

CULTURE PROJECT

Key Personnel For *BREAKING THE SILENCE: BEATING THE DRUM*

Executive Producer - Allan Buchman is the Founder and Artistic Director of Culture Project, dedicated to addressing critical human rights issues by creating and supporting artistic work that amplifies marginalized voices. By fostering innovative collaboration between human rights organizations and artists, Culture Project aims to inspire and impact public dialogue and policy, encouraging democratic participation in the most urgent matters of our time.

Culture Project was first propelled into national prominence by its acclaimed production of *The Exonerated* that focused attention on six exonerees, wrongfully imprisoned, some for decades, and then released without recognition of wrongdoing or compensation. The Exonerated was made into a movie by Court TV with Brian Dennehy, Susan Sarandon, Danny Glover and Aidan Quinn.

Artistic Director - Kenny Leon's directorial credits span an incomparable range of work, from classic theatre, to drama, to comedy, to musicals, to musical revues, to film. Leon is Founding Artistic Director of True Colors Theatre Company, which he launched in Atlanta in 2002 in order to further his personal and professional mission of preserving and refreshing the African American classics, while also producing works by and for all Americans.

A familiar face on Broadway, Leon directed the 2004 Broadway revival of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, which featured Sean Combs, Sanaa Lathan, Audra McDonald and Phylicia Rashad; the show garnered two Tony Awards, and for Leon, a nomination for Outstanding Director by Boston's Drama Desk Awards. His production of *A Raisin in the Sun* went on to register the highest-grossing weekly box office sales for a drama in Broadway history. Leon also directed August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* (five Tony nominations) and *Radio Golf* (four Tony nominations). In Fall 2006, Leon directed the Emmy-nominated film *A Raisin in the Sun*, featuring the Broadway cast. Leon's Raisin was the first broadcast film ever to be picked up by the Sundance Film Festival and premiered there in 2008. Leon directed the world premiere of Toni Morrison's opera, *Margaret Garner*, which was produced at Michigan Opera Theatre, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Cincinnati Opera and most recently at Chicago's Roosevelt Auditorium Theater. Leon also served as Artistic Director of the 10-play *August Wilson Century Cycle* at the Kennedy Center in March 2008, which became the first time all ten plays were produced in repertory under one roof. He also served as Stage Director for Alicia Keys' *As I Am Worldwide Tour*. In April 2008 at the Superdome in New Orleans Leon worked with female survivors of hurricane Katrina and debuted a new work in collaboration with Eve Ensler and V-Day entitled *Swimming Upstream*. *Swimming Upstream* was also chosen as the opening piece for the 2008-2009 Season at True Colors Theatre Company. In the summer of 2008 Leon served as Director for *Flashdance: The Musical*, which opened in July 2008 and is currently touring the UK. Leon will direct the stage adaptation of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* for Broadway.

Music Director - Nile Rogers has one of the most enduring and prolific careers in music today. His signature is scrawled across an amazing array of music—from Madonna to Diana Ross, from David Bowie to Eric Clapton. At the age of 19, he worked for *Sesame Street* and performed nightly at the renowned Apollo Theatre in Harlem with luminaries such as Aretha Franklin and Ben E. King. In 1977, he and Bernard Edwards formed the band CHIC and released their first album, which included the No. 1 hit "Le Freak." In 1979, Rodgers and Edwards produced and composed the albums "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge and "Diana" by Diana Ross. In 1996, he was selected among his peers as Billboard magazine's Top Producer in the World. He has also been awarded Grammys for Best Rock Instrumental, Best Contemporary Blues Recording and Best Rock Instrumental Performance. The National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), of which Rodgers has served as both Governor and Trustee,

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has given him both its Lifetime Achievement Award, and the New York Chapter's Heroes Award, honoring individuals whose creative talents and accomplishments cross all musical boundaries.

