

## Press Kit

## Synopsis

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"Press Pass to the World" follows a cast of respected journalists through the challenging, adventurous task of foreign reporting for some of the world's leading newspapers. From Havana's squalid streets to Hong Kong's electric skyline, filmmaker Craig McCourry travels the world chasing the story of the original story-chasers. For these journalists, foreign reporting is less of a job than it is

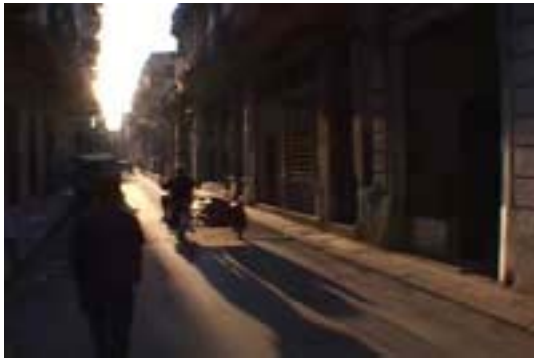
a calling, and their daily conflicts prove that the first draft of history is often the most difficult to write. Driven by their search for truth, the mystery behind their work becomes less about HOW these journalists get the story than WHY they do what they do. "Press Pass to the World" is a whimsical and poignant look at a way of life that is about more than chasing stories -- it's about pursuing dreams.

Filmed on location in New Delhi, Hong Kong, Seoul, Washington, D.C., Havana and Vienna with foreign correspondents employed by The New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Time Magazine, The International Herald Tribune, The Times of India, The Jerusalem Post, Reuters, Agence France-Press and others.

*Running time:* 83 Minutes

## The Journalists

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"I have seen a lot of foreign correspondents get totally freaked out by being called back home. There is a kind of freedom to being an expatriate... The freedom and the ability to reinvent yourself I think psychologically is something that keeps foreign correspondents overseas."

**Barbara Demick** - *Los Angeles Times*  
(Seoul, South Korea)

"People don't understand how hard life is in this part of the world. The simplest of things like making a phone call or taking a sick child to a doctor... Getting a government document can be a nightmare here; it can take days or it could not happen at all."

**Terry Friel** - *Reuters* (New Delhi, India)

"Sometimes it can be a little overwhelming when one thing happens in the Middle East and you get three different interpretations, three different spins. Trying to sift through that and come up with a comprehensive story that goes right down the middle sometimes can be challenging."

**Janine Zacharia** - *Jerusalem Post* (Washington, D.C.)

"I would be lying if I didn't say that there is a sort of boys' own juvenile adventure sort of ethic that sweeps through war correspondents, being around big machinery and guns and things that go boom... For a long time I had a very rather juvenile ambition that I wanted to get shot at."

**Alex Perry** - *Time* magazine (New Delhi, India)

"An inexperienced young girl is not the kind of person you'd expect to report the opening of World War II."

**Clare Hollingworth**, describing her work on the Polish-German border in 1939 for the *Daily Telegraph*

"I think I have one quality that has really stood me in good stead as a reporter, and that's being relentless. I think it's all very good to be intelligent and know languages and do research and have a certain amount of charm. But I don't think anything trumps being relentless."

**Ann Louise Bardach** - journalist and author on Cuba

"While journalists are very good at criticizing the way in which the world works, thank God they don't run it."

**Thomas Crampton** - *International Herald Tribune* (Hong Kong, China)

"You can never please everybody, I mean the biggest bitches are the people in the press corps, always!"

**Hugh van Es** - photojournalist (Hong Kong, China)

"[In] a world without media, people would be completely in the dark. The only thing they would hear is what the politicians tell them. A world just run by politicians, it would be a world where the ordinary people would never have a chance to know what the truth is... The best thing media can do is bring light to people, they can never bring truth to people, never objectivity, but they can try to bring light into this darkness."

**Charles Ritterband** - *Neue Zuercher Zeitung* (Vienna, Austria)

"I used to think that covering war was terrifically exciting. But after you've covered it for a while, after you have gone to one village after another and seen one refugee camp after another, and after you have these experiences seeing people who have been killed, you sort of wonder, are you exploiting their suffering? You feel like you are exploiting their suffering. I began to feel, what was I doing here and what was all this about?"

