



Kathy Eldon

Author, Lecturer, Film & Television Producer

“Set your sights firmly on your own star.
You are the captain of your ship. You hold the compass.”

Kathy Eldon is an award winning, internationally acclaimed lecturer, writer, activist, journalist, television and film producer who galvanizes audiences with her passionate belief that each and every individual can experience a rich and fulfilling life as “an active soul.” Drawing on the extremes of her own life, with wit, humor, and passion, Kathy awakens people to their full potential, convincing them of their power to soar.

In a troubled world, Kathy offers a new sense of purpose and direction, as she illustrates the resilience of the human spirit, and its power to transform tragedy into hope and renewal. Her moving speeches, illustrated with award winning film clips and peppered with humor, interweave her own story with universal themes of love, forgiveness and redemption.

Leaving her conservative roots in Iowa as a young woman, she married an Englishman and moved to London during the “Swinging 60’s.” Ten years later, together with her husband and two young children, she flew to Kenya, where she entered a tumultuous world as a journalist and writer. The tragic death of her talented son Dan, a 22-year-old Reuter’s correspondent, stoned to death in Somalia, was to change her life once again. Determined to transform the horror

of his death into a positive force for good, she moved to Hollywood, where she began a new career as a film and television producer, determined to catalyze people to achieve their potential – both for themselves, and for the world. Audiences are captivated by Kathy’s message to “know thyself,” and leave her events believing in their own power to overcome adversity and to live the life of their choice.

Kathy is the accomplished author of 17 books, including several international bestsellers, the *Journey is the Destination*, the *Journals of Dan Eldon*; *Soul Catcher*, a *Journal to help you become who you really are*; *Angel Catcher*, a *Journal of Loss and Remembrance*, and *Love Catcher*, a *Journal to bring more Love into your Life*. Her memoir (working title, *Soaring over Africa*) will be published in the Spring 2011 catalogue by Harper ONE. Working with her daughter, Amy, she has launched many award winning television and film projects through their company, Creative Visions Productions, including Emmy-nominated “Dying to tell the Story,” which premiered at the United Nations, and focused on front-line journalists at risk. On Mother’s Day, 2011, Julia Roberts and Kathy exec-produced “Extraordinary Moms,” a special hosted by Julia Roberts, for the new Oprah Winfrey Network that features interview with entertainer and activist, Rosie O’Donnell, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and frontline correspondent, Christiane Amanpour. Kathy is currently producing a film about her son Dan, that will star Julia Roberts as her.



Kathy is the founder of the *Creative Visions Foundation*, a global organization dedicated to supporting “creative activists who use media and the arts to transform the world around them”. The foundation has overseen more than 90 projects and productions on four continents.

Kathy Eldon is a popular and inspiring speaker, who has been featured in countless newspaper and magazine articles and has appeared on radio and television programs around the world, including the *Producer’s Favorite* segment on the Oprah Show.



LECTURE TOPICS

Kathy is also happy to tailor her talks to meet the needs of specific groups

1. **“Never Give In! Creating the Life of your Choice**

Winston’s Churchill’s immortal words provided inspiration for Great Britain during World War II. They also supported Kathy Eldon during major crises in her life – a divorce, a devastating illness, and the tragic murder of her son. In a moving speech, illustrated with film clips, peppered with humor and laced with wisdom, Kathy, now an acclaimed filmmaker and best selling author, tells her remarkable story, inspiring audiences to believe there is nothing that cannot do.

Potential audiences include: students, authors, artists, educators, women entrepreneurs, journalists, world peace agencies, political institutions, community organizations, business leaders, arm chair travelers, adventurers and philanthropists.

