Fury in my Soul
The Artistry of Laura Nyro
As the late 1960s segued into the 70s, pop radio listeners heard the Fifth Dimension, Blood Sweat and Tears, Barbra Streisand and Three Dog Night race up the charts with Stoned Soul Picnic, Sweet Blindness, Save the Country, Blowin’ Away, Stoney End, Time and Love and Film Flam Man — not to mention Wedding Bell Blues, And When I Die and Eli’s Comin,’ all in Billboard’s Top 10 the week of Thanksgiving, 1969. But the source behind this passion, joy, wisdom and angst was for the most part unknown: a teenage songwriting prodigy, a dark-eyed, raven-haired strikingly beautiful ‘Bronx Madonna’ named Laura Nyro.

“Fury in my Soul,” Earthworks Films feature length documentary on the artistry of Laura Nyro, has usage rights to Laura’s paintings and drawings, as well as access to several previously unknown, beautifully crafted full-length concerts, and a treasure trove of home movies. These videos represent the highest quality performances of the rarely-filmed Laura in existence. They reveal Laura’s life-long innocence and charismatic vulnerability usually associated with icons like Marilyn Monroe and James Dean.

“Fury in my Soul” blends concert footage, interviews with superstars, eloquent remembrances of fans, journal entries and images of her eclectic, exhilarating art work. The film is being produced and directed by Academy Award winner Maria Florio/Earthworks Films.
Laura died at age 49, in 1997, of ovarian cancer. Her life can be summed up in one word: integrity - the artistic integrity and perfectionism of a teenager doing battle with music industry giants for control of her music and career; the politically conscious woman who shunned exploitation and donated her songwriting talent to advancing social justice. She placed social responsibility above fame but also used her fame to help others, whether it was dedicating her 1988 tour to the animal rights movement or penning the title song for the 1986 Academy Award-winning documentary “Broken Rainbow.” She captured the anguish of a nation by writing and recording Save the Country...within a week of Robert Kennedy’s assassination in 1968.

Laura generated incredible wealth for many in the music business, and her songs remain among the most successful and best-loved by the artists who covered them. She was hailed by Leonard Bernstein, Elton John, Stephen Sondheim, Bob Dylan and Miles Davis for her fusion of diverse musical styles, inventive song structures, chord variations and poetic lyrics. Observing the “New York Tendaberry” sessions, Davis was asked to play but demurred, saying - “I can’t play on this. You did it already.” A 2012 inductee into the ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME, Laura’s passion and genuineness had an immeasurable effect on fellow musicians and fans. Unfortunately, very few young people today know who she is. “Fury in my Soul” intends to change that and introduce new generations to the masterful artist who, as one musician said, “could change the molecules of a room with her songs, her voice, her presence.”
“Laura Nyro you can lump me in with, because Laura exerted an influence on me. I looked to her and took some direction from her.” - **Joni Mitchell**

“The Gershwin of her generation.” - **music producer Richard Perry**

“She was a brilliant composer.” - **Columbia Records President Clive Davis**

“I stopped writing songs like The Who and started writing songs like Laura Nyro.”

- **Todd Rundgren**, on hearing Laura for the first time

“I worshipped her music... She was the muse.” - **Melissa Manchester**

“She was touching God. Her voice was pristine and perfect. The tears were streaming down my face.” - **Phoebe Snow**, on a Laura performance at a songwriter’s roundtable
♪ “I idolized her... This is music so far ahead of its time that when you play it today, it still sounds unbelievable... the soul, the passion, just the out and out audacity of the way her rhythmic and melody changes come was like nothing I'd ever heard before.” - **Elton John**

♪ “I love what you do, I love your chords.” - **Bob Dylan** to Laura

♪ “I was obsessed with Laura Nyro. Those first four records, no one's ever made music like that...” - **REM guitarist Peter Buck**

♪ “Raw convulsive music of shifting meters, mated with ambiguous, searing lyrics, it is contemporary-urban, personal and grand.” - **music critic John Gabree**

♪ “She seems to be racing against the giants of the past (including Gershwin) than the rivals of the present.” - **music critic Robert Hilburn**

♪ “She maintained the religious feeling right to the end and it was a surprise to see her walk off the stage rather than levitate.” - **music critic Ian Dove** after a 1971 Long Island performance

♪ “Playing with her is the closest I’ll ever get to Art. Everything else is work. I just looked over at her every night and loved her. She was the kindest soul, and the sexiest woman ever. She got me every time she sang. You can do gigs and it just gets routine, but with Laura it was never routine. She had a communal feeling about the people she was working with. It was never I - it was always we.”

- **guitarist Jimmy Vivino**, band leader for Conan O'Brian, on touring with Laura

♪ “Laura Nyro made a choice that has tempted me on many occasions. And that was to lead an ordinary life... Which is brave and tough in its own way.” - **Joni Mitchell**, on Laura retreating from recording, to raise a child
Laura’s Art
“You look like a city --
but you feel like a religion to me.”
-Laura, “New York Tendaberry”
Fan Quotes

♪ “I want Laura’s music playing in my final days. Laura’s music puts me in a spiritual place, a natural high. Laura’s songs heal pain and suffering like an Angel.” - Elaine

