



CELEBRATING COLLABORATIONS

HARBOR

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ELLIE POWERS:

Ask any woman; I guarantee you she's heard—

“How do you do it? As a woman...?”

In response, she'll artfully hide her side-eye or an eye roll from the well-intentioned person who posed the question.

Some wonder why men never get asked this question. Personally, I am hung up on the implication that those traits, socialized into us from the start, make women less likely to succeed in their careers.

Why? It makes no sense. It's that signature caring, militant multi-tasking they've come to expect from us that makes women such excellent creatives. Just ask Valerie Solanas. She was writing a manifesto and securing financing for her play all while finding the time to shoot Andy Warhol three times! Okay, maybe Val isn't the best example.

Let's look, instead, internally. At Harbor, I am lucky enough to work closely with two of the most impressive and supportive women I've ever met. Gaby Elder built our Marketing team from nothing. And when I say nothing, I mean nothing. And yet, Gaby's never seen it as an obstacle. And, as Gaby herself will tell you, the machine doesn't run without Hannah Englander. Hannah, for a time, was running the LA studio by herself and managing the Marketing team. A balance she's still sometimes asked to carry and does so with grace and patience. They elevate everything our team and this company does daily, and I've grown to know them both as inspiring, thoughtful mentors.

Before I interviewed anyone, I thought at length about how to frame the campaign to challenge the implication that being a woman stipulates disadvantage. Thus, I arrived at framing these conversations as 'collaborations.'

The idea of collaborations may remind you of 'women supporting women,' a theme that pops up in a lot in women-centric campaigns. But I challenge you to push this notion further and instead envision just how far we can travel, beyond what we thought possible, together.

COLLABORATION ONE: ANDREA CHLEBAK & EVE COHEN

Andrea Chlebak is a Senior Colorist at Harbor based in LA. Her collaborator is Cinematographer Eve Cohen, who works in a variety of formats including independent feature films, television series, documentaries, and virtual reality/360 storytelling.

Tell us about a specific project that you worked on with Andrea. What made the collaboration successful?

EVE:

The feature, *Mending the Line*. I had recently met Andrea before beginning prep on this film, and loved her work. When production asked me about the DI, I sent them directly to Harbor and Andrea.

I knew right away Andrea and I looked at the world in the same way. That similarity in perspective is essential to a successful collaboration. I can be very specific in what I see as the final image, but I can describe the world of the film to Andrea and *know* she understands and will be able to translate that into the grade. We also laugh a lot, being in a dark room with a person for hours and hours pairs well with a heavy dose of laughter

ANDREA:

Eve and I met at an industry event and kept in touch as our careers took us to different places. As fate would have it, within a year Eve had a project she thought would be fitting for us to work together on, and we had the chance to discuss her process and what she had in mind for the vision of the film.

While we had to start our work remotely, Eve and I had spent a bit of time getting to know each other. We shared stills and talked about the visual ideas and process for the film before putting color to image. We knew right away that we were kindred spirits and had that trust, allowing the project to move smoothly in a remote setting. Luckily, Eve was able to make it in person for the final days of grading with director, Joshua Caldwell. I think the collective trust led the film to evolve in color, while aligning with the visual storytelling goals.

I really loved working with Eve and spending time learning about the artists and films that inspire her!



From *Mending the Line*.
Photo courtesy of Eve Cohen.

COLLABORATION TWO: ROCHELLE BROWN & MAJORIE CLARKE

Rochelle Brown is the Director of Sales, East Coast at Harbor Picture Company. Rochelle's longtime collaborator, Marjorie Clarke, is a Producer based in New York.

Tell us about a project on which you collaborated with Rochelle.

MARJORIE:

I am part of the team from Time Inc. for the *JeenYuhs* project. We wanted to work with Harbor, but at the time, decided to look elsewhere. When I learned that Rochelle was coming to Harbor, I recommended that we go back and that Rochelle would work with us to make it happen.

