

SANDRA KING

Class of 1965

Emmy-Winning News Reporter



Sandra King has been producing, directing and reporting award-winning news, documentaries and public affairs programs - first for WNET/13, now for NJTV - for more than 35 years. Generally focused on issues of race, class and justice, her Emmy-nominated documentaries - aired on PBS stations across the country - include: *Newark: The Slow Road Back*; *Prophet*; *The Writing on the Wall*; *This Little Light*, and *Newark Boys Chorus: ROOTS*.

Sandra had covered legal and social justice issues for most of her long news career, before launching NJN's *Due Process*, now in its 17th season. She writes, reports, produces, co-hosts and manages the unique weekly series - devoted exclusively to questions of justice and injustice.

A 1998-99 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, her awards for journalism and film-making include: **The American Film Institute's Bennett Award for Best Locally Produced Documentary, The National Headliner Award, The American Women in Radio and TV's Pinnacle Award, The New York Deadline Club's top honors (4 times), The Leigh Whipper Gold Award, the CPB's Silver Medal, several Cine Golden Eagles, The NJ Broadcasters' Best of the Best Award (4 times),** and honors at the **Chicago, Athens, Philadelphia and Houston Film Festivals**. She has also garnered **10 Emmy Awards** and more than 75 nominations.

In addition to her work for public television, Sandy has lectured extensively on journalism, social history and public policy and for 15 years taught TV Journalism at Rutgers University in Newark. She also taught Writing and Documentary at Harvard following her stint as a Nieman fellow - the only New Jersey recipient of academia's highest journalistic honor.

Among her numerous other honors, Sandy has been named Rutgers-Newark Alumna of the Year, North Jersey Press Club's Woman of the Year, NJ Citizen Action's Media Person of the Year, a NOW "Reporter You Can Trust," and the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund's 2007 award recipient for Distinguished Service .

Sandy's passionate commitment to justice and political action began at Clinton Place Junior High - which she was asked to leave after organizing a protest against racist policies - and continued at Weequahic, an institution then in the throes of its own racial division and transition, where she skipped her junior year to graduate in three years.

From there, it was on to Bard College, where she studied religion and philosophy before running out of money, and Rutgers-Newark, where she graduated with a degree in sociology in 1969. She spent eight years with The Star-Ledger as an award-winning reporter, specializing in urban, race and gender issues, before making the transition to TV. Earlier this year, when Rutgers-Newark celebrated its Centennial, it profiled one student from each of its decades - selecting Sandy as its person of the 1960's.

Sandy remained in the Weequahic section through the 1970's, but now calls the Forest Hill section of the North Ward home. As she told the Star-Ledger in an article last year, she has remained in Newark while others have fled because leaving would make her "part of the problem." Much of her work has focused on the city, including a documentary that reflected on the 1967 Newark riots 20 years later, and a two-hour special last year that marked the 40th anniversary of the disorders. "I've always thought from the time that I was a pretty small kid that I was suppose to try to make a difference in this troubled place where I grew up," she said.

As for hosting and producing a serious program in a sea of reality TV and entertainment posing as news, Sandy says it can be frustrating. "There is no commercial vehicle for doing what I do. Literally, it does not exist," she says. "Due Process" is watched by about 200,000 people every month - a drop in the bucket compared with commercial hits - but Sandy says she doesn't mind. "It may not be the biggest audience, but...you are reaching those people with something that may really matters to their lives, that may change the way they think."