

DEBRA OLCHICK

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EVENT DIRECTION | FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION

Unit Production Manager with extensive experience across film and television. A trusted steward of multimillion-dollar budgets, delivering complex productions with efficiency, accountability, and creative excellence. Career highlights include the Academy Awards telecast, feature films, and PBS series. Known for building strong teams, optimizing limited resources, and providing strategic leadership in support of mission-driven storytelling.

EVENT DIRECTION

The Simons Foundation, Inc, New York, NY 2010 – 2025

Since 1994, the Foundation has funded over 1 billion dollars to advance the frontiers of research in Science and Mathematics.

- Designed and executed more than 450+ event days of high-profile scientific conferences, symposia, and institutional events annually, enhancing program quality and attendee engagement while maintaining strict budgets, logistics, and production standards across domestic and international locations.
- Successfully led the planning and delivery of annual multi-million-dollar private trip for five organizations, coordinating complex logistics for employees and their families, across transportation, lodging, dining, and activities.

A career transition in 2005 from film production to event direction bridges creative project management with large-scale event production, bringing robust operational and financial expertise to each role.

FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION

- Fiscally responsible for \$3M+ budgets with consistent on-schedule and under-budget completion
- Hired and supervised over 100 people per project with 100% employee retention
- Negotiated complex insurance, equipment, facility, union and vendor contracts
- Supported Executive Producer on all logistics of producing 1994 Academy Awards Telecast viewed by over 46 million people

Unit Production Manager

The Woodsman, feature film with Kevin Bacon, directed by Lee Daniels, released by Samuel Goldwyn Films

Foto-Novelas 2, featured on PBS

False River, feature film with Salvatore Xuereb, released by American Artists Film Corporation

Durango Kids, feature film with Christina Milian, released to DVD by Lionsgate Home Entertainment

Production Coordinator

The Price of Glory, feature film with Jimmy Smits, released by New Line Cinema

Blade (B-Unit), feature film with Wesley Snipes, distributed by Warner Bros.

Woo (reshoots), feature film with Jada Pinkett Smith, distributed by New Line Cinema

The Inheritance, Television movie with Meredith Baxter aired on CBS

Mistrial, (reshoots), HBO movie with Bill Pullman

Last Man Standing (reshoots), feature film with Bruce Willis, released by New Line Cinema

Jumanji (reshoots), feature film with Robin Williams, released by TriStar Pictures

Confessions: Two Faces of Evil, directed by Gil Cates, TV movie with James Earl Jones, released by NBC

EDUCATION

University of San Francisco: Completed Master's Program in Nonprofit Administration

University of South Florida: Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theater (collegiate honors society recognition)

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Habitat for Humanity ≈ Summit Playhouse ≈ Mt. Pleasant Animal Shelter ≈ Food Bank of New Jersey