

Steven Lawrence

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Summary: Award-winning documentary filmmaker, TV producer and media innovator with extensive experience doing interactive projects. My work has often focused on the idea of connecting cultures, with an emphasis on music and human rights. Key member of launch teams for MTV and Link TV, Television Without Borders. Deep knowledge of TV/media business, including international co-productions, licensing and archival footage. Strong writing, fundraising and strategic planning skills.

Selected Film & TV Projects

Producer, **Married In America 3** (2015-in progress), the third film in a 20-year longitudinal documentary about 9 diverse couples who wed in 2001. Directed by Michael Apted.

Producer/Director, **In Focus: Justice** (2015), a series of 5 videos featuring outstanding photographers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, India and Kenya documenting human rights and sustainable development stories. Produced for the International Development Law Organization to accompany a photo exhibition with the same title. Premiered at UN, Geneva.

Producer/Exec Producer **Sarabah** (2011), a Link TV-Yerosha co-production. One-hour documentary about Senegalese rapper Sister Fa, a childhood victim of female genital mutilation, and her grassroots campaign to end the practice in her homeland. Funded by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art and the Wallace Global Fund. Winner, 2011 Movies That Matter Golden Butterfly Award for best documentary about a human rights defender, and 2012 Cine Golden Eagle award for documentary feature.

Producer, **The Furious Force Of Rhymes** (2010), A co-production of Arte, Les Films d'Ici, Link TV, Smithsonian Channel and YLE. A feature documentary about how Hip-Hop traveled from the Bronx to become the protest music of today in France, Germany, Israel/Palestine and Senegal. Directed by Joshua Atesh Litle. Special Mention Award, 2010 Locarno International Film Festival. Selected for competition at the 2010 Abu Dhabi Film Festival, IDFA 2010 and SXSW 2011.

Producer/Director, **UN Day Concert: A Tribute to Peacekeeping** (2010), Link TV. One-hour special about a concert to celebrate the founding of the UN and the crucial work being done by its peacekeeping units. Features Harry Belafonte, Angelique Kidjo, Lang Lang, Shakti (with John McLaughlin and Zakir Hussain), Aterciopelados and Emmanuel Jal.

Producer, **Rappers, Divas & Virtuosos: New Music From Muslim World** (2010), Link TV. A series about groundbreaking musician/activists from Muslim countries. Features Anusheh, Kayhan Kalhor, Mariem Hassan, and H-Kayne. Funded by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

Producer/Director, **Blueprint for Accountability: Working The Dark Side** (2009), Link TV. A 90-minute special using discussion, dramatic readings and film clips to explore accountability for the torture of detainees by the U.S. in the "war on terror." Features Rachel Maddow, Ron

Suskind, Lt. General Ricardo Sanchez, Vince Warren, Liev Schreiber, John Leguizamo & Julianna Margulies. Event produced by Culture Project and staged by Fisher Stevens.

Producer and Co-Executive Producer, **The Price Of Silence** (2008), Amnesty International. Music video for the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, featuring 16 artists from around the world, shot green screen and effected into the UN General Assembly. Includes Hugh Masekela, Angelique Kidjo, Emmanuel Jal, Natalie Merchant, Laurence Fishburne, Julieta Venegas, Aterciopledos and Stephen Marley. Directed by Joshua Atesh Litle. Music track produced by Andres Levin, #1 on iTunes World Music chart for a month.

Producer/Director, **Music For Human Rights** (2008), Amnesty International and Link TV, 10-part mini-documentary series about musicians from around the world who are using their work to promote human rights. Includes K'naan, Michael Franti, Angelique Kidjo and Lila Downs.

Producer, **Married In America 2** (2007), Hallmark Channel and Faith & Values Media. The second film in a longitudinal look at how marriage is changing in the U.S. Features nine diverse couples married in 2001. Directed by Michael Apted. 2007 IDFA film festival, winner 2007 Cine Golden Eagle Award for feature documentary.

Supervising Producer/Director **Ethics And The World Crisis: A Dialogue With The Dalai Lama** (2004), a Link TV /Tibet House Production. A documentary about a series of dialogues between the Dalai Lama and business, media, environmental and political leaders at NYC's Town Hall. Features Robert Thurman, Katrina vanden Heuvel, Susan Sarandon, Al Sharpton, Amy Goodman, Russell Simmons, Dr. Helen Caldicott and others.

