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Press Materials: [http://pbs.org/pressroom](http://www.pbs.org/pressroom) or [http://thirteen.org/pressroom](http://www.thirteen.org/pressroom)

***Secrets of the Dead*** episodes online at [pbs.org/secrets](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/)

Facebook: [SecretsofTheDead](https://www.facebook.com/SecretsofTheDead)

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***Secrets of the Dead: Van Gogh’s Ear***

**TCA Panelist Bios**

**Bernadette Murphy**

Author, *Van Gogh’s Ear*

Bernadette Murphy was born in the UK.  Thirty years ago, she went to France on holiday to visit her brother and loved it so much she ended up staying, learning the language as she went along.  Now, having spent more of her life in Provence than in her native country, she knows the region well.  She has long been intrigued by discrepancies in the accepted story of Vincent van Gogh’s years in Arles, and as soon as she had time on her hands decided to look into the night of his spectacular first breakdown. She has worked in many different fields, from trend-spotting to private guiding, though predominantly as a tenured professor at an “Ecole Supérieure d’Art” in southern France. *Van Gogh’s Ear* is her first book and the subject of a BBC/PBS/ARTE television documentary.

**David Kessler**

Retired Staff, The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley

David Kessler was born in Brooklyn, but spent his formative years in Hartford, Connecticut. He graduated from Kalamazoo College in 1970 and then did graduate work in European and American history at the University of California, Berkeley. He subsequently worked in the library there for 35 years, before retiring in 2013. His last 20 years there were spent at the Bancroft, UC’s celebrated rare book and manuscript archive, where he worked principally in public services.

He and Nancy Mennel, his wife of 37 years, lost their Oakland home in the calamitous 1991 Oakland Hills Fire. They rebuilt. Kesselhas been active in the neighborhood’s community life since that signal event. His passions include reading, swimming and bread-baking, for which he is locally famous. He is the author of *Thanksgiving: As Close to Grace as I Dare Venture*, a collection of incidental verse gathered over three decades.

**Stephen Segaller**

Executive-in-Charge, *Secrets of the Dead*

Vice President, Programming, WNET

Stephen Segaller oversees all national programming from WNET’s producing subsidiaries – THIRTEEN, WLIW21 and Creative News Group. Among these productions are Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, Secrets of the Dead, *PBS NewsHour Weekend,* Religion & Ethics Newsweekly, Cyberchase, NYCArts and Reel 13; and documentary series featuring Niall Ferguson, Simon Schama and Alan Alda, among others*.*

At WNET, he has executive-produced PBS documentary series such as *Ascent of Money* andThe War of the World, both with Niall Ferguson; Extreme Oil; Red Gold: The Epic Story of Blood; individual documentaries such as Srebrenica – A Cry From the Grave; David Grubin’s Kofi Annan: Center of the Storm; Walter Cronkite’s last two documentaries City At War: London Calling and Legacy of War; the films of Frederick Wiseman; films by Roger Weisberg, including the Academy Award-nominated Sound and Fury; *Worse Than War* with Daniel Goldhagen, directed by Mike DeWitt; *Orchestra of Exiles* by Josh Aronson; *It’s a Hard Knock Life: Annie* by Joshua Seftel; and *Shakespeare Uncovered,* produced by Richard Denton, a unique series that brings the personal passions of its celebrated hosts to tell the stories behind Shakespeare’s greatest plays.

Segaller created the international documentary series *Wide Angle* and the investigative journalism series *Exposē* for PBS. In 2011, he was executive-in-charge of the multiple award-winning documentary series *Women, War & Peace* – produced by Abigail Disney, Gini Reticker and Pamela Hogan – the first series ever to consider war, conflict and peacemaking from the point of view of women as combatants, casualties and peacemakers.

Since 2010, Segaller has developed and launched several multi-platform reporting initiatives, distributed on national and local television, on public radio and online. *Blueprint America* explored the national infrastructure crisis across 20 hours of content. *Chasing the Dream*, an exploration of poverty, income inequality and opportunity, includes national primetime documentaries, local coverage, online webisodes and collaboration with the public radio series, *On the Media*.

In 2013, Segaller helped oversee the expansion of the *PBS NewsHour* broadcast tradition with a *PBS NewsHour Weekend* newscast on both Saturday and Sunday. The half-hour program is anchored by Hari Sreenivasan and produced at the Tisch WNET Studios at Lincoln Center.

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