2. **“The Gift of Grieving: Transforming Tragedy into Hope”**

We are all affected by loss. We lose a job, our kids leave home, parents pass on and friends move away. Kathy Eldon, best selling author, acclaimed filmmaker and survivor of the greatest tragedy a parent can imagine – the death of a child--tells the story of how she transformed her loss into a powerful force that energized her personal and professional, life. Using clips from her award-winning films, and images from her best-selling *Angel Catcher* guided journal, Kathy captivates audiences with her compelling message of hope and inspiration, offering an entertaining and enlightening look at our never-ending potential for joy.

Audience: This popular presentation can be adapted for a variety of audiences, including corporate retreats, women's groups, and writers' conventions.

3. "The Art of Life: Journaling your Way to Success"

When Kathy Eldon faced hurdles in her life she wrote in her journal, discovering a seemingly limitless source of creativity and courage within her. Her collection of black bound became the foundation for an abundant and joyous life, as well as a series of documentaries and best-selling guided journals – *Soul Catcher, Angel Catcher* and *Love Catcher*. In a lively speech, packed with film clips, drawings and doodles, Kathy, now an acclaimed author and award-winning filmmaker, offers insight and practical tools for anyone interested in achieving his, or her potential, both for ourselves – and for the world.

Audience: This popular presentation can be adapted for a variety of audiences, including keynote speeches for corporations, foundations, universities, schools- and motivational events.

4. "The Journey is the Destination: A Traveler's Guide"

Explorer, adventurer, humanitarian, and the youngest Reuter's war photographer, Dan Eldon lived life to the fullest, traveling to more than 50 countries, attending four colleges, and studying five languages – all by the age of 22. Stoned to death by an angry mob while on assignment in Somalia, Dan left behind 17 bulging black bound books detailing his many adventures. A collection of his journal pages, *The Journey is the Destination*, collected by his mother, Kathy, has inspired millions around the world. In a stunning media-rich presentation, best selling author and acclaimed filmmaker Kathy Eldon, tells his story- and explains how each of us can live more fully, both for ourselves – and for others.

Audience: This popular presentation can be adapted for a variety of audiences, including keynote speeches for corporations, foundations, university convocations, middle and high schools, conferences and motivational events.

5. "Beyond my Wildest Dreams: Finding Home in Hollywood"

In a delightful multi-media presentation liberally laced with wit, wisdom and moving film clips, Kathy Eldon describes her extraordinary journey, an action-packed "safari" which took her from a small town in Iowa to an exotic life in England and Africa – before she turned up Hollywood where she became a best-selling author and award-winning filmmaker. Kathy tells how she transformed the challenging obstacles she met along the way – including the

horrific murder of her son – into opportunities for creative growth and new purpose. Her remarkable story of triumph over tragedy offers hope and encouragement to all who yearn to make their lives into an exciting “safari of a soul.”

Audience: This inspiring speech can be adapted for a variety of audiences, including keynote speeches for corporations, foundations, universities, middle and high schools and motivational events.

6. “Transform Yourself and the World Around You – the Creative Activist’s Journey”

Kathy takes audiences on a rollicking journey that brings alive her remarkable story of transformation- not only of herself, but also how she – and those she has helped support through her foundation – have managed to impact the world around them. This presentation includes a workshop that will share the principles embodied in the “Creative Activist’s Toolkit,” that has formed the basis of countless successful projects launched by individuals who believe in the “Power of One” to create positive change.

Audience: This inspiring speech is appropriate for a variety of audiences.





PRESENTATION MATERIALS

- *The Journey Is The Destination*: Both 60 or 90 minute versions are available of this moving, Emmy-nominated, TBS Special about Journalists at Risk
- *The Art of Life: Dan Eldon in Africa*: 15-minute award winning CNN film (can be viewed on Youtube.com)
- *Dan Eldon: Safari as a Way of Life*: A moving 45-minute National Geographic film
- *Current Television*: a 9 minute overview of the Creative Visions Foundation (can be viewed on Youtube.com)
- *Soldiers of Peace*: a powerful and uplifting 45 minute CNN Film about the Children's Peace Movement in Colombia
- *Dan Eldon: Art, Adventurer, Activist*. A stunning traveling exhibition of Dan Eldon's journal pages and photography is available for museums and galleries.
- An easy-to-erect "Pop-up" Gallery of Dan's collages is also available for galleries, stores and other public spaces.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT KATHY ELDON

“Kathy Eldon is a powerhouse who has turned her own personal tragedy into a mega blast of creative energy and vision. She believes everyone can be a force for positive change as long as they do what they do. . . with conviction.”