**Don Kirk** - *International Herald Tribune* (Seoul, South Korea)

"I was interested in taking risks, of doing things that sometimes maybe other people didn't do."

**Gary Marx** - *Chicago Tribune* (Havana correspondent)

"The greater dangers [of foreign reporting] are to the family life and how it kind of wrecks it. You risk chasing too hard and not paying enough attention to those who need your love and your warmth and your care. You are too busy chasing the big story."

**Bryan Pearson** - *Agence France-Presse* (New Delhi, India)

## The Filmmakers

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### **CRAIG MCCOURRY, DIRECTOR**

Captivated by stories and storytellers at a young age, Craig started traveling the world vicariously through books, magazines and films. For the past 15 years Craig has worked as a documentary filmmaker in all phases of production including producer, director, cinematographer and editor on various travel films and commercials on location in over 70 countries. During the last 6



years Craig has been producing/directing his own independent documentary films including; "Empires of Steam" which is about the last steam railways in India and China; "The Great Bazaars" which was about the merchants and craftsmen who work within the traditional bazaars of Fez, Cairo, Istanbul and Marrakesh. Craig is now working on a documentary film about the city of Venice, Italy. Having once worked as a paperboy "Press Pass to the World" fulfilled one of Craig's dreams to meet some of the journalists whose stories he read as he tossed newspapers onto people's doorsteps.

### **MONIQUE ZAVISTOVSKI, EDITOR**

Monique Zavistovski is a graduate of USC's M.F.A. program in Cinema-Television and holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. Projects she edited have appeared at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival, the 2002 Venice International Film Festival, and have won festival awards worldwide. She has worked with filmmaker Peter Forgacs on his Getty Center installation, "The Danube Exodus," and with artist Judy Chicago for her permanent installation at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. In addition to "Press Pass to the World," she has recently completed the editing on "Drive," a feature doc about women pro golfers who defy stereotypes and are faced with overwhelming obstacles in pursuing their dreams. She is currently editing "Yella Shabab, Yella," a documentary about a Palestinian, an Israeli and a Jewish-American struggling as a team to bring peace to the Middle East.

### **STEVEN CHESNE, MUSIC COMPOSER**

Within the last 5 years, Chesne has scored 16 independent feature films including No Turning Back, Dinner and a Movie, The Trip, Zen Noir, Monsoon Wife, Dry Cycle, UP, Michigan!, Artifacts, Close Call, Singapore Sling, Running From Shadows, Only in L.A.; An Existential Affair and the upcoming feature film Debating Robert Lee. In addition to Chesne's dramatic scoring, pop and world-music catalogues, his orchestral concert works include 2 concertos, 4 symphonies, 2 orchestral suites, and 2 tone-poems, as well as works for string

quartet, woodwind ensemble, and music for theater and ballet. His works have been performed by the Ventura Symphony, the L.A. Modern String Orchestra, The Los Angeles Ars Symphonia Orchestra, the La Mirada Symphony, Mehli Mehta's American Youth Symphony, as well as by members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the L.A. Chamber Orchestra, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, and the Pacific Symphony.

### **ROB KELLY, PRODUCTION COORDINATOR**

After getting his BA in Film, Rob began his career in production working at Paramount Pictures on shows including 7 Days, Star Trek Voyager, Deep Space Nine and the feature film Star Trek Insurrection. With the experience gained at the studio he went to work for a visual FX house as a Visual FX coordinator and continued working on TV shows and feature films like The X-Files, Galaxy Quest, Family Man, Rock Star, as well as numerous commercials and music videos. Rob recently completed Producing/Directing a documentary call "High Tech Vegas" and is working on upcoming titles which include High Tech Rides, High Tech Monorails and Rocket Man. Rob currently resides in Los Angeles.

### **DAVID KHALAF, WRITER**

David Khalaf is a freelance writer who graduated from the University of Southern California with a B.A. in print journalism and a minor in cinema-television. He has been published in prestigious publications such as The Los Angeles Times and the Orange County Register, and many other not-so-prestigious publications. David spends the majority of his time working as advertising manager of student publications at USC, and the minority of his time finishing his first novel, presumably a brilliant satire on American commercialism. Be begrudgingly calls Burbank home.

