



City of Cambridge

21.

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 5, 1996

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
 COUNCILLOR BORN
 COUNCILLOR DAVIS
 COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
 COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
 COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
 COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that two Cambridge film makers, Jeanne Jordan and Steven Ascher, won two major documentary prizes at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Jordan and Mr. Ascher, who are married to each other, worked for years on the firm on a shoestring budget; and

WHEREAS: Their film won both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award for "Troublesome Creek: A Midwestern," which they wrote, produced and directed together; and

WHEREAS: "Troublesome Creek" documents a heart wrenching story in which Ms. Jordan's parents auction their livestock and machinery to fight foreclosure on their farm, and which also features a musical scene written and performed by local musician Sheldon Mirowitz, will air on PBS in 1997; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its congratulations to Jeanne Jordan and Steven Ascher; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution for presentation to Jeanne Jordan and Steven Ascher on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council February 5, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

D. Margaret Drury

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
 City Clerk

mpete for Dream Role



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / PAT GREENHOUSE

front) Alison Wood, Karen O'Brien, of the First Trinitarian choir.

stament brothers showed to-

cameras arrived, you could
sture improve. Perhaps they
they didn't win a spot, they
se of themselves on the news,
say they sang on the Colonial
t would have to be enough.
n., Reno took center stage to
rs. "I wish we could pick all

12," he said, just after a wise mother
leaned over to her daughter and
whispered, "Honey, it has nothing to
do with who's good and who's not
good. It has to do with what they
want."

"We're going to ask four choirs
to join us for four months," said
Reno. "After that, if we're still run-
ning, we'll have another audition. So
there'll be another chance."

The kids held their breath.

"The Wellesley Hills Congrega-
tional Church, the Franklin School
for the Performing Arts, the First
Trinitarian Church in Scituate and
the St. John the Evangelist Episco-
pal Church in Duxbury," he called
out as the winners cheered and some
who weren't so lucky stifled tears.

"I'm very excited for the chil-
dren," said Susan Holly, Wellesley
choir director. "They have no idea how their lives
are going to change over the next few months."

"I'm excited ... I can't believe I'm going to
meet Donny Osmond," said Marybeth Alexander,
from the Franklin School.

As the choirs headed for their buses, one choir
director whose group was not chosen explained
that "maybe they were looking for shorter kids."

Suddenly, a young girl bent her knees, and
said, "I can be short." Maybe next time.

e its tune to win converts

Where, you might wonder, is
Jourgensen in all this? Jourgensen is
presently keeping his notoriously big
yap under wraps. "Certainly I do

so we thought it out. There was no
creative challenge. ... In the final
analysis, these were the songs that
were the most honest expressions."

Cambridge couple takes prize at Sundance film fest

By Matthew Gilbert
GLOBE STAFF

When the 10-day Sundance Film
Festival wrapped on Saturday, two
Cambridge filmmakers walked off
with a pair of major documentary
prizes. Husband-and-wife team
Jeanne Jordan and Steven Ascher
won both the Grand Jury Prize and
the Audience Award for "Trouble-
some Creek: A Midwestern," which
they wrote, produced and directed
together. The documentary chroni-
cles the fate of the Iowa farm that
has been in Jordan's family since
1867.

"It was an out-of-body experi-
ence," says Jordan, still hoarse from
a week of schmoozing at the festival,
held in Park City, Utah. "I made a
very husky acceptance speech!" The
other documentaries in competition
this year included glitzier fare such
as "The Celluloid Closet," "The Bat-
tle Over 'Citizen Kane'" and "Para-
dise Lost," by the makers of "Broth-
er's Keeper." "I didn't think there
was a chance," Jordan admits.
"Steve says that's because I'm from
Iowa!" Recent documentary prize
winners at Sundance have included
"Crumb," "Hoop Dreams" "Silver-
lake Life" and "A Brief History of
Time."

During "Troublesome Creek,"
which began filming in 1990, Jor-
dan's parents auction their livestock

and machinery to fight foreclosure
on their farm. But, says Ascher,
"this is definitely not a save-the-farm
film. It's about human experience
and loss, and it has a lot of humor in
it. It's also about families and how
they can pull together." Jordan's 76-
year-old father, Russ, who figures
prominently in the film, joined Jor-
dan and Ascher onstage Saturday to
accept the Grand Jury Prize.