Christiane Amanpour

“I was a young reporter when I first met Dan Eldon in Somalia. Now I have his picture on my office wall and look at it every day for inspiration. His mother has taken the tragedy of his death and transformed it into a powerful force for good.”

Anderson Cooper

“Kathy Eldon inspires everyone she meets, from the elevator operator on the way up here-- to heads of state and world leaders. She is my spiritual advisor.”

Rosie O'Donnell

“I want to thank you for the ways you have woken me up from 'the mother slumber', happily blind to anything that happens outside of my blissful home. Thank you for being wonderful and wonder full.”

Julia Roberts

“I have been involved with [the Overseas Press Club] for more than a decade and I would say that Kathy Eldon on that night was the bravest, most eloquent and moving speaker I heard over all those years. She found the courage...to hearten us to accept responsibility for lifting the consciousness of this world and to galvanize individuals to action. Kathy is enormously sensitive and articulate, she is the best kind of person we have. Needless to say, her presentation was well received.”

Larry Smith, Managing Editor: Parade Magazine

“Her words flow smoothly. Her eloquence pours through a crucible of sadness and grief. She is both tough and tender, ingenuous and savvy.”

Tom Curwen, Los Angeles Times

“I can't call what you did 'remarks' or 'speech' because it was something beyond technique or category: sheer direct impact, person upon person...I happened to glance at Dan Rather's face and it must have been a mirror of mine. He was fighting to control his emotions, as was I.”

Joseph Mehan, Professor, Columbia University

"No one can remember a greater display of courage...I can almost guarantee that lives were changed this morning."

Clayton W. Lewis, Principal, The American School In London

"Her presence at the podium is charismatic and powerful...She is at ease, composed and above all else personable, all characteristics she projects as comfortably to hundreds as she does one-on-one"

Vincent Alabiso, Vice President, Associated Press

"Students were fired up about the issues raised in "Dying To Tell the Story" and in the discussion afterwards: global conflict and citizenship, photographic testimony and historical evidence. Most of all, they wanted to talk about how their own lives intersect with world issues, and how their professional and personal lives can impact those issues. Kathy Eldon a wonderful speech, tied to crucial, relevant topics."

Marjorie Feld, Professor, Babson College

"Your talk and actions inspired me to go out and try to live as an "active soul."

Jacob Donnelly, Student, Babson College

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

"TERRIFIC, TERRIFIC, TERRIFIC!"

"An inspirational example of a woman who has taken the hardships of life and has used them as fuel for creative energy- a worthy role model!"

"The energy and optimism she brought is wonderful, contagious and inspiring!"

"Dynamite, from the heart!"

"Very inspirational to all who dream- follow the vision."

"She has so much to say! And such marvelous energy!"

"How can I begin to enumerate all that she has given us?"

"SO inspirational- WOW!"

"Fabulous speaker! Joy."

"Dynamic! High energy, motivational, great speaker!"

“Inspiring! Also practical and informative. She gave specific suggestions”

“Grateful for your energy, wisdom and enthusiasm!”

