

FORK FILMS

Presents

THE ARMOR OF LIGHT

A Film by Abigail E. Disney

83 minutes

Official Selection

2015 Tribeca Film Festival

2015 AFI DOCS

2015 Provincetown Film Festival

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<http://www.armoroflightfilm.com/>

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ABOUT THE FILM

THE ARMOR OF LIGHT follows an Evangelical minister and the mother of a teenage shooting victim who ask, is it possible to be both pro-gun and pro-life?

In a gripping portrait of courage, director Abigail E. Disney follows the journey of an Evangelical minister trying to find the moral strength to preach about the growing toll of gun violence in America. THE ARMOR OF LIGHT tracks Reverend Rob Schenck, anti-abortion activist and fixture on the political far right, who breaks with orthodoxy by questioning whether being pro-gun is consistent with being pro-life. Reverend Schenck is shocked and perplexed by the reactions of his long-time friends and colleagues who warn him away from this complex, politically explosive issue.

Along the way, Rev. Schenck meets Lucy McBath, the mother of Jordan Davis, an unarmed teenager who was murdered in Florida and whose story has cast a spotlight on “Stand Your Ground” laws. Also an Evangelical Christian, McBath’s personal testimony compels Rev. Schenck to reach out to pastors around the country to discuss the moral and ethical response to gun violence. Lucy is on a difficult journey of her own, trying to make sense of her devastating loss while using her grief to effect some kind of viable and effective political action—where so many before her have failed.

THE ARMOR OF LIGHT follows these allies through their trials of conscience, heartbreak and rejection, as they bravely attempt to make others consider America’s gun culture through a moral lens. The film is also a courageous look at our fractured political culture and an assertion that it is, indeed, possible for people to come together across deep party lines to find common ground.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

Wins

Galway Film Fleadh - Best International Feature Documentary, July 2015

Traverse City Film Festival - Founders Prize Special Award, August 2015

Tallgrass Film Festival - Golden Strands Award for Outstanding Documentary Feature, October 2015

Wilbur Award - Best Documentary, February 2016

Attic Film Festival - Best Documentary, March 2016

Nominations

Longlisted for Ridenhour Documentary Film Prize, September 2015

Nominated for Urban TV Awards Professional Documentary, September 2015

Finalist for 2015 My Hero International Film Festival Kovic Peace Prize (Trailer), October 2015

Nominated for 2015 Crystal Dove Seal by The Dove Foundation, February 2016

THE CAST

Reverend Rob Schenck:

The Reverend Dr. Rob Schenck (Subject) is an ordained Evangelical minister and president of Faith and Action in the Nation's Capital, located in Washington, DC. A leader among American Evangelicals, Dr. Schenck is the Immediate Past Chairman of the Evangelical Church Alliance (ECA), America's oldest association of independent Evangelical ministers, missionaries, and chaplains. Dr. Schenck has recently challenged the prevailing attitudes of American Evangelicals on gun ownership, opening a vigorous debate in his community on the ethical dimensions of gun use and related public policy questions.

Dr. Schenck holds a B.A. in Religion, M.A. in Christian Ministry, D.Min in Church and State, and is a senior fellow at the Oxford Centre for the Study of Law and Public Policy at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford. He serves on numerous boards and committees, including the National Advisory Board on Community Engagement in the State Courts. His professional memberships include the National Association of Evangelicals, the American Academy of Religion, the Capitol Hill Executive Service Club, and The University Club of Washington. Dr. Schenck lives in Washington, DC, with his wife, Cheryl, a psychotherapist in private practice.

Lucy McBath:

Lucy McBath is the mother of Jordan Davis, an unarmed teenager who was shot and killed in Jacksonville, Florida in November 2012. Since his death, McBath has advocated for solutions to the problem of gun violence as a national spokesperson for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and is currently the Faith Outreach Leader for Everytown for Gun Safety. In her work as a gun safety advocate, she has been invited to the White House, testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, and appeared on CNN and MSNBC. She recently founded the Walk With Jordan Scholarship Foundation.

