# Filmmakers' Bio

www.BongiornoProductions.com

Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno are Emmy-nominated, award winning husband-and-wife filmmakers who formed Bongiorno Productions. They live & work in Newark, NJ.

Marylou, MFA alumna/adjunct faculty of NYU's Graduate Film School, is a producer, director, and screenwriter; Jerome is a DP, editor, animator, and screenwriter. The Bongiornos have created numerous fictional, documentary, art, and experimental films and screenplays with wide distribution exhibited in theaters, on national PBS and in museums. The duo earned numerous global awards, an Emmy nomination, and grants from the Film Society of Lincoln Center, Martin Scorsese, Lew Wasserman, Warner Bros. Pictures, NEA, and NEH.

They created television programs for John Pierson's "Split Screen" which aired on Bravo and IFC, a Special PBS program *WORKING ACTORS* (featuring Matthew Broderick, Edie Falco, Anthony LaPaglia, Audra McDonald) for the Emmy award-winning "City Arts," and *RUBOUT* for Rainbow Media's "Urban Indies."

Their screenplay, LITTLE KINGS, is based on their New York Film Festival Grand Marnier Award winning short, won international writing prizes, and was produced with the $75,000 Richard Vague Film Production Fund Award and major support from SONY. *LITTLE KINGS* made its World Premiere at the Hamptons International Film Festival (Golden Starfish Award nominee), won the Festival Director's Award for Best Feature at The Method Fest in LA, and garnered 4 top awards including Best Feature Film and Best Screenplay at the Palm Beach International Film Festival.

*MOTHER-TONGUE: ITALIAN AMERICAN SONS & MOTHERS,* featuring Martin Scorsese, John Turturro, and Rudy Giuliani, debuted on cable television, was nominated for an Emmy Award, and screened at the Venice Film Festival, Pesaro Film Festival, and numerous venues.

The first film in their 3Rs Trilogy of Urban America is the award winning, critically acclaimed documentary, *REVOLUTION '67*, about civil uprising in Newark, NJ in 1967. Premiering nationally on the PBS series *POV*, STARZ, and currently on PBS's *America ReFramed*, it is distributed by California Newsreel, and is screening internationally. Funded in part by ITVS, POV/American Documentary, CPB, NJ Historical Commission and NEH. It's the basis of a fictional film in development, Executive Produced by Spike Lee, received two national awards for outstanding film of American history and features a curriculum designed by Teachers College, Columbia U.

The second film, *THE RULE*, on urban school reform, was released theatrically to critical acclaim, is broadcast nationally on PBS and foreign public TV, was screened by the White House at the U.S. Department of Education in 2016, led to a CBS "60 Minutes" segment, and has a free companion Curriculum Guide for High Schools.

The third film, RUST, recipient of several grants, is in production and will tackle solutions to inner-city poverty.

WATERMARK, also in development, is a fiction film set against the backdrop of post-Katrina New Orleans and the flooding in Venice, Italy. Featured at Sundance's *Investing in Media That Matters,* Hamptons Writers Conference, IFP Market's *No Borders*, and Tribeca Film Festival/Sloan Summit, it was the centerpiece of a Johnson Foundation Wingspread funded by the Johnson Foundation, Park Foundation, Timberland, and major US environmental groups. A related series of films and photos is exhibited by PBS, fests, and museums.

The Bongiornos were two of "20 artists to watch this century," as chosen by *The Star-Ledger's* arts writers, "2 of 90 Interesting Members of Alpha Sigma Nu," and are featured in *Profiles of Italian Americans: Achieving the Dream and Giving Back*. They have extensive teaching experience, are frequent lecturers on film, and are the recipients of fellowships from NJSCA, MacDowell Colony, Ledig House, and Wildacres. From 2013 to present, they were recognized by: State of NJ, City of Newark, Alpha Sigma Nu, NJ Italian Heritage Commission, and St. Peter's University for their outstanding contributions to cinema and public knowledge.

The Bongiornos' TEDxNJIT talk in 2015: "Reduce Poverty in Inner Cities."

Their *NEW WORK* city symphony films in 3D include: *NEWARK* - commissioned, acquired, and exhibited solo show in 2009-10 and in 2016 by The Newark Museum, installed in a special gallery as the first art film at Newark Airport in '13-14, and selected by NJ Transit for exhibition in Newark Penn Station in 2019-20; *THE BROOKLYN WATERFRONT* presented at the Museum of the City of New York in 2010 and installed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 2018; & NEA funded *SI3D,* commissioned and exhibited by Staten Island Museum for their new space in Snug Harbor '15-17 and targeted for SI Ferry Terminal.

In release are: *THE BLACK MONK*, Chekhov-inspired fiction feature film; *HEARING VOICES* and *COLUMBUS ON TRIAL* historical fiction shorts; *ILLUMINATIONS,* Rimbaud-inspired shorts; *PAINTING RULES* documentary on abstract painter Jerry Carniglia; and *LOVE & ARGUMENTS*, anthology of short fictional films inspired by classic literature. In production: documentaries on eco-sustainable homes, activists, and artists; museum installations; and fiction films based on the 3Rs Trilogy, historical figures, and literature.