

Terry Sanders '49

One of America's most influential film documentarians, you are an Oscar and Emmy winning producer, writer, and director of more than 70 dramatic features, televisions specials, documentaries, and portrait films. Along with your wife, fellow filmmaker Freida Lee Mock, you are the founder and co-head of the American Film Foundation, a non-profit production company based in Southern California.

In the fall of 1946, you arrived on the Mesa as a new sophomore, following your brother, Denis Sanders, Class of 1947. The School at the time was known as the Santa Barbara School but changed its name to Cate during your senior year. You consistently excelled in history, prompting your sophomore teacher, Mr. Lejeune, to comment, "Terry has a very clear and clever mind. He writes fluently but definitely, and often shows originality of thought. I can always count on Terry for thoroughly sound, well-expressed work."

These characteristics proved useful during your senior year as editor and chief photographer of *El Batidor*. This leadership role taught you to write and report on news and meet deadlines. Additionally, Mr. Cate's after-dinner readings proved influential for your future as a filmmaker. In a reminiscence you contributed for the special Centennial *Bulletin*, you wrote, "Mr. Cate's character and his values, his deep love of language, of story, and of literature, were not lost on us. The pleasures and lessons Mr. Cate derived from books impressed and influenced both my older brother and me, reinforcing our natural interest in storytelling." You graduated with honors and attended CalTech for one year before joining your brother Denis at UCLA's newly created film school, where you earned your B.S. and M.F.A. degrees.

While Denis was working on his thesis in 1954, you worked together to produce *A Time Out of War*, based on an American Civil War short story. Despite a budget of \$2,000, the film received top honors at the Venice Film Festival. Incredibly, that same year it went on to win the Academy Award for Best Dramatic Short Film, making it the first student production in history to earn an Oscar. In 2007, *A Time Out of War* was added to the National Film Registry for preservation in the Library of Congress.

After working on several projects with actor Charles Laughton, including *Night of the Hunter* and Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead*, you and your brother opted for independent filmmaking in order to maintain greater control over production. During these years, you created *Crime and Punishment, USA*, which introduced George Hamilton, followed by *War Hunt*, which debuted Robert Redford, Sydney Pollack, and Tom Skerrit.

After several years of dramatic film production, you began working on documentaries with producer David Wolper before starting the American Film Foundation. Your notable films include the Oscar-winning documentary *Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision*, Oscar nominee *Rose Kennedy: A Life to Remember*, Emmy winner *Lillian Gish: An Actor's Life for Me*, and Emmy nominee *Screenwriters: Word into Image*, among other documentaries that have earned numerous accolades.

Your talent lies in capturing a subject's story, as well as the clear, uncluttered way you tell it. You believe the art of documentary filmmaking is the ability to earn the trust of the subject you are filming. Your principle objective is capturing reality without imposing yourself on it. You describe your work as fun and energizing, and say that retirement has no meaning to you. Additionally, your professional achievements have influenced your two daughters, Brittany and Jessica, who are also accomplished artists.

In 2013, you were the recipient of the highest honor conferred in the film documentary field, The Golden Frog, an award for outstanding achievement given by the International Film Festival of the Art of Cinematography.

Throughout your distinguished career, you have never forgotten Cate. You have been an active member of your class, attending Camp Cate reunions, giving back to the Cate Fund, and donating documentaries to the Cate library. In your own words: "My years at Cate [are] forever part of my life and my inner strength." For your commitment to

the School, as well as your renowned production of films that explore the arts, humanities, and sciences, we honor you, Terry Sanders, with the 2014 Cate Distinguished Alumnus Award.