

Ruth Vitale

CreativeFuture CEO

Ruth Vitale has been at the forefront of independent film production and distribution for almost twenty years. She has built and managed several independent companies from their inception, in addition to launching the careers of many successful filmmakers. She has cultivated and maintained solid relationships with talent throughout the industry.

Vitale is the CEO of CreativeFuture, a nonprofit advocacy organization for the creative industries – mobilizing the creative communities to speak up about the value of creativity and to speak out against the for-profit theft of creative works.



Vitale also has been releasing films in partnership with Brainstorm Media. The films released in 2012 include Todd Solondz's *Dark Horse*, Martin Papazian's *Least Among Saints*, *A Liar's Autobiography: The Untrue Story of Monty Python's Graham Chapman*, and David Riker's *The Girl*. 2013/2014 releases include Brad Leong's *Dorfman in Love*, Ron Maxwell's *Copperhead*, Matthias Hoene's *Cockneys vs Zombies*, Jeremiah Birnbaum's *Torn*, Stuart Cameron's *All You Need is Love*, Stephane Berla and Mathias Malzieu's *Jack and the Cuckoo-Clock Heart*, and Arthur Allan Seidelman's *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*. 2015 releases include *Bloodsucking Bastards*.

Additionally, Vitale consults for financiers and companies, aiding in the strategic planning for their films in the worldwide marketplace from development and production through distribution. Vitale's consultancy business has reached beyond film to also include nonprofit work.

In 2008 and 2009, Vitale was Managing Director, Business Development for OurHistree.com. She developed the business strategies for the Internet startup and worked with the CEO to secure corporate clients.

Prior to that, Vitale was President of First Look Pictures, the newly formed theatrical distribution entity of First Look Studios. Releases included John Hillcoat's *The Proposition*; *Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters*; and *Paris, Je T'aime*.

Vitale founded and served as Co-President of Paramount Classics from 1998-2005, an autonomous division of Paramount Pictures that specialized in bringing daring, offbeat, and unconventional films from the United States and around the world to contemporary audiences. Working in partnership with Co-President David Dinerstein, Vitale demonstrated a commitment to the independent spirit in filmmaking and the development of promising new talent, in addition to running a financially profitable independent stand-alone.

When Vitale formed Paramount Classics, she quickly acquired two films that were to draw widespread critical acclaim: Sofia Coppola's controversial portrait of suburban disintegration *The Virgin Suicides* and Patrice Leconte's shimmering love story *The Girl on the Bridge*. In 2000, Paramount Classics released two films that received a total of 5 Golden Globe and 2 Academy Award nominations: Istvan Szabo's 20th century epic *Sunshine* starring Ralph Fiennes in three multi-generational roles and Kenneth Lonergan's comedic-poignant exploration of a dysfunctional family *You Can Count On Me*.

In 2001, Paramount Classics continued to champion independent and iconoclastic filmmakers from across the globe with its ambitious release slate including writer-director Edward Burns' romantic comedy *Sidewalks of New York*; Neal Slavin's *Focus*, a compelling character study of mistaken identity and hidden prejudices based on Arthur Miller's only novel; and Barbet Schroeder's controversial *Our Lady of the Assassins*.

Following on that success, in 2002 Paramount Classics released some of its most high-profile truly independent films which included the 2002 Sundance and Berlin Film Festivals award-winner *Bloody Sunday*, written and directed by Paul Greengrass and nominated for an Independent Spirit Award; and Sandra Nettelbeck's *Mostly Martha*, which became one of the highest grossing foreign-language films of the year.

