

## MEET THE FILMMAKERS

LifeQuest Summer 2019

Wednesdays, 1:15 – 3:15 p.m.

---

### **July 10 *Dream Land: Little Rock's West 9<sup>th</sup> Street***

Little Rock, Arkansas's, West 9th Street was once a vibrant, African-American business and entertainment district. Taborian Hall is the only remaining historic structure on West 9th Street and stands as a living witness of the street's former glory days. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Taborian Hall housed varied and important black businesses, including professional offices, a USO, the Gem Pharmacy and the Dreamland Ballroom. By the 1930s, Dreamland was firmly established as a stop on the "Chitlin Circuit," which showcased regional and national African-American bands and stage shows. It was also host to local musicians, dances, socials, concerts and sporting events.

This documentary seeks to recognize, memorialize and share this history. The spirit and hard work of the people and the implications of federal programs such as Urban Renewal, school desegregation, the Housing Act of 1949 and the Eisenhower Interstate Program are explored. West 9th Street and the Dreamland Ballroom have patiently waited for their story to unfold so new audiences can connect to their historical past and unknown future.

#### **Tanisha Joe-Conway, Producer**

Tanisha Joe-Conway has spent over 20 years working with public affairs television. During this time, she has and continues to develop, produce, and coordinate public affairs programming for the Arkansas Educational Television Network. Her job includes live call-in programming, on-air promotion, taped specials, documentaries, and crew/staff supervision. Joe-Conway is also instrumental in grant writing, budgeting, and other office management activities. The AETN Public Affairs division produces close to 100 hours of yearly programming.

Joe-Conway's work has won numerous awards including a Videographer's Award of Distinction, the Arkansas Press Association Award for Community Service, Worldfest Houston Gold Special Jury Award, the PASS Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, and a National Educational Television Association Best Documentary Award. Joe-Conway has received a regional EMMY for the documentary *Precious Memories: Our Vanishing Rural Churches*. She also has three regional EMMY nominations for *Mothers in Prison*, *Children in Crisis*, *Delta Dreams*, and *U.N.I.T.Y.* documentaries.

Tanisha Joe-Conway credits faith and family as being the anchors of her life. She strives to keep those values and a strong work ethic at the forefront of each decision and action she makes. She currently resides in Conway with her husband, Charnley, and their two children, Taylor and Carson.

---

### **July 17 *Historic Bridges of Arkansas***

Some bridges still standing in Arkansas are nearly as old as the state itself, but each year several of these structures are being lost to the ravages of time and the demands of a modern roadway system. "It is not practical or even possible to save all these historic structures," AETN Executive Producer Carole Adornetto said. "However, Producer Casey Sanders has done the next best thing, she's produced a very special program for our audience so that the stories and importance of these bridges can be archived and placed in the fabric of Arkansas life for generations to come."

In order to preserve these monuments and memories for the future, AETN partnered with the Arkansas Highway Department to produce this film. "Our hope is that this program will heighten the awareness and appreciation of these structures, which most of us take for granted," Adornetto said. "It is a reminder of how bridges have served us through the years in very real ways."

Featured in the program is Hendrix College Assistant Professor of Art Maxine Payne, an artist and photographer who has photographed and chronicled historic bridges in the state for the highway department for the past three years. Payne has been responsible for not only capturing the bridges' unique qualities visually, but also for exploring the connections to the lives of Arkansans. She works in multimedia installation as well traditional photography. Maxine grew up in rural Arkansas, and her work is colored by this experience.

Accompanying Payne's aesthetic impressions of these bridges, Robert Scoggin, historic resources coordinator for the Arkansas Highway Department, offers commentary in the program on the more "hard facts" about the structures, the importance of preservation, locations and the historic significance of the engineering and materials that made them dependable for so many years.

Also included in the program are interviews with individuals with strong connections to and vivid memories of the various bridges. Eloise Wallace, whose father was a country doctor who traded his horse for a car to make his rounds when the Wallace Bridge was completed over the Fourche La Pave, shares her story. A man who survived a frightening incident on the DeValls Bluff Bridge over White River relates his tale, and Mary Ann Messick reads a poem her father wrote to honor the White River Bridge at Cotter.