John M. Phillips:

John M. Phillips is an attorney based in Florida who was hired by Ron Davis and Lucy McBath to represent them in the state's case against the man who shot and killed their son. Phillips spent eight years as a trial lawyer for businesses such as State Farm, Coca-Cola, and Hertz, before founding his own trial law office in 2011. He has obtained multi-million-dollar verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients, and he was selected in the Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers Association.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I was raised in a filmmaking family. We talked about “story” and took apart other people’s films over dinner. To me, it was just business, and I didn’t think about making my own films. So when I did come to filmmaking I came to it late, and then only because I had run across unbelievable stories that had to be told—remarkable people that had to be known.

The films we produce at Fork Films all share that sense of discovery and urgency. I am drawn to people who shake up the status quo, who put themselves on the line for what they believe. They succeed because of, or possibly in spite of, doing the unexpected. They can be contrary, they can be bold, but they are willing to take risks for something bigger than themselves.

Reverend Rob Schenck is one such person. The subject of guns was not on his front burner when I approached him about an idea for a film in 2013. I was looking for someone—anyone—on the far right who might be willing to entertain the idea that there were some logical and even theological inconsistencies in the positions conservative Evangelicals were taking on abortion and guns. In short, I wanted to know how a person could be both “pro-life” and “pro-gun.”

For instance, most conservative Christians back “Stand Your Ground,” laws the NRA has quietly lobbied for—and helped pass – in 23 states and counting. Those laws essentially say that when people carrying a weapon feel threatened, they can shoot without first trying to de-escalate the situation. From my perspective, shooting first is not a pro-life ethic and I wanted to find someone who could explain why it seems like so many Christians are arming up. I spoke with several Evangelical leaders who agreed, but would not put their careers and names at risk by saying so publicly.

Rob Schenck was different. He took my call, and invited me to his office in Washington, D.C. It was hard for me to sit down with Rob when we first met. He was a fierce person—or at least that’s what my Google search made him sound like. He had spent a lifetime fighting with all his heart and soul on the opposite side of every social issue I believed in down to the tips of my toes. He was the enemy—he was the “devil.”

Yet, he was full of surprises. He said the growing gun violence in our culture could no longer be ignored; he wondered why so many Americans are living in fear and taking up arms. After praying on it, he told me he agreed that something needed to be done and decided to participate in the documentary.

The women and men in my films all share a few characteristics I admire. They are courageous and they are honest. They won’t be tied down by lack of imagination, and they will do whatever it takes to fight for peace. So when it came time for me to step into directing for the first time, and I decided to reach across the frightening abyss of American politics, I realized I would have to hold myself to the same high standards of the people I most admired.

So I began filming with Rob in the spirit of peace, even though I worried that people on my own side of the political spectrum might accuse me of treason one day, or that I might lose friendships over offering this man legitimacy.

And of course, Rob is no devil at all. In fact, he is an extremely nice man, and smart, and literate and tolerant and everything I've never seen a film or a TV show or a book show an Evangelical to be.

I have found this to be true: if you approach people with respect and an open heart, they will almost always respond to you in the same way. So Rob and I formed the most unlikely of friendships and it was in that spirit that we went forward on this journey together, poking into the darkest of political corners, asking the hardest, most sensitive of questions and pushing back on some of the most dearly held American creeds.

Lucy McBath was a far more easy person for me to meet and to understand. Warm, eloquent, passionate and incredibly bubbly, the story of her love for the son she lost in what can only be described as a monstrous act of cruelty was too awful to listen to, and too compelling to turn away from. The camera loved her and we knew that she would be able to give us a picture of the rawest anguish in an unstintingly generous way. Her honesty, her willingness to fight against the "Stand Your Ground" mentality that contributed to her son's murder, and her deep convictions as a Christian moved Rob beyond his reasonable trepidation to take more risks and to dig yet deeper for his moral courage.

I still believe all the same things about a woman's right to control her reproductive destiny with the same certainty as when I started this project. But now I also know that people like Rob do not disagree with me because they are bad people, or stupid, or because they have been duped or are part of a great conspiracy to ruin lives (although some or all of this may be true of some of his allies, but then again some or all of these things can be ascribed equally to plenty of people on my own side of the political spectrum).

I also know that miraculous things can happen when people choose to put aside their differences and choose to inhabit the spaces they share. Those spaces tend to be way above politics. That's what Rob and Lucy and my whole crew and I chose to do. And I think we have all been changed for the better.

