring unemployment, and inexperience in self-governance. Rough Side of the Mountain, directed by Anne Lewis, documents the efforts of citizens to rebuild their communities in two southwest Virginia company towns: Ivanhoe and Trammel.

### **Shelter**

2001 Appalshop 55 M.

Most of what we know about domestic violence has come from battered women in shelters. Shelter tells the stories of 5 rural West Virginia women who come to the Family Refuge Center in Lewisburg, WV, over a 5-year period as they try to find freedom, justice, and safety for themselves and their children. The documentary challenges institutional response and national ambivalence towards wife battering and offers the model of a positive and healing approach. Ellen Pence, Debby Tucker, and Tillie Black Bear, whose involvements date back to the early 1970's, tell the history of an extraordinary grassroots movement that not only saved lives but also changed the way we think. Finally, Shelter leaves the viewer with a message of survival and hope. From the website - <http://ns.appalshop.org/shelter/>

### **Signs, Cures & Witchery - Appalachian Cosmology and Belief**

60 mins 2001 Augusta Heritage Festival

A glimpse of some little-known Appalachian beliefs and practices among descendents of early German pioneers. These traditions merged in the New World with Anglo/Celtic influences. The film traces Germanic belief systems from Europe to West Virginia, from the fifteenth century to present practitioners. It opens a window into our ancient past, revealing the courage, resourcefulness and humor of people whose survival depended on their ability to "read signs," cure their own ills, and find explanations for life's mysteries. Who needs Harry Potter when we can meet the devil in our own backyard? Access: Augusta Heritage Festival Shop

### **Songcatcher**

2000 Facets Multimedia 109 M.

From their catalog - Janet McTeer, an Oscar nominee for *Tumbleweeds*, turns in another wonderful performance in this film from the director of *The Ballad of Little Jo*. Passed over for a position in the male-dominated world of academia, a musicologist leaves the city to visit her sister in Appalachia. There she discovers a world rich in its own musical traditions and romance with a local musician (Aidan Quinn). The soundtrack includes songs by Emmylou Harris, Rosanne Cash, Dolly Parton, Iris DeMent and more. Closed-captioned.

### **Stranger With A Camera**

58 minutes, 2000 Appalshop

Appalshop's best film – shown at Sundance and on PBS. In 1967 Canadian filmmaker Hugh O'Connor visited the mountains of Central Appalachia to document poverty. A local landlord, who resented the presence of filmmakers on his property, shot and killed O'Connor, in part because of his anger over the media images of Appalachia that had become icons in the nation's War on Poverty. Filmmaker Elizabeth Barret, a native of Appalachia, uses O'Connor's death as a lens to explore the complex relationship between those who make films to promote social change and the people whose lives are represented in such media productions. Through first-person accounts of the killing and the perspective of three decades of reflection, *Stranger With A Camera* leads viewers on a quest for understanding - a quest that ultimately leads Barret to examine her own role as both a maker of media and a member of the Appalachian community she portrays.

### **The Texture of Life - The Tusing Sisters of Branch Mountain**

2003 Real Earth Productions 28 mins.

Ray and Judy Schmitt present this portrait of two Hardy County, West Virginia Mennonite sisters based on a short story by their niece Kathleen Sholl. Through narration she tells the story of her annual summer visits to the Smithsonian "discovered" the Tusing sisters and wrote an article on their weaving techniques and life outside the mainstream. They seldom left their two-hundred acre farm, not owning a car, and used little electricity except for a few light bulbs and a small radio. Music by the WV supergroup Gandydancer. Access: Real Earth Productions.

Website - <http://www.realearthproductions.com/>

### **The True Meaning of Pictures: Shelby Lee Adams' Appalachia**

2002 75 mins. Mercury Films

Directed by Canadian doc filmmaker Jennifer Baichwal.

An introduction to the work of renowned photographer Shelby Lee Adams. Born in Eastern Kentucky, Adams has devoted 30 years of his life to visiting and making portraits of families living in Appalachia, those who have been misrepresented in the media and derogatorily referred to as "hillbillies." It delves into the controversy that surrounds Adams' work, with hot debate amongst the critics, and revealing commentary from his friends and subjects. It makes us question the meaning of

art itself, and along the way, we get to know both Adams and the extraordinary people who stand in front of his camera. Many of his photographs can be seen in the book and PBS series, “The Appalachians.” Access: Amazon, New Video, etc.

