

Jeanette

MCDERMOTT

Jeanette McDermott is a career photographer, filmmaker and journalist. She is founder and president of Gubbio Studios, an independent digital media production company, which specializes in youth media and documentaries that promote Earth-Spirituality.



Photo taken 10/07

Media Artist and Environmental Conservationist

Prior to forming Gubbio Studios in 2005, Jeanette served as a roster artist with the Kentucky Arts Council, and as the Director of Media Arts for a community arts organization in Louisville and Executive Director of an environmental education non-profit organization in Kentucky. For many years she worked as a photojournalist for newspapers and magazines, and as a television and radio personality and correspondent for the United Press International. In local volunteer capacities, Jeanette has developed and managed programs in forestry stewardship, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat enhancement and environmental education. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Association of Environmental Education, Kentucky Woodland Owners Association and several community preservation coalitions and neighborhood associations. Jeanette has received numerous accolades for her leadership and vision, including awards for educational outreach and ecological restoration from the Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife and Jefferson County (KY) Government. She has received extensive grant funding from diverse sources for youth programs in media arts, personal empowerment and environmental education. Jeanette was nominated twice as "The Most Admired Woman in the Arts" by Today's Woman magazine in Louisville, Kentucky.

Gubbio Studios

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After being inspired while on retreat with Franciscan Sisters in 2005, Jeanette formed a digital production company to focus on Earth-healing ministries. She named her company in tribute to the 13th-century story of St. Francis and the wolf at Gubbio. The story centers on issues of compassion, charity and compromise for the greater good. Since forming Gubbio Studios, Jeanette has produced a number of documentaries that embody these values.



Youth Media Projects

Jeanette began collaborating with schools and community organizations in 1992 to pass her knowledge of communications to the next generation of media makers. Since then, she has worked with hundreds of youth to create successful youth media programs.

Habitat Urban Greenspace (HUG)

More than 500 elementary, middle and high school youth transformed six vacant urban lots into lush outdoor classrooms through Project HUG, a three-year project Jeanette created. Youth documented the project through digital media. A 15-year-old director of one of the documentaries used her video to gain entry into a summer film institute. A 13-year-old participant's photograph of HUG won first place in the youth division of the Kentucky State Fair.

T-FORCE

Economically disadvantaged teens spent three years learning about urban forestry and planting more than 1,000 trees in a blighted downtown Louisville neighborhood. Jeanette managed the project and worked with youth to plant the trees and produce a video documentary with funds from The National Tree Trust.

Earth-Spirituality Video Projects

Nature's Wisdom

Sisters of Loretto use metaphors from nature to demonstrate sustainable lifestyle choices and promote Earth-healing consciousness in south-central Kentucky.

Santuario Sisterfarm

A sanctuary managed by Adrian Dominican Sisters in the Texas Hill Country embodies the Feminine Divine and promotes permaculture principles of living lightly on Earth.

Soul Quest

Tucked into southern California's San Jacinto Mountains is a warm and welcoming retreat center where people experience Earth's powers to heal and awaken us to our inner story.

Home to Me

A mountaintop monastery in rural eastern Kentucky is home to six Sisters from the Order of St. Benedictine who, for 25 years, have been meeting the needs of people living in the impoverished Appalachian region.

Present to Earth

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate conduct an Earth Literacy course each summer to foster understanding of the 14-billion-year-old story of the Universe and show how science and Spirit unite. The course takes place in Godfrey, Illinois, atop ancient sandstone bluffs that overlook the beauty and convergence of three great rivers.

Freedom Expressed

Immigrant and refugee youth from 11 countries explored feelings of isolation and issues of culture, race and identity through media arts and community dialogue. Jeanette designed the year-long project and received a grant for it from the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts.