THE DIRECTOR

Abigail E. Disney is an award-winning filmmaker, philanthropist and the CEO and president of Fork Films. An active supporter of peacebuilding, she is passionate about advancing women's roles in the public sphere. Disney's 20+ films and series focus on social issues, sharing a quality of spotlighting extraordinary people who speak truth to power.

Disney's directorial debut, *THE ARMOR OF LIGHT*, has been selected for the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival. *THE ARMOR OF LIGHT* follows an Evangelical minister trying to find the courage to preach about the growing toll of gun violence in America. Reverend Rob Schenck, anti-abortion activist and fixture on the political far right, breaks with orthodoxy by questioning whether being pro-gun is consistent with being pro-life.

Having grown up in a family of filmmakers, Disney turned to documentaries in 2008, inspired to tell the story of a brave group of women who used nonviolent protests and sex strikes to bring an end to Liberia's long civil war. That film, *PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL*, won best documentary at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2008, and screened in 60 countries around the world on all seven continents. *PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL* is broadly credited with highlighting the bravery and sacrifice of its lead figure, Leymah Gbowee, who received a Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.

The extraordinary response to *PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL* led Disney to work on the five-part special series for PBS, "WOMEN, WAR & PEACE," which aired in 2011 and was the winner of the Overseas Press Club's Edward R. Murrow Award, a Gracie Award, and a Television Academy Honor. This first-of-its-kind series created and executive produced by Abigail Disney, Pamela Hogan and Gini Reticker looked at the role of women in war in the modern age, not just as victims of conflict, but as active agents for peace in their communities.

PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL also led to Disney founding Peace is Loud, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting and spotlighting women who are stepping up for peace and resisting violence in their communities. Together, Fork Films and Peace is Loud produced "WOMEN, WAR & PEACE" screening kits, dubbed into four languages, for use by international grassroots organizations in an ambitious global outreach campaign. To date, over 1,500 screening kits have been shared with 250 partner organizations at 575 screening events reaching 35,000 viewers. Events featuring the films have taken place in 82 countries—reaching all continents, including Antarctica.

Disney has also executive produced films on a wide array of social issues, including 1971, *FAMILY AFFAIR*, *CITIZEN KOCH*, *HOT GIRLS WANTED*, *THE INVISIBLE WAR* (Academy Award® Nominee, Best Documentary Feature), *RETURN*, and *SUN COME UP* (Academy Award® Nominee, Best Documentary Short).

THE DIRECTOR - FILMOGRAPHY

FORK FILMS PRODUCTIONS

THE TRIALS OF SPRING, Executive Producer (2015) A multi-media effort, the centerpiece of which will be a feature length documentary film that highlights the role of women in the Arab Awakening. Focus will be on the centrality of gender in the rise of movements for democracy in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya, as well as on the courage and creativity of the women fighting for their lives and for a vital role in shaping the future of their countries.

WOMEN, WAR & PEACE Series, Executive Producer (2011) A five-part PBS television series challenging the conventional wisdom that war and peace are men's domain. Spotlights stories of women in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Colombia and Liberia. Narrated by Matt Damon, Tilda Swinton, Geena Davis and Alfre Woodard. Episodes: I Came to Testify, Pray the Devil Back to Hell, Peace Unveiled, The War We Are Living, War Redefined.

PEACE UNVEILED, Writer (2011) Women, War & Peace episode focusing on Afghan women fighting for inclusion in official peace process

PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELP, Producer (2008) Chronicles the remarkable story of the Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country, featuring the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Leymah Gbowee.

FEATURE FILMS (NARRATIVE)

HATESHIP, FRIENDSHIP, COURTSHIP, LOVESHIP, MARRIAGE, Executive Producer (2013) Based on the Alice Munro short story, the film tells the tale of a premature spinster (Kristen Wiig) who is set up romantically by the granddaughter of an old man she takes care of.

BIRDS LIKE US, Executive Producer (Release date TBD) The first Bosnian 3D animated feature film based on the 11th century Persian masterpiece The Conference of the Birds by Farid al-Din. Currently in production.