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## **Films made prior to 1996**

## **AFTERMATH**

30 M. 1986/87 VHS Barbara Cox/David Seam

Two West Virginia independent videographers made this documentary about Parsons, WV - the town most damaged by the great flood of 1986. Interviews with survivors and the workers who came in to help.

## **ANONYMOUS WAS A WOMAN**

30 M. 1977 Films, Inc. 16MM

Frequently when a piece of folk art was given the attribution "anonymous," it was the work of an unknown woman. Because they did not have awareness of themselves as "artists," but rather as mothers of daughters just adding a little beauty to household goods, they did not sign the sampler, quilt, rug, or needlework. Part of "The Originals: Women In Art" series.

## **APPLE DOLLS**

19 M. Wombat 16MM

For pioneers of North America, apple doll making provided pleasure as well as creative expression. Urve Buffey demonstrates a rare skill whose products are valued as much for their unique individuality as their beauty.

## **ASHPET: AN AMERICAN CINDERELLA**

45 M. 1990 VHS/16MM Tom Davenport

Ashpet is part of the series from the Brothers Grimm. Set in the rural South in the early years of World War II, Ashpet is a humorously touching version of Cinderella, the world's most popular folk tale. Ashpet provides an entertaining way for children to explore proper values, self-esteem and sibling rivalry.

## **AUTHOR - MARY LEE SETTLE**

58 M. 1991 VHS WVLC

William Drennen, Jr. , Commissioner of The Dept. of Culture & History, interviews Mary Lee Settle, one of WV's leading writers. She now lives in Virginia, but continues to write and talk about her homeland. She grew up in Charleston, and has written a series of books about life in Charleston and the local area, The Beulah Land series. She is also a leading travel writer, often writing for the NY Times and other national publications

## **BELINDA**

40 M. 1992 VHS Appalshop

Belinda Mason was, as she says, "a small-town journalist, a young mother, a reliable Tupperware party guest" until she became infected with the HIV virus in 1987. She decided to go public with her condition and spend the rest of her life as a powerful advocate for AIDS prevention, education, treatment and human rights.

## **BREAKING SILENCE: THE STORY OF THE SISTERS AT DESALES HEIGHTS**

60 M. 1993 VHS Tommie Dell Smith

Breaking Silence takes us behind the walls of a 150-year cloistered monastery in West Virginia as the twelve surviving Sisters of the Visitation prepare to face the outside world for the first time in their adult lives. Some of these women came to live here when they were young children and most of them have not left the building for fifty, sixty and, in the case of Sister Innocentia, over ninety years. Until the 1960's they were forbidden to speak or even to be seen by people from the outside world. Their only contact was through the children they taught and the occasional visits from the doctor, the dentist or the undertaker. Breaking Silence follows the Sisters through their final year at the convent as they struggle to deal with the grief, the fear, the anger and the uncertainty of their future even as the falls of tradition crumble down around them. At the same time they find themselves reviewing the reasons of their decline and questioning both the validity of their years of service and the relevance of their institution in the modern world. It is a rare, intimate and emotionally powerful insight into a way that may soon be gone forever.

## **BUFFALO CREEK 1972: AN ACT OF GOD?**

30 M. B&W 16MM/VHS Appalshop

Covers the destruction and clean-up following the Buffalo Creek flood, interviews with survivors, the people's hearing, wildcat strikes in Logan County mines, the demonstration of the Pittston Coal Company stockholders meeting, and an interview with the president of Pittston.

## **BUFFALO CREEK REVISITED**

30 M. 1984 16MM/VHS Appalshop

In 1972, a flood destroyed the community of Buffalo Creek, Logan County. Mimi Pickering, who directed "Buffalo Creek 1972: An Act of God?" returned ten years later to document the second disaster - the lack of cooperation from the government to rebuild the area, Ken Heckler, Bob Wise, Beth Spence and residents of Buffalo Creek are interviewed.

