

Waits, and received the City Flight Magazine 2005 award as one of the "Top Ten Most Influential African Americans in the Bay Area".

Tiffany Austin

Vocalist, songwriter, and educator **Tiffany Austin** is a native of Los Angeles, where she was an event performer and session singer. She has received classical voice training in both England and America, and has studied jazz at the Jazz Institute in Berkeley, California. She lived in Tokyo for five years, building a career as a vocalist/lyricist, and performing in various venues: television, live concerts, and session recordings.

Ranging from a rich alto to a clear mezzo-soprano, Austin's voice is infused with jazz and soul. She has performed with **Roy Ayers** and performs regularly with vocalist **Valerie Trout**, **Darren Johnston**, and **Marcus Shelby** and many more artists.

Austin also holds a degree in entertainment Law from Boalt Law School and often negotiates, reviews and provides counsel along with her creative work. Her debut recording, *Nothing But Soul*, will be released this month, featuring the music of **Hoagy Carmichael**.

Marty Pasetta, 1932-2015

Pioneering KGO-TV Director Moved To Hollywood, Directing 17 Oscar Telecasts; Also Directed Carter and Reagan Inauguration Galas For Television

Marty Pasetta, a pioneering director at KGO-TV in San Francisco before heading south to Hollywood to direct 17 live Academy Awards® telecasts, has died at the age of 82.

Pasetta died May 21 from injuries sustained in a single-car accident in La Quinta, in southern California, where he lived.

A veteran director at KGO-TV in the 1960s before heading to Hollywood in 1967, Pasetta was inducted, in 1991, into the *Silver Circle* of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his many years of



Marty Pasetta, 1932-2015

Was a director at KGO-TV in 1960s before heading to Hollywood to become the prolific director of 17 Academy Awards telecasts.

contributions to the television industry.

Besides making a huge name for himself as the veteran director of live television extravaganzas like the Oscar® telecasts for prime-time network TV, Pasetta also directed the inaugural galas for Presidents **Jimmy Carter** and **Ronald Reagan**, in 1977 and 1981, respectively.

The Riverside County Coroner's Office says the driver of the car in which Pasetta was the passenger in had left the engine on after they got out of the vehicle. The car ended up striking Pasetta and another passenger. Pasetta died at the scene.

The operator of the vehicle, **Keith Stewart**, 75, was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence.

During four decades in television, Pasetta directed and produced specials for many of Hollywood's biggest names, including **Frank Sinatra** and **Bing Crosby**, and oversaw star-studded tributes to **Elizabeth Taylor**, **Fred Astaire** and **Alfred Hitchcock**. He was credited with convincing **Elvis Presley** to suspend his drug use and lose weight for the 1973 special, *Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii*, which has been described as the first satellite broadcast of a live concert.

The Presley special was Pasetta's proudest achievement, according to his son, **Marty Pasetta, Jr.**

Some audience estimates state more than 1 billion people worldwide saw the concert.

The show he was best known for, however, was the Academy Awards. He directed every Oscars telecast from 1972 to 1988, and was responsible for introducing split screens, instant replays and musical numbers involving large numbers of background dancers, lasers and pyrotechnics.

His years with the Oscars show were also memorable for unscripted

drama, on and off stage.

In 1973, for example, tempers flared backstage when **Sacheen Littlefeather** accepted **Marlon Brando's** best actor award for *The Godfather* with an overtly political speech decrying the depiction of Native Americans in film.

John Wayne was in the wings "and was so angry he wanted to go out and pull her off stage," Pasetta recalled in an interview with United Press International in 1984.

Then, there was the time that presenter **Charlton Heston's** car blew a tire on the freeway. As a last-minute replacement for the actor known for playing Moses in *The Ten*

Commandments, Pasetta yanked **Clint Eastwood** from his seat in the audience.

"That was the year the writers had gotten very clever," Pasetta recalled in the *Chicago Tribune* years later. "It was all written in Biblicese - 'thou' this, 'thou' that, and poor Clint couldn't paraphrase it. It totally freaked him out."

Pasetta also presided over the 1974 program disrupted by a naked man who "streaked" across the stage behind Taylor and **David Niven**.

"We have been accused over the years of planning that one," Pasetta told the *Chicago Tribune*, "but it's not true."

The prank prompted a witty comeback from Niven, who said, "The man is showing off his shortcomings."

Martin Allen Pasetta was born June 16, 1932, in San Jose. He attended Santa Clara University, but dropped out to work at KGO-TV, where he rose to stage manager and producer.

He later moved to Los Angeles, landing his first major directing job on *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* in 1967. The program aired on CBS.

Pasetta also helped to launch and direct the long-running game shows, *Wheel of Fortune* and *Love Connection*.



With **Elvis Presley**, in 1973, directing the singer's television special, *Elvis: Aloha From Hawaii*, which became a blockbuster hit worldwide.

In addition to his son, Marty, Pasetta is survived by his wife, **Elise**; a daughter, **Debbie**; a second son, **Gregory**; and five grandchildren.

Veteran Producer, Longtime NATAS S.F./NorCal Fixture Produces Film *Diane Paskerian's "1915" Features S.F. Ballet Dancers In Commemorating Armenian Genocide Centennial*

By Kevin Wing
Chapter Vice President, San Francisco

A documentary commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide has been produced in the Bay Area, created by longtime Bay Area television producer **Diane Donian Paskerian**, and featuring the San Francisco Ballet.

Paskerian, who was inducted into the *Silver Circle* of the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 1989, has been a prolific television producer from the 1960s to today. She worked for KPIX and KBHK in San Francisco and KABC-TV and KNBC in Los Angeles.

Her latest project is *1915*, an eight-minute-long documentary memorializing the Armenian spirit and survival of ancestors following the Armenian Genocide a century ago. Paskerian, who is of Armenian descent, worked with **Davit Karapetyan** and **Vanessa Zahorian**, also of Armenian descent, to produce the documentary, which included appearances by several ballerinas from the San Francisco Ballet. Karapetyan and Zahorian, husband and wife, perform with the San Francisco Ballet.

Karapetyan choreographed the film to honor the Armenian spirit through creative dance and music as a way to bring peace to the world.



Producer **Diane Donian Paskerian**

Paskerian says the documentary was filmed at Mount Davidson in San Francisco, with the centerpiece being the 103-