

sketchbook



Marty Sklar (1934 – 2017) Founder, Mentor, and Visionary

“As I watched the graduates coming on stage to receive their certificates – admiring the spectacle and variety of teen fashions passing by – I looked out at the audience of 500, realizing that I was seeing the face of Southern California smiling and cheering back at those graduates. The diversity I saw – in every definition of that word – is an inspiration to me.” – Marty Sklar, *Ryman Arts Blog*, 2016

Marty never tired of meeting Ryman Arts students, and for 27 years the annual graduation ceremony was a highlight for him. When visiting class last year, he was struck by the camaraderie of the alumni teaching assistants, “The visit turned out to be a learning process *for me*. It was a thrill to learn that these TAs are using the skills they learned at Ryman Arts...In fact, the term they used was exciting to hear. They said that through Ryman Arts, they are part of a supportive *Community of Artists*.”

He also marveled at their artistic accomplishments. Shane Prigmore (Ryman '93), described meeting Marty at an early *Affair of the Art* show, to talk about Shane's student art submission. “Marty grabbed my arm and had a mischievous look in his eye as he engaged at length in a way that was not warranted by

the piece we were talking about, saying finally, “Trust me and stick with it. It's worth it.”

Known by so many as a Disney Legend, we at Ryman Arts experienced another side of Marty: his commitment to educating young people and his fierce insistence that all students, especially the most vulnerable, deserve the highest quality education.

Marty wrote, “One of the really important things for [Ryman Arts students] was that they had to get up and talk about their own art...for most of them, it was the first time they ever had to do that...it doesn't just relate to drawing, it's something they're going to do later in life...looking for a job...working in their community. That's what we've accomplished more than turning out people who can draw and paint; we're turning out great citizens.”



Celebrating Marty's Legacy

On September 16, Leah Sklar and her family welcomed us into her home so we could come together again to celebrate Marty and his legacy as a mentor. The memorable stories, music, art, food and wine all made for an enchanted evening. We are especially delighted guests were able to hear the impact of Ryman Arts on our graduates.

“...it’s really important for us to move forward...to continue this legacy and to carry the torch forward and continue enriching the lives of young artists...”

“When you go to Ryman Arts, it’s a big thing, a big sign of respect that they hand you this art bin on your first day...I think that it’s really important for us to move forward...to continue this legacy and to carry the torch forward and continue enriching the lives of young artists because I can say for myself that Ryman Arts has had the most tremendous impact on my life and literally has changed my life.”

– *Adrianna Arambula (Ryman '04)*

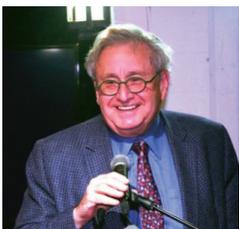


“[Being in Ryman Arts] was the most important time in my life as an artist and it affects me to this day. Everything that I learned in that program, I utilize on a daily basis. It guided my career. It taught me to think. It taught me to communicate. It was incredible.”

– *Shane Prigmore (Ryman '93)*

“Ryman [Arts] instilled not only the traditional skills I needed to become an animator or to pursue it, but it gave me the confidence to know that this was something that I absolutely could do...I am really proud to say that I am the head of story on *Wreck-It-Ralph 2* and one of the very few female story artists out there and very few heads of story and female leadership at Disney Animations. And it truly started with Ryman Arts.”

– *Josie Trinidad (Ryman '93)*



“I don’t measure the success of Ryman Arts in the wonderful artists who come out of it. I measure in the wonderful individuals who have found themselves and found a way to go on in the world and make a difference. That is an extraordinary gift to be able to give to young people.”

– *Former President of CalArts, Steven Lavine*

Plans are already underway for an exciting gala event next fall which will be the inauguration of a new, annual Ryman Arts tradition. The presentation of the **Sklar Creative Visionary Award**, named in honor of Ryman Arts founders Leah and Marty Sklar will be presented to a well-known leader whose vision and impact has had a profound impact on our creative community. Watch for more details in the weeks to come!

It's Up to Us Now

For many youth at Ryman Arts, their experience here is the first time that someone took them seriously.



From our team welcoming students and their families on the first day to the weekly critiques in the studio with our marvelous faculty, students know that someone cares about them.

You too are “that someone.”

Your belief in the dreams and potential of these young people is what makes Ryman Arts so meaningful. The feelings expressed by alumni Adrianna, Josie, and Shane on the previous page reflect the experience of many students in our program today.

At Ryman Arts, a diverse array of teen artists come together each week, feeling safe to be themselves – their BEST selves. They are bound together in a positive community fueled by shared passion for art and desire to make something of

themselves. In these challenging times, **this inclusive community is precious.**

Marty Sklar made each of us feel that we mattered, that we each have something valuable to contribute to this community. He changed lives, one by one, adding up over the years, to thousands. His passing is a time to reflect on the part each of us can play in guiding young people on their journeys. **It's up to us now. The torch has been passed.**

Who will you mentor? How will you support young people going forward?

Ryman Arts is the answer.

Please consider a generous contribution to Ryman Arts, knowing that you can be that “someone” who, like Marty, takes the dreams and potential of young people seriously, changing lives one by one.

With heartfelt thanks,

Diane Brigham, *Executive Director*



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Leah R. Sklar
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Ryman Arts honors the memory of legendary Disney artist Herbert Ryman, and the vision of Lucille Ryman Carroll, by providing high school artists with college-level training in essential skills for art and life.

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*Ryman Arts:
 teaching young artists.
 transforming lives.*



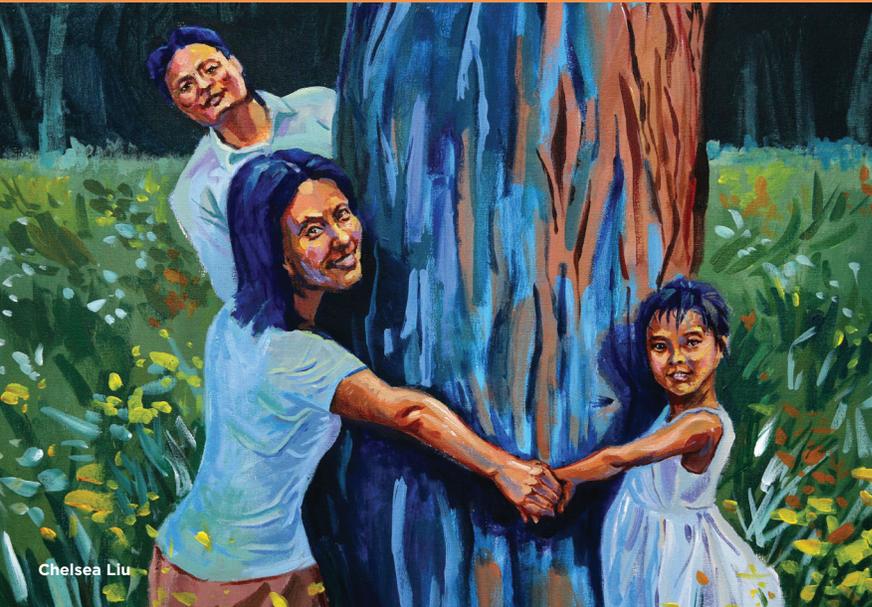
Tiffany Wei

“There are two ways to look at a blank sheet of paper. You can see it as the most frightening thing in the world—because you have to make the first mark on it. Or you can see it as the greatest opportunity—because you get to make the first mark on it.” - *Marty Sklar*

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