

Beth Harrington is an acclaimed independent producer, director and writer, born in Boston and transplanted to the Pacific Northwest. Her work most often explores American art, history and culture.

Harrington's independent production *Welcome to the Club – The Women of Rockabilly*, a music documentary about the pioneering women of rock and roll, was honored with a 2003 Grammy nomination and has been seen on public television and at film festivals in the U.S. and abroad.

Her 2015 release, *The Winding Stream – The Carters, The Cashes and The Course of Country Music*, another music and performance film, features members of this foundational country music family and includes one of the last interviews with the legendary Johnny Cash. This film premiered at 2014's SXSW Film Festival and went on to appear at over 30 other festivals worldwide, winning numerous awards. It has also screened in theaters across North America and had its digital and DVD launch on Netflix, Amazon, iTunes, Vudu and many other platforms.

[A cult music note: These music films dovetail with Harrington's time as a rock & roll singer and guitarist in several bands, the "best known" being Jonathan Richman & The Modern Lovers.]

Through Boston's flagship PBS station, WGBH, she worked as a line producer and associate producer on various national documentaries, among them programs for NOVA, Frontline and The Health Quarterly, as well as two PBS specials. These shows have received a number of awards, including a Peabody (*Dating in the Age of AIDS*) and two National Emmy nominations (*In the Path of a Killer Volcano*, and *Apollo 13: To The Edge and Back*).

In 2019, Harrington's film *Fort Vancouver* – the story of the Hudson's Bay Company in the Pacific Northwest - won a Northwest Regional Emmy for Best Historical/Cultural Program. In 2021, her segment in the Oregon Art Beat season opener on the celebrated Northwest band, Federale, won a Northwest Emmy in the Arts/Entertainment Long Form Content category. She also produced, directed and wrote *Kam Wah Chung*– the tale of two Chinese men living in Eastern Oregon during the Gold Rush, as well as *Searching for York*, the little known history of an enslaved man who served as a valued member of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. These programs were recognized with two sets of Northwest Emmy nominations – for Best Historical/Cultural Program and for Best Writing. Two other programs - *Beervana*, a look at Oregon beer culture and history, and *Zigzag*, an innovative environmental public affairs show have also received Northwest Emmy nominations as well.

Harrington's steady and productive relationship as an independent filmmaker with Oregon Public Broadcasting includes producing shows for national air - the popular PBS series *History Detectives*, specials like *Digital Television: A Cringely Crash Course*, one of PBS's first High Definition offerings, and *Aleutians: Cradle of the Storms*, a two-part series for PBS and Natural History New Zealand. She has also been a producer/director and/or writer on several distance-learning programs for Annenberg Learning and OPB, including *Bridging World History* and the photography series, *Essential Lens*. Her quirky, autobiographical documentary, *The Blinking Madonna and Other Miracles* aired on public television and screened at numerous film festivals.

Her films have received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Independent Television Service, and numerous arts and humanities organizations on the regional, state, and local levels. These works have screened at scores of festivals around the world including South by Southwest, Lincoln Center, Mill Valley, Hot Springs, Big Sky, Nashville, Atlanta, Cleveland, New Orleans, Galway, London, Kosovo, Lisbon, and many others, garnering multiple Best Documentary awards and other honors.

She is active in various film and arts organizations, having served on the board of the Hollywood Theatre, as well as the Oregon Media Production Association, and City of Vancouver Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission. She is a past President of Women in Film/New England and a former Vice President of Women in Film/Seattle, as well as a member of the Portland

chapters of Women in Film and Film Fatales. She is a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. She has been a media instructor at Washington State University, Lewis & Clark College, Bunker Hill Community College, New England School of Photography, Boston Film/Video Foundation, the Northwest Film Center and the Olympia Film Society, as well as an artist-in-residence at the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics. She holds a bachelor's degree in public communications from Syracuse University and a master's degree in American Studies from University of Massachusetts - Boston.

In 2025 she received a Statewide Humanities Washington Award in the category of Public Humanist. She is also the recipient of Clark County Arts Commission's Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019.

She has recently wrapped work on two feature documentaries.

One, *Our Mr. Matsura*, is the story of how a beloved Japanese immigrant to the American West is still remembered for his unique photography and his ability to build community at a fraught time in the early 1900s and how that legacy is carried forward today.

The other, *Beyond The Duplex Planet*, is the filmic biography of artist David Greenberger and his work with senior citizens that resulted in the culty 'zine, The Duplex Planet. It is a film about the twin arts of conversation and growing old.