

Member Spotlight: Kelly Pratt



How did you get your start in the Industry? In college (studying business) I was encouraged by a psych professor to pursue my love of the arts - dance specifically - and I did. That was in 1980 and I started studying dance again, auditioned for a company and danced with them for more than 5 years. During that time I was also involved behind the scenes and became intrigued with the "making" portion of the arts. One of our board members owned a production company and hired me as a production coordinator - that was in 1982. The rest is history... moved to the Twin Cities in '85 to take a job at Northwest Teleproductions as a Production Coordinator and then Coordinating Producer and, In 1987 was recruited by Riki Wuolle McManus to join the Film Board as the Assistant Director. Became the Acting Director and subsequently the Director of Production. I was there for 10 years on staff. During that time I developed the Minnesota Production Guide and published it for 17 years, until 2006.

What is your educational background? Bachelors - Minnesota State University Moorhead

What are you currently working on? Building my business - Creative Catalyst Studio (kellypratt.com) - coaching, workshops, and designing/producing planners, journals and other products

What is your favorite story to tell about working in this industry? A couple of my favorite stories:

- When I was scouting for a film called HE SAID, SHE SAID and the director called to tell me that they'd decided not to scout Minnesota but to scout Minneapolis instead.
- Every year we did a trade show in LA to show off what Minnesota location and crews could offer. One day I received a call from a producer we'd been talking to for years. He said "you've been telling me for years that MN could be the coast of Maine... can you prove it?" so I called Riki, and Milo Durben and I drove up to Palisade Head - did I mention this was in the middle of winter - and snow mobiled out to the point to shoot pictures for him. They ended up shooting 5 minutes of the THE GOOD SON here and greatly impacted the economy and town of Two Harbors.

What is your most memorable/favorite project? I loved working on the Grumpy movies - the stars and producers were so professional and respectful... And I love that Wabasha, Minnesota - fictional location of the story - saw an increase in winter tourism as a result of the films. In spite of the fact that none of the films were shot there.

What inspires you? Seeing people making a living doing what inspires them

What are some of your hobbies and interests? Making art

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? In 10? Now that's a good question :-)

What advice would you offer to a young female looking to get into this industry? Find a mentor! I love to share what I've learned with other women and believe that is how we will lift each other up!

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