



News

Directors Guild-Producer Training Plan



behind the scenes

Keeping Trainees on Track

The DGPTP is committed to helping every trainee graduate from the program and become a successful AD. So if a trainee begins to struggle, the Curriculum and Progress Committee immediately steps in to help.

The committee, co-chaired by Ed Milkovich and Paula (Harris) Case, keeps up to date on how trainees are performing on the job. If problems arise, the committee calls the trainee in for a meeting to help him or her get on the path to success.



"We're there to help. We try to talk with the trainee and give that person strategies and suggestions on how to improve and have better success on the next job," says Paula, who graduated from DGPTP as part of the Class of 1994 and currently works on feature films as a key second AD.

While Paula is new to the committee this year, Ed has been a part of it for several years and believes it is one of the keys to the program's success.

"If trainees are struggling, we don't just abandon them," he explains. "We step in to help so that they can learn from their mistakes. That's the beauty of this program, and it's a big part of our success."

get to know...

Board Chair



Ed Milkovich

Ed Milkovich is no stranger to the DGPTP Board of Trustees. He's been an active board member since 1994, serving on several committees and as board chair in 2007. This year, he's back for another stint as 2009 chair.

What keeps him going? "I love this program," says Ed, a member of the Class of 1976. "It's the only one of its kind, and it's incredibly successful. It helped launch me into a great career, and I'm thankful for the chance to give back."

After years of working as an assistant director, Ed now primarily works as a producer on television series. He's a firm believer that the Training Plan offers the best possible way to become an AD, especially in today's ultra-competitive environment. With production no longer the exclusive domain of Hollywood, and with network television filling more time slots with reality shows, competition for jobs can be fierce.

"The only way to survive is to be at the top of your game all the time, and that's what we help trainees learn how to do," Ed explains. "Not only do we train them, but we give them the opportunity to build a network of people from whom they can later solicit jobs. It's a huge advantage."

The board has always worked to solicit the best possible candidates for the program, and it's continuing that process this year by exploring even more avenues for reaching potential applicants. Another goal: to continue to keep the program in the eye of studios, executives and production managers during challenging economic times.

"We have such an incredible group of dedicated people here, and we're all working to help these young people become great ADs," Ed says. "Each trainee has 24 board members and a program administrator looking out for them to succeed. It feels great to be a part of that."

say hello to...

The Class of 2008 Arrives

The DGPTP welcomed the Class of 2008 in style Oct. 16 with a fabulous dinner hosted by 20th Century Fox Studios in its Commissary Dining Room. It was a great night for our incoming trainees, as they celebrated the start of their DGPTP journey.

Administrator Janet Dyer greeted the group and thanked Jim Sharp, Executive Vice President of Production for 20th Century Fox Television, and David Starke, Senior Vice President of Production for Fox Features, for making the evening possible. Jim and David joined with Kevin Hooks, Executive

Producer for "Prison Break," in sharing their advice for incoming trainees.

Thanks to everyone who made this annual welcome dinner a terrific success. We wish the Class of 2008 all the best!



Tom Joyner, Ed Milkovich, David Starke, Kevin Hooks and Jim Sharp

Class of 2008

Ajoke' Adebisin
Mark Ballou
Christine Danahy
Cindy King
Craig Langus
Sam Luu
Sarah Olivieri
Angie Read
Allison Rushton
Linde Sayles
Redelia Shaw
Stacy Shure
Steven Windle
Mindy Zemrak



The Class of 2008

Visit us at www.trainingplan.org

working together

Saying Thank You

The Board of Trustees of the Directors Guild-Producer Training Plan wishes to thank the studios, writers, producers, directors, production managers, assistant directors, cast members and crew members who worked on the following productions. Our trainees benefited greatly from the knowledge of the business and the individual crafts that were so graciously shared with them.

We are grateful for all your efforts in helping us develop well-rounded future assistant directors. The Class of 2007 is about to embark on its 300-plus-day educational journey, and we look forward to your continued support in the coming years.

