

## Sneak Preview: Small Potatoes: Who Killed the USFL?



On a rare rainy evening in Los Angeles, October 14, 2009, PGA members and their guests braved the elements to attend a preview screening and Q&A with Academy Award-nominated, Peabody Award-winning producer/director and PGA member Mike Tollin. The ESPN documentary directed by Tollin, *Small Potatoes: Who Killed the USFL?* features three years of rare footage shot by Tollin (who first broke into the business when he landed the exclusive production rights to the fledgling United States Football League, as well as interviews with the league's major players, including a characteristically outsized Donald Trump). The film is part of ESPN's *30 for 30* series, commemorating the network's 30th anniversary with 30 filmmakers bringing their personal passion projects to the screen, centering on events that transformed the sports landscape from 1979 to 2009.

The event was hosted by the PGA West Documentary & Non-Fiction Committee and held at the De Mille Theatre on the Culver Studios Lot. The evening kicked off with a wine-and-cheese reception which gave those in attendance a chance to discuss documentary filmmaking, exchange ideas and meet the filmmaker. Immediately following the screening, Mike Tollin joined *Produced by* and *Networker* editor Chris Green for a spirited conversation. Tollin candidly and with a keen sense of humor shared insights into the personalities and decisions that conspired to kill the USFL.

—KARYN BENKENDORFER

*Small Potatoes: Who Killed the USFL?* premiered on October 20, 2009. The series repeats, so check your local listings!

Top to bottom:

Producer/director Mike Tollin, moderator Chris Green, Documentary & Non-Fiction Committee Chair Karyn Benkendorfer

From left to right: Leigh Norton, Matt Brady, Lindsay Liles, J.M. Grimaldi

From left to right: Fred Villari and Katy Leigh



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