Producer/Director/Writer, **Vis à Vis: Native Tongues** (2003), PBS. American Indian performance artist James Luna and Aboriginal actress/playwright Ningali Lawford meet through a series of digital video links to explore how they each use humor and storytelling to counter the stereotypes of native people. Winner Cine Golden Eagle Award, Best Documentary at 2004 Down Under Film Festival (Australia). Funded by CPB, NAPT, Rockefeller Foundation, Soros Documentary Fund, SBS Australia and The Australian Film Financing Commission.

Co-Creator/ Producer, **Married In America** (2002). A&E. The first film in a 20-year longitudinal study of how marriage is changing in the U.S. Features 9 diverse couples married in 2001. Directed by Michael Apted. Picked by *People* magazine as one of Top 10 TV Shows of 2002.

Producer/Director/Writer, **Vis à Vis: Beyond The Veil** (1998), PBS. An American high school English teacher meets her counterpart in Tehran through a series of digital video links, to explore the differences between their countries. This doc presented the first public dialogue between Americans and Iranians in 20 years. Funded by CPB, Ford and the Soros Doc Fund.

Creator/Producer, **Age 7 In The USSR** (1990), Granada TV (UK)/PBS. The first film in a longitudinal documentary series about children in the former Soviet Union. Based on Michael Apted's 7 *UP* films. Subsequent films have been produced every 7 years.

Producer, **The Long Way Home** (1989). Granada TV/Discovery Channel. The story of Boris Grebenshikov, the legendary underground Soviet rock star, and his bittersweet odyssey to the West and back home again. Directed by Michael Apted. Features Dave Stewart, Annie Lennox

and Chrissie Hynde. Selected for the Sundance Film Festival and as one of the best documentaries of the past 50 years by the International Documentary Association.

Producer/Director, **Tell Tchaikovsky The News: Rock In Russia** (1987), MTV. First in-depth film about the Soviet underground rock scene.

Director/Co-Producer, **Artists United Against Apartheid: The Making of Sun City** (1987), MTV. A documentary about how American and British artists came together to protest apartheid policies in South Africa. Winner IDA Achievement Award.

Producer/Director, one-hour documentaries for MTV (1985-87) on **David Bowie, Paul McCartney, Ray Davies, Sting**, and others,

Management & Staff Jobs

Link TV, Co-Founder and Vice President, Music & Cultural Programming (1999-2010).

- Helped develop and launch the first nationwide TV channel to provide Americans with a global perspective on news, culture & issues.
- Responsible for all original production, program acquisitions, website development and online content in my area.
- Pioneered the broadcasting and digital distribution of World Music in the US by building the world's best international music video library and creating a hosted strand.
- Created *Cinemondo*, the only prime time World Cinema series in US.
- Produced & directed dozens of long and short form programs, series and promos.

Yerosha Productions, Inc., President/Producer (1988 to Present). Established my own company to produce *The Long Way Home*, then used it as a platform to produce the *Vis à Vis* series for PBS. Other Yerosha clients have included Belafonte Enterprises, MTV, Sony Music Video Enterprises, Internews Network, PEN American Center and Amnesty International.

MTV, Launch Producer/Director and Senior Producer/Director, Long Form Programming (1982-87). Hired as part of launch team. Helped train and direct original group of VJs, then went on to produce and direct dozens of programs, documentaries and various series including the hit *Club MTV* dance show, *Addicted To Style*, and *Liner Notes* a half-hour music magazine. Used *Liner Notes* to introduce viewers to new US and global music by producing & directing segments on Ruben Blades, Fela Kuti and Run-DMC.

Education

B.A. from New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study, emphasis on Film, Art History and Psychology.

Post-graduate work, NYU Interactive Telecommunications MFA Program.

Additional Skills

Languages: Basic French and some Russian

Video: Camera operator, sound recordist/mixer, Final Cut Pro 7 & Adobe Premiere Pro editor

Music: Piano, Bass and Guitar.