♫ “How do you write about a woman whose voice kept you on the planet? I was 17, living on a military base in Japan. I knew Three Dog Night’s Eli’s Comin, Blood, Sweat & Tears And When I Die, & Fifth Dimension’s Stoned Soul Picnic. That made me pick Laura’s New York Tendaberry. The music ripped into my soul. Unlike anyone before or since. Laura as both writer and singer can hit the apex of ecstasy to depths of despair, and all within a few measures of each other. Laura’s music was like a key unlocking my mind. It’s now 37 years later. Her music is still a revelation, sweeter with age. Last week, my wife began her eternal voyage, like Laura, because of cancer. As my heart is breaking, shattered to bits with a gaping hole in my universe, there is no voice that continues to reach or inspire me like Laura. I hope I’ll get to meet her sometime in the life of the beyond.” - Lee in North Carolina

♫ “Every song is a love song, every picture a beatification.” – Brian

♫ “When I listen to Laura Nyro I know there is a God.” - Bobbie
Producer/Director Maria Florio, President of EARTHWORKS FILMS, INC., has been an unstoppable force in the documentary world ever since BROKEN RAINBOW, the film which Maria co-directed and co-produced with Victoria Mudd. BROKEN RAINBOW chronicles the plight of the Navajo people, and won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

Her award-winning documentary, TIBET: CRY OF THE SNOW LION, which has had world-wide theatrical domestic and international releases, won numerous festivals and great acclaim. The film exposes the truth about the crisis Tibetans are facing at the hands of the Communist Chinese, and their effort to regain their Tibetan heritage and homeland.

BIG RIVER MAN, released in 2010, garnered a four star review from the New York Times and won several awards at Sundance and other international festivals. The film has become a cult classic and is being re-released in both international and domestic markets. Maria produced and Olivia Newton-John and Amazon John Easterling executive-produced. Directed by John Maringouin.

A lifelong activist, Maria co-produced MURDER SPIES & VOTING LIES, an exposé on voting fraud, was Creative Consultant on PROJECT RETURN with Leslie Neale and John Densmore for Chance Films, as well as NAKED IN ASHES and BY MANY NAMES for Paradise Filmworks Int.

Maria co-produced/creative-produced THE LAST DAYS OF EXTRAORDINARY LIVES, a feature length documentary about hospice care, and MAN UP AND GO, which deals with the crisis of fatherlessness, both films in association with Bacon/Murphy Films, DREADLOCK ROCK - The Story of Reggae Music, Directed by Jack Miller, NO ASYLUM, a feature documentary about Otto Frank, Anne’s father, and his efforts to gain asylum for her, in association with Paradise Filmworks Int.

Maria’s current projects in production include:

- **THE FLOW** – Executive Producer, Directed by Louis Fox
- **TUNING THE PLANET** – Producer, in association with Michael Fitzpatrick-Millennia Music and The Dalai Lama Foundation
- **12 BENDS** – Directed by Dr. Victor Pineda, Producers: Dr. Victor Pineda, Maria Florio, Executive Producer: Stephen Nemeth/Rhino Films
- **FUTURE PROJECTS** include: CELEBRITY: Magnificent Obsession, HOLY TERROR: In the Name of God, SIN LOBBIES: Selling Death and FRACKIN’ NUTS
Randy Bacon

Randy Bacon is an American photographer and filmmaker with an extensive history in portrait, commercial and documentary photography, both motion and still. He works in conjunction with his wife Shannon.

Among his many awards:

• Best Feature Documentary Winner for The Last Days of Extraordinary Lives at: Foursite International Film Festival; On the Edge Film Festival; Life Fest -- Los Angeles Film Festival

• Best Director Winner for The Last Days of Extraordinary Lives at: Foursite International Film Festival; Love Unlimited International Film Festival

• Official Selection to six national/international film festivals for Man Up and Go: The White Sands International Film Festival; Wine Country Film Festival; Indie Fest USA International Film Festival; Breckenridge Festival of Film (Audience Choice Second Place); Best Documentary finalist at Chagrin Documentary Film Festival and San Diego International Film Festival.

• American Photo Magazine - Image of the Year (Portrait winner)

• 417 Magazine - Photographer - artist of the year (2009, 2008 and 2005)


• Business Journal Magazine: selected as “Twelve People You Need to Know in 2011”

Randy’s many clients include Time Magazine, Barron’s Magazine, Seventeen Magazine, Nestle Corporation, Pepperidge Farms, Missouri State University, Assemblies of God -- International Headquarters, Cox Health Systems and Mercy St. Johns Health Systems.

Randy Shields

Randy Shields is co-writer on “Fury in my Soul.” His political, cultural and satirical commentary can be found in CounterPunch, Dissident Voice and Black Agenda Report. An artist, his sculptures have been in galleries in Cincinnati, Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

Patty Di Lauria

Patty Di Lauria, Laura’s long time friend, is our “touchstone” for “Fury in my Soul.”
That’s how music superstars and her fervent “tribe” describe their feelings for Laura Nyro. We want the world to know why they were so moved, so passionate.

Just as “Searching for Sugarman” created a commercial resurgence for Rodriguez, we believe our film will introduce new generations to the genius of Laura Nyro. This documentary has the potential to become an artistic and financial success, given its multi-platform structure.

The possibilities for Investors include: DVDs of full length concerts, several never before heard unpublished songs, re-masters of Laura’s albums, a book of Laura’s artwork and gallery exhibitions of her paintings and drawings, as well as her journals and memorabilia.

We are currently seeking funding for “Fury in my Soul.” If you are interested in becoming part of this project, please contact us at earthworksfilms.com, and we will send you a detailed budget.

“Songwriting is like flying. In songwriting, I know no limitations.”

“Fury in my Soul” will strive for the same blistering artistic zenith that Laura created with her music.