RETURN, Executive Producer (2012) A soldier (Linda Cardellini) returns to her family, friends, and old job after a tour of duty, though she finds herself struggling to find her place in her everyday life.

DOCUMENTARIES

THE MAKE YOU LIVE IN, Executive Producer (2015) Compared to girls, research shows that boys in the U.S. are more likely to be diagnosed with a behavior disorder, prescribed stimulant medications, fail out of school, binge drink, commit a violent crime, and/or take their own lives. The Mask You Live In, a film that is an exploration of American masculinity, asks society: how are we failing our boys?

HOT GIRLS WANTED, Executive Producer (2015) Thanks to the Internet, thousands of young American women are entering the "amateur" porn world, fulfilling a growing demand for girl-next-door starlets. HOT GIRLS WANTED follows one such girl, eager to leave small-town life in search of freedom and fame. With the click of a mouse she transforms from A-student to fledgling amateur actress. She initially feels independent and popular starring in professionally produced videos - uploaded on sites garnering an average of 41 million hits a month. But as she and some of her new friends fall deeper into the darker corners of the Internet, and as new faces arrive daily, they're forced to reconsider an increasingly dubious line of work. Filmmakers Jill Bauer and Ronna Gradus, along with producer Rashida Jones and partners from the Kinsey Institute for Sex Research, rip the lid off of the often unchecked amateur porn industry.

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY, Co-Producer (2014) Born out of the revolutionary zeal of the '60s and '70s, the modern women's liberation movement brought feminism to the mainstream, with bra burnings and massive protests in the name of empowering women to feel equal to their male counterparts at home and in the workplace. But this revolution wasn't without tension—issues of race, sexuality and the role of men within it all threatened to tear the movement apart. Elucidated by interviews from participants as varied as Rita Mae Brown and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, 'She's Beautiful When She's Angry' illuminates the roots of the modern battle for gender equality, one that still rages to this very day.

1971, Executive Producer (2014) The story of eight activists who plotted an intricate break-in to the local FBI offices to expose the illegal surveillance of ordinary Americans. Despite searching for the perpetrators in one of the largest investigations ever conducted, the FBI never solved the mystery behind the identities of the burglars. Until Now. For the first time, the Citizen's Commission reveal themselves, reflecting on their actions and raising broader questions surrounding security leaks in activism today.

VESSEL, Executive Producer (2013) Dr. Rebecca Gomperts sails a ship around the world, providing abortions at sea for women with no legal alternative. Her idea begins as flawed spectacle, faced with governmental, religious, and military blockade. But with each roadblock comes a more refined mission, until Rebecca realizes she can use new technologies to bypass law - and train women to give themselves abortions using WHO-researched protocols with pills. From there we witness her create an underground network of emboldened, informed activists who trust women to handle abortion themselves. Vessel is Rebecca's story: one of a woman who hears and answers a calling, and transforms a wildly improbable idea into a global movement.

CITIZEN KOCH, Co-Executive Producer (2013) The Supreme Court's Citizens United decision in 2010 lifted a century-long ban on restricted corporate election spending, unleashing a new era of unbridled special-interest campaign finance. Citizen Koch examines the mushrooming struggle between money and democracy through the dramatic lens of the 2011 standoff in Wisconsin when Governor Scott Walker, bankrolled by out-of-state billionaires, stripped state employees of their union rights.

SEEDS OF TIME, Executive Producer (2013) A perfect storm is brewing as agriculture pioneer Cary Fowler races against time to protect the future of our food. Gene banks of the world are crumbling, crop failures are producing starvation inspired rioting, and the accelerating effects of climate change are already affecting farmers globally. But Fowler's journey, and our own, is just beginning: From Rome to Russia and, finally, a remote island under the Arctic Circle, Fowler's passionate and personal journey may hold the key to saving the one resource we cannot live without: our seeds.

THE ONLY REAL GAME, Executive Producer (2013) A fighters' and dreamers' story about the magic of baseball for people in a remote and troubled place. Once princely Manipur, a strife-torn border state in northeast India, defies civil war, drugs, gun traffic, and HIV/AIDS through love of their national pastime. Dreams chase reality in this ancient region when a small group of baseball-loving New Yorkers, and two Major League Baseball Envoy coaches, team up with Manipuri men, women and children to "Play Ball." It's a far away story that brings us to the heart of the great American Game, or as Babe Ruth put it, "the only real game in the world." Narrated by Melissa Leo.

