

# BREAKING THE MAYA CODE

## PRINCIPAL CAST & CREW BIOS

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**Director** [DAVID LEBRUN](#) has served as producer, director, writer, cinematographer, animator and/or editor of more than sixty films, among them films on the Mazatec Indians of Oaxaca, a 1960s traveling commune, Tibetan mythology and a year in the life of a Maya village. He edited the Academy-award winning documentary *Broken Rainbow*, on the Hopi and Navajo of the American Southwest.

Lebrun's animated feature documentary *Proteus* premiered at Sundance in January 2004 and has won numerous international awards. His experimental and animated works include the animated film *Tanka* (1966), works for multiple and variable-speed projectors such as *Wind Over Water* (1983), and a 2007 multimedia performance piece, *Maya Variations*, in collaboration with composer Yuval Ron.

Lebrun has taught film production and editing at the California Institute of the Arts and has curated numerous art exhibitions. He was president of First Light Video Publishing from 1987-1996, and since then president of Night Fire Films. He was a founding Board Member of the Center for Visual Music (CVM) and is on the Advisory Board of the Chabot Space & Science Center's *Maya Skies* project. For a complete biography and filmography, please see the [Director's Bio](#).

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**Producer** [ROSEY GUTHRIE](#) - Night Fire Films Partner and Producer ROSEY GUTHRIE has had a diverse twenty-year background in film production and distribution. As Vice President of First Light Video Publishing from 1988 to 1996, she created and implemented marketing and distribution plans for a catalog of over two hundred educational films on the media arts. From 1997 to 2003 she was V.P. and General Manager of Panavision Remote Systems, a film equipment rental company.

Ms. Guthrie has served as Associate Producer on over fifteen educational and instructional films, as Producer on *Breaking the Maya Code* for Night Fire Films, and as Director of Development for the Peabody Award-winning PBS series *Craft in America*.

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**Executive Producer** [NICOLAS NOXON](#) specializes in history, science and nature television programs. He has written and produced specials and series for ABC, David Wolper, Columbia Pictures Television, MGM, Time-Life and National Geographic. His productions have won virtually every award in television including several Emmys.

Noxon has served as producer, writer or director of over fifty National Geographic Specials, most notably *Shark*, one of the highest rated programs ever aired on PBS, and the Emmy-winning *The Great Whales*. In 1986 he took part in Robert Ballard's expedition to explore the wreck of the Titanic and produced *Secrets of the Titanic*, for many years the best selling documentary on video, and the inspiration for James Cameron's feature film. Noxon's documentaries on the Maya include *In Search of the Lost World* for MGM and *Lost Kingdoms of the Maya* for National Geographic. Until recently, he was Executive Producer and head of West Coast production for National Geographic.

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Narrator **CCH POUNDER** was raised in Guyana and later in England, eventually moving with her family to Brooklyn. Her acting career began in theater companies including the Old Globe Theater, the Pasadena Playhouse and the Milwaukee Repertory, where she worked with actors Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman, among others. Her first film role was in Bob Fosse's *All That Jazz*; her most memorable may be that in *Bagdad Café*.

She most recently had a critically acclaimed starring role in the FX series, *The Shield*. Other television appearances include Emmy-nominated roles in *ER* and *The X-Files*, and performances in *The West Wing*, *Law & Order* and HBO's *If These Walls Could Talk* and *Boycott*. In addition, Ponder has received a Grammy Award nomination for her Spoken Word Album *Grow Old Along With Me, The Best Is Yet To Come*.

CCH Ponder is a founding member of ANSA, Artists for a New South Africa, dedicated to combating AIDS and advancing democracy. She and her husband, anthropologist Boubacar Kone, have built The Boribana Museum in Dakar for the study of cultures of the African Diaspora.

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Co-Cinematographer **AMY HALPERN** has done cinematography or lighting on numerous dramatic and documentary feature films, including Charles Burnett's *My Brother's Wedding*, Ramon Menendez' *Stand and Deliver*, and Pat O'Neill's *The Decay of Fiction*. As an independent filmmaker she has created more than 15 densely poetic short films and the feature length *Falling Lessons* (1991) called by critic Kevin Thomas "a stunningly sensual, life-affirming experience from a major experimental film artist."

Halpern also served as Lighting Designer and Contributing Producer on *Breaking the Maya Code*. Her insights from years of working with the Maya glyphs proved invaluable during the production.

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Co-Cinematographer **STEVEN KLINE** specializes in 35mm and HD nature/natural history filming and photography projects which include *Sahara - The Nectar of Life* for Mandalay Media Arts, *Jaguar-Year of the Cat* for Telenova Productions, *Hummer in Chile* for GMI Works - the making of a national ad campaign - and most recently, *Cataract Canyon of the Colorado River*, an HD short of a family river adventure. His cinematography for *Sahara and the Sea*, combined with the large format stills he photographed during months in Morocco, created a continuous multimedia exhibit for the 1998 World's Fair. Kline additionally does photojournalism assignments for ABC News.

Kline also served as Still Photographer on *Breaking the Maya Code*.

