

President's Award for Distinguished Alumni

LESLI KLAINBERG

Purchase College

State University of New York

Whereas, you are a driving force in the arts, behind developing and leading high-profile arts organizations and events for more than 25 years; and

Whereas, you are proudly a product of public education, graduating from the High School of Music and Art in New York City and Purchase College in 1985; and

Whereas, during your time at Purchase, you acquired a disciplined approach to filmmaking, challenged to improve your craft as you developed a network of future colleagues and fellow creatives; and

Whereas, you achieved international success early in your career as producer of the film *Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End*, winner of the Best Documentary Audience Award and Nominee for the Grand Jury Prize at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival, and short-listed for the Best Documentary Oscar Award; and

Whereas, you then founded your own production company, Orchard Films, producing and directing documentaries for major TV channels and international film festivals alike, including co-directing and co-producing *In The Company Of Women*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2004 and *Fabulous! The Story of Queer Cinema*, nominated for Best Documentary at the Berlin Film Festival in 2006; and

Whereas, you worked to expand the queer film community, serving as a founding board member of GLAAD, and on the boards of Outfest, Newfest, and the LGBTQ Film Festivals in both Los Angeles and New York City; and

Whereas, you have led the renowned Film at Lincoln Center since 2014, one of the nation's leading not-for-profit film organizations, recognized worldwide for its contributions to global cinema; and

Whereas, you have established a reputation as a leading voice in the film industry and as a role model and inspiration to younger artists everywhere; and

Whereas, you generously nurture the careers of emerging film professionals, creating time and space for your fellow Purchase alumni in particular;

Now, therefore do I, Milagros Peña, President, on behalf of the alumni, faculty, staff and students of Purchase College, State University of New York proudly recognize,

Lesli Klainberg

Recipient of the **Purchase College President's Award for Distinguished Alumni**

Presented on this the 17th day of May 2024



Milagros Peña, President

