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# Harken Productions/AS220 Training and short documentary project

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**Harken Productions/ AS220 Training and short documentary project**  
**Rhode Island Training School/ May 2005**

*The Art of Media and Social Change: Providence*

Questioning and analyzing the world's messages and empowering youth to give voice to their concerns and visions for their lives and the world. Additionally, we will be following these youth as they transition back into their communities.

Vision:

The purpose of the HARKEN! Youth Media Program is to nurture and challenge critical thinking, creativity, and leadership skills. In addition we introduce students to a variety of skills, both technical and creative, associated with producing a completed video production.

In addition, we take a "social justice/social science" approach throughout the entire process of the training and production. This means that content for the films will come from the life experiences and perceptions of the students which will provide a relevant arena for our filmmaking and also motivates the students to question, articulate, discuss and produce work that deals with issues relevant to them and the communities they live in.

Many well-known filmmakers started out as documentary filmmakers. Documentary filmmaking forces one to tell socially relevant, meaningful stories in active, action driven, creative ways while also forcing the filmmaker to intimately explore their subject and design the filmmaking style that will best represent the story.

The utmost care will be taken to safeguard the identities of the youth participating in this project by not videotaping or photographing their faces. We would also like to video tape the environments the youth live in as well as halls, exterior of the buildings, and the yards. All efforts will be taken to maximize confidentiality including the blurring of faces where needed. Learning the interview process is one of the most highly valuable parts of documentary production. We would like to be able to interview any interested staff in the making of this short piece as well.

We would like to focus on 4 youth, 2 girls, 2 boys working with them 2X a week while incarcerated.

We would also like to invite any interested directors and staff of RITS to participate in the panel discussions that will accompany our screenings at the end of this project.

Purpose:

The purpose of the *Art of Media and Social Change; Providence* project will be four fold:

1. To empower the undeserved, gang-affiliated and frustrated youth of Providence to master their environment by learning storytelling, drama, and technical skills associated with camera work, interviewing, and editing; documentary filmmaking.
2. To engage the youth of both Broad Street Studios and the Rhode Island Training School in critical analysis of media messages, social issue documentaries, popular culture, research methodology & creative approaches in storytelling and media making (media literacy).
3. To create a short documentary made by the above-mentioned youth and reflective of their perceptions and concerns for their futures and the community they live in.
4. Conduct screening/panel discussions throughout RI & Boston with student directors, subjects, scholars and director of the project engaging in discussions about critical process, stereotyping, impact of media on youth & meaning making, and other topics to be raised by participating scholars, youth and audience.

Process:

Over a 4-week period, "at-risk" youth will learn and be exposed to:

- Screenings of produced documentaries to analyze voice, technique, style and messages put forth.
- Camera function and use
- Camera angles and coverage
- Lighting
- Interview Techniques
- Editing
- Preproduction/Production/Postproduction

Preproduction: Research, planning your shoots, who to interview, getting releases for music to be used, pre-interviews, What makes a good interview?

Production: Shooting your interviews and B-Roll, Interviewing techniques, Logging footage.

Post Production: Digitize footage, edit, finish any additional shooting, and put in music, voice over, text cards.

Questions and Issues project will address:

- Poverty/access
- Media literacy - who has voice and who does not.
- How does a juvenile just exiting the justice system re-enter and begin to find a meaningful relationship with society again?
- What is the most compelling style, music, and shooting to use to best tell socially relevant, meaningful stories in active, action driven, creative ways.
- Building on youth inner-resources.
- Creatively and artistically finding ways to give form to the personal/political.
- Using documentary filmmaking to re-empower and re-orient the lives of youth.

Outcomes:

One 10 - 20 minute film/video documentary produced by the students of BSS220 & RITS.

Public screenings of this documentary with panel and question/answer sessions with the student directors, scholars, RITS staff and director of the project.





## MICHELLE LE BRUN

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### EDUCATION

M.A., School of Arts and Social Sciences, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA 1987  
B.A., Liberal Arts, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY 1982

### FILMOGRAPHY

**HARKEN! Youth Media Program**  
**Producer, Creative Director, Editor** 2003 - 2004

*Produced short documentaries as an outcome of a 16-week training program with the gang-affiliated youth of Soledad Enrichment Action in East Los Angeles. Next Harken Youth Media Program to be delivered at AS220 in Providence, RI* 2005.