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Composer **YUVAL RON** studied at the Berklee College of Music. He has composed scores for numerous feature and short films (including the 2006 Oscar-winning *West Bank Story*), and has done extensive television work for CBS, UPN, Fox, the Disney Channel and others. He has composed several commissioned works for chamber ensemble, symphony orchestra and soloists. Additionally, he has created 18 scores for theater and modern dance productions, notably his collaborations with the Butoh master Oguri.

Mr. Ron is also the musical director and oud player for the Yuval Ron Ensemble. He has produced numerous collaborative concerts of world musicians, including two seasons of concerts at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles and performances at the Dalai Lama's "Seeds of Compassion" conference in Seattle. He has received grants from the California Council for Humanities, the NEA, the Rockefeller Foundation, the American Composers Forum and the National Dance Project. Mr. Ron, an Israeli native, lives in Los Angeles.

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Sound Designer **GEORGE LOCKWOOD** began his career in visual effects, with credits ranging from the California Raisins commercials to such films as *Return of the Jedi* and *Total Recall*. In the mid-80's, he supervised the restoration of such classic films as *The Ten Commandments* and *White Christmas*. He has been a regular judging panel member for the Emmy Awards in the Visual Effects category.

In 1989, George designed and produced his first soundtrack, Pat O'Neill's Sundance Grand Prize winner *Water and Power*. His sound design work also includes David Lebrun's *Proteus*, Jefery Levy's *Drive*, Les Bernstein's *Night Train* and O'Neill's *The Decay of Fiction*. As a musician, Mr. Lockwood's experience ranges from the study of Carnatic violin with Dr. L. Subramaniam to playing Irish fiddle for James Cameron's *Titanic* and performing with his five-piece ensemble, Buzzworld. Mr. Lockwood received his MFA from the California Institute of the Arts School of Film and Video and lives in Van Nuys, California.

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Graphic Designer and Animator **CHARLES OWENS** has created print and motion graphics for feature films, documentaries, television programs and corporations. Main title designs include those for *American Chopper*, *I'd Do Anything*, *Poker Parlor* and the feature film *After Image*. Owens has designed in-show elements for *Worst Case Scenario*, *Pro's vs. Joe's*, and animated maps for *Tour de France: The Traveler's Guide* and *Amazing Destinations: Greece*. He has also created graphic materials and animations for live events for Mattel, Cisco Systems, TNT/TBS, Home Depot and the 2000 Special Olympics World Games. Owens has even appeared on-screen as the Transformation Supervisor on Lisa Rinna's home decorating show, *Merge*.

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Calligrapher and Graphic Artist **MARK VAN STONE**, an expert in the writing of Maya hieroglyphs and co-author with Michael D. Coe of *Reading the Maya Glyphs*, is a professor of art history at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, CA. Van Stone has taught calligraphy and history of writing workshops in 43 states and 20 countries, and, under a Guggenheim Fellowship, documented inscriptions in museums around the world. Van Stone has used stone-age tools, computers and even spray paint to create texts in various writings systems including Egyptian, Roman, Uncial and Arabic. He was the first foreigner to study netsuke carving in Japan with Saito Bishu Sensei. He is an expert at Celtic illumination as well as contemporary graffiti art. Van Stone was also an apprentice animator at Will Vinton Studios and has created calligraphic movie props for *Rushmore*, *Casper* and most recently a Pirates' Code Book (in ancient Phrygian script) for *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Van Stone also appeared on-camera as the “writing hand” of Gaspar Chi, Bishop Landa and various Maya scribes in *Breaking the Maya Code*.

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Editor **ERIC MARIN** is a film editor with extensive experience in both feature and documentary picture and sound editing. Features he has edited include *Wedding Dress*, *The Monk and the Hangman's Daughter*, and the documentaries *Mysterious California*, *Women of Mystery* and *Looking Like the Enemy*.

Additionally, Eric has produced, directed, shot and edited several award-winning contemporary music and performance documentaries including *Baschet: The Transfiguration of Daily Life* (awarded Best Art Documentary at the Parnu International Documentary Festival 2004 and Grand Prix de la Recherche at the Festival International du Film d'Art, Paris, 2003). Marin's works have been seen on PBS, The Learning Channel and at festivals and venues worldwide.

Marin has been teaching picture and sound editing at UCLA since 1997 and is a recent winner of UCLA's prestigious “Distinguished Teaching Award” for 2007.

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Line Producer, Editor and Post Production Supervisor **FAITH RADLE** is an independent producer of narrative, documentary and video art projects. Ms. Radle served as associate producer for the television movie *Come And Take It Day* (PBS) and went on to work with the movie's writer/director to produce the feature *Speeder Kills*. In 2005, she produced the short film *Viernes Girl* for HBO. Ms. Radle has associate produced and edited many documentaries including the ITVS funded *Voices from Texas*; *Visiones: Latino Art and Culture*, a 6-part PBS series by director Hector Galán; and *Cinco de Mayo* for the History Channel.

Currently Ms. Radle is the executive producer of a TV series airing on the cable network Mun2 and is in development on a feature film adaptation of a short story by best selling author, Sandra Cisneros.

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