"Troublesome Creek," whose
score was written and performed by
local musician Sheldon Mirowitz, re-
ceived funding from various Mid-
western state humanities councils,
the BBC and PBS' "The American
Experience," among others. It will
air on PBS sometime in 1997, and
Jordan and Ascher are hoping that it
will be picked up for distribution to
theaters in the meantime. During its
18-year history, Sundance has be-
come a popular site for studio acqui-
sition activity.

Jordan has worked extensively
for PBS, including directing "Run-
ning With Jesse" for the "Frontline"
series and editing two films for the
"Eyes on the Prize" series. Ascher,
who cowrote "The Filmmaker's
Handbook" and taught filmmaking
at MIT, directed "Del and Alex,"
which appeared on A&E, and the
documentaries "Life and Other
Anxieties" and "Accounts From the
Life of George Wilkins."

354-2483

153A Mt Auburn

double the spoken phrases, playing them as little tunes. "I say the words when I play," says violist Mary Ruth Ray. "It's haunting."

The background of "Trains" is an incessant locomotivelike chug-chug played by three taped string quartets (the Kronos). The dogged pulse makes the little scraps of speech ("From Chicago to New York"; "into those cattle wagons") sound fragile and vulnerable, but ultimately it becomes annoying. This is not one of

her solo warmed the heart. First violin Daniel Stepner, in glorious voice, soared over the second-movement pizzicati. Both second violinist Judith Eissenberg's and Mary Ruth Ray's slow movement solos unfurled with as much throaty, languorous sexiness as decency permits. In the finale the Lyds made every episode a surprise that led to another surprise, accumulating rhythmic and harmonic suspense for their final burst into the sunshine of G major.

masterpieces," Peter Phillips has written recently, "were originally performed in small and potentially dry places." Obviously, care was being taken here not to have anything needlessly obscured. In any case, the skill and musicality of this crack group could withstand scrutiny in any acoustic.

...

Part of Phantom Arts' newsy concert at New England Conservatory's Brown Hall Saturday night

New CDs (WCRB) ... 8 p.m. Biber "p.m. My Word (WBUR) ... 11:30 p.m.
Mon: 10:05 a.m. Clue for a Song/7 p.m. Composer of the Month (BBC).
Fri (BBC).
Tue: 8 p.m. Dohnanyi/Cleveland: "Paulus SQ Con (Cleveland) (WHRB).

trafficked in "bent" notes and microtones - Joseph Mallia's manual-of-contemporary-technique "Lock No. 1," virtuosically dispatched by clari-

Brooks, reunited Eagles top American Music Awards

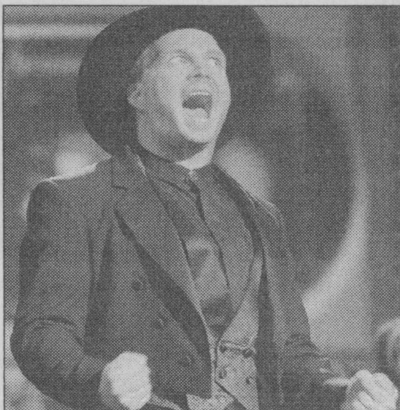
By John Antczak
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Country music star Garth Brooks was named artist of the year last night at the American Music Awards, then left his trophy on the podium because he doesn't believe in the title.

Brooks, saying there was no disrespect intended, told the audience he didn't believe in the concept of an artist of the year, "so I'm going to leave it here." He then walked away.

Brooks and the reunited Eagles each won three American Music Awards. Brooks also won, for the fifth year in a row, favorite male country artist and favorite country album for "Hits."

The Eagles won favorite pop rock album for "Hell Freezes Over," favorite adult contemporary artist and favorite pop group trophies.



■ APPRECIATION

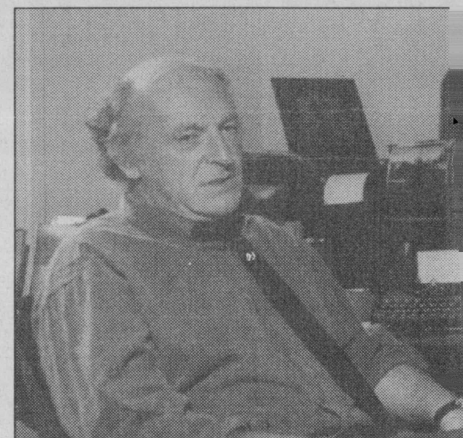
Continued from Page 51

Women friends came and went; his kitchen held more ashtrays and books and papers than plates and silverware. Wherever he was, New York or South Hadley, a liter bottle of very good Scotch whisky sat invitingly on one of the few bare, flat surfaces in his living room.

