

Ben Levine

Ben is a new media Producer/Director who originally trained as a clinical psychologist where he created innovative therapeutic programs for community groups, adolescents, and Vietnam-era heroin addicts. During this period he researched innovative video interview, feedback, and outreach protocols that enhance participation and give depth to content, story, and application.

In the 1970's he founded Survival Arts Media in New York's Soho, he produced and performed multi-image media events at the Kitchen, the World Trade Center, Lincoln Center, and the Hayden Planetarium. He was a leader in the video art and community television movement and is known as a video pioneer, with works presented at the Museum of Modern Art, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and on US and European television.

For over 30 years, Ben Levine has produced, written and directed award-winning educational, public interest, and television programs for clients ranging from Prudential to the National Science Foundation. He has produced three feature documentaries on language and cultural survival.

Ben has developed cinema video and web-based community education programs in a variety of settings including French Canada, Caribbean, West Africa, American Indian communities, and in Mexico. He has served on panels including Membre du Jury, Vues d'Afrique. He has taught workshops and documentary video at the International Film and Television Workshops, Rockport College, the University of Maine, MIT, the Sorbonne and many other universities. See also: www.wakingupfrench.com and www.languagekeepers.org

Julia Schulz

Julia is Co-Founder and former Director of Penobscot School in Rockland, Maine an internationally known center for adult language learning and cultural exchange. During her sixteen years as Director, she created innovative language immersion programs in English for foreigners and in a variety of foreign languages for Americans. A teacher of French for over 20 years, Julia has led numerous immersions for American adults and college students in Guadeloupe, French Antilles and Quebec, founding in 1977 Accès Cinéma Africain, in Montreal, a language-learning program for adults in the context of North America's largest African and Caribbean film festival.

Trained as an anthropologist (M.A. McGill University 1985), Julia conducted ethnographic research in French-speaking communities in Maine. In 1999 she began developing language reacquisition programs in former French-speaking communities in New England, and has since applied her approach to language revival in Native American, Cajun French and Indigenous Mexican communities.

Her philosophy for language learning incorporates a unique blend of mixed generations, and ability levels emphasizing dialogues with native speakers in the community. She uses film and other cultural material to create an environment that is comfortable and safe for experimenting with self-expression. She now produces video programs and is developing web based video archives and dictionaries for Native American and Mexican Indian language education and revival.