



MICHAEL LIPPERT, Director/Editor/Producer

Michael Lippert is an award-winning writer, director and editor whose films and documentaries have screened worldwide. Over the past decade, he has edited spots at Cutters Studios for major commercial brands and has written, directed, produced, and edited critically-praised independent films. Spanning both narrative and documentary genres, his focus is always on telling emotionally compelling, human stories.

Michael grew up in Cincinnati, OH and earned his BFA in Film and Television from Savannah College of Art and Design (2006). He then spent time in LA, learning the ins and outs of production culture while working on TV and film productions such as *Bones*, *Without a Trace*, and *Charlie Wilson's War* starring Tom Hanks and Philip Seymour Hoffman. After moving to Chicago, he began work as an editor at Cutters Studios, where he has cut commercial spots and films for the last 12 years for ad agencies representing Jeep, HP, Kohler, and IBM, among others. In this time, he also wrote, directed, produced and edited many independent films. Michael's films *Reversal* and *Miriam is Going to Mars* both garnered awards and critical praise. *Miriam* won best in show at Ithaca Fantastic and the Midwest Independent Film Festival, and *Reversal* won at Juggernaut Film Festival in Chicago.

His passion for and curiosity about people and their personal endeavors is what draws him to documentary subjects. His most recent film, *Reeves: A Home for Music*, follows the artists and community leaders who helped resurrect an art deco movie theater as a new music venue in Elkin, North Carolina. From concept to completion, it's a tale of artists with a long folk tradition looking for a place to play, and a town once built on tobacco and textile industries seeking a new identity. It's the story of so many small towns across America who are finding a new path through the arts. Featuring music from Mandolin Orange and Ben Sollee (among many local to Elkin), it captures a special turning point for this unassuming and beautiful place in the heart of Appalachia, where the Reeves celebrates the sacred tradition of music in NC while ushering in a whole new era of entertainment.

Michael is passionate about the new project about Carol Sloane. In college, he performed in a version of *Side Man*, which forever changed his perspective and gave him utter love for Jazz. He is fascinated by both its wild unpredictability in the moment, while adhering to a sophisticated overall structure. Carol's story in particular is of interest because it's a portrait of someone who, despite brushes with fame and a host of life challenges - including the threat of Jazz's demise, still continues to march on in the name of her art. Looking towards one last live recording, she will entertain us with celebrity memories, give us perspective on her battles, and challenge us to "keep going, keep going, see how far you can go." Carol Sloane • *A Jazz Singer* will be an intimate portrait, and one which Michael looks forward to sharing. Michael lives in Winston-Salem, NC with his wife, and young daughter and son.

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