



## HEDY ZUSSMAN

Hedy Zussman is a behind-the-scenes television professional who has been breaking down barriers her entire life. She has worked at WMAQ-TV/NBC5 in Chicago since 1972. Hedy currently serves as Archivist/Librarian Supervisor in NBC's digital media world. Her path to WMAQ-TV began in the Chicago area where she studied at Proviso East Township High School in Maywood. She soon went on the road, first to the University of Miami where she studied drama and then she transferred to Miami University and received a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Hedy's journey to television then took a long detour to the other side of the ocean.

Hedy studied conversational Hebrew in Jerusalem in 1968 and then joined the Israel Broadcasting Authority Television Studios and took a lead technical and editorial role in what appeared on Israeli television. She served as a technical director, an assistant producer, and director of transmission, as well as directing news department interviews and acting in film documentaries for television. She also returned to Israel after she started working for WMAQ and took on a volunteer position as technical director for the Israel Broadcasting Authority Television Studios during the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Once Hedy returned to the United States and re-joined WMAQ, she began piling up a long list of "firsts" at the NBC-owned station. She was the first female studio audio engineer, first studio female lighting director, first female mini-cam tape engineer, first female in the Bears, Sox and Blackhawks locker rooms and first female sports editor for WMAQ both in house and in the field. Hedy worked on a wide variety of programs including *The 10-pm News* with Floyd Kalber, *Tilmon Tempo*, the *Kup Show*, *Sorting It Out*, *Bubble Gum Digest*, the *Today Show* with Barbara Walters and Frank McGee and *Midnight Special* with Wolf Man Jack. In 1989, as weekend editing supervisor, Hedy oversaw WMAQ's final broadcast from the Merchandise Mart and debuted the first broadcast from the NBC Tower.

Hedy won an Emmy for "Technical Excellence in the Field Tech Crew" for the Chicago 2002 Marathon coverage and she edited the Emmy award-winning sports special, *39 year itch*. It's always a tribute to be honored by those who rely on your contributions every day, and Hedy is the proud recipient of three Ovation Awards from NBC for "Work Above and Beyond the Ordinary."