“Wonderfully empowering”

A SAMPLING OF EXHIBITONS/SYMPOSIA/SPEECHES

Lawrenceville Academy	Emcee: UN Peace and Tolerance Awards
United Nations	American School in London
Sundance Film Festival	University of Texas, Austin
The Freedom Forum: Washington DC	Boston University
Boston College	Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
Wellesley College	Colombia University
Union College: Convocation Speech	Snap Orlando
Cornell College	European Freedom Forum/London
Duke University	Overseas Press Club (OPC)
KCET (Women's History Month)	Michigan School of Journalism
Hamilton Gallery (London)	Telluride Film Festival
Paley Center NYC	Pima Writers Conference
University of North Carolina	Traveling Women Luncheon (LA)
Telluride Film Festival	Babson College
Sundance Film Festival	Invisible Children: "Dispatch Me" – (before an audience of 7000 people)
Dedication of the Newseum (Washington D.C.)	Hollywood Improv
Alleghany College	United Nations: Premiers of <i>Dying to tell the Story, Soldiers of Peace, a Children's Crusade</i>
Union College	

ARTICLES/FEATURE STORIES

Articles about Kathy, her films, books, her son and Creative Visions have appeared in countless publications and syndicated newspapers in the United States and internationally. Here is just a small sampling of press received:

Oprah Magazine	The Washington Post
Baltimore Sun	Vanity Fair
International Herald Tribune	Time Magazine
Newsweek	People Magazine
Boston Herald	The Times of London
Independent of London	The Hollywood Reporter
Variety	Elle
Biography Magazine	The New Yorker
USA Today	Los Angeles Times
More Magazine	Natural Health Magazine

RADIO AND TELEVISION APPEARANCES

Kathy Eldon has been the subject of countless radio and television interviews in the US and abroad, a few of which are listed below:

The Oprah Show (three times)	Jane Pauley Show
Good Morning America	Rosie O'Donnell Show
NPR's Morning Edition	Hard Copy
CNN To The Point	Jane Pauley Show
National Geographic Today Show	Late, Late Show
ABC's Saturday Morning Show	Fox News Show

HONORS AND AWARDS

Kathy has been profiled in a number of books, including Arianna Huffington's "On Becoming Fearless", Katherine Martin's "Those Who Dare: Real People, Real Courage"; Nancy Alspaugh, Marilyn Kentz, and Mary Ann Halpin's "Fearless Women". Kathy was named one of MSN's "10 Amazing Women You Have Never Heard Of," together with Nobel Peace Prize winners Wangari Maathai and Jodi Williams. Kathy is a recipient of the Euro- American Women's Council's Artemis Goddess Award, the Wayuu Taya Foundation's Award and was named a Purpose Prize Fellow. She and daughter Amy have also received the "Young Audiences, New York Children's Award" for their work with young creative activists and in 2010, Kathy was honored as a Lifetime Television "Extraordinary Woman."

BOOKS

Kathy is the author of 17 books, including "Angel Catcher", "Soul Catcher", and "Love Catcher" (Chronicle), a series of popular self guided journals written with her daughter Amy Eldon, which help people negotiate loss and grief, find their purpose and introduce more love in their lives. She edited the "Journey is the Destination: the Journals of Dan Eldon" (Chronicle) which has sold more than 130,000 copies. Together with "Journey", the "Catcher" series was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show and has sold more than 250,000 copies. Kathy has also written a variety of popular cookbooks, tourist and eating out guides and children's social history books. Her memoir, "Soaring over Africa," will be released by Harper One in Spring, 2012.



BIOGRAPHY

Kathy Eldon has worked as a journalist, teacher, public relations consultant, filmmaker and author on three continents. Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at the age of 16, she traveled to South Africa as an American Field Exchange student and developed a lifelong passion for exploration and discovery. She later graduated from Wellesley College with a degree in Art History, and taught art at the American School in London where she lived with her husband and two children, Dan and Amy. In 1977, the family moved to Nairobi where Kathy worked as the Travel Editor of Signature Magazine, Editor of Kenya Airways Magazine, and Food Editor for the Sunday Nation. While in Africa, she authored eight books and contributed frequently to many travel publications, including Conde Naste Traveler, Bon Appetit, The International Herald Tribune and The Washington Post. Kathy also promoted tourism to Kenya as the Vice President of Marketing and Communications for the East African division of Abercrombie and Kent and spoke extensively at zoo and museum conventions throughout the States. She worked with paleontologist, Richard Leakey at the National Museum of Kenya where she produced a three-day Living Museum Festival that attracted 30,000 people.