## **CHEMICAL VALLEY**

50 M. 1991 VHS Appalshop

On December 3, 1984, the worst industrial accident in history occurred when a toxic gas known as MIC leaked from a Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, killing at least 3500 and leaving 50,000 people permanently disabled. The tragedy in Bhopal brought international attention to Institute, WV, site of the only Union Carbide plant in the United States that manufactured MIC. The film begins with Bhopal and the immediate response to the disaster in the Kanawha Valley and then follows events in the valley over the next five years as issues of community health and employment are debated by industry spokesmen, corporate officials, plant managers, chemical workers, community activists, environmentalists, government regulators, local politicians and individual residents. Ultimately, questions are raised about the international circle of production, distribution, and disposal of toxic chemicals into which all our lives are integrated.

## **COAL MINING WOMEN**

40 M. 1982 Appalshop

Experiences of women as they enter this traditionally male dominated field and the problems they encounter in their fight to end sex discrimination in the coalfields are related through interviews at home and at work in Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, West Virginia and Colorado. The historical place of women in the U.S. and European coal mines and the employment situation in Appalachia and the western coalfields where the economy is dominated by the coal industry. Women coal miners talk about their accomplishments, advantages and disadvantages for their chosen occupation including the compromise they face between their health and safety and the benefits of high wages.

## **A Different Drummer SERIES**

29 M. (each) 1989 VHS WNPB-TV

Series includes:

**AMAZING DELORES** - 45-year-old Charlestonian, Delores Boyd has been dubbed “Amazing Delores” by musicians and audiences alike. A lady with a love for fashion, her voice has been likened to that of Janis Joplin with a phrasing of Van Morrison and an imagery similar to Captain Beefheart’s. She has the soul of Little Richard and the dance moves of Tina Turner.

**HERETICS** - Former Catholic nuns, Barbara Ferraro and Pat Hussey are co-directors of Covenant House, a Charleston WV social services agency. Since 1985 they have struggled openly with the predominately male Catholic hierarchy over failing to recant signing a petition asking that the issue of abortion be opened to discussion by the Church. They have authored a book about their struggles entitled No Turning Back.

**TED AND SARAH** - Ted and Sarah Hotchkiss have left the “middle-class” so-called “good life” for a tar-paper shack in a remote hollow in West Virginia. Their lifestyle is not unlike people in the third world. “In this country,” says Ted, “it is better to be on the bottom. If you can’t get very rich then get very poor. But for God’s sake don’t stay in the middle.

## **DOCTOR ETHEL ALLEN: MINUSES AND PLUSES**

25 M. 1985 Take One Productions

Dr. Allen is a graduate of West Virginia State college. She became a leader of the black community in Philadelphia and lead many reform movements. Directed by West Virginia filmmaker and fellow graduate of West Virginia State College, Elaine Prater Hodges.

## **DOLLMAKER, THE**

140 M. VHS

Jane Fonda scored a resounding critical triumph and won an Emmy for her stirring portrayal of an impoverished farm woman in this powerful drama set in the 1940’s. Turning in a mesmerizing performance, Fonda is Gertie Nevels, a mother of five who lives in Kentucky. Outside of her family, Gertie’s only happiness is her hobby; sculpting dolls out of wood. When her husband Levon Helm finds her work in Detroit, she dutifully packs up her children and moves to the city, where they’re virtually overwhelmed by an incredibly difficult adjustment. As one setback follows another and shattering tragedy strikes, Gertie must reach inside herself for new strength, courage and determination to keep her family from falling apart. Nominated for a total of six Emmys, this deeply moving story of one woman’s struggle to remain unbroken is an inspiring salute to the human spirit that will charm and captivate your entire family.

## **DREADFUL MEMORIES: THE LIFE OF SARAH OGAN GUNNING**

38 M. 1988 VHS Appalshop

Sarah Gunning was THE REAL THING! - - a hardscrabble lady who grew up in Appalachia THE HARD WAY! She lost her mom and a baby to starvation and found “capitalism.” She also wrote her own songs and became one of the founders of the contemporary folk music scene along with Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly.