After the events of September 11th, Rodgers created the We Are Family Project, A Celebration of Our Common Humanity, which began with a re-recording of "We Are Family" with over 200 celebrities and an accompanying music video directed by Spike Lee; a documentary entitled *The Making and Meaning of We Are Family*, which debuted at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival; and a National We Are Family Day spearheaded for passage in Congress by former Senator Robert Dole and Senator Orrin Hatch. The We Are Family Foundation was established in July 2002 to promote tolerance and multiculturalism education and to support victims of intolerance.

Music Production - Ray Chew is a world renowned musician, composer and producer. Chew is Musical Director for 3 network television series – NBC's *The Singing Bee*, *Showtime At the Apollo* and BET's *Sunday Best*. He is responsible for the music in Donald Trump's *Miss USA*, *Miss Universe* and *Miss Teen USA* pageants. Chew's most recent turn at musical director for BET's ground breaking event – *The BET Honors* – features a piano duet with Stevie Wonder, in addition to signature performances by Gladys Knight, Brian McKnight, Jill Scott and John Legend.

Ray Chew has been at the helm of award winning musical events – live and televised – performing with countless legendary artists such as Barry Manilow, Sting, James Taylor, the 4-Tops, Dionne Warwick, Elvis Costello, Smokey Robinson, Pastor Shirley Caesar, Kirk Franklin, Mary J. Blige, Aretha Franklin and Quincy Jones. Chew also performed with Grammy Award winner, Rihanna, in six countries as pianist and conductor on her hit "Unfaithful" at various award shows and international mainstays Top of the Pops and Hit Machine. Chew's most grand orchestrating work to date was for "The Diary of Alicia Keys" farewell tour performance at L.A.'s Hollywood Bowl where he conducted a 63-piece orchestra for a special DVD presentation, released in 2008.

Chew's recording career spans from legendary artists, Diana Ross and Donny Hathaway through Alicia Keys's three Grammy award-winning albums. He has orchestrated for and appeared on many television specials including the *44th*, *46th* and *47th Annual Grammy Awards*, *VH-1's Save the Music Concert*, *MTV Unplugged*, *Nobel Peace Prize Concert* and the *World Music Awards*.

Television Director - Mitch Goldman has produced literally thousands of live events, television shows, radio programs and digital broadcasts—both inside and outside the pop mainstream—during the last 25 years. Since January of 2003 Goldman has been a freelance TV producer and director of photography. He has contributed to television programs like *The CBS Thanksgiving Day Parade*, *The Tony Awards* and PBS' *Great Performances* as well as Dewey Redman's *Musics Musics Musics* and Carnegie Hall's *Concert for Peace*.

In 1994 Goldman organized Verve Records 50th Anniversary event, *Carnegie Hall Salutes the Jazz Masters*. That concert was shot in HDTV for NHK-Japan; it was seen in 46 countries and received an Emmy nomination in the U.S. for the broadcast on PBS' *Great Performances*. This began Goldman's career in television, leading to work on dozens of other shows including the series *Sessions At West 54th* for PBS, *Live By Request* for A&E, *Superbowl XXXIII Halftime Show*, *Bruce Springsteen: Top Of The Pops* for Disney and BBC, *The Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony* and *Woodstock 94*. From May of 1999 to November of 2002 Goldman was Chief Content Officer for KnitMedia. The company is best known for owning the Knitting Factory clubs in New York and Hollywood. He produced and directed hundreds of online webcasts, 3 seasons of the TV series *Live From The Knitting Factory* and 3 years of the distance learning program *JazzSchool*; he directed programs with artists ranging from Lou Reed to Ornette Coleman, from Mos Def to Philip Glass. He is a graduate of Columbia University.

