

States of Grace

CAST

Dr. Grace Dammann

Grace Dammann, MD, co-founded one of the first HIV/AIDS clinics for poor people in San Francisco at Laguna Honda Hospital and signed more than 1,000 death certificates in the six-year period that marked the disease's deadliest era. She was honored for her work by the Dalai Lama with an Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award in 2005.

Her life changed forever in 2008 when, driving across the Golden Gate Bridge with her daughter Sabrina and their dog Mack, another car swerved across the plastic median divider and crashed into them head on. Grace was airlifted to the hospital, where she remained in a coma and endured numerous surgeries before regaining consciousness with her mental faculties miraculously intact. She lived in rehabilitation hospitals for more than a year before returning home.

Grace eventually joined forces with the driver who hit her to advocate for a steel-and-concrete median barrier on the bridge. The barrier was recently installed and will prevent future head-on collisions. Grace spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating its completion in January 2015.

Nancy "Fu" Schroeder

Nancy "Fu" Schroeder and Grace met on a Zen retreat in 1986, and they became romantic partners for many years. In 1993, though they were no longer a couple, they agreed to continue living together to adopt and raise their daughter Sabrina, who was born with cerebral palsy. Following Grace's accident, Fu took on the responsibility of acting as Grace's primary caregiver.

During her 35 years as a resident of San Francisco Zen Center, Fu has held most of the monastic positions. In 2014, she became abiding abbess at Green Gulch Farm Zen Center. She has been an active supporter of programs for children, people of color, the gay and lesbian community, and the interfaith community. Fu received dharma transmission from Tenshin Reb Anderson in 1999.

Sabrina Schroeder-Dammann

Grace and Fu's daughter, Sabrina, was in the car with Grace at the time of the accident and survived with relatively minor injuries. She graduated from Marin High School in 2012 and is now a student at Pitzer College in Claremont, California.

CREW

Mark Lipman & Helen S. Cohen (Directors/Producers)

Since 2004, award-winning directors/producers Mark Lipman and Helen S. Cohen have been creating documentary projects together under their Open Studio Productions banner. Lipman's films have been broadcast nationally on public television and won numerous awards. His producing credits include *To Have and To Hold* (1981), the first documentary to look at domestic violence through the experiences of men; *Holding Ground: The Rebirth of Dudley Street* (1996), a film about the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative's successful efforts to revitalize a Boston neighborhood devastated by redlining, arson, and illegal dumping; *Father's Day* (2003), an experimental documentary about the death of his father; *Gaining Ground* (2012), a sequel to *Holding Ground* that explores Dudley Street's success in preventing foreclosures and fostering youth leadership; and *Street of Dreams: Development Without Displacement in Communities of Color* (2013). He also edited *Alaska Far Away* (2008), a feature documentary about a controversial New Deal program that relocated two hundred destitute farm families into the wilds of Alaska.

Cohen's producing credits include *It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School* (1996), the groundbreaking documentary that addresses anti-gay prejudice and explores how teachers can include discussions about LGBT people in their classrooms; *That's a Family!* (2000), where elementary school-age kids describe in their own words the many shapes that families take in today's diverse world; and *Let's Get Real* (2003), an in-depth look at name-calling and bullying in middle schools, told entirely from a youth perspective. She has also directed, produced, and/or executive produced documentaries for public interest organizations, including *Homes & Hands: Community Land Trusts in Action* (1998) and *Street of Dreams: Development Without Displacement in Communities of Color* (2013).

Kenji Yamamoto (Editor)

Kenji Yamamoto is an award-winning producer and editor. His editing credits include the dramatic feature *Thousand Pieces of Gold* (1991), starring Chris Cooper and Rosalind Chao, as well as the documentaries *Downside Up* (2002), which aired on the PBS series *Independent Lens*; *Smitten* (2005), which aired as a PBS primetime special; *New Muslim Cool* (2009), from the PBS series *P.O.V.*; *Between Two Worlds* (2011); and *Rebels With a Cause* (2013). Yamamoto has also edited documentaries for National Geographic Channel, HBO, and the Discovery Channel, and has been an editor for KQED's weekly science series, *Quest*, and weekly art series, *Spark**. He has twice been invited to participate in the Sundance Institute's Creative Labs.

Laura Karpman (Composer)

Four-time Emmy award–winner Laura Karpman has been named one of the most important women in Hollywood by *Variety*. Karpman’s credits include the documentaries *The Galapagos Affair: Satan Comes to Eden* (2013) and *Something Ventured* (2011); the miniseries *Taken* (2002), executive produced by Steven Spielberg; the Showtime series *Odyssey 5* (2002–03); the ABC miniseries *Masters of Science Fiction* (2007); the PBS series *Craft in America* (2007–12); and the dramatic features *Man in the Chair* (2007), starring Christopher Plummer; *The Annihilation of Fish* (1999), starring Lynn Redgrave and James Earl Jones; and *The Tournament* (2009), starring Ving Rhames and Robert Carlyle. Equally at home in the concert hall, Karpman has received commissions from the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, the Juilliard School, and the Czech National Symphony Orchestra, among others. Her multimedia opera *Ask Your Mama* (2009), commissioned by Carnegie Hall and written for Jessye Norman, the Roots, Nnenna Freelon, and d’Adre Aziza, from a text by Langston Hughes, premiered to critical acclaim.

Cinematographer & Sound Recordist

Mark Lipman

Co-Producer

Eva Moss

Associate Producer

Joanna Sokolowski

Post-Production Sound Services Provided by

**Skywalker Sound,
a Lucasfilm Ltd. Company
Marin County, California**

Supervising Sound Editor

Bob Edwards

Sound Effects Editor

Casey Langfelder

Re-Recording Mixer

Bob Edwards

Score Recording & Mix

Nora Kroll-Rosenbaum

Color Finishing
Gary Coates

HD Online & Conform
Jesse Spencer

Format Conversion & Mastering
Heather Lyon Weaver
ZAP – Zoetrope Aubry Productions

Title Design
Core Studio

Fiscal Sponsorship
San Francisco Zen Center

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