

SHEILA CURRAN BERNARD

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EDUCATION

M.F.A. Creative Writing, Goddard College, Plainfield, Vt.
B.S. Communication, *magna cum laude*, Boston University, Boston, Ma.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University at Albany, State University of New York, fall 2008 - present

- Assistant Professor, Department of History
- Associate Director, Documentary Studies Program

Courses: Topics in American History/Theatrical Documentary and the War in Iraq;
Seminar and Practicum in History and Media; Documentary Studies Seminar and Field
Practicum; History and Theory of Documentary Filmmaking; Topics in American
History/History on Film

Community workshop: Intermediate/Advanced Screenwriting

Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, fall 2005

- Anschutz Distinguished Fellow in American Studies / Lecturer in the Council of the Humanities

Westbrook College, Portland, Maine, spring 1995

- Dorothy M. Healy Visiting Professor, American Studies

MEDIA EMPLOYMENT

Independent contractor, senior/executive-level involvement in broadcast/educational media project conception, development, writing and production oversight (clients nationwide), 1991 – present

Former staff member, broadcast/educational media production companies, Boston area.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, and GRANTS (selected)

George Foster Peabody Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism, for *I'll Make Me a World* and *Eyes on the Prize*

National Emmy Award for Excellence in a Craft: Writing (News and Documentary), for *Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More*, episode five of *Eyes on the Prize*

Erik Barnouw Award from the Organization of American Historians, for *America's War on Poverty*, *Eyes on the Prize*, and *I'll Make Me a World: A Century of African-American Arts*

CINE Golden Eagle, for *Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More (Eyes on the Prize)*, *The Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific*, *Out of the Past*, and *School: The Story of American Public Education*

AWARDS, continued

Artist fellowship, MacDowell Colony for the Creative Arts, Peterborough, NH, 1992 and 1995

Artist fellowship, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Sweetbriar, Va., 1994

Filmmaker fellowship, CPB/PBS Producers Academy, 2001

University at Albany FRAP-B award, \$3,000 (2009-2012), for *Global Storytelling* (book in progress)

Grant awards, National Endowment for the Humanities, for projects (broadcast with outreach and education components) on which I served as program and/or proposal writer, including: *45 Words: The Story of the First Amendment*, *Leadbelly*, *Slam Dunk: A Basketball History of the 20th Century*, *I'll Make Me a World*, *This Far By Faith*, *Forgotten Ellis Island*, *Miss America: A Documentary Film*. Developed projects also funded elsewhere, with total (combined) awards of up to \$4 million per project.

ADDITIONAL

Advisory board, Best Practices in Documentary Ethics, American University Center for Social Media, 2007- present, culminating in publication of *Honest Truths: Documentary Filmmakers on Ethical Challenges in Their Work*, by Patricia Aufderheide, Peter Jaszi and Mridu Chandra, September 2009.

Manuscript reviewer, Focal Press/Elsevier, 2004 – present

Proposal reviewer, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2008

Media proposal reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1996, 2003, 2007.

Judge/awards reviewer: New York State History Day, New England Regional Academic Academy Awards, CINE Golden Eagle, duPont-Columbia University Award

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS (selected)

NAB Show/National Association of Broadcasters (invited, April 2010)

RealScreen Summit (invited, February 2010)

Jean Everitt Journalism Lecture Series at Christopher Newport University, October 2009

Wedding and Event Videographers Association, August 2008

Smith College Model United Nations, April 2008

Princeton University, September 2006

Pennsylvania College of Technology, August 2006

Nieman Conference on Narrative Journalism, Harvard University, December 2005

University of Bergen, Norway, December 1994

PUBLICATION: BOOKS

Archival Storytelling: A Filmmaker's Guide to Finding, Using, and Licensing Third-Party Visual and Music, authored with Kenn Rabin (Focal Press/Elsevier, 2008)

Documentary Storytelling (Focal Press, 2003; 2nd edition, 2007; 3rd edition contracted for 2010; Portuguese edition 2008; Chinese edition 2010)

School: The Story of American Public Education, with Sarah Mondale and Sarah Patton (Beacon Press, 2001), companion to the PBS series.

PUBLICATION: ARTICLES, REVIEWS, BOOK EXCERPTS (selected)

- Book review, *Documentary Film: A Very Short Introduction*, by Patricia Aufderheide, in IDA ezine (International Documentary Association), March 2008
- Book review, *New Challenges for Documentary*, by Alan Rosenthal and John Corner (eds.), in *The Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*, October 2007
- Book review, *The Only Woman on Board: The photographs, diaries, letters, and memorabilia of a Maine sea captain and his wife, 1859-1908*, by Julianna Freehand, in *Maine in Print*, Spring 1995
- “So You Want to Work in Documentary,” *Documentary*, Winter 2009
- “Rights laws dysfunctional in media Wild West,” *Current*, January 2009
- “Fair Dealing, Moral Rights and More,” *Shooting People* (blog), November 2008
- “The Ethics of Archival Storytelling,” IDA ezine, October 2008
- “Creative License vs. Creative Arrangement,” *Writer’s Store ezine*, May 2007
- “You Need Somebody There to Document It,” *DoubleTake/Points of Entry*, Spring 2007
- “Watching Eyes on the Prize,” *DoubleTake/Points of Entry*, Fall/Winter 2006
- “Story First,” *studentfilmmakers*, April 2006
- “Eyes on the Rights,” *Documentary*, June 2005
- “Collaborating on Documentaries,” *Writer’s Store ezine*, March 2004
- “Objectivity and Intimacy,” *studentfilmmakers*, October 2006
- “When the Levees Broke” *studentfilmmakers*, August 2006
- “Documentary Storytelling,” *Writer's Store ezine*, July 2004
- “From Idea to Story,” *The Independent*, December 2003
- “Know Narration’s Nuances,” *Writer's Digest*, October 2003

