

Filmmakers Bios

Alan Dater graduated from Goddard College with a B.A. in Philosophy. He began his film career in New York City working with the documentary filmmaker Bill Jersey, for Brian De Palma on his film *Hi Mom*, starring Robert De Niro, and with Bob Elfstrom on the now classic documentary on Johnny Cash, *Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music* (recently rebroadcast on POV.)

His freelance experience includes many productions that were broadcast on major U.S. networks including: *Lifeline*, an Emmy Award-winning medical documentary series for NBC; *The Body Human*, an Emmy Award-winning medical series for CBS; and *National Geographic Specials*. After moving to Vermont in the early 70s, he started Marlboro Productions. He continued his freelance work and also began producing and directing his own documentaries.

Lisa Merton began making films with Alan Dater in 1989. Before this she worked professionally as a weaver for ten years. Her intent was to weave tapestry and use it as an art form for social change but instead she ended up as a production weaver. It was not until she started making films in 1989, that she fulfilled her intent to weave images that could inspire social change. She has a Masters in Teaching English and has taught English as a second language in multi-cultural classrooms. She brings her interest in education, cultural diversity, and social change, as well as her skill as a craftsman, to the filmmaking process. She has been a member of New Day Films since 1996. www.newday.com

Dater and Merton co-directed and co-produced *Home to Tibet*, a film about a Tibetan refugee's return to his homeland, shown on many PBS stations, and at the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam; *Bridge of Fire*, the story of the collaboration of a Japanese potter and a Vermont potter, winner of a Cine Golden Eagle, The Best Media Work at the Montréal Festival of Films on Art, and screened at the Museum of Modern Art and the Louvre; *Wolf Kahn: Landscape Painter*, a portrait of the well known American painter, winner of a Cine Golden Eagle; *The World in Claire's Classroom* a documentary about an extraordinary Vermont public school teacher; and *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai*, the dramatic story of Wangari Maathai the founder of The Green Belt Movement of Kenya and the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. It has won numerous international awards including The Audience Award at Hot Docs and was broadcast on **PBS/Independent Lens** in April 2009.

Chris Hardee joined Dater and Merton as Associate Producer for *BURNED*. In the early 1980s, he co-founded **Monadnock Media**, a non-profit media organization, where his first productions focused on nature and environmental topics for conservation organizations throughout New England. **Public Radio** projects followed including a documentary series on nature writers, a musical environmental parable for NPR Playhouse, and docu-shorts on natural resources. As the business expanded through the 80s and 90s, Hardee wrote, directed and produced numerous video, film, interactive, and multimedia productions for museums, parks, and historic

sites around the country. Noteworthy clients included the **Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian**, major science museums such as **Philadelphia's Franklin Institute**, the **Truman Presidential Library**, and a long list of cultural history museums. In addition to his film credits, Hardee has also been a freelance writer, a marketing/PR professional, an educator, and an evaluator of environmental education programs.