



OAKLAND FILM OFFICE

Ami Zins, Film Coordinator

Ami Zins has been Film Coordinator of the Oakland Film Office since 1998 when she resuscitated a previously dormant office. Before that she worked as a freelance theater director at local colleges as well as producing and directing projects for target audiences; taught acting at local colleges; and created and directed corporate interactive role play programs. She also taught Acting and Directing for the Camera at Laney College for 5 years where she will be returning this fall as a guest lecturer on Tuesday afternoons.

Ami's directorial debut was in 1985 with an original adaptation and futurizing of the 1902 play MATERNITY, which examined the impact of illegal abortion on the lives of women who felt they had no other choice. She recently directed Cherie Moraga's HEROES AND SAINTS a magical realistic story of a San Joaquin Valley community of farm workers fighting the use of poisonous pesticides. The plays she has directed have explored social and political issues through character driven stories. Ami's husband Lew, her creative partner, soul mate and caring collaborator on the majority of their artistic endeavors. Many of her plays have included original soundtracks created in collaboration with inspired composer and musician Q.B. Williams.

Ami's roles onstage have included Gladys in SKIN OF OUR TEETH, and she was last seen onstage as Max, Bigger Thomas' lawyer, in Richard Wright's NATIVE SON. Ami's last commercial was a Polygrip spot she booked after losing a few teeth while participating in the AIDS Ride III, in honor and memory of casting director Scott Fortier.

Appreciating quality movies of many genres, Ami particularly loves documentaries, and dreams of someday creating her own. Another of her creative fantasies is to direct a Tracy Chapman music video.