Television Producer - Allen Newman began his career in 1981 as a founding member of MTV: Music Television. In 1987 he left MTV and created Stage Presence Incorporated where he line-produced several renowned music events such as Michael Jackson's *Dangerous* special live from Bucharest, Romania and Bob Dylan's *30th Anniversary* special for PBS. During the years that followed, Newman produced television programs and film projects for artists such as The Who, Bruce Springsteen, Pink Floyd and The Grateful Dead, to name a few. He also

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line produced the world's first interactive movie for Sony's INTERFILM *I'm Your Man*. In the recent past, Newman was Vice President/Head of Production for the Metropolitan Entertainment Group in New York where he produced dozens of multi-camera and high-definition productions including, *The Lullaby of Broadway: Opening Night on 42nd Street* for PBS, *Woodstock '94* and *Woodstock '99* for Fox Television.

During 2008 Newman Newman developed and produced a variety of entertainment based programs and events including; *Divas with Heart* a benefit concert for the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory featuring Diana Ross, Gladys Knight, Patti LaBelle & Chaka Khan – hosted by Bernie Williams at Radio City Music Hall and three shows for PBS. Newman, with his partner Jeff Rowland/Two Hands Entertainment begin production on *The Making of Spider-Man - The Musical* for PBS, BBC & NHK, as well as the development of two touring shows: *Star Trek & Sports Immortals*, for Premier Exhibitions.

Production Manager - David Stallbaumer is the owner of Event Resources, Inc, a production company that specializes in developing unique, large-scale events worldwide. Stallbaumer's extensive career chronicles over 20 years of music and event industry experience. He has worked on concerts, on tours and in television with artists as diverse as The Rolling Stones, Peter Gabriel, U2 and the Pope. Stallbaumer has produced innovative events for Event Resources' clients ranging from American Express and General Motors to the Robin Hood Foundation and Crossroads Foundation.

Public Relations Partner - OUI 2 is a boutique publicity company offering PR, creative marketing and event planning services to corporate and individual clients in the non-profit, music, film/DVD, travel/hospitality and retail industries. OUI 2 PR founder, Rob Goldstone is a former journalist, publicist and international marketing director, whose previous clients include Michael Jackson, BB King, HMV Record Stores, Richard Branson, The Hard Rock Cafe and Oscar-winning lyricist Tim Rice. HMV Group (part of EMI Records Group) hired Goldstone to head up its international marketing department where he oversaw the international marketing for the world's largest music retail corporation, from the U.S. and Canada, to the U.K., Ireland, Germany, Japan, and Australia. His work led to close working relationships with artists, managers, and record labels across the globe. As part of a national and international network, OUI 2's Manhattan offices are linked to associate companies in Los Angeles, London and Sydney. With an intimate knowledge of Europe and Asia, OUI 2 offers clients a unique worldwide perspective on public relations and creative marketing.

Talent Liason - Joseph D'Anna was the long time manager of jazz fusion legend John McLaughlin and renowned Indian violinist L. Shankar. He was also the executive producer of McLaughlin's fusion albums including Shakti's first three ground-breaking albums.

Stage Manager - Jayashri Wyatt recently acted as production manager for the high-level 2008 MDG Malaria Summit at the United Nations Plaza Hotel as a side event to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Summit. She co-wrote the summary report of the event for publication. She also stage manages the *Songs of the Soul* concerts in America, Europe and Asia whose musical guests have included grammy award winning singer songwriter Roberta Flack, renewed composer and pianist Philip Glass and Russian music legend Boris Grebenshikov. Currently she is the stage manager and project manager for Culture Project.

Outreach/Event Videographer - Lauren Saffa is an independent producer/filmmaker based in New York City who shoots, edits, and directs videos that range from short-form documentary to conventional promos for a range of media outlets including Current TV, Lonely Planet TV, TripFilms, and TurnHere. Saffa previously worked with the Culture Project for several years, and was proud to be part of such productions as *The Exonerated* and Sarah Jones' *Bridge & Tunnel*. Also for the Culture Project, Saffa curated a prominent annual women's art festival, *Women Center Stage*. Saffa is thrilled to be working the Culture Project again on this momentous event at the UN.