

# THE PACT

## CREW BIOGRAPHIES

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### **BILL DUKE**—Executive Producer

Bill Duke, also known as an actor, has been acclaimed for his direction of a variety of feature films, including *A Rage in Harlem*, *The Cemetery Club*, *Sister Act 2*, and the crime drama *Hoodlum*, starring Laurence Fishburne. For television, Duke directed the CableAce winner, *The Boy Who Painted Christ Black*, as well as episodes of *New York Undercover*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Cagney & Lacey*, *Miami Vice*, and *Dallas*. He was nominated for an Emmy for his direction of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* on PBS. Other public television projects include *Deacons for Defense* for Showtime and *The Killing Floor* for American Playhouse, and *The Meeting*, nominated for an NAACP Image Award. Bill Duke is now producing and directing independent projects and content for multiple platforms. These projects serve to focus on morality and redemption and emphasize cultural history and family values.

### **ANDREA KALIN**—Producer and Director

Andrea Kalin, the founder and president of Spark Media, is an award-winning filmmaker whose work has earned more than 50 industry awards in the past decade. Employing superior storytelling gifts to promote social change, her films depict lives of courage, perseverance and dignity set against brutal injustices and seemingly insurmountable hardships. Some of her productions, like the recently released *Prince Among Slaves*, dramatize lives that have until now been lost to history, while others address contemporary social issues. Her multimedia firm, officially launched in 1989, truly is a “spark,” as it utilizes visual narratives to increase awareness among cultures and gives audience members a chance to become more engaged in the world in which they live.

Through the 1990s, Kalin completed a number of award-winning documentary shorts that quickly established her as a filmmaker who intertwines compelling stories with important messages. Kalin's feature-length debut, *Partners of the Heart*, aired on PBS's American Experience television series in 2003 and was rebroadcast in 2005. The film, narrated by Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman, captured the Erik Barnouw Award for Best History Documentary in 2004. HBO turned the documentary into an Emmy Award-Winning feature film. Kalin was a key consultant to the project. *Partners of the Heart* tells the segregation-era story of a white surgeon and an African-American lab technician credited with pioneering one of the century's great medical breakthroughs, the advent of modern heart surgery. Kalin's next feature-length film was a moving

and inspirational documentary entitled, *The Pact*, based on the bestselling book of the same title, which recounts the lives of three African American men from inner-city Newark, New Jersey, who vowed to become doctors and against all odds succeeded. Winner of the Best Documentary Award at the Boston International Film Festival, *The Pact* has since aired on public television and continues to be shown around the United States and utilized as a motivational tool for youth. Kalin's recently-released PBS feature, the aforementioned *Prince Among Slaves*, won a World Gold Medal, a CINE, Best Documentary at the 2007 American Black Film Festival, Best Documentary at the 2008 Mid Atlantic Black Film Festival and the Paul Robeson Award.

Most recently, Kalin's comedy debut, *Allah Made Me Funny: Live in Concert* was released theatrically in the Fall of 2008. This summer she completed *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*, a feature-length documentary she directed, produced and wrote for the Smithsonian Networks and is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Nominated for the prestigious WGA Award and narrated by award-winning actor, Patricia Clarkson, *Soul of a People* is the story of the most chaotic and influential cultural experiment in American history. Also released in the Fall of 2009 was *Worlds of Sound: The Ballad of Folkways Records*, which was directed, produced and written by Kalin and narrated by Pete Seeger. *Worlds of Sound* tells how Folkways Founder Moe Asch and a spirited handful of producers launched a record label that turned the music business model on its head, and was the Director's Choice winner in the Black Maria Film Festival.

## **PAULA HEREDIA**—Editor

Paula Heredia is a New York-based editor and director. She won an Emmy Award for her work on the HBO documentary *In Memoriam, NYC 9/11/01*, and the *American Cinema Editors Artistic Achievement Award* for the celebrated Miramax documentary, *Unzipped*. Heredia's documentary *The Couple in the Cage* starring Guillermo Gomez-Peña was selected for the 1994 Lincoln Center's New York Film Festival. She also directed the documentaries *George Plimpton and the Paris Review* and *Ralph Gibson-Photographer and Bookmaker*. Her editorial credits include: *Finding Christa*, winner of the 1992 Sundance Jury Award for best documentary was selected for the New Films/New Directors at the Museum of Modern Art New York; *The American Heroes Series* created by fashion photographer Arthur Elgort; *Colorado Cowboy*, winner of the cinematography award at the Sundance Film Festival in 1994; *Modulations Cinema for the Ear*, a Sundance Film Festival premier; and *I Remember Me*, winner at the 2000 Hamptons Film Festival; and for HBO, *Life After Life*, *The Vagina Monologues*, and *The Best of America Undercover*. Heredia teaches workshops on filmmaking throughout the Americas and serves on the board of directors of New York Women in Film and Television. In 2004, Heredia launched *Cinema Digital*, a program that educates emerging filmmakers in Central America on the aesthetics and technology of making films with digital video.

## **BRYAN SARKINEN**—Director of Photography

Bryan Sarkinen is a New York-based Director of Photography. In addition to his duties on *The Pact*, Sarkinen was the lead cinematographer on *Too Brief a Child: Voices of Married Adolescents*, a United Nations Population Fund project that took him and producers to Bangladesh, Yemen, and Burkina Faso. A double major in Film and Journalism from New York University, Sarkinen evolved his first television show called “The Final Cut.” The program aired on colleges all over the United States and featured interviews with actors and directors such as Robert Duvall, Dario Argento, Anthony Hopkins and Ed Harris.

