

# Summer Festival Days

## June 27: Festival Keynotes and Inspiration

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. PST

### **INTERVIEW: Beth Accomando** interviews **Scott M. Gimple**, head writer/producer of *The Walking Dead*

Beth Accomando covers arts and culture around San Diego for KPBS News and is a fan of all things horror. She is delighted to interview Scott, M. Gimple, our Headlining Keynote Speaker this year. Scott is the Chief Content Officer of AMC's The Walking Dead television universe. He oversees the worldwide hits The Walking Dead and Fear the Walking Dead while developing new Walking Dead programming, films, and other projects for a variety of platforms.

Join Scott and Beth in a funny and frank conversation about how Scott brought The Walking Dead to the small screen, his wild writing experiences in Hollywood and on set, the current state of the TV industry, and all things Walking Dead!

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## SCOTT M. GIMPLE

Scott M. Gimple is Chief Content Officer of AMC's The Walking Dead television universe, overseeing the worldwide hits The Walking Dead and Fear the Walking Dead while developing new Walking Dead programming, films, and other projects for a variety of platforms. In April 2019, AMC announced a green light for a new Walking Dead series, co-created by Gimple and TWD writer/producer Matt Negrete, to air in 2020.

Gimple came aboard The Walking Dead in 2011 as a co-producer and writer. During the next two years, he moved up to the role of supervising producer while also writing multiple fan-favorite episodes, including "Clear," "This Sorrowful Life," and "Pretty Much Dead Already." Gimple was named showrunner of The Walking Dead at the beginning of season four and would go on to steer the series to critical acclaim and record-shattering ratings until season 8. During his tenure, the show remained the highest-rated drama on television for five years in a row and grew into a global phenomenon. In April 2017, AMC announced he was joining Fear The Walking Dead as an Executive Producer. In 2018, AMC announced that Gimple had been promoted to the newly created position of Chief Content Officer, where he would serve as the creative helm of The Walking Dead franchise and guide the property's ever-expanding universe.

He started his television work in animation, writing, and producing for Walt Disney Television Animation and Nickelodeon. He created, and executive produced the Emmy®-nominated television series Fillmore! for Disney before moving into live action. Gimple's earlier credits include work for Bongo and Marvel Comics, including the original comics series Heroes Anonymous and the mini-series Punisher: Nightmare. In 2018, he co-created the comic book series Die!Die!Die! with longtime TWD collaborator Robert Kirkman.

## BETH ACCOMANDO

Beth Accomando covers arts and culture around San Diego for KPBS News. Beth studied film at UCSD and had her student film Writer's Notebook screened as part of the **Museum** of Contemporary Art's "Forty-Two Emerging Artists" showcase in 1981. She has edited the sequels to "The Attack of the Killer Tomatoes" and video documentaries on Billy Wilder and roller hockey.

Beth is a member of the Broadcast Film Critics Association and Online Film Critics Society, and is the past President and former Education Chairperson for the San Diego Film Critics Society. She served as the festival director of Film School Confidential: A Showcase of San Diego Student

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Filmmaking. In the past, she has served on the film selection committee for the San Diego State University Student Film Festival, San Diego International Film Festival, and San Diego Latino Film Festival. Now she volunteers as part of The Film Geeks at the Digital Gym Cinema to bring independent and envelope-pushing genre filmmaking to the Media Arts Center San Diego's micro cinema.

Beth has been a film critic for more than 25 years and began at KPBS in 1987. Since 1997 she has been covering independent and international cinema as well as pop culture for National Public Radio and Public Radio International's *The World*. She has received numerous Society of Professional Journalist Awards and San Diego Press Club Awards for her radio and web site work at KPBS. She has also received 11 southwestern area Emmy Awards in the categories of producing, writing, and sound design for promotional spots as well as national Pro Max and Telly Awards while working at Fox.

She has a passion for Hong Kong cinema, Japanese monster movies, horror, and film noir. She collects movie posters and toys, and loves putting on a haunted house every year.