

WOMEN TO WATCH

Sue Marx, Academy Award-winning filmmaker

what she does: In 1980, she founded Sue Marx Films, Inc., a Detroit-area company that has produced over 100 film, video and TV spots. She is also a voting member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences (which awards the Oscars).

her family: Marx and her husband, Hank, have three daughters and three granddaughters.

how she got where she is: Through the back door. As a model, she became fascinated with the photographer's point of view, and she worked in her darkroom at home when the kids were young. After receiving a graduate degree in sociology, she turned to photojournalism because she "loved getting to know people through the lens of a camera."

turning point: In the early '70s, she produced the award-winning Detroit TV series "Profiles in Black," covering the lives of such known and unknown Detroiters as Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and Rosa Parks.

her first film: A documentary on ceramic artist John Glick. The



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nine-minute film is part of "Three Portraits," which ran on PBS, and is in the Museum of Modern Art's film library.

the biz: Her company makes educational, political, promotional and documentary films, and has won numerous awards, including an Academy Award, 17 Emmys and 10 C.I.N.E. Golden Eagles. A recent project was the award-winning film "Watermark," about five swimmers and their coach on their journey to Olympic dreams, which aired on PBS.

biggest professional thrill: Winning the Academy Award in 1988 for "Young at Heart," a love story about two widowed octogenarian artists (one of whom was her father).

why she founded her own biz: "I hate giving someone the opportunity to say 'no' to me."

best part of her job: "Constantly meeting new people and learning new things -- from the annual magic festival in Colon, Mich. [the subject of her film co-produced with National Geographic], to Doug Fraser, former president of the United Auto Workers, who played a role in the Chrysler bailout [and was the focus of her recent documentary]."

advice for aspiring filmmakers: "Learn to write and learn to network. If you have a project you're committed to doing, get really good at writing grants, so you can put something on paper that

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leaps off the page. Take risks or you won't succeed, and don't be afraid to ask for help, especially from other women."

by Cindy Frenkel Kanter

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