- 20th Century Fox Television**
"24"
"Boldly Going Nowhere"
"Dollhouse"
"Glee"
"How I Met Your Mother"
"My Name is Earl"
"Prison Break"
"The Unit"
- ABC Family**
"Greek"
"Perfect 10"
"The Secret Life of the American Teenager"
"Lincoln Heights"
- ABC Studios**
"Ghost Whisperer"
"Private Practice"
"Eli Stone"
"Grey's Anatomy"
"Criminal Minds"
- ABC Television Entertainment Group**
"Flash Forward"
- CBS Paramount Network Television**
"90210"
"Numb3rs"
"The Cleaner"
- Fox Television Studios**
"Saving Grace"
- FX Network**
"Sons of Anarchy"
- HBO**
"Big Love"
- Lions Gate Television**
"Weeds"
- NBC**
"Parks and Recreation"
- NBC Universal Television**
"Heroes"
"Knight Rider"
"The Office"
- NBC Universal Television/
Paramount Pictures**
"Cheap as Dirt"
- Showtime Networks**
"Dexter"
- Sony Pictures Entertainment/
Columbia Pictures**
"Angels & Demons"
- Sony Pictures Television**
"Rules of Engagement"
"The End of Steve"
"Time Heals"
"Eva Adams"
- Steven Bochco Productions/
Turner Network Television**
"Raising the Bar"
- Turner Network Television**
"Men of a Certain Age"
- Universal Pictures**
"Couple's Retreat"
- Universal Pictures/Columbia Pictures**
"Funny People"
- Walt Disney Pictures**
"Alice in Wonderland"
- Warner Bros. Television**
"Chuck"
"ER"
"Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles"
"The Closer"
"The Mentalist"
- Warner Bros. Television/
CBS Paramount Network Television/
Jerry Bruckheimer Television**
"Cold Case"
- Warner Bros. Television/
Jerry Bruckheimer Television**
"Eleventh Hour"

we wish you well

Honoring the Class of 2006

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2006! These 13 men and women have successfully completed 400 days of on-the-job training and from the looks on their faces at their graduation dinner, the hard work was well worth it.

The dinner, held at The Pickwick Gardens in Burbank on Dec. 14, 2008, featured congratulations from Administrator Janet Dyer, as well as then-Board Chair Liz Ryan. "You are the fortunate few and have shown determination and ambition," Liz told the graduates. "On behalf of the Trustees, I congratulate you."

Representing the DGA was Jon Larson, who, along with 2009 Board Chair Ed Milkovich congratulated the group, and Yudi Bennett on behalf of the Bob Jeffords Memorial Fund and Fran Lucci, Vice President of Marketing from Entertainment Partners presented graduates with scheduling software.

Our thanks go out to everyone who attended this evening, with special thanks to sponsor Entertainment Partners. We congratulate all the graduates and look forward to seeing their continued success in the years to come.



Jon Larson, Yudi Bennett, Liz Ryan, Fran Lucci and Ed Milkovich

Class of 2006

Nicole Abranian
Phil DeSanti
Jessica Faires
Alicia Hailey
Kyle Hollingsworth
Stephanie Kinch
Lindsay Moorhead
Jaysene Overton
Lauren Pasternack
Chad Silver
Kathryn Tucker
Anderson Villien (not pictured)
Tamara Wofford (not pictured)



The Class of 2006

where are they now?

Basil Grillo, '95

I always knew I wanted to work in feature films. Growing up, watching movies such as "Raiders of the Lost Ark," "Apocalypse Now" and "Ghostbusters" inspired me to get into this line of work—and my experience as a DGPTP trainee jump-started my career.

I first applied for the Training Plan as a UCLA student, but I didn't get in. After earning my bachelor's degree in economics from UCLA in 1994, I started working as a PA. My first job was as an office PA on a TV movie called "Father and Scout," which I was told was the lowest-rated TV movie on ABC that season. I made \$70 a day.

As a trainee from 1995 to 1997, I worked on such shows as "Diagnosis Murder" (TV series), "Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion" (feature film), "Beverly Hills 90210" (TV series), "Contact" (feature film) and more. The program was fabulous. It provided me with excellent opportunities to learn the art of production and build a network of bosses, co-workers and friends that I maintain to this day.

In the 12 years since my graduation from the program, I've worked mostly on feature films, including "Black Hawk Down," "Seabiscuit," "Charlie Wilson's War" and many more. In 2006, I was given an opportunity to try working as a production manager and have been doing that ever since. Who knew that I would one day be working in the office again—and enjoying every minute.

Completing the Training Plan requires hard work and commitment. For two years, you essentially give up your freedom and focus on your career. Friends often don't understand why you're never around or always tired. But it's a tremendous opportunity to learn production, get your foot in the door and establish a terrific career.

The DGPTP program provides something very rare these days: on-the-job training from people who are actually doing the job. It helped me tremendously, and I'm grateful for that chance I was given.



How to Contact Us

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