### **MONICA TUTAK, SOUND EDITOR/MIXER**

Monica Tutak is a freelance sound editor and mixer who has worked on various Film, Television, DVD and Trailer projects including An Ideal Husband (DLP Digital Projection), Titanic (DVD THX Mastering), Dharma & Greg (Television), and A Bug's Life (Trailer). Previous to embarking on her freelance career she worked for Technicolor Complete Sound and Media City Sound and was nominated for a Daytime Emmy Award for her work on Hollywood Squares. She is currently editing the feature documentary "Gallipoli" for Ekip Films. She resides in "The Valley" of Los Angeles with her husband and 17 month old son.

### **ZEBEDIAH SMITH, MOTION GRAPHICS**

With a background in theatre and writing, Zebediah Smith moved into the world of film and video in college. Working at smaller production studios he had the chance to work in production and post-production, learning as much as he could about the varied tasks that are required in filmmaking. Now he works as a freelance editor and designer in Los Angeles. He has worked on projects for commercial, television, documentary, and film, but he is especially interested in

independent filmmaking, both narrative and documentary. He was happy to join the crew of "Press Pass to the World" for such an extraordinary journey into the lives of foreign correspondents. Currently he is co-producing a short film that he wrote and a feature documentary.

### **Full Production Credits:**

Produced & Directed by  
Craig McCourry  
Editor  
Monique Zavistovski  
Writers  
David Khalaf  
Craig McCourry  
Camera Operators  
Robert Kelly  
David Khalaf  
Craig McCourry  
Craig Robin  
Korinna Sehringer  
Music Composer  
Steven Chesne  
Motion Graphics  
Zebediah Smith  
Sound Mixer  
Monica Tutak  
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Animation Drawings  
Gene Ewing  
Transcriptions  
Marie Scarano  
Business Affairs  
Mark McCourry  
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### **Special thanks to all the foreign correspondents:**

Ann Louise Bardach  
Philip Bowring  
Yasemin Congar  
Thomas Crampton  
Barbara Demick  
Tala Dowlatshahi  
Hugh van Es  
Terry Friel  
Jon Henley  
Clare Hollingworth

Don Kirk  
Chris Kutschera  
Gary Marx  
Bryan Pearson  
Alex Perry  
Charles Ritterband  
Christine Pongratz  
Chidanand Rajghatta  
Emmanuelle Richard  
Keith Richburg  
Christian Rioux  
Seema Sirohi  
Jay Solomon  
Janine Zacharia  
Kasper Zeuthen

Archival Footage provided by  
National Archives

Photos of Don Kirk in Vietnam  
provided by  
DAVE TERRY

Photos of Barbara Demick provided  
by  
JOHN COSTELLO

Photos of Clare Hollingworth  
provided by  
The Daily Telegraph  
Corporate Communications Ltd.

Photos of Gary Marx provided by  
Chicago Tribune  
Angel Valentin  
Erik Unger  
Claudia Daut

Additional Photographs provided by  
Getty Images  
AP Wide World Photos  
Bryan Pearson  
Don Kirk  
Barbara Demick  
Ann Louise Bardach  
Thomas Crampton  
Hugh van Es  
Prashant Panjari  
Combat Camera/USAID  
Monique Zavistovski  
Robert Kelly

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Susan Allsopp  
Regis Bourgeas  
Michael Breen  
Gilbert Cheng  
Carman Chung  
Kate Pound Dawson  
Brian Felber  
Randy Gitsch  
Kathy Haines  
Paul Hill  
Rosalia Ho  
Ted Johnson  
Holly Jones  
Tamara Khalaf  
Adam King  
Rob Kozloff  
Marc Lavine  
Peter Melaragno  
Lucie Morillon

Diane Naar  
Zeynep Oraklilar  
Christine Poumarede  
Richard Propper  
Deepak Puri  
Ian Smith  
Philip Snow  
Philippe Spinau  
Neri Tenorio  
Ted Thomas  
Glenn Tyrpa  
Kate Webb  
Walter Weiss  
National Press Club Washington DC  
The Foreign Correspondents Club  
Hong Kong  
The Foreign Correspondents Club of  
South Asia  
The Seoul Foreign Correspondents  
Club  
Reporters Without Borders  
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