#### **Casey Sanders, Producer**

Casey Sanders is an Emmy Award-winning producer who joined the Arkansas Educational Television Network in 1989. Sanders has produced programming in education, community affairs, health, arts and culture and original documentaries. Her productions have been distributed locally, regionally and nationally—including the award-winning PBS series *Aging Successfully with Doctor David*, the Emmy nominated documentary, *Historic Bridges of Arkansas*, the nationally distributed Emmy nominated PSA series *Health Raps: A Children's Health Initiative*, the three-time Emmy winning documentary, *Silent Storytellers* and the most recent *History on the Line: Preserving County Courthouses*.

Sanders is the director of AETN's *Student Selects: A Young Filmmakers Showcase*. This program is available to Arkansas students (K-12) with an interest in filmmaking and a creative spirit. Students participate in hands-on workshops, webcasting, on-air broadcast, and scholarship competition. The program encourages all levels of filmmaking ability from the very beginners to the seasoned veterans. She also leads the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival's Emerging Filmmaker Program.

Sanders is the Arts and Culture producer for AETN with projects that include the performance series *AETN Presents* and the online art website *LOUPE: Magnifying the Arts in Arkansas*.

Sanders's body of work extends beyond AETN and most recently partnered with Arkansas Children's Hospital and Litzwire Sound + Vision for a 2-part Public Service Announcement on ATV Safety. This collaboration resulted in several national awards including an Emmy and a Gold Award from the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Healthcare Advertising Awards for the short film *A Trip Unplanned*.

---

#### **July 24 *History on the Line: Preserving County Courthouses***

Historic county courthouses stand as iconic symbols of Arkansas's development as a state, elegant testaments to justice and important sentries to the history of the state. "History on the Line: Preserving County Courthouses" introduces unsung preservationists and architects who travel the state finding ways to rehabilitate a building or, at the very least, fix a leaky roof to save the precious records inside. Also featured are county judges who deal with the financial burden of the historic buildings' maintenance needs. The film visits the pristine, stately and recently restored Desha County courthouse in Arkansas City, shares stories from the record room in Madison County, and follows Mississippi County's political and legal struggle over the viability of maintaining their split judicial district and their two historic county courthouses. The documentary follows their struggles while telling stories of preservation and the importance of the historic county courthouses of Arkansas.

#### **Casey Sanders, Producer**

Casey Sanders is an Emmy Award-winning producer who joined the Arkansas Educational Television Network in 1989. Sanders has produced programming in education, community affairs, health, arts and culture and original

documentaries. Her productions have been distributed locally, regionally and nationally—including the award-winning PBS series *Aging Successfully with Doctor David*, the Emmy nominated documentary, *Historic Bridges of Arkansas*, the nationally distributed Emmy nominated PSA series *Health Raps: A Children's Health Initiative*, the three-time Emmy winning documentary, *Silent Storytellers* and the most recent *History on the Line: Preserving County Courthouses*.

Sanders is the director of AETN's *Student Selects: A Young Filmmakers Showcase*. This program is available to Arkansas students (K-12) with an interest in filmmaking and a creative spirit. Students participate in hands-on workshops, webcasting, on-air broadcast, and scholarship competition. The program encourages all levels of filmmaking ability from the very beginners to the seasoned veterans. She also leads the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival's Emerging Filmmaker Program.

Sanders is the Arts and Culture producer for AETN with projects that include the performance series *AETN Presents* and the online art website *LOUPE: Magnifying the Arts in Arkansas*.

Sanders's body of work extends beyond AETN and most recently partnered with Arkansas Children's Hospital and Litzwire Sound + Vision for a 2-part Public Service Announcement on ATV Safety. This collaboration resulted in several national awards including an Emmy and a Gold Award from the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Healthcare Advertising Awards for the short film *A Trip Unplanned*.

---

### **July 31 *Backroad Barns***

This AETN original production features barns across Arkansas. Travel through rural Arkansas on a visual road trip to classic barns that have long been a part of our culture, barns that reflect what it means to be a farmer, and what a family farm is all about. Featured barns include: the Wiley's Cove barn near Leslie, the Smith barn near Marshall, the white barns of Hargraves Corner, and the Dombek barn and the Johnson barn, both near Fayetteville. "Back Road Barns" is sure to evoke a sense of nostalgia for Arkansas's rich agricultural history.

### **Kevin Clark, Producer**

Blytheville, Arkansas native Kevin Clark's documentary films as a freelance filmmaker focused mainly on Arkansas and its history. His first film, *Died for Zero*, about his father's unsolved murder, was named "Best of" at the Indie Memphis Film Festival and led to the funding of his next three films including *The Old Gray Lady--Arkansas's First Newspaper*. Now a producer with public television, Clark hopes to address social justice issues, inequality and poverty in his future work.