

BIOGRAPHY

Lloyd Kaufman
Chairman/
Independent Film & Television Alliance

Entertainment industry veteran Lloyd Kaufman was elected chairman of the Independent Film & Television Alliance (IFTA), the global trade association of independent distributors and producers of motion picture and television programming, in September 2007 and re-elected to a second two-year term in 2009. With more than 40 years of experience in the world of independent film, having dealt with literally every aspect of the business, Kaufman embodies IFTA's creative, visionary and entrepreneurial spirit.

Since 1991, Mr. Kaufman has served on and contributed to the IFTA Board of Directors and Executive Committee in numerous capacities. A pioneer in new media who recognizes the value and potential that new technology provides to the independent community, Mr. Kaufman is a leading proponent of maintaining "net neutrality" so that independent filmmakers and distributors are not left out of the promise and benefits of the Internet. To that end, he was asked by IFTA's Board of Directors to help create and chair the Alliance's New Technologies Opportunities Committee, which explores video distribution over the Internet, telephony, etc. and identifies avenues by which independents may realize new revenue from the emerging media.

Mr. Kaufman is president of New York-based production and distribution company Troma Entertainment, which he and partner Michael Herz founded in 1974 shortly after they graduated from Yale University. Over the course of 35 years, Mr. Kaufman and Mr. Herz have built Troma up to legendary status as a bastion of true independence and a strong consumer brand, through a visionary body of work that has had a huge impact on pop culture and today's mainstream filmmaking. *New York Post* film critic Lou Lumenick recently wrote that Mr. Kaufman "has been cited as a major influence by Peter Jackson, Quentin Tarantino and Takashi Miike, among others." Other writers and directors who have cited Mr. Kaufman as a major influence include Sam Raimi, James Gunn, Kevin Smith and Eli Roth, to name a few. In addition, Mr. Kaufman has mentored many young independent filmmakers and Troma movies or releases have given numerous now-famous talent their first start in the film industry, including Trey Parker and Matt Stone, Samuel L. Jackson, Kevin Costner, Oliver Stone, Marisa Tomei,

(more...)

Vincent D'Onofrio and Jenna Fisher. Other major figures whose first work appears in a Troma film include Robert DeNiro, Dustin Hoffman and Carmen Electra.

In 1999, Mr. Kaufman founded the TromaDance Film Festival now in its 11th year (www.tromadance.com). His popular "Make Your Own Damn Movie" Master Classes have been given at universities and venues throughout the world.

Mr. Kaufman and his films have received awards from all over the world, most recently the Lifetime Achievement Award from the prestigious Sitges Film Festival in Spain. Kaufman's work has also inspired big-budget remakes. *Mother's Day* was recently remade by Brett Ratner and Richard Saperstein, and directed by Darren Lynn Bousman, and *The Toxic Avenger* will be remade by Saperstein, Ratner and Oscar-winner Akiva Goldsman. His fifth book, "Produce Your Own Damn Movie," which features a number of IFTA members and IFTA President and CEO Jean Prewitt, is currently in book stores.

Headquartered in Los Angeles, IFTA represents and provides significant entertainment industry services to 150 member companies from 22 countries, consisting of independent production and distribution companies, sales agents, television companies, and financial institutions engaged in content finance. Collectively, IFTA's members produce more than 400 independent films and countless hours of television programming each year and generate more than \$4 billion in distribution revenues annually. The organization's premiere event, the American Film Market (AFM), takes place every year in November in Santa Monica. As the voice and advocate for the independent film and television industry worldwide, IFTA speaks out on matters of critical importance, including media consolidation, the elimination of trade barriers, the impact of new technology on traditional business models, anti-piracy and improvement of copyright protection, and the need to foster broad-based growth of the industry. Where appropriate, IFTA actively lobbies governments around the world in regard to measures directly affecting the independent industry. For more information on IFTA and the AFM, please visit www.ifta-online.org.

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