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Top Female Producers to be Featured at Chapman Film Conference

Producer Buffy Shutt, former co-president of marketing for Universal Pictures, to moderate Chapman film school conference.

Event open to the public in addition to filmmakers and students.

ORANGE, Calif., April 4, 2005 Six top women producers will talk about their creative and career decisions at the Sixth Annual Women in Focus Conference, Saturday, April 9, at the Lawrence and Kristina Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman University.

This year's conference, Producing the Vision, will feature Denise DiNovi (Little Women, Edward Scissorhands, Catwoman, What a Girl Wants), Ilona Herzberg (The Manchurian Candidate, Thirteen Days, The River Wild), Gail Mutrux (Kinsey, Quiz Show, Donnie Brasco), Alexandra Rose (Norma Rae, Overboard, Frankie and Johnny), and Janet Yang (The Joy Luck Club, The People Vs. Larry Flynt, Empire of the Sun). Studio marketing veteran and producer, Buffy Shutt, who oversaw campaigns driving twelve films to open at number one for Universal Pictures, will moderate.

Designed to encourage dialogue between emerging and established women in the film industry, the conference is being sponsored by Orange County philanthropists Nancy Baldwin of and Twyla Reed Martin, both of Laguna Beach.

Given the dominance of men in the film industry, it's critical that we help our young filmmakers meet and talk with women who have made it in the industry. Although there is no one path to success, we believe that both men and women students can learn a great deal from the experiences of our conference guests, says Bob Bassett, dean of the Dodge College.

The conference includes two panels and a networking mixer. For the first panel, Creative Vision (1:00-2:30 p.m.), the producers will screen clips from their films and talk about the creative challenges they face in the industry. A discussion of how they broke into the industry and the career challenges they have faced in an industry dominated by men will be the topic of the second panel, Career Path (2:45-4:15 p.m.). An informal mixer will conclude the conference by 5:30 p.m.

Representatives of Women in Film, a professional organization made up of some of the most prominent women in the industry, will present the Meredith MacRae Scholarship to a Chapman woman student who shows exceptional acting and directing talent. A representative from Eastman Kodak will award a product grant to a Chapman woman student cinematographer.

Although women are playing ever more prominent roles in the film industry, it is imperative that we continue to lift up the achievements of women and support the work of emerging women filmmakers, says Dean Bassett. Women can not only articulate issues of specific importance to

women, but bring a valuable perspective to every story. The world of storytelling simply cannot reflect the human condition if women do not have an equal voice in the film and television arts.

Previous conferences featured women in a variety of positions including cinematographers, screenwriters, editors, and studio executives.

Producing the Vision is free and open to the public but reservations are required. The conference takes place in Argryos Forum 209a, B, and C on the Chapman campus at One University Drive, Orange, Calif. To reserve a seat, contact Julie Gorzik at (714) 997-6515 or gorzik@chapman.edu.

The Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, home to a thousand students, is comprised of the School of Film and Television, offering undergraduate degrees in film and television production, screenwriting, public relations and advertising, film studies and television and broadcast journalism; the Conservatory of Motion Pictures, offering graduate degrees in film production, film and television producing, screenwriting, and film studies; and the Institute for the Study of Media and the Public Interest. Construction is currently underway on Marion Knott Studios, the new \$40-million, 76,000-square-foot home of the Dodge College, slated to open in 2006.