

## Frank Normile

Frank Normile, director of the Park City Film Series, has led a life that reads like a movie script.

Raised in Oyster Bay, New York, “You took your boat to school and afterwards invited the girls to go water skiing. It was a great seduction technique.” Paying for school by shipping out to Africa every summer as a merchant marine, Frank attended Amherst College, graduating with honors in Russian Studies. “The second I passed my orals, I decided never to speak Russian again.”

While at UCLA law school in 1968, he was “about 90 percent into the CIA, through Air Force Intelligence, before they discovered I was blind as a bat and wouldn’t take me. But the draft still wanted me. I went to my draft physical at a Brooklyn Navy yard with glasses as thick as coke bottles. There were 1,800 of us lined up stark naked. They told me I was blind as a bat and to get the hell out of there. I was the only person to leave that day. They took the other 1,799 guys for Vietnam.”

Between then and now, Frank has studied in New York City’s financial district, beach bummed in California, and worked as a law teacher, writer, assistant law dean and lawyer for 26 years. “I chased my share of ambulances ... but I never did catch one. Then I broke out. I wanted to get as far away from the culture of L.A. as I could. I thought, what’s the extreme opposite of L.A.? Utah.” Frank moved here in 1994, working as an appraiser, lawyer and producer of his own PCTV documentary program, “The Dog and Pony Show.”

He got involved with the Film Series because “it was the easiest way to meet women in this town. I didn’t enjoy the bar scene. The ratio of 30 drunken men to one drunken woman wasn’t working out.” He started out by taking tickets at the first Film Series movies. Before he knew it, Frank was the designated Park City Arts Council person, then president of the Park City/Summit County Arts Council, then director of the Film Series. “I’m looking to stoke those artistic embers we all have in our souls, trying to excite dialogue by showing films that will bring about conversation. I like to see myself as an exhibitor of cinematic art who pushes the envelope of interest.”

Fairy tale ending: Frank met the woman of his dreams at the Film Series. In 2003, he proudly married Melissa Nibley, at Burning Man, both of them wearing nothing but white cake frosting as wedding attire.

— Kristen Gould Case