## **EVELYN WILLIAMS**

27 M. 1995 VHS Appalshop

Evelyn Williams is about Evelyn’s fight, along with members of KFTC (Kentuckian’s for the Commonwealth) to save her land from what she calls “rape” by EREX, a large oil and gas company. Interviews with Evelyn chronicles her life experience as a fighter for women’s rights, for civil rights, and for the land; about the history of African-American communities in the mountains of eastern Kentucky; and her analysis of slavery and its relationship to land, community, and the lives of women. Evelyn is a strong and eloquent woman. She speaks directly about the forces of sexism and racism in our society and reveals current struggle in an intense personal way. The documentary connects women’s rights, civil rights, and environmental concerns. It promotes respect for women, for self-determination, for this land, and for cultural diversity.

## **FAST FOOD WOMEN**

28 M. 1992 VHS Appalshop

Takes an inside look at the lives of the women who fry chicken, make pizzas and flip burgers of four different fast food restaurants in eastern Kentucky. These women, mostly middle-aged and raising children are often the sole income source for their families. They work for wages barely above the minimum wage, have trouble getting full-time hours because of their employers’ scheduling policies, and are without health care and other benefits.

## **FROM THE BACK PORCH: RAE MCKEE**

38 M. 1992 VHS WSWP-TV

Interview with WV Teacher of the Year, Rae McKee of Romney, WV. Discusses her views on education in West Virginia, teaching techniques, attitudes of the public as well as teachers, politics, and youth of today.

## **GOODBYE, MISS 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**

90 M. 1988 VHS Disney

Christopher Janus wrote this autobiographical novel about his early life in Montgomery, WV. Directed by George Miller (the second most famous of the two directors with the same name from Australia) and starring two WV natives, Chris Sarandon stars as the Greek father who takes his family from Athens, Greece to work as an engineer in Montgomery. (Sarandon was born and raised in Beckley.) Conchata Ferrell plays one of the civic leaders who run the annual Miss 4<sup>th</sup> of July contest. The story focuses on the teenage daughter who comes of age in the pre-WW I era. The family has to face discrimination, both against the Greek family she's part of, and the black ex-boxer who seeks refuge with them. ( This role is played by Louis Gossett Jr.) After facing the Klan and other forces, she shows her total dedication to the townspeople by caring for influenza victims. Excellent acting by all, plus a dramatic story make this one of the best films ever about West Virginia. The Disney Channel has shown this film on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July ever since 1988. (The book was published in 1988.)

## **HANDS ON**

28 M. 1992 VHS Appalshop

Teacher Linda Oxendine-Brown is shown in her classroom in eastern Kentucky using the Foxfire teaching method which emphasizes democratic decision-making, hands-on experience, collaborative learning and student involvement in the world outside the classroom. Follows the her 24 second-graders as they produce a weekly radio program, write, edit and publish a collection of short stories and nonfiction, enjoy an informal performance by some mountain musicians, plant tomatoes, and visit a classmate's farm.

## **HARLAN COUNTY, U.S.A.**

103 M. 1976 16MM&VHS Cinema 5

This Academy Award winning documentary shows the year long strike by 180 coal mining families to win a standard United Mine Workers contract from the owners of the Brookside mine in Kentucky. Provides insight into the lives of the miners and their families.

## **HARRIETTE SIMPSON ARNOW 1908-1986**

35 M. 1988 VHS/16MM Appalshop

Appalshop filmed Mrs. Arnow (author of *The Dollmaker* – see above) shortly before she died. She tells the story of her life and discusses the facts behind her three novels - *Mountain Path* 1936, *Hunter's Horn*, and her most famous, *The Dollmaker* 1954. She used her imagination and education to create Gertie, later portrayed by Jane Fonda in her only TV role. She loved the land and the people of her native Kentucky - but was very glad to return to the city Detroit during WW II – especially because of the public libraries!

## **IN COAL COUNTRY**

11 M. VHS Facet

This iconographic video presentation evokes the flavor of Judith Hendershot's award-winning story about the life of a miner's family in the 1930's, seen through the eyes of a young girl.

## **INTERVIEW WITH LINA BASQUETTE**

30 M. 1991 VHS WSWP-TV

John Bauman of WSWP-TV interviews Lina Basquette who was a famous dancer and film star between 1916 to 1943. She now raises dogs, living in Wheeling, WV. In 1990 she published her autobiography, Lina De Mille's Godless Girl. She was once married to Sam Warner of Warner Bros. fame. She discusses her amazing career.