THE INVISIBLE WAR, Executive Producer (2012) An investigative and powerfully emotional examination of the epidemic of rape of soldiers within the U.S. military, the institutions that cover up its existence and the profound personal and social consequences that arise from it.

OPEN HEART, Co-Executive Producer (2012) Eight Rwandan children leave their families behind to embark on a life-or-death journey seeking high-risk heart surgery in Sudan. Open Heart reveals the intertwined endeavors of Dr. Emmanuel, Rwanda's lone government cardiologist, and Dr. Gino, the Salam Center's head surgeon, who is fighting to save his hospital, Africa's only link to life-saving free cardiac surgery for the millions who need it.

ALIAS RUBY BLADE, Executive Producer (2012) Alias Ruby Blade is the story of Kirsty Sword Gusmao, First Lady of Timor-Leste. An aspiring documentary filmmaker, Kirsty instead became a courier for the Timorese resistance movement in Jakarta code named Ruby Blade. Through correspondence, she fell in love with the imprisoned resistance leader Xanana Gusmao. Together they nurtured the tumultuous birth of the world's newest nation.

THE IRAN JOB, Executive Producer (2012) At the height of international tension between America and Iran, Kevin Sheppard, a charismatic African-American basketball player accepts an offer to play professional basketball in Iran. What begins as a desire to 'explore the unknown' ends in an emotional roller-coaster as he forms an unlikely alliance with three young Iranian women against the backdrop of revolutionary social upheaval in Iran

SEXY BABY, Executive Producer (2012) The first documentary film to put faces to a seismic cultural shift: the cyber age is creating a new sexual landscape.

MOTHERS OF BEDFORD, Executive Producer (2012) This feature length documentary follows five women incarcerated in the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and looks at their lives through the lens of motherhood, and poses the question, "Is it possible to become a better mother while serving time in a maximum security prison?"

THIS IS HOW I ROLL, Executive Producer (2012) This Is How I Roll follows the story of a group of men who, in some ways, just want to be considered one of the girls. Roller derby has become an increasingly popular sport since its DIY and punk rock infused rebirth in 2001. With over 25,000 participants in over 700 leagues in almost 30 countries, female skaters encompass 98% of the sport. This is the story of the other 2%.

SUN COME UP, Executive Producer (2010) Depicting some of the world's first environmental refugees, the Carteret Islanders, this documentary short follows relocation leader Ursula Rakova and a group of young families as they search for new homes in war torn Bougainville, an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea.

FAMILY AFFAIR, Executive Producer (2010) At 10 years old, Chico Colvard accidentally shot his older sister in the leg. This seemingly random act detonated a chain reaction that exposed unspeakable realities and shattered his family. Thirty years later, Colvard ruptures veils of secrecy and silence again.

PLAYGROUND, Executive Producer (2009) An investigation into the commercial sexual exploitation of American children, revealing that this sinister industry is not a problem exclusive to back-alley brothels in developing countries.

THANK YOU/ IN SUPPORT OF CREDITS

THE SQUARE, Very special thanks credit (2013) The Square looks at the hard realities faced day-to-day by people working to build Egypt's new democracy. Catapulting us into the action spread across 2011 and 2012, the film provides a kaleidoscopic, visceral experience of the struggle. Cairo's Tahrir Square is the heart and soul of the film, which follows several young activists. Armed with values, determination, music, humor, an abundance of social media, and sheer obstinacy, they know that the thorny path to democracy only began with Hosni Mubarak's fall. The life-and-death struggle between the people and the power of the state is still playing out.

In Bed with Ulysses, Thank you credit (2012) How the novel that is widely considered the greatest work of modern fiction was created and the toll it took on James Joyce's family.

SAVING FACE, Made with support of credit (2012) A documentary short addressing the acid attacks, an extreme form of domestic violence in Pakistan, SAVING FACE follows plastic surgeon Dr. Jawad as he travels to Pakistan and treats survivors of acid violence who are attempting to restore their lives and to seek remedies in Pakistani society. While being treated by Dr. Jawad, these women fight for justice through the Pakistani legal system and partner with a handful of women in the Pakistani Parliament who take up the issue of acid violence on a federal level.

