



Katharine Garrison '81

Filmmaker

Katharine Garrison, a filmmaker based in Brooklyn, remembers when a parent named Mr. Bartos came to MCS with a 16-mm film camera; she was one of three volunteers to help him make an animated film. Through this experience, she learned that there are twenty-four frames of film in a second, not to mention that dedication is required for animated filmmaking.

At Idea Factory, a production company in New York City and Los Angeles, Katharine further explored her craft in her late teens, constructing homemade animated films—scratching and drawing directly onto found film. She began her production adventures in New York City as an animator, set decorator, and casting director for music videos, which included Jimmie and Stevie Ray Vaughn's *Tick Tock*, Public Enemy's *911 is a Joke*, Earth, Wind & Fire's *Wanna be the Man*, Living Colour's *Elvis is Dead*, and A Tribe Called Quest's *Bonita Applebaum*. Amid production work on over ten feature films, Katharine served as the Art Department Coordinator on the Academy Award-winning film *Scent of a Woman*.

With an M.F.A. from Columbia University, she has also worked as a director, producer, and editor of promotional films, documentaries, and narrative films. Her clients include The National Basketball Association, American Movie Classics, Oxygen, PBS, Magrath, The Nobel Prize Institute, VOOM, Pfizer, Nabisco, School of

Visual Arts, Sports Illustrated for Women, American Civil Liberties Union and numerous independent production companies. Her first film, *Tag*, distributed by Forefront and Atom Films, premiered at the AFI International Film Festival before screening at over fifteen international festivals and airing on the Sundance Channel. Her latest work, *Ciao Historia*, screened at the Walker Art Museum in Minneapolis and won a “silver” award at the WorldFest Houston International Film Festival. She has lent her knowledge to undergraduate filmmakers at Columbia University as well.

As producer and editor, Katharine recently completed postproduction of three pieces for Rush HD (a high-definition television broadcasting company) about a group of world-class climbers traveling to a remote village in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco to perform a “first ascent.” The climbers’ biggest challenge, however, was to complete various community service projects in the village of Taghlia. (To view the pieces, visit: www.rushhd.com.) Katharine is currently developing a new narrative short film and beginning research on a full-length feature about her great-great-great-grandfather William Lloyd Garrison, the American abolitionist who started the newspaper *The Liberator*.

Katharine would like to acknowledge her brothers John and Ben, also MCS alumni, for their work and accomplishments. She thanks Gus and Marty Trowbridge for starting a truly daring and magical school, and her teachers Chris Iijima, Kallyn Krash, and Clint Ingram for invaluable inspiration, because they treated students with respect and encouraged them while holding them to high expectations. She wishes especially to thank Clint for his sincerity and his never-ending belief in her and the world. Katharine says of her years at MCS that the entire community created a truly collective experience that lives on inside of her.

In listening to alumni reflect about their early school at MCS, and the ways they testify that it developed their capacity to work for social change ... I recalled a statement attributed to Mahatma Gandhi: “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”

Emily Style (1997)

Founder, National SEED Project on Inclusive Curriculum (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity), after studying MCS