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# INDIECOLLECT



## IndieCollect Salutes Joan Micklin Silver [1935 - 2020]

### Farewell to Joan Micklin Silver

On the last day of 2020, we indie filmmakers lost one of our bravest and most determined forebears, Joan Micklin Silver. Joan epitomized what it means to be independent.



Anita Gates, the author of [The New York Times obituary](#) quotes her on this issue: “The more I’m left alone, the better I do. It isn’t that I think I’m smarter than anyone...It’s just that whatever my instincts are, it’s better for me to be able to put those into play in my own work.”

And as Gates rightly stresses in The Times obit, Joan fought for what I consider to be the ultimate definition of an independent film artist — **final cut**.



Joan directed Carol Kane in *Hester Street* in 1975

Joan and her husband & producer Ray Silver not only financed and produced Joan's first movie independently, they also pioneered DIY theatrical distribution, going straight to theaters to get *Hester Street* released. The organization they built turned the movie into an arthouse phenomenon, directly inspiring me and my colleagues — Maxi Cohen, Joel Gold, Deborah Shaffer, Stewart Bird, John Hanson & Rob Nilsson — to found First Run Features.

Ray joined the Board of the IFP and we served together for nearly 20 years. During that time I watched the Silver daughters grow into accomplished young women. My heart goes out to them — Dina, Marisa and Claudia.

## Joan Micklin Silver Championed Women Filmmakers

Marisa, who became an indie filmmaker in her own right (*Old Enough*, etc.), writes: “Whenever a film directed by a woman came out, my mom made sure to go to the first showing on opening day. A quiet act of solidarity. I love that!”

Joan would be thrilled that IndieCollect is reclaiming so many films by women directors.

## Starting 2021 with Gratitude

Many are helping achieve our goal of bringing films by women directors to new audiences. We applaud you!

Over the holiday, Adam Stern & Erika Aronson offered a \$15,000 challenge grant to be matched by New Year’s Eve. Our deepest thanks to Adam & Erika and to those who stepped in to complete the match in time.

- Beverly Grossman
- Peter Becker
- Ted Hope



Adam Stern & Sandra Schulberg at IndieCollect tribute to Michael Barker, co-hosted by Jason Kliot & Jon Kamen, June 2019.

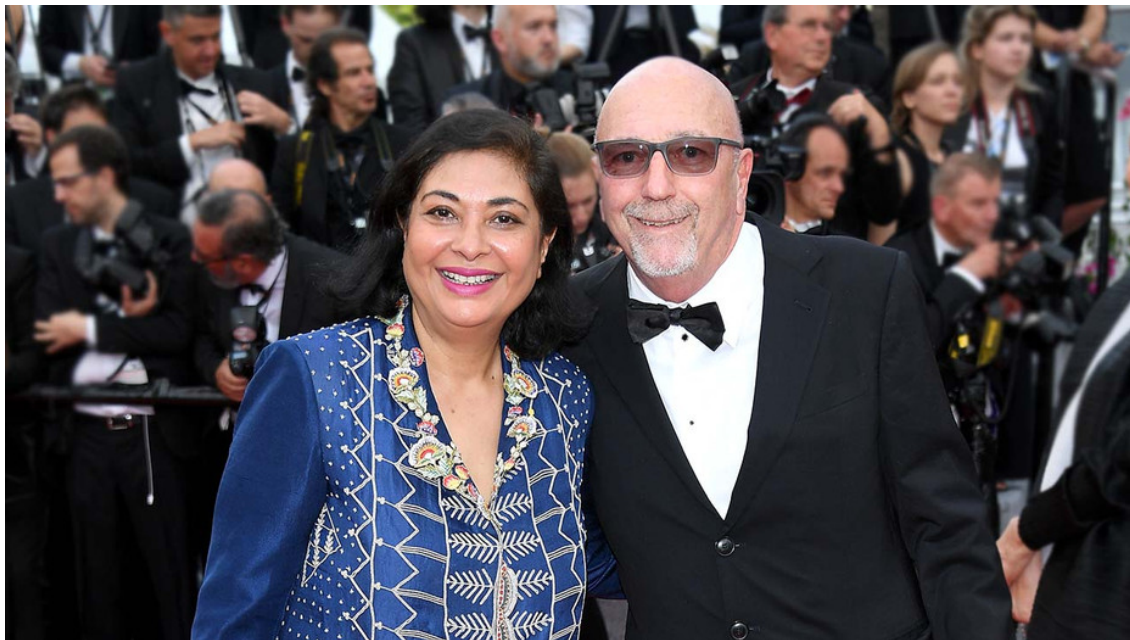


We are equally grateful to those who responded to our earlier appeals last month with gifts ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,000.

- Catherine Wyler, Michael Hausman, Gerry Herman, Bill & Laurie Benenson, Ira Resnick, Ann Hu, John & Marcia Stout, Cornelia Raval, John Ptak, Michael Rosenberg, Steve Wax.

We also want to thank all of you who made donations of under \$1,000. Every dollars helps!

- Dan Cogan, Richard Kilberg, Lindsay Law, Jack Lechner, Howard Dratch, Gail Silva, Nancy Kelly, Vivian Kleiman, Diana Victor, James Schamus, Ann Levy, Steve Fischler, Michael Sales, Annette Insdorf, Michael Sheehan, Melissa Houghton, Laura Murray.



Current HFPA Chair Meher Tatna with the late Lorenzo Soria, three-time President of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association

### **The Amazing Hollywood Foreign Press Association**

2020 was a terrible year for everyone touched by the coronavirus. We are so grateful to the leadership and members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA). After IndieCollect had to shut down in March, the HFPA gave us two emergency grants of \$5,000. Those funds enabled us to pay the rent on the restoration suite and to compensate the restoration team until they were able to qualify for PUA.

The HFPA then followed up with a \$100,000 grant for restoration of our slate of

films by women directors, a project we call *Hiding in Plain Sight*. For the HFPA's vision, compassion and determination to shine a light on women directors, we particularly thank:

- HFPA Chair Meher Tatna
- Grants Officer Sandra Cuneo
- Grants Committee Members Sylvia Bizio, Paz Mata, Alessandra Venezia
- Restoration Committee Members Frank Rousseau & Luca Celada



Sandra Schulberg and Jane Fonda at the HFPA Restoration Summit in February 2020, one of the final events before the pandemic hit.

### **Jane Fonda Fund for Women Directors**

In 2019, Jane hosted a fundraiser to launch our campaign to restore films by women directors. Thanks to her presence and passion, we raised \$80,000.

Thank you, Jane!

The work flow constraints imposed by the coronavirus have increased the cost of restoring each film, so we have to raise more money than originally anticipated.

If you'd like to make a donation to our [Jane Fonda Fund](#), please do!

We'll soon send update on all the women's films in the restoration pipeline, as well as clips.

Meanwhile, enjoy Criterion's 2021 [Tribute to Jane Fonda](#).

## The Promise of 2021

Like Americans everywhere, we are devastated by the recent attack on our nation's Capitol. We hope the 2020 *annus horribilis* opens the way to an *annus mirabilis* for us all.

Very best,

Sandra Schulberg and the IndieCollect Team



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