

Metropole • Crew Biographies

Stephanie Skourtes (Co-Director and Producer) -- Stephanie Skourtes is a self-taught independent filmmaker and educator. With an established academic background in sociology she moved into media production in 2000 with the desire to create aesthetically Conscious films and videos infused with a sociological understanding of everyday phenomena. Stephanie completed her first feature documentary project in 2003 that she wrote, directed, and produced titled, *Growing Up a Mother*. It follows the lives of three teenage mothers and their babies. A community outreach campaign accompanied this film resulting in numerous screenings around the country and wide distribution in educational markets nationally and internationally. Stephanie currently resides in Vancouver, BC where she is organizing and directing a long-term visual ethnography of urban, adolescent female subcultures with a focus on the cultural politics of urban spaces.

Brian Ganter (Co-Director and Writer) -- Brian Ganter is a film-maker, cultural critic and teacher whose areas of research include Marxist social and cultural theory. He has published and spoken on the politics of representation in film and new media in a number of international journals, invited forums, and conferences. His work centers on matters of social justice and radical political praxis in the arenas of class, race, and gender especially in the wake of globalization and the new 'global' U.S.-led imperialism. Brian has studied media theory and film production at various universities in New York and he is currently a Ph.D candidate in English at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Roy Wilson (Cinematographer) -- Roy Wilson has enjoyed a prolific and varied career in television & film production. In New York City, he was a founding member, director and producer for Paper Tiger TV and Deep Dish TV, contributing to various installations including the Whitney Museum. He has worked as a gaffer on productions for HBO, PBS, 60 Minutes, BBC, and various national commercials and industrial productions. Roy has taught film production and screen writing at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Rutgers, and the School of Visual Arts. He has an ongoing commitment to media as art and activism, and has taught film and video production and dramatic writing at numerous media arts centers, including 911 Media Arts Center in Seattle; Frederick Douglass Arts Center, Downtown Community Television (DCTV), Educational Video Center (EVC) in New York City. He now concentrates on cinematography for documentary and fiction productions. He most recently shot and edited the documentary, "Busting Out" which premiered at the Seattle International Film Festival. Roy has a BFA in film and an MFA in Dramatic Writing, both from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Michelle M. Witten (Editor) -- Michelle Witten studied Film Production at Ithaca College, where she edited exclusively on a Steenbeck, and bemoaned the inevitable digital revolution. After graduating, she spent time working at The Post Factory, a post house in New York City. When NYC became too claustrophobic, she decided to spend some time traveling the U.S. and had a number of varied experiences including sleeping in a cave in Yosemite, and traveling by bike across several states. She is a recent transplant to Seattle, and has finally learned to love digital editing. Besides collaborating with The Film Company, she also works as an editor for other local filmmakers, and skates as a Rat City Rollergirl. Her film credits include Co-Editor for *We Go Way Back* (2006, Winner Best Feature 2006 Slamdance, dir. Lynn Shelton, Co-Editor); Editor for *Empowering* 2006 (2006, narrative feature, dir. Mark Mattson) ; Editor for *Third Day's Child* (2007, short, d. SJ Chiro); Asst. Editor for *The Brand Upon the Brain* (2007 dir. Guy Maddin); Asst. Editor for *Project Kashmir* (2007, feature doc, d. Senain Kheshgi and Geeta

Patel); and Asst. Editor for *The Immaculate Conception of Little Dizzle* (2008, narrative Feature, dir. David Russo).

Tania Kupczak (Production Designer) -- Tania Kupczak has production designed many feature-length and short films in the Seattle area, including Guy Maddin's *Brand Upon the Brain!* (Official Selection, Toronto Film Festival, 2006), and Lynn Shelton's *We Go Way Back* (Winner, Grand Jury Prize, Slamdance 2006). Trained as a visual artist, Tania received her MFA from Vermont College in 2002, with an emphasis on Installation Practices, Cyberfeminism, and Digital Media. In her studio art practice, Tania produces work that incorporates found sounds and images with electronic media into installations involving audience participation and site-specific contents. She was one of Jack Straw's New Media Gallery Artists-in-Residence for 2004, and an Artist Trust GAP grant recipient in 2006. Tania shows her work in New York City, Chicago, Seattle, and cyberspaces in between.

Michael Hebert (Composer) -- Michael Hebert is a composer, arranger and multi-instrumentalist. Since beginning his film music career in 2005, his music has been heard on a wide range of projects, including the locally-produced documentary *Beyond Wartime* and other short films and television commercials. He is a regular contributor to the current MTV hit series *The Hills*. Outside of film music, his jazz compositions have been played by notable Northwest bands, including the Jim Knapp Orchestra. His upcoming release of instrumental lounge/funk tracks has had pre-release play on LA's station KCRW. He's currently scoring the film *The Wedding* for Los Angeles-based director Anup Sugunan.

Phil Thenstedt (Sound Designer) -- Phil Thenstedt is a Sound Designer, Audio Engineer, Sound Mixer and Foley Recordist. He received his formal training in Audio For Film while attending Shoreline Community College in Shoreline, WA. His work in film began in early 2006 when he was Sound Designer and Audio Mixer for *The Policy*, directed by Seattle's Gilbert Martinez. He's been involved on a number of projects for Seattle director Nils Osmar (*Xeros*, *The Edge*, *Death Planet*) including the Sci-fi comedy short *Travius* and TV Pilot *Demea* (currently in post-production).

John Nold (Sound Designer) -- John Nold is an Audio Engineer/Sound Designer based in the Seattle Metropolitan area. His career began as a musician, composing the entire catalog of work for his band *Altese*. He eventually took his passion for sound and applied it to the art of Audio for Film. After graduating with degrees in both Audio Engineering and Midi Music Production, he's worked on a number of indie film projects including the recent productions *Le Vegetable* and *Target Practice* for Seattle Director Gilbert Martinez. He is currently focused on the launch of *Production House Media* (www.productionhousemedia.com/), his new Multimedia and Post-Production Company. *Production House Media* is co-owned with Phil Thenstedt and Gilbert Martinez focusing primarily on full length feature films and corporate media presentations.