



**DANIEL PETRIE, SR.**

**Recipient of the 2005 DGC Award for Lifetime Achievement**

Daniel Petrie was born in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. After serving in Canada's Armed Forces during WWII, he traveled to New York to enroll at Columbia University. While getting an MA, he was cast in the hit Broadway play *Kiss Them for Me*, starring Richard Widmark and Jayne Meadows. An off-Broadway role followed and, soon after, the tour of *I Remember Mama*. The tour ended in Chicago, where Petrie, newly married, enrolled at Northwestern University as a doctoral candidate.

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With the advent of television, in 1950 Petrie was hired at NBC-TV Chicago and was soon directing the distinguished half-hour series *Stud's Place*, starring Studs Terkel. In 1958, he directed his first feature, *The Bramble Bush*, starring Richard Burton, followed by *A Raisin in the Sun* with Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee.

During these years, Petrie continued directing for television, including *Omnibus*, *The Defenders* and *East Side – West Side*. There were occasional forays into the theatre – *A Shadow of My Enemy* had a short Broadway run, and *Who'll Save the Plowboy* won the Obie Award for Best Play in 1961. A portion of the 60's was spent in London, where Petrie directed Jennifer Jones and Michael Parks in *The Idol* and Susan Hayward in *Stolen Hours*.

In 1970, the Petrie family moved to Los Angeles, where Petrie worked with Lloyd Bridges and Shirley Jones on *Silent Night, Lonely Night*. Soon after, there were feature films, including cult hits *Buster & Billie*, *Lifeguard* (with Sam Elliot, Anne Archer and Kathleen Quinlan) and *The Betsy*, starring Sir Laurence Olivier, Robert Duvall and Katharine Ross. Movies for TV like *Hec Ramsey*, starring Richard Boone, and *The Man and the City*, starring Anthony Quinn, were made into series.

Petrie made television history in 1977 when he directed three of the five Emmy Award nominees for Best Production – *Sybil*, *Eleanor and Franklin: The White House Years* and *Harry Truman: Plain Speaking*. All three programs garnered Emmys, and for the second consecutive year, Petrie was voted Best Director by both the Academy and the DGA. A few years later, Petrie received another DGA Award for *The Dollmaker*, starring Jane Fonda.

In 1980, Petrie directed *Resurrection*, starring Ellen Burstyn and Eva Le Gallienne. Then came *Fort Apache*, *The Bronx* starring Paul Newman and Ed Asner. He returned to his old hometown of Glace Bay to direct his autobiographical script *The Bay Boy*, which was nominated for Genies in six categories, winning Best Picture and Best Screenplay.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Petrie divided his time between features and TV specials. He directed *Cocoon: The Return*, *Rocket Gibraltar*, *Square Dance* and *Lassie*. For television, projects included *My Name is Bill W*, *Mark Twain and Me*, *Kissinger and Nixon*, *Calm at Sunset* and *Seasons of Love*.

In 1997, Petrie wrote, directed and produced the feature *The Assistant*. The next few years included the TV movies *Monday After the Miracle*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Walter and Henry* and *Wild Iris*, which earned Laura Linney an Emmy Award.

Petrie's greatest source of pride was his family; wife Dorothea, sons Dan Jr. and Donald; twin daughters, Mary and June. All have followed in his footsteps as producers, writers and directors.