**Producer, Director, Writer, Cinematographer, Co-Editor** 2003  
**Westside Children's Center**

*Promotional documentary on Westside Children's Center; an interdisciplinary neighborhood center that provides social services, early childcare and education, foster care, adoption and health care services, proving daily that a thriving future can be guaranteed for vulnerable children.*

**Field Director/Producer** 2002  
**Insightworks,**

*A New York based marketing research and consulting firm. Researched, scheduled and shot events, products, personalities, and "man on the street" interviews for corporate marketing campaigns.*

**Producer, Director, Cinematographer** 2000  
**An Offering**

*Short documentary on Gamelan Sekar Jaya produced for World Festival Of Sacred Music, Los Angeles- spearheaded by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.*

**Producer, Director, Writer, Cinematographer** 1999  
**Death: A Love Story**

*Multiple award winning feature-length personal point-of-view documentary examining our fears, avoidance and denial of death, and the transformation possible when we simply sit and listen to our loved ones as they pass. Nominated for Grand Jury Prize Sundance Film Festival 1999, Winner Best Documentary in 4 other film festivals. Traveled with the film to Medical Ethics and Death and Dying conferences to screen film and lecture.*

**Actor/Publicist** 1995  
**Somebody to Love:** (Dramatic) Directed by Alexandre Rockwell

Staring, Rosie Perez, Harvey Keitel, Steve Busceme  
*Produced National Premiere; Responsible for securing venue, publicity, sponsorship both for premiere and party afterwards, also played supporting role in film.*

- Graduate courses taught on campus: Creative Arts Therapies Dept. 1989 - 1993  
 Dance/Movement Therapy with a Chronic Pain Population  
 Jungian Dance & Drama: *Basics of Jungian psychology and use of movement and drama in Jungian psychotherapy.*  
 Authentic Movement for Mental Health Professionals: *Movement tools for health professionals.*  
 Supervised graduate student internships in Dance/Movement Therapy.
- Soledad Enrichment Action, East Los Angeles, CA** 2002 -2004  
**Coordinator of Media Services and Education**  
*Taught documentary filmmaking and media literacy to gang affiliated youth in East Los Angeles. Produced short documentaries with these youth. Also facilitated team-building and drama games to foster non-violence, cooperation, trust and team work for these "at-risk", youth on probation in LA County.*
- Communications/Creativity Specialist, --Cambridge, MA** 1988-1993  
*Movement and team building consultation to individuals, businesses, clinics and educational institutions. Clients included: Guest Quarters Hotel, Boston University, Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts, NPACE, and Harvard University's Ways to Wellness Center.*
- The Community Music Center, Boston, MA** 1991-1993  
**Movement Therapy Consultant**  
*Delivered individual and group movement therapy to children diagnosed positive for either HIV or AIDS, promoting physical, sensory-motor, emotional, and social development of the child while fostering creativity, problem-solving skills, and spontaneity.*
- Harvard Community Health Plan: Pain Program, Cambridge, MA** 1990-1993  
**Behavioral and Stress Management Consultant**  
*Led weekly movement therapy group for pain patients. Conducted periodic staff development seminars for Pain Program team. Designed and implemented training sessions for physicians, nurses and other health-care professionals in the use of body awareness, body image, and Labananalysis techniques for use with clients with stress-related illnesses*
- Fresh Pond Day Treatment Center, Cambridge, MA** 1988-1991  
**Movement Therapist/Case Manager:**  
*Led weekly movement/drama therapy groups; presented in-services on use of expressive therapies with chronic psychiatric adults; led verbal psychotherapy groups; provided direct service in individual and family therapy. Responsible for treatment planning and acting as a liaison with community agencies; presented ongoing clinical and movement therapy assessment of clients' progress at rounds and case conferences and made necessary recommendations; provided clinical supervision to students.*
- The House of Affirmation, Whitinsville, MA** 1987  
**Movement Therapist:**  
*Led weekly movement therapy workshops to enhance self-awareness, self-expression communication, and body image. Dealt with issues of alcohol and substance abuse, depression, and sexual abuse.*
- Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Boston, MA** 1986-87  
**Creative Arts Therapist**  
*Led an ongoing psychotherapy group with an in-patient chronic pain population. Provided direct service psychotherapy on an individual basis using traditional methods, visualization, and relaxation training. Initiated use of creative arts therapy in both group and individual sessions. Responsible for assessing, evaluating, and treating stress and body image related disorders.*



