

Susan Johnston: An Entrepreneurial Spirit with High-powered Execution

Imagine the impact of your childhood experiences and how it affects you today. Similarly, exploring the essence of such experiences from her childhood Susan Johnston, President of Select Services Films, Inc. shares part of her journey.



Hollywood, Jun 17, 2020 (Issuewire.com) - Imagine the impact of your childhood experiences and how it affects you today. Similarly, exploring the essence of such experiences from her childhood **Susan Johnston, President of Select Services Films, Inc.** has achieved many milestones in her pathway. Her unique ideologies and methodologies have helped her and her company to attain a successful stature. She looks after an award-winning production company which is also certified DBE, has a casting division and is Founder/Director of New Media Film Festival.

Susan's whole life & career was always inevitably leading to the creation of the New Media Film Festival® and empowering her community. She has been an actor, model, producer, film services sorceress, and early digital whiz. She's been knighted, named an honorary astronaut, been awarded Gamechanger of the Year, and traveled the world. As a lifelong activist, she's written and recorded songs to support Greenpeace campaigns and for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. It all started with an offbeat upbringing in Cranston, Rhode Island.

Foundation of New Media Film Festival

When the Writers Guild of America strike of 2007-8 happened, Susan Johnston felt a strong urge to do something that would make a difference. Looking back at her life, she believed she had what it would take. From her dad, she developed business acumen. From her mom, a spirit of exploration. *"I'm good at the tech side. I'm good on the innovation side. I'm not scared of anything, so I can start things."* One night before she went to sleep, she set herself a task. *"What do I do with my skills and experience to help this community that I've been a part of my entire life? When I woke up the next morning, the schematic for the festival was pretty much downloaded."*

That schematic became the foundation for the New Media Film Festival®, which launched in 2009. "It wasn't easy because no one knew what new media was then," Johnston recalls. Yet, the festival took off, immediately breaking new ground. It was the first to screen a film created by artificial intelligence, the first to offer Emmy consulting and to distribute micro-content. A work that won the augmented reality category went on to become the first-ever series of its kind. "Select services Films distributed it and nominated it for an Emmy," says Johnston. Two documentaries submitted to the festival recently hit number one on Amazon. As many as five others have made the top 50.

A Bright, Efficient and Excellent Co-coordinator

Susan's, first film a 35mm color film noir short Room 32, which won two awards, received distribution and was requested by Spiderman 3 for their production team. In 2000, Johnston – moved to Los Angeles amid the commercial actors strike. She worked – often for free – and studied every day to develop her skills. On one day she might be the best boy, on another a snake wrangler. When a director asked her to produce a project she was working on, Johnston agreed. *"My motto at the time,"* says Johnston, *"I'm not going to ask anyone to do anything I wouldn't do myself or that I haven't tried myself first."*

First Experience in the Digital Age

In high school, Johnston landed a work-study placement in the computer department of a large corporation. Her first experience in the new digital age was exciting and led to a placement at a division of Pierre Cardin. *"I worked in their computer department with this fantastic machine which looks like it came from 2001: A Space Odyssey. I'm in this cleanroom of a PDP 1134 with giant discs and sounds, and I am responsible when it crashes while everybody else is screaming because they think the world is going to end. I just loved it. That's why on the tech side I'm not scared of anything."*

The experience left Johnston with far more than confidence with new technology. Her father's innovative approach to getting things done together with her digital experience at the corporate level as a problem solver at such a young age gave her confidence to face pretty well any challenge. She could simply remain calm in the midst of turmoil and, calling upon her skills and creativity, solve problems.

Breadth of Experience

Susan Johnston first stepped out of the wings and onto a stage as a Brownie. *"I was a flower in a play,"* she recalls from her LA home. *"I crouched behind the flower. Then the flower fell, and the audience*

laughed.” She was hooked. “Having a whole audience laugh when your life feels like hell is pretty cool.”

From her role as a flower child, Johnston’s mom graduated her to beauty pageants and early, successful modeling career for magazines and television. During those formative years, Johnston’s mother took her to the theater as often as possible. *“I got to see a lot of amazing performers coming through town,”* she says and remembers the breadth of experience she gained. *“I’m thinking every kid lives like this, but looking back on it, I was entrenched in cast, crew, audience, sound, lights – everything for years.”*

Awards, Books, and Publications

- M&A Today Awards 2019 Best WomanOwned Film & TV Production Company - California 2018
- Global Awards, Best Woman-owned Film & TV Prod. Co
- 2018 Media Award, TMT Magazine
- New Media, All Media - The Intersection of New Technology and Storytelling – Springer
- Enlightenment – Your Life Is Remarkable – Barnes & Noble
- The Way of the Savant – Barnes & Noble
- Virtual Reality as New Media is Revolutionary - Connect-World: Europe II (2019)
- How to Make it in Hollywood: The “Must Have” Resource Guide to Navigate the Film World When You’re On Your Way Up – Barnes & Noble

Person- Susan Johnston, President

Company Name- Select Services Films, Inc.

Quote- *“There is no try. Do.” - Yoda*

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