## **JACK AND THE DENTIST'S DAUGHTER**

25 M. 1984 Tom Davenport Films

Adapted from a tale in an Appalachian story cycle, it is strongly related to the Grimm's tale called the "Master Thief."

## **THE JOLO SERPENT HANDLERS**

1977 40 min. Karen Kramer

New York City filmmaker Karen Kramer began her fruitful career with this film made in Jolo, McDowell County, West Virginia. In 1979 she returned to the state, showing the film to students at WVSU and to people in Jolo and in Welch. She interviews several members of the church and shows church services involving the handling of snakes. Reference is also made to other signs from the Bible including drinking poison and walking on fire. This film is considered to be the best film on the subject of several that were made in the 1970s including "The Holy Ghost People." Access: Karen Kramer [Kramerkar@aol.com](mailto:Kramerkar@aol.com)

## **JOURNEY THROUGH A DEPRESSION**

19 M. 1990 VHS Ruth Blackwell Rogers

Using her paintings, one of WV's leading artists takes us along a road showing all the different emotions one experiences during a deep depression. The beautiful music matches the stunningly beautiful images - and the narrator's voice more than any thing reveals a profound understanding of the most common form of serious mental illness.

## **JUNE KILGORE: A RETROSPECTIVE**

90 M. 1995 VHS WVLC

June Kilgore is one of West Virginia's most influential artists and art teachers. During her years at Marshall University, she created some of the best abstract expressionist paintings and taught art to thousands of students. Mark Moore, the curator for the Cultural Center, was one of those students. To honor her, The Cultural Center, held its first complete retrospective of a living West Virginia artist.

## **JULIE ADAMS AND THE RHINO BOYS**

30 M., 8/1/94 – Part of First Lady Rachael Worby's Arts & Letters series

The eclectic sounds of Julie Adams and the Rhino Boys whet your musical appetite. Led by Adams' clear bluesy voice, this trio's tunes range from sultry originals to funky pop and jazz favorites. You'll recognize these fine musicians from their past performances on Mountain Stage and with some of West Virginia's most loved musical groups.

## **LOCKED OUT IN AMERICA: VOICES FROM RAVENSWOOD**

30 M. 1992 VHS Barbara Kopple

During the last decade, over 300,000 workers have lost their jobs to permanent replacements in some of this country's biggest labor disputes. Academy Award-winning director Barbara Kopple, known for her films *American Dream* and *Harlan County USA* takes us to Ravenswood, West Virginia, a town devastated by a bitter lockout and the hiring of replacement workers. Ravenswood has been torn apart since last June, when Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation (RAC) locked out 1700 steelworkers. The workers could see it coming-RAC put up barbed wire, boarded windows, and brought in 15 tractor-trailers filled with replacement workers-but they were unprepared for the hard months that followed. Now they and their families survive on dwindling strike benefits and donations, but continue to fight to get their jobs back. Kopple's profiles of these individuals take us to the heart of the controversy over labor's right to strike, and industry's use of permanent replacements-a battle about to come to a head in the U.S. Congress.

## **LOST LOVE**

40 M. 1995 B&W VHS Soul Miner NOTE: Preview-Adult Material

West Virginia filmmaker David Claypool tells the story of a young man who discovers his murdered "object of desire," a local flower girl. He retrieves the body, turning her into literally a giant puppet. In the nightmare world of porno films and snuff movies, he finds both his dreams and the horrific truth that led him to his bitter situation. Filmed on location in Charleston and Nitro.

## **MARY INGALLS: INDIAN CAPTIVE**

27 M. 1987 VHS/16MM WSWP-TV

In 1755, Mary Ingalls escaped from a Shawnee Indian village in Ohio and made her way through 900 miles of trackless river routes to her home in Virginia. She went further west than any other white women of her time, returning through the New River Gorge in what is now West Virginia. Award-winning production from Wayne Sourbear for Beckley public TV, WSWP TV.

