



BIOGRAPHY

ANN KNAPP AUSTEN
Executive Producer

Ann Knapp Austen grew up in the Los Angeles suburb of Monrovia, a self-described TV hound who was particularly fond of cartoons and Japanese movies, especially Godzilla. Since then, Austen has crafted an enviable career as a writer and producer in both kids' and general audience fare.

Austen is executive producer and writer on the newest incarnation of the multimedia phenomenon "Power Rangers Ninja Storm," an exciting combination of action, humor and drama in a live action series. It premieres on both broadcast and cable television in February 2003, on the ABC Television Network's Saturday morning lineup, ABC Kids, and on ABC Family's action/adventure programming block.

After graduating from USC Film School with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Film Theory, Austen began her television career in 1985 as an assistant in the Affiliate Relations department at the upstart FOX Broadcasting Company. A year later, she helped launch FOX Kids Network where she juggled her affiliate sales' job with writing and producing on-air promotional spots for kids' programming. She was soon promoted to programming executive on several FOX Kids Network shows, among them "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers," an experimental series which catapulted to #1 a mere three weeks after its premiere and went on to become a worldwide multimedia phenomenon.

Two years later, the series' executive producer recruited her to join Saban Entertainment where she oversaw production on a myriad of series including "Masked Rider," "VR Troopers" and "Power Rangers."

After five years at Saban, Austen embarked on a writing partnership with "Power Rangers" story editor/director Doug Sloan. The pair sold their first pilot script to Universal Television and quickly followed it with a succession of television movies and animation projects. Before long, they landed an overall deal with Film Roman studios where they wrote and produced multiple series and movies. Among their credits in the kids' television milieu are the animated series "Robocop," "Skate" for NBC and Disney Channel's Original Movies "Motocrossed" and the prestigious Humanitas Prize nominee "Johnny Tsunami."

As they continued to invent series for both kids and general audiences, ownership of "Power Rangers" changed and management of it moved under the ABC Cable Networks Group. In 2002, the pair was won over by the challenge of returning to both write and executive produce its latest installment, "Power Rangers Ninja Storm." Of their successful creative collaboration, Knapp Austen figures their tag-team approach enables her partner Sloan to establish the voice of the typical 13-

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year-old protagonist/action sports fan - so relatable and entertaining for contemporary kids -- and she shapes the stories' voice of reason, imparting a nurturing point of view and guidance so vital when speaking to a young audience.

Besides her work in kids' television, Austen continues to create and develop complex characters for primetime audiences. She's currently at work on a "complete departure," she says. "Perhaps the next 'Sex and the City.'"

A dedicated parent of two young daughters whose worlds provide her with a wealth of story ideas, Austen is married to noted comic book writer, artist and animator Chuck Austen ("King of the Hill," "Uncanny X-Men"). The family lives in Glendale, California.

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DOUGLAS J. SLOAN
Executive Producer

Executive Producer Douglas J. Sloan has a long involvement with "Power Rangers," having started as the acting coach in 1994. Subsequently, Sloan went on to become writer, director and producer for the multimedia phenomenon, which is now in its 11th season. To date, Sloan has produced 200 episodes, directed 50 and written 100 with his writing partner Ann Austen, who is also an executive producer on this latest installment, "Power Rangers Ninja Storm."

Sloan honed his versatile talents as an actor, writer, director and editor from the age of 16 by spending summers working as a television production assistant. He later attended Whittier College in Southern California, where he received a degree in finance while working vacations at the William Morris Agency and editing a primetime miniseries for ABC.

After completing his undergraduate degree, he entered the film program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he produced and directed short films on the streets of New York, working towards a Master of Fine Arts degree.

Post graduation from NYU, Sloan acted on the popular soap opera "The Young and the Restless" and landed guest starring roles in other television series. At that time, he developed his passion for screen writing. Since 1992, he has seen several of his screenplays produced including "Silk Degrees," "Susie Q" and "Someone To Die For." His latest, family film "Children on their Birthdays," is soon to be released.

In recent years, he wrote and produced films for Disney Channel including "Motocrossed" and "Johnny Tsunami," which was a finalist for the prestigious Humanitas Prize. Most recently he wrote and executive produced the series "SK8" for NBC.

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JANINE DICKINS
Producer

Janine Dickins has many years experience as a producer on international co-productions and with American productions filming in New Zealand.

Her most recent production was "Riverworld," a Tasman Film/Alliance Atlantis/ Box TV co-production. Previously, she was producer of the U.S.-based Renaissance Pictures action series "Cleopatra 2525" and "Jack of all Trades," produced in New Zealand in 1999 and 2000. She was New Zealand producer on that company's 50-episode series "Young Hercules," line producer for the pilot telemovie of the same name and line producer for the telemovie "Amazon High."

Dickins was line producer on the 22-part adventure series "Mysterious Island," shot in New Zealand in 1994 by Tasman with Atlantis Films. She was also line producer on the 1992 Alliance/Isambard NZ co-production series "The Further Adventures of the Black Stallion" and for the Atlantis/South Pacific Pictures NZ co-production anthology series "Ray Bradbury Theater" in 1991.

In addition, she was line producer for "Soldier Soldier," a Central Films UK/ South Pacific Pictures NZ co-production of three episodes shot in New Zealand in 1993.

Previously, Dickins was co-producer of "Forever," a one-hour dance film for the Work of Art TV series; production manager for the feature film "The Footstep Man" and the docu-drama series "Heroes" and production coordinator for the mini-series "The Rainbow Warrior Affair," produced by Golden Dolphin Productions, Australia, in 1988.

Dickins was originally a production accountant. Her credits in that role include feature films "The Navigator" and "Illustrious Energy" and TV series "Gold," "About Face," "Betty's Bunch" among many more.

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KOICHI SAKAMOTO
Co-Executive Producer

Koichi Sakamoto's longstanding relationship with "Power Rangers" began when he was a stunt performer on the original, Japanese production.

Sakamoto has held numerous roles on the series including second unit director, stunt fight coordinator, director and currently, co-executive producer. For the past several years, Sakamoto has also been the series' main director, directing 20 episodes per season.

Sakamoto started his career at the age of 16 as a stunt performer on several movies and television shows in Japan. His work as stunt/fight coordinator includes "Hansel & Gretel," "Special Unit 2" and "Mimic 2: Hard Shell." His credits as stunt performer include "Windtalkers," "Lethal Weapon 4," "Beverly Hills Ninja," "Nash Bridges" and "VIP."

He moved to the United States at 18 and has worked on numerous U.S. productions as a director including his most recent movie "Wicked Game" (a.k.a. "Extreme Heist"). His credits as second unit director include "Wes Craven's Dracula 2000," "Prophecy 3: The Ascent" and "Drive."

Sakamoto leads the Alpha Stunt team, a team of Japanese stunt performers who have worked together for the past 10 years. He formed the team to provide the entertainment industry with unique stunts and Asian style martial arts, specializing in acrobatic fighting styles and wire action.

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