Fred Kaufman
Executive Producer, Nature

For over twenty-five years, Fred Kaufman has been a leading executive in the natural history genre. As the executive producer of the acclaimed PBS Nature series, Kaufman has won seven Emmys and two Peabody Awards. He has been with Nature since its beginning in 1982 and has overseen it since 1991. During his tenure, Nature has been honored with hundreds of industry awards. In 2012, Kaufman was named the recipient of the International Wildlife Film Festival’s Lifetime Achievement Award for Media. In 2010, he accepted the Outstanding Achievement Award from the prestigious Wildscreen Film Festival in Bristol, England. It was the first time in the 20-year history of the festival that the award was presented to an American wildlife series. In 2009, Kaufman executive produced The Legend of Pale Male, an award-winning feature documentary that chronicled the legendary hawk that nested on a Fifth Avenue building in New York City and the life-changing events that followed.

Many of Nature’s most memorable presentations have been produced under Kaufman’s stewardship, including Bears of the Last Frontier; Christmas in Yellowstone; Deep Jungle; AFRICA; Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air; Dogs That Changed the World; My Life as a Turkey; Inside the Animal Mind; Echo: An Elephant to Remember; An Original DUCKumentary; and Cloud: Wild Stallion of the Rockies.

In 2006, Kaufman won a George Foster Peabody Award for The Queen of Trees, a high-definition portrait of the relationship between the tiny fig wasp and the giant fig tree. In 2008, Kaufman won a second Peabody Award for Silence of the Bees, which looked at the global crisis of the disappearing honeybees.

In 2007, he wrote and co-produced The Best of Nature: 25 Years, a successful fundraising show for PBS that looked back at the highlights of the series’ first 25 years. In 2002, he created and executive produced an urban wildlife series for kids called Wild TV. Then in 1994, he executive produced In the Wild, a series of wildlife specials featuring celebrities. Memorable shows from that series included Dolphins With Robin Williams, In the Lion’s Den With Anthony Hopkins, Elephants With Goldie Hawn and Orangutans With Julia Roberts, which won a Genesis Award for best PBS documentary.
Kaufman is a member of the Director’s Guild of America and the Writer’s Guild of America. He is the Vice Chairman of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival. He appears regularly on public television pledge drives as a spokesman for quality natural history television.

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