THE DIRECTOR - AWARDS & HONORS

Abigail Disney, Gini Reticker, Leymah Gbowee
2008 Epic Awards
Presented by The White House Project, April 2008

Abigail Disney, Gini Reticker, Leymah Gbowee
Global Women's Rights Awards
Presented by Feminist Majority Foundation, April 2009

Abigail Disney
2009 Auburn Lives of Commitment Award
Presented by Auburn Theological Seminary, May 2009

Abigail Disney & Gini Reticker
1st Annual Media Awards
Presented by Women's Media Center, June 2009

Leymah Gbowee, Abigail Disney, Gini Reticker
Crystal Award
Presented by The Victor E. Ward Educational Fund , November 2009

Abigail Disney
Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters
Presented by Lawrence University, Winter 2010

Abigail Disney
2010 Honoree
Presented by Mercy Center, Spring 2010

Abigail Disney
Visionary Leader Award
Presented by Korean American Family Services Center, Spring 2010

Abigail Disney
Visionary Social Change Award
Presented by African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), Spring 2011

Abigail Disney
Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters
Presented by Iona College, Summer 2010

Abigail Disney
2010 Honoree
Presented by Girls Scouts of America, 35th Annual Tribute Dinner, Summer 2010

Abigail Disney
Phoenix Award
Presented by NY Asian Women's Center, Summer 2010

Abigail Disney and Gini Reticker
Athena Award
Presented by Barnard College, the Athena Center for Leadership Studies and Athena Film Festival,
February 2011

Abigail Disney
International Advocate for Peace (IAP) Award
Presented by Cardozo Law School's Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution (CJCR), Spring 2011

Abigail Disney
Global Award for Media Leadership
Presented by Womensphere, Fall 2013

Abigail Disney
Vanguard Award
Presented by the Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
Fall 2013

Abigail Disney
Honorary Degree, Doctor of
Presented by Cedar Crest College, Spring 2013

Abigail Disney
2013 Honoree
Presented by YWLN, Fall 2013

Abigail Disney
Leadership in Women's Philanthropy Award
Presented by The Dominican Women's Development Center, Fall 2013

Abigail Disney
Morton Deutsch Award for Social Justice

Presented by The Morton Deutsch International Center for Cooperation and Conflict Resolution, April 2014

Abigail Disney
Honorary Degree
Presented by THE NEW SCHOOL, May 2014

Abigail Disney
Legacy Award
Presented by Women for Afghan Women, May 2014

Abigail Disney
Public Health Change Champion Award
Presented by The Public Health Institute, September 2014

THE TEAM

Kathleen Hughes

Producer and Co-Director

Kathleen Hughes is a producer, director and writer, as well as co-founder of the documentary film company Okapi Productions. Among Kathleen's many films is TWO AMERICAN FAMILIES, a 21-year-long look at downward mobility, which recently appeared on PBS's Frontline. Her 90-minute Bill Moyers special BUYING THE WAR, detailing the media's failure to examine the Bush Administration's case for invading Iraq, was called "one of the most gripping and important pieces of broadcast journalism this year" by the Washington Post. From 2008-11 Kathleen was Executive Producer of public television's multi-platform series BLUEPRINT AMERICA, which told stories about America's crumbling infrastructure. Kathleen's other work has appeared on PBS's NOW and Wide Angle, NBC's TV Nation and ABC News' Turning Point, as well as many Bill Moyers specials. Her work has received numerous awards including two national Emmys, a New York Emmy, the duPont-Columbia Gold Baton, the Gracie Award, the Sidney Hillman Prize, the Dateline Club's Society of Professional Journalists' First Amendment Award, the Harry Chapin Media Award, the Christopher Award, and honorable mention for the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award.

