

From: Lindsay Farr <lindsay@dezzanet.net.au>
To: rjbphx@uswest.net <rjbphx@uswest.net>
Date: Sunday, October 15, 2000 10:03 PM
Subject: Fw: Cable Bonsai Show

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----- Original Message -----

From: Lindsay Farr

To: rjbphx@uswest.net

Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2000 5:00 PM

Subject: Cable Bonsai Show

Dear Robert, Firstly congratulations on your most glorious contribution to Bonsai. I have spent many hours wandering through the wealth of information that your site provides. It took a long time to find as I do try to avoid club pages, but yours takes the cake. I feel that we are kindred spirits in so much as we both seek Bonsai essence. The difference between our bonsai Philosophies seems to be that I embrace the Taoist notion of departure from convention. Never the less your site is born of convention and is of enduring value to all. Thanks again.

I wish to communicate with you regarding a 13 episode series titled The way of Bonsai which I am currently producing for foxtel. The 13 30 min episodes are nearing completion and will air on Australian foxtel lifestyle channel with the licence period starting in Dec 2000. Next week we're shooting a short segment about Bonsai in film and television. I would like to tell viewers that if they would like more information about this subject they can find information at "celluloid bonsai" by following the links from our web site www.thewayofbonsai.com.au.

The site will not be up until December. So I need to touch base with you to ensure that the link is Ok with you. That is to have a link to your site from ours. I'm hoping that we will get lots of hits as the program is aimed at the curious bystander with the ambition that they may become active in Bonsai. This I hope will bring new participants to internet bonsai. We will be quite selective with links. Notable inclusions should be to bonsai links sites and club listings and a handful of others. I hope to hear from you soon

Regards Lindsay Farr

Producer/Presenter The Way Of Bonsai

From: Lindsay Farr <lindsay@dezzanet.net.au>
To: rjbphx@uswest.net <rjbphx@uswest.net>
Date: Saturday, October 21, 2000 7:51 PM
Subject: The Way of Bonsai

Dear Robert, Thanks for your reply. I'd like to take the opportunity to brief you on some program production info while it's fresh. Firstly the actual program title is " Lindsay Farr's The way of Bonsai ". The point being that the program does not pretend to be an all encompassing guide to Bonsai. In fact the opposite is intended. This is one persons view of Bonsai. The program evolved in a curious way. Fifteen years ago I regularly participated in garden shows to promote my Bonsai nursery. The local Nurserymens association viewed me with disdain and located me in sideshow alley where all the plastic gadgetery salesmen flogged their wares. I was lost in a sea of overt commerciality. One of the showman suggested that I was wasting my time if I didn't demonstrate to the passer by. This I did to the observation that everyone would pause for five minutes to watch and listen. Unfortunately I am not ambitious for worldly goods and failed with the salesmens closer. But everybody would pause for a while. Then doing aussie TV programs with old fashioned presenters who constantly interrupted I noted how beautiful the simplest bonsai thing looked when it was well lit and framed. Then I was called by a cable production company to produce a series (12) of segments for Asian sattelite. It was a program for NBC sports to replace an aerobic show with a program (Yin Yang and You) to suit the Asian pallete. My brief was to present an asian culture from a Western perspective. The crew instantly (after 3 or 4 segments) recognised that we could easily build a dedicated Bonsai Program. My original idea was to do a program that strived to be all encompassing . looking at all the schools and diversity that we could identify. My co-producer/director Ugo Mantelli conceived of the Idea that it should be My way of Bonsai. Ugo is a man of Tao and goes about his business unobtrusively. Many years ago I watched Arif Mardin produce some outstanding music at Atlantic studios in NY. I was surprised at how little he seemed to contribute but the results were excellent. Ugo has a similar nature . I hope the results are satisfactory.

I did not wish to be the first to enter this medium. Far better to let someone else do it and then learn from their mistakes. I did take some lessons from internet bonsai. I avoided the temptation to trot out my favourite Bonsai in the series. The me and my Bonsai form which is so popular on the net is so ego driven that it sometimes even with beautiful Bonsai fails to be instructive.

My personal goals with the program was to entertain (my perceived viewer is a bright and interested 9 year old.) Inform and enlighten. Much design criteria is based upon energy flow and I don't think that I even mention " the rules". To make sure that the viewer is well informed of Bonsai origins. I try not to talk about the Tao except when my hands are in the dirt. I'm critical of those who perpetuate lies about Bonsai History. I wish there was more humour. I refer to historical figures as old japanese gardeners and such. Only scholars are interested in their names. The only mention of clubs is that I don't think that they are important and how to find them for those who are interested. The entire 13 episodes are shot over 11 days with to top output being 18 segments in aday. Most segments were got on the first take. Eight days were shot at the breaking of spring and I hope that this will transfer to the small screen. I hope that this info is of some interest to you Regards

Lindsay Farr-----

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