## **MARCUS MILLER** - Composer, Original Score

Acclaimed composer and music producer Marcus Miller has been a fixture on the music scene for over twenty years, composing feature film scores for movies as varied as *Breakin All the Rules*, *Head of State*, *Above the Rim*, and *Boomerang*. Miller was also nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction for his work on “Black Sunday.” Very early in his career, Miller became a fixture in the New York jazz clubs at a very young age and gained steady work with several veteran musicians such as David Grusin, Earl Klugh, Chaka Kahn, and one his personal heroes, Miles Davis. Over the years, Miller has also had much success as a music producer and writer, including a long relationship with R&B legend, Luther Vandross, which included the songs, “It’s Over Now” and the Grammy Award winning “The Power of Love.” Miller’s solo work, featuring fusions of R&B, funk, and jazz has been just as well received. Most recently, his M2 album won a Grammy for Best Contemporary Jazz Album.

## **DAVID ISAAC**—Co-composer, Original Score

Veteran music producer and composer David Isaac has partnered with Marcus Miller on numerous projects over the years, including the Grammy-Award winning M2 album and the Grammy-nominated “Marcus Miller’s Tales.” As an associate producer and/or mix consultant, Isaac has worked on *Two Can Play That Game*, *The Great White Hype*, *Ladies Man*, *The Brothers*, and *Deliver Us From Eva*. Isaac is versed in almost every genre, from pop music to hip hop, R&B, gospel, and jazz, and has worked as a programmer and engineer for artists as varied as Eric Clapton, Madonna, R. Kelly, Bette Midler, Luther Vandross, Puff Daddy, The Temptations, Aretha Franklin, and Wayne Shorter. He won Grammy’s for co-producing “David Sanborn’s Inside” and “Wayne Shorter’s Highlife.”

## **ASHLEY CULP**—Executive Music Producer

Music Supervisor Ashley Culp is the Senior Director of Strategic Marketing at the Universal Music Group of Vivendi Universal. During his time at Universal, Culp helped to create strategic marketing plans for internationally acclaimed artists such as Lionel Richie, Stevie Wonder, Elton John, B.B. King, Rob Zombie, Donna Summer, and Prince. His work on the Motown Brand at Universal included cross-promotional specials with major networks such as ABC, NBC, and USA, and a vast

brand licensing strategy that extended the brand into a vast number of consumer products and platforms. Culp's work with Motown also led to the creation of Motown's Webby-nominated website. Ashley is also a veteran songwriter, pianist, and composer, having created scores for "The District" on CBS and the feature, *Thirteen Moons*, starring Steve Buscemi and Jennifer Beals.

## **DONDI BASTONE**—Music Supervisor

Having first cut his teeth on Barry Sonnenfeld's *Get Shorty* over a decade ago, Bastone has since supervised music for more than thirty film and television projects, including *Sideways* and *Election* for director Alexander Payne, Ed Harris' decade-long labor of love and directorial debut, *Pollack*, writer-director-star Matt Dillon's *City of Ghosts* and *The Human Stain* for Oscar winning writer/director Robert Benton. His other credits include the films *Home Fries*, *The Big Empty*, *The Crew*, *No Vacancy*, *The Sex Monster*, *Pornucopia* for HBO, and the Emmy-winning documentary series *American High* and its follow-up *Freshman Diaries*.

## **SILVIA R. HOLMES**—Producer

Silvia Holmes is an experienced field producer with over twenty years' experience in radio and television. After graduating from Howard University, Silvia went on to work with Spark Media on *Partners of the Heart*. As an independent producer, she has worked on award-winning productions with PBS, Discovery, and Discovery Health. She is also a member of the non-denomination Family Life Christian Church, where she has been a staple of the choir for several years.

## **KAYLYN DINES**—Field Producer

Born in Newark, New Jersey, Kaylyn Kendall Dines joined the Spark team as field producer and coordinator for *The Pact*. Currently a publicist at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), she has written articles that have been published in local and national publications including: *The Courier News*, a Gannett Newspaper in Bridgewater, N.J.; *The New York Amsterdam News*; *Black Enterprise* magazine; and *VIBE* magazine. In 2000, Kaylyn completed two fellowship programs: Leadership Newark, Inc., a two-year fellowship designed for civic-minded professionals; and Project Leadership, a personal and professional development fellowship that was launched by the United Way of Essex and West Hudson Counties, in Newark.

## **LLOYD "RAKI" JONES**—Consulting Producer

Raki Jones is an award-winning, seasoned producer and writer who has collaborated on several film and outreach projects with Spark Media. Jones was a consulting producer on *The Pact* and was co-producer and co-writer for *Prince Among Slaves*, which won numerous industry and film festival accolades. Prior to his recent work with Spark Media, Jones wrote the Emmy-nominated *The Colored Cyclone* in 1995 and has won numerous awards for other multimedia projects. He

is currently a professor and lecturer at University of the District of Columbia and Howard University.

## **DENISE COUTURE—Consulting Producer**

Denise Couture has been a creative consultant at Spark Media for several years and worked as development director for *Partners of the Heart*. Also an independent producer, Denise is co-producing *Invisible: Abbott Thayer and the Art of Camouflage* with Pamela Peabody for PBS. After earning a master's degree from Columbia University's journalism school, Denise worked as a reporter for 15 years, covering Wall Street and international business before trading the world of print journalism for documentaries. In addition to her film work, Denise spends her time teaching feature writing at The Writer's Center in Bethesda, Maryland.