

Ron Weiner

Career Summary

Mr. Weiner was the director of the popular "Donahue" program during the eleven years that it originated in Chicago. During his tenure the show grew from 38 to over 200 markets while literally changing the talk show genre in visual style and function into what has become the industry standard. The show garnered eighteen National Emmy Awards, including three to Mr. Weiner himself for "outstanding individual direction." Mr. Weiner was nominated for this award seven consecutive years (1979-85), an overall record for performance awards as yet to be equaled by any other talk show director. Not happy with the state of the current crop of talk programs, Ron has undertaken to light the proverbial candle rather than curse today's darkness by teaching a self-designed course at Columbia College, Chicago. The course syllabus entitled "Producing the Television Talk Show," includes major emphasis on ethical conduct and social responsibility for future talk show producers.

He has directed thousands of television programs during his 40th year career, including documentary, entertainment, dramatic, news sports, special events and children's shows, several of which earned coveted Peabody, San Francisco Film Festival and regional Emmy awards.

Now a freelance director and producer, his corporate/industrial videos have won "Cine Golden Eagle" and New York International Film Festival awards, and the International Television Association has honored his ground-breaking AIDS training video, "Fear of Caring," which he produced and directed for the American Hospital Association.

Sales, training, motivational and corporate/industrial directional assignments have included video projects for: The American Medical Association, The American Bar Association, The American Judicature Society, AMOCO, GATX, Household International, the Illinois Department of Mental Health, IIT, Nightingale-Conant, Price Waterhouse, Sara Lee Corporation, The Segerdahl Corporation, TRW and Upjohn Pharmaceuticals.

He has devoted much of his private life to community service, serving as a school board member and president, and as a member of at least a half-dozen commissions in the communities in which he has lived.

Actively involved, too, in professional organizations, he is a member of the Board of Governors of the Chicago Television Academy and of the Chicago coordinating committee of the Directors Guild of America. He is also a member of the advisory committee of Bailiwick Repertory Theater in Chicago.