

Introducing Hall of Fame Inductee Tracey Stern



Tracey Stern
Class of 1978

South Huntington Hall of Fame

On September 24, 2016, our South Huntington School District will be honoring the outstanding achievements of distinguished alumni who will be inducted into our Hall of Fame.

The occasion will begin with a Celebration Breakfast and Induction Ceremony at Walt Whitman High School. The Homecoming Parade, Float Competition, and Football Game will feature our 2016 Hall of Fame Inductees. Additional information is on this website.

In hindsight, class of 1978 Alumna Tracey Stern probably would have done things differently after graduation. "I would have gone to college BEFORE attempting life," said Tracey. "I was one of the lucky ones who made it without a degree. I wouldn't necessarily recommend doing it this way."

Born in Forest Hills, Queens, Tracey's family took off to the suburbs, as families did back then, ending up in South Huntington. She began the first grade at Birchwood Elementary School, and attended Memorial Junior High School after that, ultimately graduating from Walt Whitman High School.

"I always had stars in my eyes, so despite some wonderful teachers and several close friends, I couldn't wait to graduate and start my life," said Tracey. "I wanted to be a writer, I liked glamour, and I liked big cities, so shortly after graduation, I moved to Los Angeles with a high school friend."

The big adventure lasted three years and then Tracey moved back to Huntington where she seemed to do a bit of everything over the next few years, except go to

school. "I started working in recording studios in NYC, but ultimately didn't find that too satisfying. I saved up and returned to Los Angeles."

Desperately wanting to work in entertainment, Tracey started on the ground floor as a Production Assistant (PA) for producers, mostly in television. Over time she worked her way up to writer's researcher for writing staffs on TV series, until she got her first official writing assignment on 'Picket Fences'. Timing was everything for Tracey. The TV show 'ER' was picked up, and the producer she had been running errands for as a PA was going to be the 'ER' producer. The other producers were Steven Spielberg and Michael Crichton. She was in!

"The television business is all about relationships. It's about who you know," said Tracey. "If you don't know anyone, find a way to know someone. You hustle, run errands, volunteer for the dirty work. If you are well liked, people will hire you. They will want to help you. Then you can show them your scripts."

Tracey's credits show her determination and hard work in fulfilling her dream of working in Entertainment: 'ER' - Researcher and Writer NBC; 'High Incident' - Writer/Exec Story Editor/Co-Producer ABC/Dreamworks; 'Leap Years' - Writer Showtime; 'Three' - Writer UPC; 'Law & Order SVU' (Episodes/Writer); 'Sports Night' - Writer Co-Producer ABC/Imagine; 'Angel' - Supervising Producer/Writer; 'Desperate Housewives' - Supervising Producer/Writer; 'The Minuteman' - Supervising Producer/Writer; and several long form movies for CBS and Showtime. Tracey is currently working on a television pilot.

She was nominated for an Emmy as producer on Desperate Housewives, and received a Humanitas Prize Award as part of the writer's group on Sports Night for ABC. Tracey has 16 year-old twin daughters and lives with her partner, Dylan, in Los Angeles, California.