

GEOFFREY POISTER, Ph.D.

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Education

- 1998 Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs:
Ph.D. in the interdisciplinary Social Science Program,
combining sociology, anthropology, photography and documentary filmmaking.
Attended under Graduate School Scholarship.
- 1989 Syracuse University, Newhouse School of Public Communications:
M.S. in Television, Radio, and Film
Full scholarship/Teaching assistantship.
- 1987 New York University, New York, NY:
Certificate in Filmmaking
- 1978 SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry & Syracuse University:
B.S., Biology and Wildlife Ecology
- 1973 Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA:
Studied composition, music theory, and violin performance.

Film and Television Productions

- 2012 *Jazz Dreams II*: This film expands the original documentary to encompass a fourteen-year span in the lives of the three musicians with new footage in HD. Winner 2012 Telly Award.
- 2005 *A Tale of Two Teens*: a documentary feature about the AIDS pandemic as seen through the eyes of a South African and an American teenager. Produced and Directed by Geoff Poister and Susan Walker. Distributed by the Cinema Guild, New York, NY.
- 2003 *Jazz Dreams*: A documentary feature that chronicles five years in the lives of three young jazz musicians from New Orleans, including the youngest member of the Marsalis family, as they struggle to define and find success in the professional music world. Winner: 2004 Telly Award; 2004 Accolade Competition. Broadcast on Black Entertainment Television and PBS, 2005. Distributed by Canamedia, Toronto, Canada.
- 1996 *The Spirit of Hiroshima*: A one-hour television documentary that contrasts the lives of three atomic bomb survivors with a young family living in Hiroshima today. Winner of the Classic Telly Award. Producer/Director. Distributed by Canamedia.
- 1993 *Kasthuri*: A thirty-minute documentary that tells the story of the prolific south Indian movie business through the eyes of a young, aspiring actress.
Associate Producer/Videographer.
- 1991 *The Nature of Life*: A six-part educational series on biology and environmental topics for college students. Produced under contract for McGraw Hill Publishing Co., Boston. Producer/Writer.
- 1990 *NOVA* (PBS science series); Researched and developed two programs under contract by Peace River Films, Cambridge, MA:
Hawaii Born of Fire, a one-hour film about the unique ecology of volcanoes and the unusual scientists who study them. (broadcast October, 1994 and May, 1995)
Superbridge, a two-hour Nova special about the human dramas involved in building a bridge of revolutionary design over the Mississippi River. (broadcast November, 1997)

- 1989-1991 Vermont Public Television, Burlington, VT.
 Producer/Director of eight programs for the documentary series, *Crossroads*.
- 1989 New England Apple Growers Association
 Promotional film; *New England McIntosh Apples* (16mm).
 Producer/Writer/Director/Cinematographer.
- 1988 *Closing Circle* - twenty-minute narrative film (16mm).
 Producer/Writer/Director/Cinematographer.
- 1987 *Street Dreams* - seven-minute narrative film (16mm).
 Producer/Writer/Director/Cinematographer.

Cinematography/Videography

- 2003 Shot feature-length documentary *Jazz Dreams* (1998-2003: Digital Beta, Beta SP, DV)
- 2002 Boston University School of Medicine,
 Shot and edited two 30-second spots.
- 2000 Vermont Department of Agriculture,
 Directed, shot and edited two 30-second spots.
- 1992 *Trespasses*: Thirty-minute narrative film shot on location in Boston and Maine.
 Cinematographer/Script Consultant.
- 1989 Stickley Furniture, Manlius, NY.
 Videographer/lighting director for promotional Betacam video.
- 1989 Weston Woods Studios, Weston, CT.
 Shot and directed Betacam footage for documentary on Russian and American children's book authors.
- 1989 Jim Henson Productions, New York, NY.
 Subcontracted to shoot 16mm film footage for a documentary on the international political theater group, the *Bread and Puppet Theater*.
- 1988 Twentieth Century Fox Television: *Tracy Ullman Show*: Los Angeles, CA.
 Shot exterior film footage.

Publications

- 2002 Book publication: *A Cross Cultural Study of Family Photographs in India, China, Japan and the United States*. The Edwin Mellen Press: New York, Ontario, United Kingdom.
- 2001 Visual Anthropology, Vol. 14, pp. 49-64. *Inside vs. Outside Meaning in Family Photographs*.
 This article explores how photographs convey different meaning to people inside and outside the family unit.
- 1999-present Contributing writer for TV Technology and the NAB Daily News: specializing in the application of new technologies to video, film, and television production and new modes of media distribution.
- Winter 1986 Vermont Life Magazine
 Author of *The Acid Test*, a feature article on scientists who study acid rain.
- 1985-86 Times Argus and Sunday Rutland Herald, Rutland, VT.
 Staff Writer; daily news and Sunday feature articles.
- 1985 Conservation Quarterly
 Magazine of the Vermont Conservation Department. Researched and wrote inaugural issue composed of four feature-length articles.

Audio

- 1985 Recording Engineer: Operated multi-track recording studio. Produced and engineered live and studio recordings for acoustic and jazz groups.
Musician/Composer: Recorded two record albums of original music:
- 1984 *Seasons of Change*; music for guitars, violin, piano, mandolin, and cello.
- 1980 *A Year on the Mountain*; music inspired by the wilderness of Mount Rainier.
Editor/Sound Designer: *The Spirit of Hiroshima, Closing Circle, New England McIntosh Apples, Street Dreams*.
Composer: Wrote film score for *Closing Circle*, and *New England McIntosh Apples*.

Grants and Awards

- Classic Telly Award: *The Spirit of Hiroshima* (Documentary category). 1999.
- New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation: Grant for production of *Jazz Dreams*, a documentary about emerging jazz musicians in New Orleans. 1999.
- Louisiana Division of the Arts: Artist Grant for exploring new approaches to documentary. 1999.
- Accolade Competition, Award of Excellence: *Jazz Dreams*. 2004
- 25th Annual Telly Award: *Jazz Dreams*. 2004
- 1999 Summer Research Grant: University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
- New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation: Grant for production of sequel to *Jazz Dreams*. 2007
- Telly Award: *Jazz Dreams II*. 2012

Teaching Experience

- 2000-present Boston University, Boston, MA. Associate Professor, Department of Film and Television.
- 1997-2000 University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA. Assistant Professor, Department of Communication. Specializing in documentary, film and television production, script writing, and photojournalism.
- 1995-97 Syracuse University, Newhouse School of Public Communications. Adjunct faculty member. Taught *Documentary History, Research and Design* and *Intermediate Single-camera Production*.
- 1990-92 Taught courses in beginning and intermediate film/video production and aesthetics.
- 1991-92 Emerson College, Boston, MA. Adjunct faculty member. Taught courses in film writing and design.
- 1990-91 Newbury College, Boston, MA. Adjunct faculty member. Taught courses in film and television production.
- Summer 1990 Emerson College, Master Shots Workshops - Film/video technical coordinator and instructor.

Other

- 1995 Started *Intercultural Film Associates*, a production organization aiming to develop collaborative film projects with producers from different countries or cultural backgrounds.

Organization Affiliations

Member: University Film and Video Association
International Documentary Association