Brodsky's classes at Mount Holyoke, where he began teaching in 1981, were oversubscribed long before his Nobel notoriety, even though he required students to memorize at least 100 lines of poetry every week. He believed that such rote learning was in fact a liberating process that fed the poetic spirit.

Donald Hall, the New Hampshire-based poet, recalled Brodsky's arrival in the United States, when he came to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where Hall was then a poet in residence:

"Shortly after he arrived, they put on a poetry reading. He read his own work in Russian and did it with



tongue," Hall added. (Brodsky's most recent poetry in English is self-translated.) "It is hard to get the tone right, even if the words are right. On the other hand, his English prose is marvelous. 'Less Than One' is just a marvelous book of essays."

Brodsky, who was named US poet laureate in 1991, once remarked that he was composing his poems in Russian and then translating them.

Russian poet, America

Whereas their film

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COUNCILLOR BORN

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WHEREAS: Ms. Jordan and Mr. Ascher, who are married to each other, won both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award for "Troublesome Creek: A Midwestern," which they wrote, produced and directed together; and

worked for years on the film ~~on~~ on a shoe string budget

WHEREAS: "Troublesome Creek," in which Ms. Jordan's parents auction their livestock and machinery to fight foreclosure on their farm, and which also features a musical scene written and performed by local musician Sheldon Mirowitz, will air on PBS in 1997; now therefore be it

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C. Treantafillim

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"It was an out-of-body experience," says Jordan, still hoarse from a week of schmoozing at the festival, held in Park City, Utah. "I made a very husky acceptance speech!" The 14 documentary films in competition this year included glitzy fare such as "The Celluloid Closet," "The Battle Over 'Citizen Kane'" and "Paradise Lost," by the makers of "Brother's Keeper." "I didn't think there was a chance," Jordan admits. "Steve says that's because I'm from Iowa." Recent documentary prize winners at Sundance have included "Crumb," "Hoop Dreams," "Silverlake Life" and "A Brief History of Time."

During "Troublesome Creek," which began filming in 1990, Jordan's parents auction their livestock

and machinery to fight foreclosure on their farm. But, says Ascher, "this is definitely not a save-the-farm film. It's about human experience and loss; and it has a lot of humor to it. It's also about families and how they can pull together." Jordan's 76-year-old father, Russ, who figures prominently in the film, joined Jordan and Ascher onstage Saturday to accept the Grand Jury Prize.

"Troublesome Creek," whose score was written and performed by local musician Sherry, received funding from several western state humanities councils, the BBC and PBS' "The American Experience," among others. It will air on PBS sometime in 1996 and Jordan and Ascher are hoping it will be picked up for distribution in theaters in the meantime. During its 18-year history, Sundance has become a popular site for indie acquisition activity.

Jordan has worked extensively for PBS, including directing "Running With Jesse" for the "Frontline" series and editing two films for the "Eyes on the Prize" series. Ascher, who cowrote "The Filmmaker's Handbook" and taught filmmaking at MIT, directed "Del and Alex," which appeared on A&E, and the documentaries "Life and Other Anxieties" and "Accounts From the Life of George Wilkins."

Triantafillou & Guérin, P.C.
101 Rogers Street, Suite 405
Cambridge, MA 02142

Thursday, February 1, 1996
11:07am

Attention: Margaret Drury

Company: Cambridge City Hall

Telephone #: (617) 349-4280

Fax #: (617) 349-4287

Subject: Murphy/Wancho matters

Sender: Katherine Triantafillou

Sender Telephone #: (617) 577-1505

Sender Fax #: (617) 577-1012

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Puehry, Galluccio, Russell
Consent Order #21 Sullivan

Councillors Triantafillou, Born
and Davis re: Congratulations
to Jeanne Jordan and Steven Ascher
on winning two major documentary
prizes at the prestigious Sundance
Film Festival.

Toomey

R-138

In City Council February 5, 1996

Order Adopted