## **MUTZMAG AN APPALACHIAN FOLKTALE**

53 M. VHS/16MM Tom Davenport

Set deep in the Appalachian mountains around 1920, this American folktale is about a plucky young girl named Mutzmag. In a series of hair-raising and comical adventures, Mutzmag saves her gullible half-sisters from two backwoods Ogres. Mutzmag's mother dies early in the story, and her two teenaged sisters decide to leave their tumble-down shack and seek their fortune elsewhere. Mutzmag tags along acting as a servant girl to her abusive sibling. The girls lose their way in the forest and end up at the cabin of a wicked witch and her giant husband who plans to kill the girls. Quick-witted Mutzmag saves the day with nothing but a broken pocket knife and a hall of string. This exciting story is an Appalachian trickster tale, but with a resourceful heroine instead of a hero. There are some scary scenes in the film that will delight older children, teenagers and adults. Includes "Behind the Scenes" documentary. Ages: 10-Adult.

## **NO NEED TO REPENT**

27 M. 1989 Asymmetry Productions

Jan Griesinger is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She is also an active feminist and an self-proclaimed "out" lesbian. She lives with other women at the "Susan B. Anthony Memorial Unrest Home in rural Appalachia. Ann Alter is one of America's leading feminist filmmakers. She also directed TEN MILES TO FETCH WATER, about the bad water supplies in Southern WV.

## **OUT OF DARKNESS: THE MINE WORKERS' STORY**

100 M. 1991 VHS

An electrifying documentary by Academy-Award-winning director Barbara Kopple (Harlan County, USA) and award-winning video director and editor Bill Davis. Historical film footage and photographs are integrated with first-hand accounts of Mine Workers' history and of the recent battle with the Pittston Coal Group. Accompanied by a moving soundtrack created by Tom Juravich, this 100-minute film represents real life stories with a powerful, dramatic touch.

## **PUDD'NHEAD WILSON**

87 M. 1985 VHS MCA Home Video

Filmed on location in Harpers Ferry, WV, Mark Twain's tale exploring the issues of slavery, mother/son relationships, justice and the many shapes of human folly. Tony Award-winning actor Ken Howard stars as a lawyer with an usual sense of humor and Lise Hilbodt co-stars as Roxy, a mulatto slave.

## **QUILTING WOMEN**

28 M. 1976 VHS/16MM Appalshop

An affectionate appreciation of the quilting art and the countless women who practice it. Photographs of past artisans are included in this film celebrating the vast array of beautifully intricate patterns.

## **RETURN TO APPALACHIA**

28 M. 1983 Constance Marks

Three sisters in Whitesville, Raleigh County, tell of their life and struggles in West Virginia. Each of the Fisher sisters, who together compose a family of women, has a particular and unique attitude toward what it means to be a woman in rural WV today. One sister left the state to attend college. Taken together, they represent the range between the most traditional and most cosmopolitan roles in which the modern Appalachian women find themselves.

## **SILENT HEART, THE**

60 M. 1992 VHS Silent Heart Production

A video documentary by Susan Pointon and Tommie Dell Smith. Alumnae tell tales of life at DeSales Heights Academy of the Visitation and of the contemplative order of sisters who taught the children of the area and boarding students from all over the country and world. Chronicles the end of the school and convent-the sale of the building, and the end of an era in the history of Parkersburg, WV. The demise of this school mirrors a great crisis in the Roman Catholic church. When these sisters "took the veil" it was unthinkable that a new generation of young nuns would not join the order and take their turn in lives of service and caring for the elderly sisters.

## **SOUTHERN SEX, THE**

29 M. 1992 VHS Filmmakers Library

Becoming a woman in Kentucky takes more than lipstick and wedding vows. The Southern Sex takes a close look at the reality behind the stereotypes and myths of the Southern belle and coal miner's daughter as twelve Kentucky women share their intimate thoughts on love, marriage, and the pursuit of happiness. A film about women made by women.

## **STEP BACK CINDY**

28 M. 10991 VHS Appalshop

Presents traditional dance in the mountains as fluid and changing, but with its own unique character. Locations visited include Fancy Gap, Dante and Chilhowie, Virginia. Dances include square dancing without callers, flatfoot and cake walk. Shows how the socializing aspect of folk dance can be valuable to the community. Appropriate for classes in dance, folklore, anthropology and rural sociology.

