

How a Public Access Show is Born

What motivates a CCTV volunteer to produce a public access show? Every Producer has their own story to tell.

Like the Sokol family, Norene Freeman tells us what inspired her to create her popular show, *DreamMakers*

When You Wish Upon a Star...

By Norene Freeman

On New Year's Day a couple years ago, I sat down to do what every good dreammaker does...make a wish list! I'd learned that "nothing happens unless first a dream." and decided to pursue a couple of them. One of my favorite dreams included getting involved with television production but I was really baffled about how to make that a reality in New Hampshire.

Soon afterwards, I read an advertisement in the local paper for a television production training course. You guessed it . . . It was an ad for CCTV! I quickly registered and could hardly wait for the day to arrive!

When it did, I had the oddest experience. As the staff was taking us through the ropes, something tugged at the back of my mind. Although I was excited about learning to run a camera and the thought of crewing for a show, it didn't feel quite "right." When I completed the course, I was still in the dark!

I didn't discover the answer to my dilemma until I was a guest on Penelope Chatterton's cable TV show, *Awake in the Dream*, on C3TV on Cape Cod. Because I had such a great time on the air and got so much encouragement from Penelope and her crew to become a host, I began to dream about producing my own show. Soon the concept for *DreamMakers* made its way from the back to the front of my mind, and the rest is history.

DreamMakers Show

The DreamMakers Show is a series about people who are unleashing the power within to create better lives and a better world. Real people share stories of hope and courage as they pursue their true dreams. I've heard from viewers that this inspires them to begin to make changes in their lives and pursue their passion!

Everyday people and "celebrities" from all walks of life, discuss, demonstrate, and display their passion on the show. Many have broken out of a mold in the process.

- An accountant finishes tax preparations and writes a bestseller
- A businesswoman leaves the office and produces "angel art"
- A small town printer becomes an international fly fishing tour guide

- A high school failure becomes a school principal who champions kids

- A psychiatrist leaves the couch behind to write/perform music that heals the heart

- A brain injured woman rallies and becomes an inspirational speaker

- A psychiatric nurse practitioner becomes a reiki master and plays in a band

How the Show Comes Together

Each show usually begins when I get inspired to invite someone to be our guest. I get on the phone or meet them in person, have a conversation, and decide whether or not it's a match. If so, I give them my show's executive summary, a guest flyer, and questionnaire. Once they complete the questionnaire, we talk again to go over their responses and decide what we want to do on the show.

The most exciting guest I've had so far was PBS star, Tim Janis, a talented and passionate composer, conductor, and performer. He and his group were in town to give a concert at the Capital Center for the Arts, perform in local schools, and visit area nursing homes. The crew and I went "live at 5" to produce the show and were thrilled with the outcome.

Speaking of the crew, they are awesome! Over the past couple years, a competent, caring, committed and creative group has volunteered a couple hours every other week, September through June. Mike Eschenbach is an amazing director/videographer, Jennifer Gurksnis a terrific audio technician, Catherine Foster-Smith a fabulous floor manager/camera operator/musician, Jeff Haines a classy camera operator/musician, and Nicky Beaudoin a super camera operator. Sometimes they rotate positions and sometimes other people join us to crew when we're in a jam. Without them, I wouldn't even dream of doing the show. It's a "dream team!"

What's Next?

My dream is to professionally produce *DreamMakers* and reach lots more people with its message of hope and possibilities. Stay tuned!

