

Paula Wagner



Paula Wagner has worked in the top ranks of the entertainment industry as a talent agent, film producer, and studio executive. Currently, she develops and produces film, theatre, and television projects through her production company Chestnut Ridge Productions.

Wagner is a co-founder of Cruise/Wagner Productions, where she produced notable films such as MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE I, II, III, THE LAST SAMURAI, VANILLA SKY, THE OTHERS, SHATTERED GLASS and executive produced Steven Spielberg's WAR OF THE WORLDS. She served as CEO of United Artists from 2006 to 2008, and earlier in her career was a prominent talent agent at Creative Artists Agency. Recently, she produced the acclaimed movie MARSHALL, about an early case in Thurgood Marshall's career when he was a young lawyer, starring Chadwick Boseman, Josh Gad and Kate Hudson. Currently, Wagner is developing a feature on, SYLVIA ROBINSON, the woman who brought hip-hop into the mainstream.

Also, she has been producing theatre for Broadway and international stages. Her theatre credits include, the new hit PRETTY WOMAN: THE MUSICAL, THE HEIRESS starring Jessica Chastain, GRACE starring Paul Rudd & Michael Shannon and Terrence McNally's TONY nominated play MOTHERS AND SONS.

Additionally, she was an executive producer on the critically acclaimed and award-winning Lifetime original movie FIVE. Paula produced THE GOVERNORS AWARDS ceremony for the Motion Picture Academy in 2013 and produced both the 2011 and 2012 PRODUCERS GUILD AWARDS show.

Wagner was honored by Premiere magazine with the Women in Hollywood Icon Award in 2001. The following year she was featured in Bravo's "Women on Top," a documentary which profiled exceptional women in entertainment. In October of 2006, she received the Sherry Lansing award from the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Organization. She was also honored by the Costume Designers Guild with its Swarovski President's Award in 2008, and at the Deauville American Film Festival in 2012. She was one of the recipients of the Women in Film Crystal + Lucy Awards in 2016, and the Camerimage Producer with Unique Visual Sensitivity award in 2017.

Wagner is a member of AMPAS, PGA, Broadway League and an ambassador of ReFrame for Women in Film, a formal action plan to further gender parity in the media industry.

Carnegie Mellon University

Wagner received her BFA from CMU. She is on the Board of Trustees and is an adjunct professor in the MEIM program in Los Angeles.

Prior to her career as an agent and producer, Wagner began as an actress and performed both on and off-Broadway and was a member of the Yale Repertory Company. She is also a published playwright, co-authoring the feminist play "Out of Our Father's House."

Wagner is married to Rick Nicita, is an entertainment industry consultant and producer. They have two sons, Zachary and Jesse.