

SUMO EAST AND WEST

BIOS

Ferne Pearlstein – Producer/Director/Cinematographer/Editor

Ferne Pearlstein is a documentary filmmaker based in New York City. A graduate of Stanford's Master's Program in Documentary Film, the International Center of Photography, and the University of Michigan, Pearlstein began her career as a photojournalist in the New York bureaus of the Japanese newspapers the Tokyo/Chunichi Shimbun and Chugoku Shimbun. Since turning to motion pictures, she has been producer, director, cinematographer, and/or editor on more than 25 documentary films, which have won numerous awards and have been screened and broadcast around the world. Pearlstein won the Documentary Cinematography Prize at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival for her work on "Imelda," a feature-length documentary about Imelda Marcos for which she lived and traveled with the former First Lady of the Philippines during her campaign for the presidency. Pearlstein was also DP on "Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House" for HBO (World Premiere, 2002 Berlinale); Jan Krawitz' "Big Enough," a sequel to her award-winning PBS film "Little People" (which premiered at Cinequest and SXSW, 2004); "The Voice of the Prophet" (Sundance, Toronto, Human Rights Watch, 2002); Sam Ball's "Pleasures of Urban Decay" (Sundance, San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, 2000); DP and co-producer on "Taken In: The Lives of America's Foster Children," Vanessa Roth's DuPont-Columbia Award-winning film about foster care in the US; DP and co-producer on "The Minors" (about a minor league baseball team in the American South); and DP and associate producer on "Secret People" (for PBS, about a leprosarium in Louisiana). Her own films, which she directed, produced, edited and/or photographed, include her debut "Raising Nicholas" (Sundance, 1993), "To Meet the Elephant" (about people who re-enact the American Civil War), and "Dita and the Family Business" (co-directed with Josh Taylor, about his grandmother, a Cuban socialite who wed the heir to New York's Bergdorf Goodman department store). Currently Pearlstein is DP on "Dreaming of Kawthoolei," a feature-length documentary about Karen refugees shot in the refugee camps along the Thai-Burmese border and in the rebel camps of the Karen Liberation Army in Burma; "The Vote," a documentary about the 2004 Presidential election by Linda Bryant (director of "Flag Wars") and "Mustafa," a pilot for a TV series on Spike TV.

Robert Edwards – Producer/Editor/Writer

Robert Edwards is a filmmaker based in New York. Formerly an infantry and intelligence officer in the US Army in Europe, the US, and the Persian Gulf, Edwards is a graduate of Stanford's Master's Program in Documentary Film. His film "The Voice of the Prophet," which Pearlstein shot (an interview with Rick Rescorla, a veteran of three wars and head of security for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, who was killed in the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center) was shown at Sundance, Toronto, Human Rights Watch, and numerous other festivals, and on international television around the world. His 1996 film "Paranoia"—inspired by a skydiving accident in which he broke his back—was screened and broadcast on television and at film festivals in more than a dozen countries including Human Rights Watch, Los Angeles Independent, Ann Arbor, and the UN International Film Festival. As an editor, Edwards edited Barry Levinson's feature-length documentary "Yesterday's Tomorrows," which was part of a traveling exhibition of the Smithsonian Institution; and "Abandoned: The Betrayal of America's Immigrants," a PBS documentary about immigration reform which won a DuPont-Columbia Journalism Award and premiered at the 2000 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival. In 2001 Edwards received the Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for his script "Land of the Blind," which he is scheduled to begin filming in January 2005 starring Ralph Fiennes.