

THIS AIN'T NO MOUSE MUSIC!

Directors Biographies

Chris Simon & Maureen Gosling

Director/Producers Chris Simon and Maureen Gosling met thirty years ago while working with world-renowned documentarian Les Blank. Maureen was Blank's co-filmmaker, sound recordist and editor. Chris was his producer, learning sound and editing along the way. Some of the films they worked on are: *Burden of Dreams*, *Gap-Toothed Women*, *Marc and Ann*, and *J'ai Eté au Bal: The Cajun and Zydeco Music of Louisiana* (with Strachwitz). They each have struck out on their own since those days. Maureen directed and produced *Blossoms of Fire* a feature documentary tribute to the Isthmus Zapotecs of southern Oaxaca, which has played around the world. She has also edited many documentaries for PBS. Chris Simon produced and directed four independent documentaries including the prizewinning *Down an Old Road* and *My Canyonlands*. She has made numerous other films for non-profits on subjects as diverse as cowboy poetry, southwest archeology and recycling around the world. Chris and Maureen have come together for this project because of their love for the music and cultures that Chris Strachwitz brought out to the world – and to share the vision of their longtime friend and colleague.

Maureen Gosling

Gosling, a documentary filmmaker for forty years, produced and directed *Blossoms of Fire*, on the legendary Zapotecs of southern Oaxaca, Mexico, which was broadcast on HBO Latino, and five other international television channels. She was co-filmmaker/ editor/and/or sound recordist with acclaimed director, Les Blank, for twenty years on twenty films, including *Burden of Dreams* (British Academy Award). She has constructed and shaped dozens of films for Blank and many other directors, including Luke Griswold-Tergis' *Smokin' Fish* (IFP Doc Lab honoree, broadcast nationwide on PBS+), Abby Ginzberg's *Cruz Reynoso: Sowing the Seeds of Justice* (Latino Public Broadcasting), and Jed Riffe's four-part nationwide PBS series, *California and the American Dream: California's "Lost" Tribes*.

Chris Simon

Chris Simon has been an award-winning documentary filmmaker for more than 25 years. After 15 years of producing (as well as doing sound and editing) for renowned documentary filmmaker Les Blank, Simon started her own company, Sageland Media. Her independent documentaries include: *Down an Old Road: The Poetic Life of Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel*, which explores the vision of poet Wilma McDaniel and California's Dust Bowl Migrant culture; *My Canyonlands* a portrait of Kent Frost, Utah's modern John Muir and the canyon country he loves; and most her most recent, *I Hear What You See: The Old-Time World of Kenny Hall*, a portrait of the legendary blind mandolin player and his music. Chris' work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the California and Utah Humanities Councils, and numerous private foundations and individuals.