Media Masters

Jeanette created Media Masters as a way to help instill pride among students in a middle school that is riddled with poverty and gangs. Media Masters began as a two-week summer project, evolved into a weekly after-school program, and ultimately became part of the school's core curriculum. Youth in Media Masters have created three music videos and five short video documentaries about their school and neighborhood. Mixed Media, a program of Kentucky Education Television, featured Media Masters.

See Me

A grant from Kentucky Foundation for Women enabled high school girls living in a remote coal-mining town to use photography and filmmaking to examine media stereotypes about Appalachian girls, and to explore their self-identity within a cultural framework. Jeanette created the project after teaching in a school in Appalachia and witnessing how the culture affects girls.

Help Me

Jeanette worked with high school girls in the Louisville Girls Leadership Summit to produce a video drama examining emotional pain girls suffer when they have no adult guidance or strong community to support them. The video won first place in a United Way film competition, and garnered a \$10,000 grant from the City Council for the girls to continue their work as media activists.

Brave Girls

Jeanette worked with teens in the Louisville Alliance for Girls to write and produce a radio drama about European Girl Guides who helped Jews escape Nazi persecution during World War II. Funding from the Kentucky Foundation for Women allowed the girls to produce the drama, digitally master it onto CD-Rom, and develop a companion Educators Guide. The girls packaged and distributed the product to girls' organizations worldwide.

It Starts Here

Middle and high school girls tackle issues of leadership, equality and voice as imperatives to shaping young women's lives today. The girls created a website and are working with Jeanette to produce a video that fosters understanding and deepens appreciation of issues that affect women and girls.

Contact Jeanette

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References

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DOB: 1 February

JEANETTE McDERMOTT

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JOB OBJECTIVE: Seeking media and teaching opportunities at a non-profit biological reserve

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

- 35 years experience working in print and broadcast media
- 18 years experience managing non-profit organizations (concurrent with media work)
- 11 years experience teaching media arts and environmental education (concurrent w/non-profit management)
- 20 years voluntarism in ecological restoration and wildlife rehabilitation

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND PROFICIENCIES

Teaching and Human Relations Skills

- Proven ability to work cooperatively and successfully with diverse populations
- Excellent skills developing innovative curriculum and service learning projects for environmental education and media arts
- Mentor youth to increase social skill development for empowerment and voice
- Professional Development training for teachers in media arts and environmental education
- Group training facilitation for adult learners of digital media and natural resource conservation

Media, Public Relations and Marketing Skills

- Seasoned journalist, photographer, graphic designer, scriptwriter, video producer and editor
- Direct development of products for interactive media and commercial and non-profit media outlets
- Broad participation in corporate communications and media, public and community relations
- Oriented toward meeting demanding time goals and production deadlines
- Proven ability to work efficiently and multi-task successfully under diverse conditions

Management Skills

- Founded a non-profit environmental education organization and served as Executive Director for 12 years
- Founded a non-profit arts organization and served as Director of Media Arts for 6 years
- Co-Founded a non-profit forestry stewardship organization and served for 10 years on Board of Directors
- Served 4 years on Board of Directors for Kentucky Association of Environmental Education
- Served 3 years as a Roster Artist with the Kentucky Arts Council
- Successfully written and received grants over an 18-year period to support non-profit organizations and myself as an individual media artist
- Process-oriented, orderly and detail-oriented to achieve outcome-based goals

EDUCATION

California State University, Hayward: Bachelor of Arts, Professional Writing, magna cum laude
Ongoing CEUs, college courses and Adult Ed. in media, teaching, and natural resource conservation

WORK HISTORY

2005 – Present	Media Artist and Filmmaker	Gubbio Studios, Self-Employed
1999 – 2005	Director, Media Arts	Kentucky Theater Project, Louisville, KY
1993 – 2005	Executive Director	Learning Pursuits, Inc., Louisville, KY
1972 - 1993	Photojournalist/Media Artist	U.S. and Overseas

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: 1 February 1954

Single with no dependents; vegetarian; physically fit and in excellent health