

Thea Flaum



In 1976, Thea Flaum created a television show that redefined the way an entire generation learned about the movies. She put two Chicago film critics, Roger Ebert and Gene Siskel, in a movie theatre balcony, and the television world felt a seismic shift. That series, called *Sneak Previews*, ultimately became the most popular half-hour show on PBS.

Thea began her career at WTTW in 1974. From the beginning, there were signs of the versatility that has become her hallmark. In addition to *Sneak Previews*, she produced an award-winning documentary on the criminal courts, followed by a groundbreaking national series on parenting, called *Look at Me*. She was executive producer on the *Soundstage* music series, and did shows with everyone from the Doobie Brothers to Ella Fitzgerald.

In 1984, Thea formed an independent production company based in Chicago. She has continued to produce a volume of work that is amazing in scope. Some milestones: *Love Hurts*, the first--and only--ABC AfterSchool Special drama made in Chicago. Five Les Brown specials for PBS. *Die Fledermaus*, a ballet special that became a PBS New Year's staple. *Cityscapes* and *The Windsor Auction--Treasures of a Royal Romance*, for HGTV. Two animated children's specials for CBS: *The Canterville Ghost* and *Christmas Every Day*. *The AIDS Connection* for Hubbard Broadcasting, *Where's Daddy?* for NBC, and *Punchline, Rocker* and the new *De-Classified* for Tribune Television.

Thea has created two of Home & Garden Television's most successful shows. *At the Auction*, is now in its seventh season on HGTV and *The Appraisal Fair* is now in its fourth year. The two series are broadcast in daytime and prime time a total of 10 hours a week on HGTV.

Thea's work has earned her nine Emmy Awards, 10 international film awards, the American Bar Association's "Silver Gavel" award, the "Best in Media" award from the National Council for Children's Rights, a Cine "Golden Eagle," and a "Golden Apple," among others. In 1996, she received the Governor's Award from the Chicago Television Academy.