In 1988, Kathy moved to London where she founded a multi-media production company, Creative Visions and co-produced her first film, *Lost In Africa*, distributed internationally by Columbia Pictures. In July of 1993, Kathy's life took a dramatic turn when her son, then a 22-year-old Reuter's photographer, was killed in Somalia. After that Kathy became involved in organizing exhibitions and symposia on issues of journalistic safety and freedom. In 1998, her daughter Amy, a graduate of Boston University's College of Communications, joined her in Hollywood to produce "media that matters" -- books, films, television that inspire people to achieve their potential, both for

themselves and for the world. Kathy has since served on the foundation board of the Overseas Press Club for six years, helping support a scholarship for talented young journalists in her son's name.

Kathy exec-produced the Emmy-nominated, two-hour TBS special, *Dying to Tell the Story*, about journalists on the frontlines, and the acclaimed CNN documentary, *Soldiers of Peace, a Children's Crusade*, about the Children's Peace Movement in Colombia. Both films premiered at the United Nations, and were distributed through CNN to 220 countries. Both films premiered at the United Nations, and were distributed through CNN to 220 countries. Kathy produced *Global Trek, in Search of New Lebanon*, a pilot for CNN International, hosted by her daughter, Amy, which laid the way for their PBS series, *Global Tribe*. Accompanied by a dynamic website the series was sold to many countries overseas and spawned *One Global Tribe*, a organization that teaches youth to use media to create awareness of important local and global issues. Content from *One Global Tribe* can now be found on THINK MTV's new activist website.

Currently, Kathy oversees a slate of exciting television and film projects through Creative Visions Productions. She is also working on a feature film about her son Dan, written by Oscar-nominated Jan Sardi. Kathy, the author of 17 books, has co-authored a series of three best-selling, guided journals, *Angel Catcher*, *Soul Catcher*, and *Love Catcher*, with her daughter, Amy. They have sold over 200,000 copies and have been featured on Oprah. Oprah also featured Amy and Kathy in her "Producer's Favorites" program, which is repeated frequently. Kathy's best-selling collection of her son Dan's collection of journals, *The Journey Is The Destination*, has sold over 150,000 copies, and continues to inspire educators, artists, and young people to find their true path in life. Kathy has also been featured in a number of other books, including *Becoming Fearless*, by Arianna Huffington; Marianne Halpin's book, *Fearless Women*, and Marilyn Beck's book, *Women of Spirit*.

Kathy enjoys taking the messages of "know thyself" and "the journey is the destination" to young people at colleges and universities across the country. She lectures frequently to a variety of audiences and continues to be a fiery spokesperson to protect the rights of frontline journalists, and the importance of socially conscious, commercially viable films. Through her extraordinary life, Kathy has discovered how to transform extreme misfortune into positive actions and results. Her message, conveyed through her books, films and speeches, awakens people from every walk off life to seek their passion and to achieve their potential - for themselves, and for the world.



Kathy, Christiane Amanpour and Amy
At shoot for "Extraordinary Moms"



Kathy and Amy after meeting
President Obama



Nobel Laureate Jody Williams and Kathy

Julia Roberts, Amy and Kathy

MORE INFORMATION ON KATHY AND HER WORK

About Kathy Eldon:

<http://www.creativevisions.org/2011/01/kathy-eldon-founder-creative-visions-foundation/>

Clips of Kathy's speeches:

http://www.creativevisions.org/kathys_lectures/kathys_speeches.html

Creative Visions Foundation:

<http://creativevisions.org/>

Dan Eldon

<http://www.daneldon.org/site/>