GINI RETICKER

Executive Producer

Gini Reticker has been directing and producing award-winning independent documentary films for over 20 years. Reticker directed PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL (2008), the inspiring story of Liberian women whose actions helped bring an end to a brutal civil war—it premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival where it won the Audience Award. She produced the Academy Award-nominated short ASYLUM (2003), the story of a Ghanaian woman who fled female genital mutilation to seek political asylum in the U.S; that same year she produced A DECADE UNDER THE INFLUENCE that looks at the heyday of 1970s filmmakers, was nominated for an Emmy, and garnered the National Review Board Award for Best Documentary. She received an Emmy for LADIES FIRST (2004), the story of women rebuilding post-genocide Rwanda. Her first film, THE HEART OF THE MATTER (1994), a groundbreaking film about women and AIDS, won the Sundance Freedom of Expression Award. She was a creator and executive producer of the PBS series WOMEN, WAR & PEACE (2011), recipient of the Overseas Press Club's Edward R. Murrow Award, as well as The Academy of Television Honors Award. Reticker has also co-produced or executive produced such notable films as THE BETRAYAL (NERAKHOON), nominated for both an Academy Award and an Independent Spirit Award, 1971, ALIAS RUBY BLADE, CITIZEN KOCH, HOT GIRLS WANTED, and SHE'S BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY.

EVA ANISKO

Producer

Eva Anisko is an award-winning producer with experience spearheading documentaries, news and public affairs programming, and multi-platform initiatives, including PBS series: BLUEPRINT AMERICA, Emmy Award-winning EXPOSÉ: AMERICA'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS and the sustainable design series, DESIGN: e2, narrated by Brad Pitt. Anisko's more recent films include: SKY BURIAL (2013 Napa Valley Film Festival, Best Short Documentary), BUFFALO RETURNS, Emmy nominated IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCO POLO, and A PLACE IN TIME, an experimental documentary directed by Angelina Jolie, which premiered at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival. With subjects ranging from pedophilia in the Boy Scouts to the working conditions of illegal immigrants in the poultry industry, her work explores cultural, political and historical content by focusing on the human experience. Anisko's work has appeared on PBS, including programming strands Bill Moyers Journal, NOW, NewsHour, Great Performances and NPR, the Sundance Channel, BBC, ARTE France, and NHK Japan.

ANDREW FREDERICKS

Editor

Andrew Fredericks has been a documentary filmmaker for over twenty years, working as a producer, director, editor and cinematographer. He has collaborated with journalist Bill Moyers on a host of documentaries and conversations, including LIVING ON THE EDGE, SURVIVING THE GOOD TIMES, FREE SPEECH FOR SALE, and AMERICA'S FIRST RIVER. His body of work also includes IF YOU KNEW SOUSA, AMERICA IN THE FORTIES, and FAT with pioneering filmmaker Tom Spain. His work has appeared on ABC, NBC, PBS, National Geographic, and Bravo. He directed and edited MONEY DRIVEN MEDICINE with Alex Gibney. More recently, Andrew edited the award winning film, I CAME TO TESTIFY, as part of the acclaimed PBS series, WOMEN, WAR & PEACE.

JEFF HUTCHENS

Cinematographer

With parents in the foreign service, Jeff spent his childhood living throughout the U.S., China, South Africa, and the Philippines. He has filmed across six continents, running into grizzly bears, lava flows, Komodo dragons and all manner of corrupt officials. From his work on the surrealism of life in China, to documenting underground epidemics in the jungles of central Africa, to photographing polar bears in the Arctic Circle, he captures images that convey transcendent moods and subtle beauty. He is based in Washington, D.C., where he can often be found rearranging letters trying to find a higher scoring Scrabble play.

PAUL BRILL

Composer

Paul Brill is a three-time Emmy award nominee who has scored some of the most celebrated documentary films of the past several years. Paul recently won the first-ever Best Music Award from the International Documentary Association for his score for the acclaimed film, BETTER THIS WORLD. He collaborated with Rock legends U2 on the HBO film, BURMA SOLDIER, composing a

new string arrangement for an acoustic version of their classic song, WALK ON. He scored the hit documentary, JOAN RIVERS: A PIECE OF WORK (IFC), the widely-acclaimed PAGE ONE: INSIDE THE NY TIMES (Magnolia), as well as Christy Turlington Burns' directorial debut, NO WOMAN, NO CRY (OWN), on which he collaborated with songwriter Martha Wainwright. Paul recently scored the landmark, Emmy, Peabody and DuPont Award-winning, 6 hour PBS documentary, THE AFRICAN AMERICANS: MANY RIVERS TO CROSS with noted historian Henry Louis Gates and additional musical contributions from Wynton Marsalis.

