

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 25, 2014

Lexington Production Company Receives Silver Telly Award

Lexington, Kentucky based documentary film producer, Dynamix Productions, Inc., announced that its 2013 television production, ***The Beat of a Different Drummer: The Story of America's Last All-Female Military Band***, has won a Silver Telly Award. The documentary was first broadcast in September 2013 on KET, Kentucky's statewide PBS affiliate, and is currently scheduled for additional airings throughout April. It has also been broadcast on The Pentagon Channel and the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFTRTS) worldwide.

The Telly Awards was founded in 1979 and is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs, the finest video and film productions, and online commercials, video and films. Winners represent the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators, and corporate video departments in the world. The Telly Awards is a widely known and highly respected national and international competition and receives over 12,000 entries annually from all 50 states and many foreign countries.

A prestigious judging panel of over 500 accomplished industry professionals, each a past winner of a Silver Telly and a member of The Silver Telly Council, judged the competition, upholding the historical standard of excellence that Telly represents. The Silver Council evaluated entries to recognize distinction in creative work – entries do not compete against each other – rather entries are judged against a high standard of merit. Less than 10% of entries are chosen as Winners of the Silver Telly, our highest honor.

The Beat of a Different Drummer is the story of America's last all-female military band - the 14th Army Women's Army Corp (WAC) Band. The other military branches fielded all-female bands, but the WAC Band survived longer than any. Through four decades, from 1948 until 1976, the WAC Band offered a woman the rare chance to have a career as a professional musician.

The standards were very high for WAC Band members. They were not only elite musicians, they were representatives of the United States Army. Their audiences were diverse - they marched out recruits for morning drills; they performed for enthusiastic audiences in small town America; they appeared on national television and radio; and they played for presidents.

From 1954 to 1976, the 14th Army WAC Band was stationed at Fort McClellan, AL, the last training site for all WAC enlistees. Women musicians were not allowed to perform in male military bands during most of this time; the WAC Band was their only option—many for their entire careers.

In contrast, male Army musicians rotated through different post bands every two years. The longevity, camaraderie, demanding hours, and high-standards turned the 14th Army WAC Band into an elite band, often compared to the top male-only bands in the other military branches.

By the 1970's, it became increasingly difficult for the Army to maintain gender segregation, chiefly because it was inefficient. But after the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972, the push for equality eventually led to the full integration of women into the Army in 1978. In 1976 the 14th Army WAC Band broke boundaries once again, just as its early pioneers did, by integrating early and adding a male saxophone player.

Today, its former members still have bi-annual reunions and concerts at Fort McClellan in Anniston, AL. A handful of former members still serve in the U.S. Army, Army Reserves, and National Guard units.

In a ceremony on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C. on March 11, the U.S. Army Women's Foundation inducted the 14th Army WAC Band into its Hall of Fame.

The Beat of a Different Drummer was written, directed, produced, and edited by Neil Kesterson of Dynamix Productions, Inc. Lexington resident Margo Buchanan narrated the program. Post Time Productions, a Lexington video production company, provided cinematography and additional editing.

Documentary filmmaker Neil Kesterson is the owner of Dynamix Productions, Inc. a production company in Lexington, Kentucky. Since the mid-1980's, he has been a producer and sound designer for film, video, television, theater, radio, audio books, and multimedia. The inspiration for this documentary came from a family member who was in the band, a mutual love of music, and a great story to tell – one that we should never forget.

To learn more about the WAC Band and the documentary, please visit www.wacband.com. To find out more about Dynamix Productions, please visit www.dxaudio.com

Dynamix Productions Inc.
Neil Kesterson

859-335-1011
neil@dxaudio.com