

Susan Hope Engel Bio

Susan Hope Engel is a filmmaker with her own company, Hope Productions. Over the last 24 years, she has directed over 100 films and 80 television commercials. Susan's extensive theatre background has been a major influence on her as a filmmaker. She is presently producing, directing and editing films for nonprofits.

Susan's film, "Unforgettable," has won the 2010 Blackbaud TV's INSPIRE award, a 2011

Silver Tally, and 2 awards that include the "2011 Making a Difference Award" from the

Alliance for Community Media. She also produced three documentaries on issues of racial

justice and women's empowerment and her film for Literature for All of Us documenting the

transformation in the lives of 5 teen mothers was televised on "Profiles in Caring," and aired

on "Voice of America."

Susan was the Collaborating Director with Edward Heffernan on the short feature, "The Letter." She directed the television pilot, "Sam Hill," a Chilany Production produced in Chicago. Her work in film took her to the former Yugoslavia as part of a peace effort sponsored by the Soros Humanitarian Foundation. Susan is a founding member of Women in Film Chicago.

"Unforgettable – Memories of the Emerson Street Branch YMCA" Synopsis

"Unforgettable" is a documentary on the legacy of The Emerson Street YMCA, which was known as "The black Y" in Evanston, IL, 1909-1969. For decades, it was the anchor to the

social and civic life in Evanston's black community. Athletes who were not allowed to play

at the high school excelled there. Northwestern University students forbidden from living on

campus found housing there. When blacks weren't welcome at the high school, Nat King Cole entertained then at The Emerson St. Y. This is an American story, an untold story that black elders longed to tell their youth. A story has had an unanticipated emotional effect on this progressive community.