PUBLICATION: MEDIA (selected)

- Arkansas: A Bright Future* (visitor center, 2008), 10-minute documentary and ancillary video material produced by Peace River Studios for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Permanent installation, AGFC visitor center in Little Rock. Writer.
- The Audition* (PBS 2009, also theatrical), 90-minute documentary by Susan Froemke Productions. Consultant.
- Forgotten Ellis Island* (PBS 2009), 60-minute documentary produced by Boston Film/Video Productions. Wrote script and fundraising materials.
- Wired to Win: Surviving the Tour de France* (theatrical, 2005), 40-minute IMAX documentary produced by Partners Health Care System with funding from the National Science Foundation and Ortho-McNeil Neurologics. Script consultant, revised final structure and script for release.
- 45 Words: The Story of the First Amendment* (museum, 2004), 40-minute documentary produced by the Freedom Forum Newseum for permanent installation in the Newseum theater. Writer and senior producer during development.
- Primary Source Investigator: American History, 12e.* (digital textbook, 2004), three short documentaries (*Witchcraft Crisis of 1692; Votes for Women; Daughters of Liberty*) for McGraw-Hill, produced by Historicus, Inc., Durham, NH. Writer.
- This Far By Faith: African-American Spiritual Journeys* (PBS 2003), six-hour prime-time series produced by Blackside, Inc. Developed approach and wrote original program treatments and fundraising materials that attracted more than \$4 million in production funds. Series writer, development.

PUBLICATION: MEDIA (continued)

Miss America: A Documentary Film (PBS *American Experience* 2002), feature-length documentary produced by Orchard Films and Clio, Inc. Wrote script and consulted on fundraising materials that attracted \$700,000 in support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and additional support from *American Experience*; credited as program development.

School: The Story of American Public Education (PBS 2001). Four-hour series produced by Stone Lantern Films and KCET-TV. Writer; also, co-author, companion book.

Hopes on the Horizon (PBS 2001), two-hour special on the rise of pro-democracy movements in six African nations in the 1990s, produced by Blackside, Inc. Writer.

Fear No More: Stop Violence Against Women (Lifetime 2001), special produced by Maysles Films, New York, and hosted by the actress Brooke Shields. Writer.

Lalee's Kin: The Legacy of Cotton (HBO 2001, limited theatrical release), Academy Award-nominated feature documentary by Maysles Films about poverty and education in the Mississippi Delta. Writer, interstitial materials; also wrote promotional materials.

I'll Make Me a World: A Century of African-American Arts (PBS 1999), a six-hour, prime time series produced by Blackside, Inc. Developed approach and wrote original program treatments and fundraising materials that attracted more than \$4 million in production funds; supervised series content and writing and wrote three of the six films. Series writer, also episode writer.

100 Years of Women (Lifetime 1999), special by Maysles Films about six women at or near their 100th year of life. Hosted by the actress Camryn Manheim. Writer.

Life by the Numbers (PBS 1998), seven-part series on mathematics produced by WQED-TV, Pittsburgh. Wrote preliminary treatment for the first hour, *Seeing is Believing*.

Liberty! The American Revolution (PBS 1997), six-hour prime-time series produced by Twin Cities Public Television in association with Middlemarch Films, New York. Consulting writer.

A. Philip Randolph: For Jobs and Freedom (PBS 1996), feature-length documentary produced by Dante Films. Revised final script for broadcast; consulting writer.

America's War On Poverty (PBS 1996), five-hour prime-time series. Co-wrote two films, *Given a Chance* and *In Service to America*, and consulted on a third. Consulting producer, writer.

Out of the Past (PBS 1993), eight-part series on archeology and anthropology, produced by Cambridge Studios, Allston, Ma. With WQED-TV and the Pennsylvania State University. Consulting series producer and producer/director/writer of *Signs and Symbols*.

Eyes on the Prize (PBS 1990), second season of this 14-hour, prime time series. Producer, director, and writer of *Two Societies* and *Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More*. *Ain't Gonna Shuffle* won national Emmys for both writing and editing.

The Ring of Truth (PBS 1988), six-part series on astrophysics produced by Public Broadcasting Associates, featuring MIT Professor Emeritus Philip Morrison. Co-producer of two films, *Mapping* and *Change*.

Media in Progress

Bad Blood: A Cautionary Tale. Hemophilia in the Age of AIDS (PBS and theatrical release planned 2010), feature-length documentary produced by Necessary Films, New York. Consultant, writer.

Inside Story: The Science of HIV/AIDS, feature-length film that combines fictional drama with science-based animation. In development by the Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership with international partners. Film treatment writer, consultant.

DRAMATIC WRITING (selected)

Ibsen in 10 Minutes, 10-minute play, reading at Goddard College

Tuesday Morning, 10-minute play, reading at Goddard College

Skylark. Historical screenplay; finalist, Sundance Filmmakers Lab; finalist, Nantucket Film Festival screenwriting competition; staged reading in New York sponsored by NYWIFT. As a stage play, finalist, New Plays in America Festival, staged reading in Portland, Me., sponsored by Westbrook College in association with Portland Stage Company.

Zero Hour, short play. Public reading, 1999, sponsored by New Georges, New York, NY.

Late Transitional Man, full length play. Semi-finalist, Weissberger Playwriting Award, 1995

Pine, short play. Finalist, Lamia Ink! competition, 1994

The Moons of Jupiter. Finalist, America's Best Television Competition, 1993