## **TEACHER OF THE YEAR 1995 - MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

30 M. 1995 VHS WSWP-TV

West Virginia's 1995 Teacher of the Year is Ritchie County's Germaine Umstead. Born and raised in Ritchie County, she has been a teacher there for 19 years. She is currently teaching seventh grade math at the brand new Ritchie County Middle School. Features Germaine Umstead at work in the classroom, highlighting her techniques and her dedication. Umstead describes the new middle school as "living proof" of West Virginia's renewed efforts to progress in the fields of education.

## **TEACHER OF THE YEAR 1993 - CHILDREN: THE LIVING MESSAGE**

30 M. 1993 VHS WSWP-TV

Debbie Seldomridge, a dynamic teacher of geometry and pre-calculus at Keyser High School in Mineral County and has been recognized locally, statewide and nationally for her excellence in mathematics education is West Virginia's 1993 Teacher of the Year. Debbie was named a 1989 recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Training and a 1991 recipient of the Tandy Technology Scholar Award. She has authored two textbooks, "Problem-Solving Experiences in Geometry" and "The Wild Wonderful World of Outdoor Mathematics." This program focuses on Debbie's passion for mathematics and follows her through the hectic-paced schedule of professional and personal commitments. Through out, Debbie provides motivating, supportive, challenging, and thought-provoking commentary.

## **TELL ME A STORY - LYNN RUBRIGHT**

30 M. 1986 VHS Kartes Video Communications

Lynn Rubright is both an educator and a storyteller. She has worked as a classroom teacher, and college level instructor and administrator. She also co-founded the Metro Theater Circus, an award-winning children's theater company, and coordinated Project TELL, a federally funded program designed to teach English skills through the ancient art of storytelling. Stories included: How Woodpeckers Came To Be and Six Wishes.

## **TEN MILES TO FETCH WATER**

29 M. 1989 VHS Asymmetry Prod.

The southern coalfields of WV are known for labor struggles. They also have some of the worst water problems in the nation. Abandoned by the coal companies that built them, these small communities face problems different from urban centers. Most lack the resources to keep up their water systems. Directed by woman filmmaker Ann Alter is one of America's leading feminist filmmakers.

## **TRUE FACTS...IN A COUNTRY SONG**

28 M. 1979 Susan Burt/Chadwick

A rare look at the life of a West Virginia music family. The Lilly Brothers found fame in Boston and Japan, returning to West Virginia after a son's death. The true facts of an Appalachian family are revealed in their songs, including "Hide You in the Blood of Jesus," "Sailor Boy," "Come Early Morning," "Sitting on Top of the World," "We Shall Meet Again," "Gathering Shells From the Seashore" and "What Will I Leave Behind."

## **WEST VIRGINIANS, THE**

25 M. 1996 PBS

Narrated by Chris Sarandon. Featuring: US Senator Robert C. Byrd - A hard-working, studious young man named Robert C. Byrd sought excellence in all he did as he grew up in the family of a coal miner in southern West Virginia. He married, went to work in the grocery business out of high school, and then contributed to the war effort by welding in a Baltimore shipyard. After the war, he returned to Raleigh County and discovered his interest in politics. He won his first election to the West Virginia House of Representatives in 1946 and has not lost an election since. He studied in Congress to receive his law degree, which was awarded by American University in 1963. His leadership in the United States Congress is revered. He is a historian, an expert on senatorial procedures, and one of the greatest statesmen in this country's history. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. - This Eastern Panhandle native has established himself as a respected scholar and chairman of the African American Studies Department at Harvard University. He is a widely read and highly regarded literary critic and writer; his book