NATASHA LIVIA MOTTOLA

Associate Editor

Natasha Livia Mottola has been working in independent documentary 2008. She has collaborated as associate editor with Jennifer Fox on MY REINCARNATION, and Stanley Nelson on FREEDOM SUMMER, which was honored with a George Foster Peabody Award. Assistant editor work includes, KOCH, HARRY AND SNOWMAN, THE ABOLITIONISTS and the Sundance Documentary Story Edit Lab. She is a member of NYWIFT, a mentor at Reel Works teen filmmaking program in Brooklyn and has collaborated on murals with Groundswell. Her passion for personal documentaries and cultural preservation have inspired her to begin post production on her film, LA STORIA DI NONNA, about her family's immigration experience from Italy to America.

STEPHANIE PALUMBO

Archivist

Stephanie Palumbo is an archival and story producer who began her career as a researcher for Michael Moore. Over the past decade, she has worked with filmmakers including Martin Scorsese, Tia Lessin and Carl Deal, Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, and Edet Belzberg, and has contributed to many award-winning documentary films and television series. Stephanie's credits include Palme d'Or winner FAHRENHEIT 9/11, Academy Award nominees SICKO and TROUBLE THE WATER, Emmy Award winners NO DIRECTION HOME: BOB DYLAN and GEORGE HARRISON: LIVING IN THE MATERIAL WORLD, Emmy Award nominee OPRAH PRESENTS: MASTER CLASS, and CITIZEN KOCH. Most recently, she was archival producer and additional post supervisor on WATCHERS OF THE SKY, winner of two Sundance Film Festival awards. Stephanie is also a former assistant editor at O, THE OPRAH MAGAZINE and a freelance writer published in THE BELIEVER and THE RUMPUS, among others.

ALEXANDER HYDE

Production Assistant

As a fledgling documentarian Alex has worked as production assistant, camera assistant, archival researcher and AP. He currently lives in London, UK where he is helping to manage the theatrical distribution of WE ARE MANY, and is looking forward to his return to NYC in the fall. When he's not out documenting the social issues of our time he enjoys drinking coffee, brewing beer, and trying to introduce his British friends to American-style cooking.

CREDITS

Director

ABIGAIL E. DISNEY

Producer and Co-Director

KATHLEEN HUGHES

Executive Producers

GINI RETICKER

ABIGAIL E. DISNEY

Editor

ANDREW FREDERICKS

Producer

EVA ANISKO

Director of Photography

JEFF HUTCHENS

Original Music

PAUL BRILL

Associate Editor

NATASHA LIVIA MOTTOLA

Archivist

STEPHANIE PALUMBO

Production Assistant

ALEXANDER HYDE

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KIRSTEN JOHNSON

ANDREW FREDERICKS

BRETT WILEY

MAX MILLER

CAMERON HICKEY

PETER HUTCHENS

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PAT CASTEEL TRANSCRIPTS

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VICTOR ESPRIT
NEW ACT TRAVEL

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ADA WHITNEY
BEEHIVE

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PAUL BRILL

Recorded 2014-15 at
CASA DE RICO Y LUCA STUDIOS, BROOKLYN

Additional Recording by
ED MCENTEE AT STERLING SOCIETY SOCIAL CLUB, BROOKLYN

Additional Music
ELIZABETH ZIMAN
ERIK FRIEDLANDER
TOM PHILLIPS
TOM MARTIN
OBT MUSIC

Additional Musicians
DAVE EGGAR – CELLO
ERIK FRIEDLANDER – CELLO
ENTCHO TODOROV – VIOLIN
ROB JOST - BASS AND FRENCH HORN
BILL DOBROW - DRUMS
GERALD MENKE - GUITARS
PETER LALISH - GUITARS
ELIZABETH ZIMAN - PIANO AND VOICE
SONYA KITCHELL - VOICE
HEATHER ROBB - VOICE
ELI BRUEGGEMANN - PIANO

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CAITLIN TARTARO

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ALEXANDER HYDE
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