



**Education Session No. 466:  
Silverscreen Success: Women Funding, Producing and Directing Films**

April 9, 2014 at 5:45 PM  
San Francisco, CA

Please join us for a special screening of a feature-length female co-directed film which was recently acquired by Sony Pictures Classics at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival. (Run time: 96 minutes)

The screening will be followed by Q&A with Julie Benello, one of the co-founders of Gamechanger Films, the film fund which backed the movie and invests in women directed films, along with co-director Martha Stephens. Come get a behind the scenes look at how movies are made, the financing of motion pictures and film as an alternative investment.

Although drinks and food are not allowed in the screening room, we will have a cash bar available in the reception hall prior to the screening. Because seating is limited to 50 attendees, please RSVP early to ensure a seat.

**Participants**

**Julie Benello**, Gamechanger Films  
**Martha Stephens**, Co-Writer and Co-Director

**Event Details**

**Date:** April 9, 2014

**Time:** 5 PM Registration.

We will begin *promptly* at 5:45 PM; please arrive early. Since it is disruptive to everyone when latecomers enter the session, those arriving after an education session has begun will only be admitted at the discretion of 100WHF and the host. Please note the start time on this invite and plan to arrive early.

**Host:** Dolby Labs

**Location:** Dolby Labs Screening Room  
100 Potrero Avenue, **San Francisco**, CA 94103  
(Please see below for directions.)

**RSVP:** [RSVP Now](#)

If you have any questions about this event, please contact the [California, North](#) committee.

**This event is NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION. All 100WHF events are private events and we require that no one reports publicly on any aspect of them.**

**Admission is free, but there is a \$25 charge if you register and do not attend, even if you cancel in advance. No-show proceeds will be donated to the 2014 beneficiary of 100WHF's US philanthropic initiatives.**

If you have no-show fees in arrears, the system cannot register you for an event. You can view and pay for any outstanding no-show fees online from your [Member Profile](#)

Space is limited. No walk-ins will be permitted.

## **Biographies**

### **Julie Benello**, Co-Founder, Gamechanger Films

Julie Parker Benello co- founded CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES in 2005 with a shared belief that powerful women storytellers can help build and sustain local and global movements for justice, equity, and health. Chicken & Egg Pictures matches strategically timed grants with dynamic mentorship and creative collaboration focused on story, craft, and community engagement. At Chicken & Egg Pictures, the team supported 2012 Academy Award winner Saving Face; 2008 Academy Award winner Freeheld; and Executive Produced 2012 Academy Award nominee The Barber Of Birmingham in addition to supporting Academy nominees -- The Square, The Invisible War, King's Point, and Sun Come Up. Additional recent films of note include After Tiller, Brooklyn Castle, Call me Kuchu, Garbage Dreams, Private Violence, Semper Fi: Always Faithful, Sepideh and Valentine Road.

Ms. Benello is currently one of the co-founders and managing directors of a recently launched equity fund - GAMECHANGER FILMS- whose mandate is to invest in a slate of films by narrative women directors. Gamechanger's first film, by Martha Stephens and Aaron Katz, just premiered at Sundance to rave reviews and worldwide rights were scooped up by Sony Pictures Classics. Julie also served as an Executive Producer of Jill Soloway's Sundance 2013 award winning debut feature film Afternoon Delight and Dee Rees Gotham Award winning, 2012 breakout success Pariah.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Benello co-produced the 2002 Sundance award-winning Emmy nominated, HBO documentary Blue Vinyl. Prior to Blue Vinyl, Ms. Benello was a Production Executive for the distribution company Non Fiction Films and a researcher for Walter Cronkite's production company. She cares passionately about creating access and investment opportunities so that more women are in the director's chair.

### **Martha Stephens**, Co-Writer and Co-Director

Raised in the hills of Appalachian Kentucky, Martha Stephens longed to create films celebrating and investigating her native land and people. A graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts, School of Filmmaking, Ms. Stephens's first feature film, PASSENGER PIGEONS, premiered at the 2010 SXSW Film Festival, and won Chicken and Egg Pictures "We Believe In You" Award.

Ms. Stephens's second feature film, PILGRIM SONG premiered at the 2012 SXSW Film Festival in the Narrative Competition. She won the Best Director Award at the Fantaspoa Film Festival in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and her film was awarded Best Southern Film of 2012 by Oxford American Magazine and Best Southern Film at the 2012 Indie Memphis Film Festival.

Ms. Stephens's latest feature, an Iceland-set buddy comedy which she co-wrote and co-directed with Aaron Katz, premiered at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival to critical praise. The film was acquired by Sony Pictures Classics and is set to be released this summer.

Ms. Stephens is currently developing her latest script, PAPA EASY. The script was selected for IFP's Project Forum and the Sundance Creative Producing Lab, and won the Tribeca Film Institute's Tribeca All-Access Grant.

**Directions**

Go south on any street that crosses Market Street (Embarcadero, Battery-1st, Montgomery-New Montgomery, Stockton-4th, Cyril Magnin-5th, Golden Gate-6th, Hyde-8th). Turn right onto Howard Street. Turn left onto 10th Street. Continue on 10th under freeway overpass and bear right onto Potrero Avenue. Dolby is the large, red, three-story brick building on the corner of Potrero and Alameda.

**About Dolby Labs**

Dolby Laboratories is the global leader in technologies that are essential elements in the best entertainment experiences. Founded in 1965, Dolby is best known for enabling high-quality audio and creating innovations that enrich entertainment at the movies, at home, or on the go.

**About 100 Women in Hedge Funds ([www.100womeninhedgefunds.org](http://www.100womeninhedgefunds.org))**

100 Women in Hedge Funds is a global, practitioner-driven non-profit organization serving over 12,000 alternative investment management investors and professionals through educational, professional leverage and philanthropic initiatives. Formed in 2001, 100 Women in Hedge Funds has hosted over 400 education events globally, connected more than 250 senior women through Peer Advisory Groups and raised over \$33 million for philanthropic causes in the areas of women's health, education and mentoring.