WALLY COBERG - Executive Producer & Director

BIO

Wally Coberg is an award-winning designer and filmmaker. On stage his work has been seen in theatres nationwide, including Center Stage, Louisville Ballet, New York City Opera, as well as at the Virginia, Baltimore and Boston Operas. On the road audiences saw his sets for "Dial 'M' For Murder" starring Roddy McDowall, and on ice as part of Walt Disney's "Aladdin" and "Beauty and the Beast". He has designed three productions in Las Vegas while in the area of theme design he has created environments for Busch Gardens Tampa and Williamsburg, Walt Disney World and Universal Studios Hollywood. He was the Assistant Designer to the Vienna State Opera and Salzburg Festival, as well as Resident Designer of The
Opera Company of Boston. His knowledge of Christmas has been on display in retail centers around the world, as well as in the New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Mexico City productions of the "Radio City Christmas Spectacular" starring the world famous Rockettes. As a filmmaker, his award-winning dramatic short, "Incident", was seen on PBS and at the Kennedy Center, while his screenplay, "Death Masque", was optioned by Martin Scorsese. As an educator he has taught at Towson University, the Maryland Institute College of Art and Johns Hopkins University. He is currently developing two documentaries, "The Mystery of Edgar Allan Poe" for PBS, and "Popcorn Palaces," which will explore the rise, fall and rebirth of America's historic movie palaces. Joining me on the “Popcorn Palaces” production team are Bruce Michael, Boyd Estus, Josh Waletzky, and Rick Traum.

BRUCE MICHAEL, Co-Executive Producer

BIO

BRUCE MICHAEL has been an aficionado of movie palaces since childhood. After his first visit to Radio City Music Hall at age seven, he was determined to become a producer at the Music Hall. In 1989 Bruce Michael’s dream became reality. For 15 years, Bruce was the Vice President/Creative Producer of the Radio City Rockettes, responsible for the creative development of the world famous precision dance company. He conceived and co-created The Great Radio City Spectacular which played in 70 locations throughout the United States and subsequently ran for five years at the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas. Prior to joining Radio City Entertainment, Bruce produced and arranged national tours for an eclectic roster of attractions including the first national tours of Nunsense, The Chippendales, The Houston Ballet, The Ohio Ballet, Tyntypes, The Pirates of Penzance, The Madwoman of Central Park West starring Phyllis Newman and Jerry’s Girls starring Joanne Worley and subsequently Carol Channing. He also co-produced the musical version of the film, Arthur. Adapted for the stage by Friends
creators, Marta Kauffman and David Crane with music by Michael Skloff, Arthur, the Musical premiered at the Goodspeed Opera House.

Bruce is the Co-Chair of the 2011 Fred Astaire and Adele Astaire Awards given to dancers and choreographers for their achievements on the stage and film.

Currently working with Wally Coberg as Co-Executive Producer of "Popcorn Palaces" a film documentary of the rise, fall, and rebirth of America's historic movie theaters. Joining the production team is Rick Traum, Boyd Estus, and Josh Waletzky.

RICK TRAUM, Co-Executive-Producer

BIO

Rick Traum is an Emmy Award-winning Producer and entertainment executive. Rick received his Emmy as Executive Producer for an American Playhouse on PBS and has produced many network television specials and theatrical events during his career. He is also the recipient of a Cine Golden Eagle Award, a Telly Award, and a Cable Ace Award. Rick was Commercial Producer for "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson". Rick has held senior corporate positions including Director of Late Night Programming for NBC where he was executive in charge of "Saturday Night Live". Rick was also Senior Vice President of Finance & Production for Radio City Music Hall Entertainment & Radio City Music Hall Productions, was CFO for Radio City Music Hall, and has been a consultant to Walt Disney World Entertainment serving as the Park Producer for Disney's Animal Kingdom. Recently, Rick served as a Producer on the award-winning feature film "The Touch". Rick is a graduate of New York University.
JOSH WALETZKY (Producer/Editor) is an award-winning documentary filmmaker from New York City. He has worked as a director, writer and editor on numerous documentary films about cultural and social themes, beginning as sound editor on Academy Award-winning Harlan County, U.S.A. He directed and edited such films as Image Before My Eyes, Partisans of Vilna, Academy Award-nominated Music for the Movies: Bernard Herrmann, Dashiell Hammett: Detective Writer, and Sacred Stage: The Mariinsky Theater.

His editing credits include Emmy Award-winning Itzhak Perlman: In the Fiddler’s House, Peabody Award-winning Revolution!, A.C.E., Eddie Award-nominated The Endurance: Shackleton’s Legendary Antarctic Expedition, Emmy Award-winning She Says: Women In News, and Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today - The Schulberg/Waletzky Restoration.

Waletzky is a graduate of Harvard College and NYU Film School, where he studied acting and directing. He was a script and music consultant to Barbra Streisand on her production of Yentl, and has worked as a director on script development, including the screenplay for Simple Justice, under a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. Waletzky has also been a lifelong force in the field of Yiddish music, and co-produced the Grammy-nominated album of Jewish songs of resistance, Partisans of Vilna.
BOYD ESTUS – Producer & Director of Photography

BIO

BOYD ESTUS’ credits include the Academy Award-winning The Flight of the Gossamer Condor and the Academy Award nominee Eight Minutes to Midnight as well as many Emmy-winning television productions. He has made films for many of the celebrated television series on PBS (NOVA, Frontline, The American Experience, Eyes on the Prize), the BBC and other overseas broadcasters, commercial television networks (the long-running Unsolved Mysteries, Discover, Spenser For Hire), the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, the National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution. His recent projects include Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women; Woody Guthrie: I Ain’t Got No Home (American Masters); At Home in Utopia; Typhoid Mary: The Most Dangerous Woman in America (NOVA); Murder at Harvard; The Powder and the Glory (Helena Rubinstein and Elizabeth Arden); Annie Oakley, and Houdini (American Experience).

Currently in production are Mr. Emerson’s Revolution, Becoming Helen Keller, Turmoil and Triumph: The Life of George Shultz and The American Revolution.

In addition to the Academy Awards, Mr. Estus has received numerous awards including the CINE Golden Eagle (Louisa May Alcott, Where the Galaxies Are, Arthur Fiedler—Just Call Me Maestro, Flight of the Gossamer Condor), Melbourne International Film Festival Kino Award (So Many Galaxies...So Little Time), the Peabody Award (NOVA, Tender Places), the Cindy, Emmy, Telly, Hugo, and many others. His work has been screened at international film festivals. (www.heliotropestudios.com)