ROCHELLE:

As Marjorie mentioned, she and I worked on the *JeenYuhs* project together. This was a collaboration that was years in the making. With *JeenYuhs* still in production, I migrated over to Harbor, and immediately let Marjorie know I had joined the team. We awarded 3 months later, and finished this 3-part series, which is essentially 3 feature length films, in record time.

Rochelle, you mentioned that your collaboration with Marjorie has been "years in the making." Can you tell us how your working relationship began?

ROCHELLE:

Marjorie and I have known each other for years. When I was an intern at an ad agency, I learned production nuances from her. Our relationship developed over time, with mutual trust, and she knows that I will do what can to support great projects. Similarly, I know she will do the same.

MAJORIE:

I believe that having had a long working relationship with Rochelle, I knew she was an 'honest broker' in that she will do what it takes to help a client and delivering what her company represents.

COLLABORATION THREE: ROCHELLE BROWN & LAUREN ORBAN

Rochelle Brown is the Director of Sales, East Coast at Harbor Picture Company. She is currently collaborating on The Young Wife with Post Supervisor, Lauren Orban, based in NY.

I understand that you and Rochelle are currently collaborating on a project. Can you tell us about that?

LAUREN:

Rochelle and I are currently working on an incredible film from Tayarisha Poe called *The Young Wife*. Our production team approached Rochelle and Harbor early on in the process for sound and picture finishing services. Their roster of artists and producers is so incredible, and we're excited to collaborate with such an elite team.

ROCHELLE:

As Lauren mentioned, she and I are currently working on *The Young Wife* which has been a positive experience thus far. It is our first longform collaboration together, and I am certain the end result will be fantastic.

How has the collaboration been between the two of you?

LAUREN:

Rochelle and Harbor have been such amazing partners in this process. We communicate our creative intent openly and often, and in turn, Harbor has offered wonderful insight and really considered what works best for the story we want to tell. Rochelle and I have worked closely together to craft everything from our team of artists, schedules, budgets, all the way from pre-production through final delivery.

ROCHELLE:

Lauren and I have a longstanding relationship, because we worked together at a previous company, which plays a significant role in our present harmonious relationship. Recognizing her willingness and desire to improve herself is extremely inspirational, and I know when I collaborate with her on projects that she will give it her all.

COLLABORATION FOUR: ELIZABETH HICKEY & VENTIKO

Ventiko is a freelance Writer, Director, Producer, Performer, and Editor based in New York. She found Elizabeth Hickey, now a Colorist at Harbor based in New York, through the listserv, Media Mavens, which connects women in the entertainment industry worldwide.

Tell us about a specific project that you worked on together. What made the collaboration successful?

VENTIKO:

Elizabeth was the colorist for my first experimental narrative short “seismic” (2022). “seismic” is based on a true story of a young queer New Yorker unable to grapple with his place in a constantly shifting society propelling him into an epic journey of distortion.

Due to the pandemic, we worked remotely to communicate exactly where and what needed adjustments. It worked quite well considering the limitations. Elizabeth was easy to work with and interpreted my vision into reality.

I had never worked with a colorist before and was nervous letting go of control, especially on my first narrative. I learned that in doing so the result was a faster professional turnaround rather than the steep learning curve which would have prevented me from making festival submission deadlines. Ultimately, working with Elizabeth reminded me that working with like-minded individuals yields beautiful results.

ELIZABETH:

With “seismic” being a completely remote project, Ventiko and I had a lot of phone conversations to nail down what she wanted to achieve with color. We used Frame.io to pinpoint areas that needed special attention and were able to get the film done in time for Ventiko to make all her festival deadlines.

We communicated a lot and were both able to ask for clarification where we felt it was necessary. We built a lot of trust, especially surrounding the technical aspects of working remotely and that lent itself to a successful collaboration.

The workflow is the most anxiety-inducing part of a remote project so I try to be thorough and patient in explaining how footage needs to be prepped for color, how things will be delivered and the delays that might occur with uploads & downloads.



From "seismic."
Photo courtesy of Ventiko.

COLLABORATION FIVE: ELIZABETH HICKEY & AMARA HARTMAN

Elizabeth Hickey is a colorist at Harbor based out of New York. Elizabeth collaborated with Amara Hartman, Copy Editor at Peloton, during her tenure at Peloton.

