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Special to The News-Press
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experience at giving birth.
At 8:30 p.m. on July 21, after a
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and it won't be for the first time.
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Ever heard of the Koreshans?
Most people in Lee County
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nal pot – who proved to be state-of-the-art farmers and champions of education and culture. So they even floated grand pianos, tubas, easels and a host of other art supplies down the Estero River to the banks of what is now the Koreshan State Historic Site.

Although the 36-year-old producer grew up in Lee County and graduated from Cape Coral High School, Fairfield-Williams didn't know anymore than anybody else about the Koreshans when she took on the project, sponsored in part with a grant from the College of Life, the private, nonprofit remnant of the Koreshan Unity.

Now she does, and naturally that's led to an educated opinion about them.

"I lovingly refer to them as the crazy Koreshans" Fairfield-Williams admits cheerfully. "I think I would have liked them.. I would not have joined them. If '' you remove the celibacy thing, and the center-of-the-earth theory, they're remarkable. Within a couple of years they moved down here from Chicago into the middle of nowhere. They were self-sustaining, like other pioneers, but more advanced. They did that quite well, with a printing press, a sawmill, a bakery, their own school. And even though you think they were crazy, it wasn't harmful. They weren't hurting anybody."

Which is more than can be said, of the work of a production about them that brought Fairfield-Williams serious anguish from time to time – especially when the studio computers crashed in May, seeming to swallow her work whole, and creating a two-month delay.

Ultimately, though, that allowed her and the many people she worked with to create something even better, perhaps.

"Jennifer is very high energy and organized, atalented writer, and cool under pressure – you have to be especially with the long-form documentary," says Sheri Coleman, director of production services at WGCU.

"This turned out very well."
But just what does a producer do to turn it out well?

"I think my favorite quote is a Dustin Hoffman line from the movie, 'Wag the Dog; where he says, 'I'm a producer, nobody knows what I do; " Fairfield-Williams says, laughing.

To produce "Koreshan Unity," first she became a student and researcher, using the archive at the College of Life, with its tens of thousands of photos, conducting extensive interviews (seven will air in the half-hour show), and absorbing anything she could. Then she wrote the long script (she holds an undergraduate degree in magazine writing from Boston University), and matched still photos, on-location shots, and interview segments to it with the help of WVCU's competent production staff.

She also chose the music, which is a significant effort and a powerful influence on viewers (think of a Ken Burns documentary such as his series on the Civil War, with its haunting, deeply moving score).

"Ken Burns has music producers, or can actually have it composed," Fairfield-Williams explains. "Obviously we can't. Music is my nemesis. Music makes or breaks a show, and I'm still learning."

And when it's complete, her husband, Jack Williams, will sit down and watch it with her, anxious himself to see the credits roll. This is one labor he hasn't helped her with, which suits her just fine._____

"He's in construction, not television, so we don't have to talk about our work when we come home. We can't," Fairfield-Williams says. "That's probably what saves our marriage. It would take me hours to explain why something bothered me, so I just say, 'I'm not going there;'"

Instead, she plans to go on to her next baby — this time a real one.

MOMENT

- Name: Jennifer Fairfield-Williams
- Background: Born in Maine, her father, a lobsterman, died before she was 3, when her mother moved to Cape Coral, which had been her dad's dream. Her grandfather became a surrogate fa-

ther to her.

- Her inspiration: Her 38-year brother John – especially when the going gets rough. He holds a doctorate in pharmacology; he is also paraplegic, the result of a car accident when he was 15.

- Her moment: Producing a new historical documentary on the Koreshans, though she insists, "There are so many other people who made this possible: photographers, editors, production managers, College of Life staff, the Koreshan State Park people, the archivist and historian – this would be nothing without them."

Producer delivers film on 'crazy Koreshans'

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

Special to The News-Press

Jennifer Fairfield-Williams will have her first baby in November, but it won't be her first experience at giving birth.

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