In 2003, Vitale's close relationship with Patrice Leconte again proved fruitful and Paramount Classics had tremendous critical and financial success with *Man on the Train* starring Jean Rochefort and Johnny Hallyday. The esoteric *Northfork* from the Polish Brothers starring James Woods, Nick Nolte, and Daryl Hannah and the controversial *The Singing Detective* written by Dennis Potter and starring Robert Downey Jr., Mel Gibson, and Robin Wright reinforced Paramount Classics' reputation as a daring, provocative, and filmmaker-centric distribution company. Under Vitale, Paramount Classics also released Claude Lelouch's Cannes Closing Night film *And Now Ladies & Gentlemen* starring Jeremy Irons and Mike Hodges' reteaming with Clive Owen in the noir thriller *I'll Sleep When I'm Dead*.

In 2004, Paramount Classics championed screenwriter Jacob Estes' feature directorial debut from his Nicholl Award-winning original screenplay and Sundance and Cannes Film Festivals favorite *Mean Creek*, which also went on to win two Independent Spirit Awards; Patrice Leconte's critically acclaimed *Intimate Strangers* starring Sandrine Bonnaire; Roger Michell's adaptation of Ian McEwan's *Enduring Love*, starring Daniel Craig, Samantha Morton, and Rhys Ifans; and Brad Anderson's highly-praised psychological thriller *The Machinist*, starring Christian Bale and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

In 2005, Paramount Classics released a wide array of films ranging from the small and wildly embraced world festival favorite German dramedy *Schultze Gets the Blues* to the most popular and praised selections from Park City: Slamdance's opening night crowd pleaser *Mad Hot Ballroom* from director Marilyn Agrelo and writer Amy Sewell and the most talked-about film out of Sundance, *Hustle & Flow*, starring Terrence Howard, Taryn Manning, Taraji Henson, Anthony Anderson, and DJ Qualls, produced by John Singleton and Stephanie Allain and written and directed by Craig Brewer. Other films in 2005 included writer-director Josh Sternfeld's intimate family drama *Winter Solstice* starring Anthony LaPaglia and Allison Janney; the delicious French comedy *Apres Vous* starring two of France's greatest comics Daniel Auteuil and Jose Garcia; and David Mackenzie's *Asylum* starring Natasha Richardson, Sir Ian McKellen, and Marton Csokas, adapted by Patrick Marber from Patrick McGrath's celebrated novel of erotic obsession.

Before joining Paramount Classics, Ruth Vitale was President of Fine Line Features from January 1995 to January 1998. Under her aegis, Fine Line produced and distributed such highlights of independent film as the Academy Award®-winning *Shine*; *The Sweet Hereafter*; *Love! Valour! Compassion!*; *Twelfth Night*; *Gummo*; and *The Winter Guest*. Prior to her appointment as President of Fine Line, Vitale served as Executive Vice President of Acquisitions for three years, overseeing such New Line and Fine Line productions as *Don Juan DeMarco*; *Corrina, Corrina*; *Widow's Peak*; *Mortal Kombat*; and *Mi Familia*.

Vitale formerly served as President of Gary Goldberg's UBU Productions' feature film division from 1988 to 1991. Among other positions, she was Senior Vice President of Production for United Artists, where she

oversaw production on *Child's Play*, *I'm Gonna Git You Sucka*, and *Road House*. As President of Production for Vestron Pictures, she broke independent ground with the highest-grossing independent film of the time, *Dirty Dancing*. She was also Director of Acquisitions for The Movie Channel.

Prior to her film career, Vitale worked in the advertising and television businesses. She was integral to the startup Daytime, the Hearst/ABC first women's cable network co-venture that eventually became Lifetime, establishing their research division. She also created the Media Account Services division at McCann Erickson New York that acted as the liaison between the Creative Services and Media Account Buying departments and the client. Clients included Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer and Gillette.

She received her Bachelor's Degree in Literature from Tufts University in 1974 and her Master's Degree in Journalism from Boston University in 1975.

She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences; a Member of the Advisory Board of Carnegie Mellon University/Master of Entertainment Industry Management Program; and Special Projects Mentor for The Peter Stark Producing Program, USC School of Cinematic Arts, University of Southern California.

