

Audio Transcript: Karen Walker

Executive Producer & Host, *Diamond In The Ruff*

Greetings and salutations, my name is Karen Walker, I am the executive producer and host of *Diamond In The Ruff*. *Diamond In The Ruff* was born from so many years ago, I used to have potlucks for women, we would bring dishes we would sit around and talk about life. And so as I became accustomed to PhillyCAM, and its operations, I thought to myself, wouldn't this be interesting to bring this to television. And so I did. And then later, I decided to introduce *Diamond In The Ruff* Men's Forum. And in addition to that, I've had some involvement with PhillyCAM Voices. And then in addition to that, I've been working on a documentary called Voice of Reason. And the first series of segments is about the homeless population, in and around the city of Philadelphia. PhillyCAM is my second home, honestly, and several months ago, I worked just across the street. So I will be here in the mornings in the afternoons and even in the evenings, be it working on a project, or just coming to become more informed by the staff about events coming up, or just different projects that I could support. I love it here.

PhillyCAM in general, the knowledge and wisdom that I've gotten from the staff, from other members have allowed me to become more confident in my abilities to even at this point, perform as a contractor and earn a living. You know, PhillyCAM is a melting pot of so many people with different ethnic backgrounds, again, different skill sets. And I think through our class training, we develop a rapport and then long-lasting relationships with each other. So it's very easy for us to support each other with our varying programming that's offered through the studio. I mean, we work to the point where we basically sit down and break bread with each other, you know? It's beyond the scope of just being in the studio. You gotta love it, you know, you just you just enjoy it you enjoy being among people who have the same interests that could teach you more than you already know. And again, it's that component of service, you know, giving something back to the community, educating our community. For me, I think I mentioned to you before, this is not a hobby, you

know, this is this is not a hobby. I really believe that I have been born and bred into this. I just started a little later.