

Thank you to TIVA, the Board of Directors, and all the people in this room for this wonderful recognition tonight.

I am honored and humbled to be in the company of so many accomplished and talented production professionals, many of whom are award winners tonight. BRAVO to you all for your persistence in your craft for all these years. And it's the freelancers in this room, and this town, who made MASLOW MEDIA GROUP what it is today.

I moved here in the late 70's and spent the next decade looking for my next gig. Being new to DC, I had a scanty list of regular companies to call on. Little did I know then what I know now. Searching for a job in production in DC was becoming a fulltime career. Why were there no agencies around that could find me a position in Television...I wondered...

Seeing an unmet need in this town, the vision dawned on me: There IS a need for a company that *specializes* in TV production staffing. It **had** to be easier to find jobs for other people than for myself. And so the vision for a business was born.

I floated this agency concept by friends and colleagues. "Don't be crazy", they said. "Everyone has stacks of resumes on their desk already. No one will ever call an agency to staff their productions." That was what did it for me. I went with my gut.

Producers with no time to look at demo reels that needed a crew; production managers too busy to read resumes, everyone needing someone yesterday. With a specialized agency, they could come to "one of their own" to find exactly the kind of person they needed.

Thus I reinvented my life from an entertainment industry job-seeker to an entertainment industry job-finder.

Trying to sell my untried concept of a TV staffing and payroll agency to the production heavyweights in DC was daunting. But then it all started to come together. Our first job order came from Rob Henninger. The next job order came from Roland House the following week! And then I found out about the Federal Government! Duh, Washington DC! My company was moving from a vision to reality.

My dreams of creating gorgeous pictures, doing stunning openings and telling compelling stories on screen morphed into CREATIVE TAXES, STUPEFYING INSURANCE and COMPELLING BANKERS TO fork out MORE CASH ...Don't ever believe that running a business is not a major production!!

THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE of starting THE MASLOW MEDIA GROUP, has been the number of people we have helped in our 24 years in business. It is a proud legacy. Many of those early applicants are still around, only now they're either our clients, Producers who own their own companies, or parents of the interns and P.A.'s we now place. I see some in the room tonight. I remember almost every single person who signed up with me then, between 1988-95, before you could easily find people on the internet. That is true.

It is not an overstatement to say there is **ONE DEGREE OF SEPARATION** between many of the people in this room and **THE MASLOW MEDIA GROUP**. **We have either hired you, placed you, or paid you.** This whole process of working with so many talented professionals to help them reach their goals has provided the company with a greater and more worthwhile purpose than its original intent.

I could write a book about all the obstacles I met along the way in building the Maslow Media Group. Fortitude chased them out. Nothing could separate me from my plan to succeed.

Every entrepreneur has special people along the road that are crucial to their success. I want to thank my late father and mentor Lewie, who told me to accept all the credit card offers that came in the mail because you never know when you need quick cash for your business; my husband and best friend, Alan, who keeps me grounded; and the most amazing staff of people that work at MMG. These are the people who hire you, book you and make sure you get paid: Our fabulous Production Managers, JOAN FIDDLE,(with me 16 years), BETH POSADA, LIZ LOKEY, our brilliant CFO, HARRY GORMAN, The one who guarantees to get you paid on time, Payroll Mgr LINDA BEDELL, THE ONE WHO HOUNDS YOU FOR PAYMENT, ACCOUNTANT DEWIE OPPENHEIMER, PA AND PEER AWARD WINNER, DOMINIQUE CURRY, OUR NEWEST ADDITION AND SALES ASSOCIATE, ERICA ANDREWS,. PLEASE GIVE THEM A HAND. THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE TEAMWORK.

My goal was always to be independent. It took far more time, energy and money than I could have ever imagined. Whether you achieve your goals often depends on following your instincts. **TAKE CALCULATED RISKS. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND BE COMMITTED TO YOUR VISION.** There is a Japanese Proverb that says: **“VISION WITHOUT ACTION IS A DAYDREAM. ACTION WITHOUT VISION IS A NIGHTMARE.”** Go for it. Again, thank you all for honoring me tonight.