Ruth Vitale's Awards and Nominations

Bloody Sunday

BAFTA Awards

- **Won**, BAFTA TV Award
Best Photography and Lighting (Fiction/Entertainment)
Ivan Strasburg
- **Nominated**, BAFTA TV Award
Best Sound (Fiction/Entertainment)
Albert Bailey, Richard King, Danny Longhurst, Pat Boxshall
- **Nominated**, BAFTA TV Award
Best Editing (Fiction/Entertainment)
Clare Douglas
- **Nominated**, BAFTA TV Award
Best Actor
James Nesbitt
- **Nominated**, BAFTA TV Award
Best Single Drama
Mark Redhead, Paul Greengrass

Independent Spirit Awards

- **Nominated**, Independent Spirit Award
Best Foreign Film
Paul Greengrass
 - Ireland

Sundance Film Festival

- **Won**, Audience Award
World Cinema
Paul Greengrass

Dirty Dancing

Academy Awards, USA

- **Won**, Oscar
Best Music, Original Song
Frankie Previte (music), John DeNicola (music), Donald Markowitz (music), Frankie Previte (lyrics)
 - For the song "(I've Had) The Time of My Life".

Golden Globes, USA

- **Won**, Golden Globe
Best Original Song - Motion Picture
Frankie Previte (music/lyrics), John DeNicola (music), Donald Markowitz (music)
 - For the song "(I've Had) The Time of My Life".
- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Motion Picture - Comedy/Musical
- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Comedy/Musical
Jennifer Grey
- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Comedy/Musical
Patrick Swayze

Grammy Awards

- **Nominated**, Grammy
Best Song Written Specifically for a Motion Picture or for Television
Frankie Previte, John DeNicola, Donald Markowitz
 - For the song "(I've Had) The Time of My Life"

Independent Spirit Awards

- **Won**, Independent Spirit Award
Best First Feature
Emile Ardolino (director), Linda Gottlieb (producer)

Don Juan DeMarco

Academy Awards, USA

- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Music, Original Song
Michael Kamen, Bryan Adams, Robert John Lange
 - For the song "Have You Ever Really Loved a Woman".

Golden Globes, USA

- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Original Score - Motion Picture
Michael Kamen
- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Original Song - Motion Picture
Michael Kamen, Bryan Adams, Robert John Lange
 - For the song "Have You Ever Really Loved a Woman?"

The Girl on the Bridge

BAFTA Awards

- **Nominated**, BAFTA Film Award
Best Film not in the English Language
Christian Fechner, Patrice Leconte

Golden Globes, USA

- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Foreign Language Film
 - France.

Hustle & Flow

Academy Awards, USA

- **Won**, Oscar
Best Achievement in Music Written for Motion Pictures, Original Song
Jordan Houston, Cedric Coleman, Paul Beaugard
 - For the song "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp".
- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role
Terrence Howard

Golden Globes, USA

- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama
Terrence Howard

Independent Spirit Awards

- **Nominated**, Independent Spirit Award
Best Male Lead
Terrence Howard

Sundance Film Festival

- **Won**, Audience Award
Dramatic
Craig Brewer
- **Won**, Cinematography Award
Dramatic
Amy Vincent
- **Nominated**, Grand Jury Prize
Dramatic
Craig Brewer

Mean Creek

Independent Spirit Awards

- **Won**, Special Distinction Award
Rory Culkin, Ryan Kelley, Scott Mechlowicz, Trevor Morgan, Josh Peck, Carly Schroeder
 - To the ensemble cast.
 - "These young actors turned in performances so uniformly unselfish, and so intricately in tune with one another, that it became impossible to single any one of them out from their extraordinary achievement together. Their work is of such high quality that it moves beyond craft to achieve that mysterious truth and beauty that constitutes the finest acting." (nominating committee)
- **Won**, John Cassavetes Award
Jacob Aaron Estes (director/writer), Susan Johnson (producer), Rick Rosenthal (producer), Hagai Shaham (producer)

