

Osso Bucco Directors and Producers

Gary Taylor – Writer, Producer, Director

Gary Taylor is founder and owner of Westlake Media Group, Inc., where he serves in Writer, Director and Producer capacities. For the last 14 years he has overseen the productions of more than 500 media projects and written over 300 corporate training, marketing and trade show scripts for a wide range of creative, corporate and advertising clients. He has created programming in a variety of formats from high-definition content, to standard video programs and numerous other electronic mediums.

Gary wrote the one-act play, *The Taster's Choice*, which was produced at Chicago Dramatists Workshop and selected to be part of their *New Voices* showcase. Gary has also authored several television “spec” scripts and, in addition to *Osso Bucco*, wrote the feature films *Waiter of the Year* and *Growing Up Straight*.

Gary's diverse directing and producing credits include creative and corporate film projects, special interest documentaries such as *The Ultimate Collectors' Guide* series produced in conjunction with Bottom Line Productions, Inc. and the television pilot *The Living Room*, produced in conjunction with Golan Productions and The IO (formerly known as The ImprovOlympic). Gary studied improvisational acting at The Players Workshop of Second City and The ImprovOlympic, and is a deep believer in the principle of “Truth in Comedy”.

Fred Blurton – Producer, Director

Fred Blurton is an award-winning director with top honors in such international competitions as the ITS Monitor Awards, The New York Festivals, ITVA Philos, Tellys and the Association For Multi-Image International. Fred first entered the world of film and video as a creative director for Williams-Gerard in 1979. After six years, he left Williams-Gerard to become the co-founder of the groundbreaking Aero Graphics Productions. Using innovative multiple-screen presentations, 3D graphics, and a constant drive to push the envelope in both design and technology, Fred and his company pioneered the corporate video industry in Chicago.



During the company's seven years in business, he directed and produced entertaining and creative advertising programs, winning multiple awards for "Innovative Program Content" at The New York Festivals for clients that included Miller Beer and Coca-Cola.

In 1992, Fred became Creative Director at Post Effects, a leading Chicago-based special effects and post-production house. There he directed and produced the award winning 35mm film "It Takes You There" for Intel's 1994 worldwide sales conference premiering the release of the first Pentium computer chip. He quickly rose to the ranks of Vice President and Creative Director/General Manager. In July 2002, Fred launched his own production company Fred Blurton Productions. As one of Chicago's top creatives, Fred continues to direct, produce and work with the latest technologies to develop stunning and creative solutions for every project he undertakes, infusing it with a style of grace and complexity that is uniquely his own.

Douglas Weidner – Producer, Production Coordinator

Douglas Weidner is president of D. Douglas Weidner Inc., a company focused on providing talent and production services to corporate and entertainment industries. Doug has honed his production experience through his many years performing in front of the camera in film and television, as well as working behind the camera producing, directing and set designing for television and theater. Earlier in his career, Doug produced and directed a main stage production of Robert Patrick's *Kennedy's Children*. In 1996 he became a founding member of Splunge Productions Theatre Company where he produced and set designed *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* and the original one-act play *Insectivorous* for the Abbey Hoffman Festival. Outside of the theater, Doug's set design and construction were used primarily in Chicago's photo-marketing studios for clients such as Seigles, Budweiser, Hammacher Schlemmer, Laura Ashley and Sears.

Doug was also an active production team member for the Museum of Broadcast Communications' series *Women on Television: Images of Women on Television* starring Betty White and Shirley Jones, and the 1993 Radio Hall of Fame Awards. He went on to produce, co-direct, and edit the two-part comedy series *In the Can* for local Chicago cable. His three-month tenure on the set of the feature film *With Honors* and his work on the television movie *The Real Untouchables* were instrumental in shaping his knowledge and understanding of the film industry. Since 2003, he has been an associate producer with Blue Fusion Media Inc. where he manages various aspects of graphic media production for corporate clients.



Hal “Corky” Kessler – Executive Producer - Legal and Business Counsel

Corky is currently employed at the law firm of Levin Ginsburg. From September 1980 to 2000, Corky was a partner in the law firm of Kessler & Ex. There, Corky gained extensive corporate, entertainment law, and worldwide entertainment industry experience. In October 2000, Corky went in-house with a client to head up its entertainment division. After fulfilling his mission for the client, Corky opened his own law practice, only to be wooed in 2004 by the mid-size Chicago firm, Funkhouser Vegosen Liebman & Dunn Ltd., to develop an entertainment and business practice.

With his expertise in corporate matters, Corky was selected to serve on the Illinois panel to recommend amendments to the Illinois Limited Liability Company Act. Corky has organized dozens of Limited Liability Companies and likewise drafted Operating Agreements. He has structured and organized more than 60 corporations. Corky has also assembled and built winning teams for more than 30 entertainment and other business ventures. He has developed, packaged, and executive produced feature films, theater projects and television projects. He was Executive Producer on the films *The Sum of Us*, starring Russell Crowe, (winner of the Australian Academy Award for Best Film), *Finding North*, *Sacrifices*, *Rockville Slayer* and *Certifiably Jonathan* starring Jonathan Winters and Robin Williams. Additionally, Corky has been either the lead or active participating attorney on feature film projects including *Wild Things*, *Crab Orchard*, *Extra Marriage*, *Design*, *Four Saints*, *Angels*, *The Legend of Mary Worth*, and *Oso Bucco*.

During the course of his career, Corky has litigated over 200 cases, including over 50 jury trials. He is an Adjunct Professor at John Marshall Law School, where he teaches an Entertainment Law and Business course. He previously taught a similar course at Columbia College in its Film Department. Corky has been a panel member and speaker at many film seminars and festivals in the U.S. and Canada. He has written legal and business articles for Screen Magazine and other film and entertainment magazines and periodicals.

Corky is admitted to practice law in Illinois and before the Illinois Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He is a member of the American and Chicago Bar Associations.

