



## THE PRODUCTION TEAM

***SCHOOL** is the work of a team of long time collaborators, as well as some friends and family members. In 1992, the idea was suggested by Clarence Mondale, a history professor (Sarah Mondale's father.) (Ms. Mondale's grandmother was a teacher in a one-room Minnesota schoolhouse and her mother taught at the Americanization School in Washington, DC). Sisters-in-law and co-producers of historical/social issue documentaries in Washington, Sarah Mondale and Sarah Patton readily agreed that the sweeping education reforms such as vouchers and choice being proposed at the time warranted a closer look at the history. Yet little did they suspect that capturing a subject as familiar and seemingly straightforward as public school, would become a decade-long odyssey.*

*In the course of filming in schools from Maine to California, and talking to countless teachers, experts and students, they discovered a system facing huge problems as well as enormous promise. In the end, they say they feel "awed and humbled" by their subject. They hope that viewers, like themselves, will emerge with a better understanding of the challenges facing the system, and of the central role played by schools in our society. "If this series can help to shift the discussion out of crisis-mode, and get people to sit down together so they can talk about the big things they want from schools," says Mondale, "then we'll feel like it's all been worth it."*

*Below are biographies for Sarah Mondale and Sarah Patton*

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**Sarah Mondale** director and co-producer of **SCHOOL**, has worked on documentary and feature films for over twenty-five years. She directed and co-produced the award-winning 1-hour documentary film, *Marcel Proust: A Writer's Life*, which aired on PBS in 1993, and in many European countries. She was director/co-producer of *Asylum*, a 1-hour PBS film which earned her a 1990 National Emmy nomination (Director-News & Documentary Subjects.) Ms. Mondale lived and worked in France for twelve years where she wrote, directed and produced the 35mm dramatic short, *Old Acquaintances* (HBO/Cinemax, PBS, French TV-3). She also worked as 1st Assistant Director and Production Manager on feature films *Ganga Maya* (inaugurated Year of India on French TV-3, shown at A.F.I. and Museum of Modern Art) and *Desire* (starring Marisa Berensen.) In 1986, with partners Sarah Patton and Leo Mondale, she co-founded Stone Lantern Films, Inc. Ms. Mondale is currently co-producing a verite special, *Megamall* (finalist at IFFCON). She lives in Suffern, New York, where she is co-chair of the Suffern Civic Association, and delegate to her local school district PTA.

**Sarah Patton** is co-Producer for **SCHOOL**. She has developed and managed a number of award-winning PBS documentaries over the past 14 years. Her previous credits include co-producer for *Marcel Proust: A Writer's Life* and *Asylum*, a history of care for the mentally ill that was screened in festivals from Shanghai to Florence, Italy and won many awards including a Washington Emmy (Best Documentary), a Cine Golden Eagle Award and a national Emmy nomination. With extensive experience in directing and coordinating archival research she has collaborated on numerous film projects, including a number of award-winning international series. Previously, Ms. Patton was an editor at Simon & Schuster and a freelance writer publishing five books for young adults. In 1986 she co-founded Stone Lantern Films with her sister-in-law, Sarah Mondale.