My Family

Academy Awards, USA

- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Makeup
Ken Diaz, Mark Sanchez

Independent Spirit Awards

- **Nominated**, Independent Spirit Award
Best Supporting Female
Jennifer Lopez
- **Nominated**, Independent Spirit Award

Best Male Lead

Jimmy Smits

Northfork

Independent Spirit Awards

- **Nominated**, Independent Spirit Award
Best Cinematography
M. David Mullen

Shine

Academy Awards, USA

- **Won**, Oscar
Best Actor in a Leading Role
Geoffrey Rush
- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Director
Scott Hicks
- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Music, Original Dramatic Score
David Hirschfelder
- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Film Editing
Pip Karmel
- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Actor in a Supporting Role
Armin Mueller-Stahl
- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Writing, Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen
Jan Sardi (screenplay), Scott Hicks (story)
- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Picture
Jane Scott

BAFTA Awards

- **Won**, BAFTA Film Award
Best Sound
Jim Greenhorn, Toivo Lember, Livia Ruzic, Roger Savage, Gareth Vanderhope
- **Won**, BAFTA Film Award

Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role

Geoffrey Rush

- **Nominated**, BAFTA Film Award
Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role
John Gielgud
- **Nominated**, David Lean Award for Direction
Scott Hicks
- **Nominated**, Anthony Asquith Award for Film Music
David Hirschfelder
- **Nominated**, BAFTA Film Award
Best Editing
Pip Karmel
- **Nominated**, BAFTA Film Award
Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role
Lynn Redgrave
- **Nominated**, BAFTA Film Award
Best Screenplay - Original
Jan Sardi
- **Nominated**, BAFTA Film Award
Best Film
Jane Scott, Scott Hicks

Golden Globes, USA

- **Won**, Golden Globe
Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama
Geoffrey Rush
- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Motion Picture - Drama
- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Director - Motion Picture
Scott Hicks
- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Original Score - Motion Picture
David Hirschfelder
- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Screenplay - Motion Picture
Jan Sardi

The Sweet Hereafter

Academy Awards, USA

- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Director
Atom Egoyan
- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Writing, Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium
Atom Egoyan

Cannes Film Festival

- **Won**, FIPRESCI Prize
Atom Egoyan
- **Won**, Grand Prize of the Jury
Atom Egoyan
- **Won**, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury
Atom Egoyan
- **Nominated**, Golden Palm
Atom Egoyan

Independent Spirit Awards

- **Won**, Independent Spirit Award
Best Foreign Film
Atom Egoyan
 - Canada.

Sunshine

Golden Globes, USA

- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Motion Picture - Drama
- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Original Score - Motion Picture
Maurice Jarre
- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Director - Motion Picture
István Szabó

You Can Count on Me

Academy Awards, USA

- **Nominated**, Oscar
Best Actress in a Leading Role
Laura Linney
- **Nominated**, Oscar

Best Writing, Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen

Kenneth Lonergan

Golden Globes, USA

- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Drama
Laura Linney
- **Nominated**, Golden Globe
Best Screenplay - Motion Picture
Kenneth Lonergan

Independent Spirit Awards

- **Won**, Independent Spirit Award
Best Screenplay
Kenneth Lonergan
 - **Won**, Independent Spirit Award
Best First Feature
Kenneth Lonergan (director), John Hart (producer), Jeff Sharp (producer), Barbara De Fina (producer), Larry Meistrich (producer)
 - **Nominated**, Independent Spirit Award
Best Debut Performance
Rory Culkin
 - **Nominated**, Independent Spirit Award
Best Female Lead
Laura Linney
 - **Nominated**, Independent Spirit Award
Best Male Lead
Mark Ruffalo
- #### **Sundance Film Festival**
- **Won**, Grand Jury Prize
Dramatic
Kenneth Lonergan
 - Tied with *Girlfight*.
 - **Won**, Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award
Kenneth Lonergan