Colored People about growing up in West Virginia won the Lillian Smith Prize for Southern Literature and the Chicago Tribune's Heartland Award for Nonfiction. He is the Editor of the 40 volume Schomburg Library of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Black Women Writers as well as the Amistad Literary series entitled Critical Perspectives Past and Present. Although he has made his mark as an educator and author, his critical essays appearing in publications such as the New York Literary Review place him in the pantheon of American literary critics. James "Buck" Harless - Buck Harless grew up in desperate poverty in the Mingo County coalfields, but as a self-made millionaire he has become one of West Virginia's best known philanthropists. Still living in the southern West Virginia town of Gilbert, he has made fortunes in timber, coal, truck and equipment sales, and more recently in real estates, banking and insurance. He makes a difference daily in the lives of thousands of West Virginians with his generosity and community spirit. John Hendricks - Few people realize the John Hendricks who grew up in southern West Virginia is a pioneer in the development of telecommunications for all ages. He is the founder and CEO of "The Discovery Channel," "The Learning Channel," and other cable television outlets. Hendricks' visionary approach to the delivery of information includes Discovery Channel MultiMedia, and Discovery Channel Online giving worldwide access to original, nonfiction stories on the Internet. Lawrence Kasdan - Lawrence Kasdan's accomplishments as a movie writer, producer and director make him a much sought after talent in Hollywood. He first made his mark as a writer on four of the most successful films in motion picture history - Raiders of the Lost Ark, The Empire Strikes Back, Return of the Jedi, and The Bodyguard. He has written and directed such greats as Body Heat, The Big Chill and Silverado. His works have been nominated for Academy and Golden Globe Awards. A born storyteller, Kasdan has a down-home charm that keeps his movies popular, and resonant. **Kathy Mattea** - This Cross Lanes native discovered her destiny when, after two years of college, she headed for Nashville to become a country music performer. Within five years she became an "overnight success" who causes a sensation wherever she goes. Kathy Mattea was named "Female Vocalist of the Year" in 1989 and 1990 by the Country Music Association and received a Grammy Award for the Best Female Vocal Performance in 1992. **Mary Lee Settle** - The glory of her writing and the depth of her research for historical accuracy make her Beulah Quintet series a must-read for those who would know the soul of the Mountaineer. She founded the PEN Faulkner writing awards and received a National Book Prize for her book Blood Tie. The Beulah Quintet traces a family's history and its struggles with the concept and realities of freedom from 17<sup>th</sup> century England through the 1980s. Leon Sullivan - Minister and community activist are only two of the titles that describe the contributions Leon Sullivan has made. Founder of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers worldwide and drafter of the "The Sullivan Principles," which guided U.S. policy helping to end the Apartheid Government of South Africa, Dr. Sullivan's church in Philadelphia has been a center for political pressure in America's attempt to train people to lift themselves out of poverty and dependency. Jerry West - Jerry West is recognized throughout the sports world as one of America's most talented athletes and sports leader. The All-American Basketball star from Cabin Creek first made his mark at West Virginia University. He mesmerized crowds in his professional basketball career and led the Los Angeles Lakers to numerous NBA Championships. A member of the Basketball Hall of Fame and Executive Vice President of the Lakers, West's career has combined gifted athletic ability and an uncanny knack for spotting athletic prowess in others. Also **with Princess Aracoma-"Mad Anne" Bailey-Randy Barnes-Claire Bee-Pinkney Benedict-Michael Benedum-Tony Brown-Pearl Buck-Jesse "The Crab" Burkett-Rebecca Cain-Ted Cassidy-Lyell Clay-Jim Comstock-Stephen Coonts-Chief Cornstalk-George Crumb-Phyllis Curtin-Faith Daniels-Joyce DeWitt-Little Jimmy Dickens-Muriel Dressler-Ed Etzel-Conchata Ferrell-Frank Gatski-Denise Giardina-Lawson Hamilton-Justina Hart-Harold "Hawkshaw" Hawkins-John Henry-Sam Huff-Mary Draper Ingles-Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson-Dr. Colleen Jackson-Cook-Anna Jarvis-Frances Johnston-Don Knotts-John Knowles-Blanche Lazell-William Leigh-Chief Logan-Pare Lorentz-Ann Magnuson-**

George Preston Marshall-Peter Marshall-Jon McBride-Charlie McCoy-**Rae Ellen McKee**-Arnold Miller-Holmes Morton-John Forbes Nash, Jr.-Earl "Greasy" Neale-**Louise McNeill Pease**-Charles Peters-**Jayne Ann Phillips-Eugenia Price**-Ed Rabel-**Mary Lou Retton**-Walter Reuther-Cecil Roberts-Soupy Sales-Chris Sarandon-David Selby-Ada "Bricktop" Smith-Wayne Smith-Red Sovine-**Eleanor Steber**-David Hunter Strother-Cyrus Vance-Clyde Ware-Booker T. Washington-Bill Withers-Chuck Yeager.