## **ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

<b>Re-membering Body</b> , Cambridge, MA. & Los Angeles, CA	1990 – 1993
Self designed and taught weekly Authentic Movement out of home studio.	
Also taught at studios throughout Los Angeles focusing the work for writers & artists.	1994 - 1995
<b>Boston University School of Broadcasting and Film</b> , Boston, MA	1992
Improvisation Techniques for Directors.	
<b>Ways to Wellness (Harvard Community Health Plan)</b>	1992
In-service for doctors and nurses on body language and somatization	
<b>Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts</b> , MA	1990
Improvisation for Musicians.	
<b>Interface</b> , Watertown, Ma.	1990
Presented Authentic Movement workshop, "Moving Images"	
<b>Lesley University</b> , Cambridge, MA	1989
Authentic Movement: A Tool for Creative Arts Educators and Therapists	
<b>Jungian Art Therapy Conference</b> , Albuquerque, N.M.	1989
Facilitated 75 Jungian Art Therapists in Authentic Movement experience: "Moving Images".	
<b>Movement/Drama with Children</b> , Cambridge, MA.	1987 – 1989
Creative movement and drama with children in various venues throughout the city.	

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

### Acting:

Milton Katselas/ Jeffery Tambor/ Gloria Gifford/LA  
Judith Weston/ LA  
Jeff Corey/LA  
Playhouse West/Robert Carnegie and Jeff Goldblum/LA  
William Esper Studio/NYC  
Michael Shurtleff/ Boston  
Ted Kazanoff/ Boston

### Directing:

Mel Howard/Boston  
Judith Weston/ LA  
Jim Pasternak/ LA  
Milton Katselas/ LA

Voice: Kristen Linklater/Brent Blair/ Boston

Voice Over: Will Le Bow/ Cambridge

### Movement/Dance/Performance: (very partial list)

Anna Halprin/ San Francisco  
Eiko & Koma/NYC  
Ruth Zaporah/ Somerville, MA  
Ping Chong/ Cambridge, MA  
Paula Josa-Jones/ Cambridge  
Arawana Hayashi/ Cambridge

1985 - 1993

Authentic Movement Certification Training Program, Zoe Avstrie, PhD., ADTR/ N.Y.

1989 – 1990

Contact Improv: Susan Schell, Olivier Besson, Elizabeth Witham, Sarah Hickler, Andrew Harwood, Danny Lepkoff.

### Process Theater (Frieri & Boal)

Brent Blair/ LA  
Norma Bowles/ LA

## **AWARDS/ HONORS/ GRANTS**

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: AS220, Providence, RI; HARKEN! Youth Media Program. Supported by a grant from the Wallace Foundation 2005

### DEATH: A LOVE STORY:

Winner Best Documentary – New York International Independent Film and Video Festival, 2000  
Winner Best Documentary – Big Bear Film Festival, 2000  
Grand Jury Prize Nominee – Sundance Film Festival, 1999  
Winner Best Documentary – Santa Barbara Film Festival, 1999  
Winner Golden Gate Certificate – San Francisco Film Festival, 1999

### **INTERVIEWS/REVIEWS**

Interviewed by John Anderson for his book *Sundancing*, 2000 NYC, Avon Books

Interviewed by Peter Brunette, *Boston Globe*, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1999

#### **DEATH: A LOVE STORY Reviews: (partial list)**

Peter Stack, *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 25, 1999

David Hunter, *Hollywood Reporter*, September 7 – 13, 1999

Glenn Lowell, *VARIETY*, September, 1999

Kevin Thomas, *Los Angeles Times*, September 2, 1999

Thomas White, Cara Mertes, *International Documentary*, April 1999

Renee Graham, *The Boston Globe*, March 19, 1999

Peter Keough, *The Boston Phoenix*, March 19 – 25, 1999

Josef Woodard, *The Independent*, March 4, 1999

Rana Lehr, *The Daily Herald*, January 15, 1999

### **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS/ PRESENTATIONS**

**Keynote Speaker:** *Surviving the Image: Representing Death* - Symposium on death and the moving image presented by the University of South Florida, Tampa. 2004

**Speaker:** National Cancer Association. Los Angeles chapter 2002

**Presenter:** *Spirituality in Health Care* - Medical ethics conference presented by the Association of American Medical Colleges. San Francisco, CA. 2001

**Speaker:** Various film festivals and theatrical screenings of *Death: A Love Story* nationally. 1999, 2000, 2001

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Screen Actors Guild

International Documentary Association – Sit on annual Gala Awards Committee

Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers

### **LANGUAGES**

Conversant in French

Some Spanish

Recommendations and Examples of Work Furnished Upon Request.