Tell us about a specific project that you worked with Elizabeth. What were the elements of that collaboration that you think helped made the project successful?

AMARA:

I worked with Elizabeth Hickey on a video project for Women's History Month in early 2020. I interviewed women in the workplace about other women who inspired them (from their moms to notable figures) and how they used that inspiration to grow in the workplace and in their personal lives. Elizabeth filmed and created the final video product, and we collaborated on elements of the editing like music, copy treatments, pacing, and length.

We pretty much had free rein to create the video how we wanted, which made it easy to play with music samples and color. There was a lot of laughter and openness. We made most edits together as we worked, so it was also hands on.

ELIZABETH:

We really wanted to avoid the trite cliches that tend to pop up around feminism and female empowerment and we were absolutely aligned on that objective from the jump. The subjects of our interviews were women in really impressive positions of power and Amara demonstrated a great deal of skill while interviewing them. We watched all the footage down together and debated at length the strongest portions of each interview. Every step of the project was a collaboration, and there was a lot of laughter and joy in the process.

COLLABORATION SIX: ELIZABETH GITTO-RODRIGUEZ & THERESA LOUIE

Theresa Louie is the Director, North America Treasury for the Publicis Groupe. Theresa boasts a longstanding collaboration with Elizabeth Gitto-Rodriguez, Senior Production Manager for live action production at Harbor in New York.

**Tell me about a time that have you
and Liz collaborated in the past?**

THERESA:

Three or four years ago, our production team required a flexible banking option for production purchases, so Liz and I successfully implemented a department card solution that is still utilized today.

ELIZABETH:

Teri and I work together constantly across every job that Harbor Commercial produces. Teri and her team are what I consider part of the backbone of our operation. Without Theresa and her Treasury team we would not be able to achieve what is promised to our client in our budgets.

**What makes your
collaborations
successful?**

THERESA:

There are various elements of collaboration that allow us to be successful, such as constant, open, and honest communication; uniting efforts to analyze the situation and determine the best solution; mutual trust and respect of other's ideas; responsibility and accountability.

I believe that it is so important for people to come together to work as a team to achieve common goals. I really enjoy meeting new people and working with everyone to identify their strengths and their roles on the team, as each person has something unique to contribute to the project.

ELIZABETH:

I think Theresa explained it best when she said "mutual trust and respect." I think these two characterizations are imperative for any collaboration. Theresa and I work together to find the best solutions for both of our teams. We work through any issues in a respectful and open way to voice our concerns and collaborate on solutions.

COLLABORATION SEVEN: ELIZABETH GITTO-RODRIGUEZ & TARA DOLACK HOFFMAN

Elizabeth Gitto-Rodriguez is the Senior Production Manager for the live action production team at Harbor in New York. She has been collaborating with Tara Dolack Hoffman, a freelance Producer based in New York, for over five years.

Tell us about a specific project on which you worked with Liz. What were the elements of that collaboration that you think helped made the project successful?

TARA:

Nature Made. We had hundreds of bottles of vitamins shipped to Harbor from our client which needed to be inventoried urgently. With most production teams still working from home, we did not have immediate access to the product, so Elizabeth stepped in for the huge assist. Anytime I produce a commercial at Harbor, the (all woman) staff are ALWAYS there to pitch in as needed and are really as much a part of our production team as us freelancers.

ELIZABETH:

The set for this commercial was a wall of Nature Made vitamins behind our talent. We received boxes and boxes of product from the client. We collaborated "side-by-side" (yet in different physical locations) to make sure that all the product was accounted for and in pristine shape for camera. It was incredible to see the organization, coordination, and hard work come to life on screen when the art department dressed the set and the camera was put into place. By staying in constant communication throughout the job and keeping calm and organized we are able to work through all aspects of production with smiles on.

Tara is and always has been a great asset to Harbor. She is always willing to take on new projects of all sized and while she is a freelancer, we really consider her part of our core team!



Slobhan Smith, Pharm.D.

From Nature Made

