

About Lichtenstein Creative Media/Bill Lichtenstein



Lichtenstein Creative Media, Inc. is an independent media production company located in Cambridge, MA. LCM has extensive multimedia production, distribution and educational/community outreach experience, particularly with health, human rights and social justice issues.

LCM was founded in 1990 by Bill Lichtenstein, a former producer for ABC News *20/20*, *World News Tonight* and *Nightline*. The work of the company and president Bill Lichtenstein has been honored with a George Foster Peabody Award, TV and radio's highest honor, a Media Award from the United Nations, and over 60 major broadcast and health journalism awards. Additionally, Bill is the recipient of a 2005 Guggenheim Fellowship.

LCM produces **The Infinite Mind**, public radio's most honored and listened to health and science program. Each week, the series focuses on the biology of human behavior as well as mental health, neuroscience, and access to care. **The Infinite Mind** airs in more than 240 markets across the U.S. including in such Top 10 cities as New York, Washington, DC, Atlanta, Detroit, and Boston, as well as on statewide public radio networks in states including Utah and West Virginia, reaching more than one million listeners weekly. Since its premiere in 1997, **The Infinite Mind** has been honored with 30 major broadcast journalism awards, including top media honors from the National Headliner Awards, American Women in Radio and Television (Gracie Award), Clarion Award, International Radio Awards, and the American Psychiatric Association, the National Institute of Mental Health, National Mental Health Association and the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression.

LCM also produced **West 47th Street**, an award-winning documentary film for theatrical and TV release, co-directed by Bill and his wife, June Peoples. This warm and intimate production follows four people with mental illness, off the streets and out of homeless shelters, in and out of the hospital, at home and at work, over three years. At times hilarious and at other times tragic, **West 47th Street** is set at Fountain House, a mental health rehabilitation program located in New York City's Hell's Kitchen. **West 47th Street** was broadcast nationally on the highly-acclaimed PBS TV program *P.O.V.* and was accompanied by a major educational outreach campaign, involving over 100 screenings across the country. The film was winner of "Best Documentary" at the Atlanta Film Festival and the "Audience Award" at DC Independent Film Festival. **West 47th Street** has sold out theatres across the U.S., and internationally from Vancouver to Dublin to South Korea, and was called "must see" by *Newsweek* and "remarkable" by the *Washington Post*.

LCM produced and distributed **If I Get Out Alive**, narrated by Academy Award-winning actress and youth advocate Diane Keaton. The one-hour public radio documentary examines the conditions and brutality faced by juveniles in the adult prison system. The program won first prize in the National Headliner Awards, a Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism and several other honors.

Bill created and produced the highly-acclaimed **Voices of an Illness** radio documentary series which has provided millions with an extraordinary window on living with serious mental illness since the series premiere in 1992. The programs on clinical depression, manic depression and schizophrenia were narrated by Rod Steiger, Patty Duke and Jason Robards. This three-part series, called "remarkable," by Time magazine, was created by Bill as a way of relating his own experience following his recovery from manic depression.

Current LCM productions include **Juveniles in Crisis**, a documentary film examining the interconnections between the juvenile justice, juvenile mental health, foster care and education systems and **Hepatitis C: The Stealth Epidemic**, the first documentary film to examine the spread of the lethal virus, and related medical, scientific and social issues, through the lives of those affected. Both films are in the PBS pipeline for broadcast as part of the network's 2006/2007 "Year of Global Health" coverage.

(more)

Bill Lichtenstein

A graduate of Brown University and the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, Bill began his work in television at ABC and CBS Sports. He later worked at ABC News as an Emmy Award-winning producer of investigative reports for the ABC News magazine **20/20** and as a field producer for **Nightline**, **World News Tonight**, **This Week with David Brinkley** and other ABC News programs and specials.

Bill's efforts at ABC focused on telling compelling human stories with a focus on overarching societal issues. Among them were: abused and dying children in Oklahoma; state institutions for the mentally retarded; battered women convicted of murdering their abusers; victims of faulty automobile design; and an Ohio town that fought back after being taken over by organized crime.

All three **20/20** segments that Bill produced in 1983 were nominated for National News Emmy Awards. He also won numerous other honors for his investigative reporting. He later joined the ABC-TV program **Jimmy Breslin's People** as one of the show's two field producers/directors. Since 1979, Bill has been a member of the faculty of the New School for Social Research, where he teaches a course on documentary film production and previously taught a class on investigative reporting for television.

As a journalist, Bill has written about politics, health issues and the media for publications including *The Nation*, *Newsday*, *The Village Voice*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *TV Guide*, *7 Days*, *Health*, *Health Watch*, *Medical Tribune* and *Channels*. His feature articles appeared in *The Sunday New York Daily News* business section. Bill's 1992 investigative report for the *The Village Voice*, "The Secret Battle for the NEA," received a National Headliner Award. His article for the *Journal of the California Alliance for the Mentally Ill* details what inspired Bill to create the **Voices of an Illness** series and encourages those affected by psychiatric disabilities to "tell your story" as a means of reducing mental health stigma and discrimination.

Bill began his career at the age of 14 as a newscaster and disc jockey at WBCN-FM in Boston. His 1973 radio documentary **What is News?** won a National Public Radio "Youth Radio Award." Later he worked as Program Director at WBRU-FM in Providence and co-produced and co-wrote the 1987 Livingston Award-winning NPR documentary **Vietnam: Radio First Termer**.

Bill, 48, his wife, June Peoples, and their five-year-old daughter, reside in Lexington, MA.