

Kim Spencer



Link TV.Org



Kim Spencer is receiving the MHF **2004 Award for Vision and Achievement (AVA)** for co-founding Link TV, a 24-hour non-commercial, viewer-supported television channel that connects Americans with the world. Through documentaries, international news, world music and programs like MOSAIC, the unique nightly news report showing excerpts from 15 national broadcasters in the Middle East, Link TV shows a world without borders. A national satellite network devoted to global issues and diverse cultures, Link TV is available in 21 million US homes on the DIRECTV (Ch. 375) and DISH (Ch. 9410) networks. The Link TV studios are on Battery Street in San Francisco.

Spencer started making documentaries on environmental and social issues in the 70's. After producing AMERICA AT THANKSGIVING 1980, the first live PBS satellite program, which linked diverse holiday dinners across the US, Spencer's partner Evelyn Messinger asked "what about using this two-way TV technology with the Russians?" They went on to produce a series of "spacebridges," starting with THE MOSCOW LINK, a live exchange between Soviet scientists and a Washington conference on Nuclear Winter that changed USSR attitudes on nuclear war. In 1985 the FIVE CONTINENT SPACEBRIDGE connected presidents of Sweden, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Brazil to discuss non-proliferation. Collaboration with Russian producers led to CAPITAL TO CAPITAL, an historic series of live TV debates on ABC between the U.S. Congress and the USSR Supreme Soviet (winning two Emmy Awards in 1989).

As coordinating producer of ABC News "Prime Time Live," he produced reports from Cambodia, Africa and a live broadcast from inside Lenin's rooms in the Kremlin. In France he co-created the innovative *Vis à Vis* series: transcontinental video dialogues linking people from their homes and workplaces, like CEASEFIRE which connected two teenagers living in war-torn Sarajevo and Belfast, and BEYOND THE VEIL, where an Iranian schoolteacher in Tehran confronts her counterpart in Washington, DC.

Kim lives in San Anselmo, California with his wife Evelyn Messinger and their twins Kate and Sam.