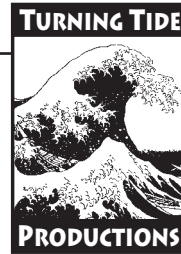


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# ROBBIE LEPPZER RESUME

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - Summary



Robbie Leppzer is an award-winning independent documentary filmmaker with thirty years experience directing over thirty independent film, video, and public radio documentaries for national and international distribution. His critically acclaimed feature-length and short documentaries, as well as commissioned television news magazine segments, have been broadcast globally by **CNN International** and broadcast nationally in the United States and Canada by **PBS, CNN, HBO/Cinemax, Sundance Channel, HDNet, Black Entertainment Television, Link TV, Free Speech TV, National Public Radio, Pacifica Radio** and the **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation**. In addition, Leppzer works as a freelance news and documentary videographer. His broadcast television videography clients include **CNN, PBS, HDNet, CBC, Bloomberg Television, E! Entertainment, The Learning Channel, Wealth TV, WGBH** (PBS, Boston) and **WGBY-TV** (PBS, Springfield, MA). Since 1985, Leppzer has been director of Turning Tide Productions, an independent documentary video production and distribution company located in Wendell, Massachusetts.

"Filmmaker Robbie Leppzer is remarkably sensitive regarding the nuances of his subject matter and protagonists. The result is filmmaking that is both compelling and thought provoking."

—Geoff Gilmore, Director, Sundance Film Festival

## BROADCAST TELEVISION AND INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARIES

### BEATING THE ODDS

(58 minutes, color HD video, 2010) *director, producer, videographer, editor, sound recordist.*

An inside look at three high-performing urban charter schools in the Boston area that serve mostly low-income, Black and Latino students, many of whom are several grade levels behind academically when they enroll. These schools set records for achievement and send the vast majority of their students on to college. Through interviews with students, teachers, and school leaders, as well as scenes depicting daily life inside the classroom and at school-wide events, the documentary presents an engaging examination of what makes these schools successful. Narrated by Sarah Jones. Currently under consideration for broadcast on public television.

"**BEATING THE ODDS** is a powerful testimony for what can be done for upgrading education and breaking the cycle of poverty for many of society's children."

—Martha Pennington, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Education, East Central University

### HDNET WORLD REPORT

(various 13 - 45 minute segments, color HD video, 2007-08) *producer, videographer, editor.*

Produced numerous segments for **HDNet WORLD REPORT**, a weekly hour-long newsmagazine program broadcast in high-definition. Reports include **SOLDIER STORIES**, a 45-minute feature segment about U.S. combat veterans who served in Iraq; and **CRISIS IN NEW ORLEANS**, a four-part series (totalling 56 minutes), an exposé about the on-going crisis of public housing and homelessness and its devastating impact on the African-American community in post-Katrina New Orleans. Nationally broadcast on **HDNet**.

### THE PEACE PATRIOTS

(78 minutes, color video, 2005) *director, producer, videographer, editor, sound recordist.*

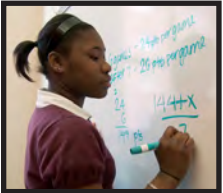
An intimate portrait of American dissenters reflecting on their personal participation as engaged citizens in a time of war. The film follows a diverse group of individuals, ranging in age from 14 to 75, including teenagers, college students, war veterans, teachers, clergy, and community activists, as they take part in vigils, marches, theater performances, and civil disobedience sit-ins to protest the U.S. invasion and on-going military occupation of Iraq. Featuring music by Steve Earle, Pete Seeger, Ani DiFranco, Billy Bragg, Jonatha Brooke and John Sheldon. Narrated by Janeane Garofalo. Nationally broadcast on **Free Speech TV**.

"In a time of sadness, thinking of the dead and maimed on both sides, this film gives us hope and inspiration. I hope it will be shown widely."

—Howard Zinn, Author of **A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES**

"A filmmaker unafraid to go against the tide."

—Rhonda Stewart, **BOSTON GLOBE**





## HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR

(40 minutes, color video, 2004) *director, producer, videographer, editor.*

A film about the work of the U.S.-based Karuna Center For Peace Building with Serb and Muslim teachers seeking to rebuild and reunite their devastated communities in the aftermath of the war in Bosnia.

“Dialog is so very important. We will never be able to move forward if we aren’t able to sit at the same table and listen to each other’s needs, wishes, and hopes.”

—Senka Jakupovic, *Bosnian Teacher*



## VOICES FOR PEACE

(25 minutes, color video, 2001) *director, producer, videographer, editor, sound recordist.*

Nobel Peace prize laureates Mairead Maguire and Adolfo Perez Esquivel, along with various journalists, authors and human rights activists raise critical questions about U.S. foreign and military policy following the September 11 attacks. Nationally broadcast on **Free Speech TV**.

“**VOICES FOR PEACE** brings you up close to an extraordinary mosaic of people speaking from the heart about terrorism, violence, and war.”

—Howard Zinn, *Author of A PEOPLE’S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES*



## WORLD BEAT

(various 5 - 7 minutes segments, color video, 1998 - 2001) *field producer, videographer, sound recordist.*

A weekly **CNN International** half-hour news magazine program devoted to world music. Conducted and filmed interviews with over 50 musicians, including Ani DiFranco, Janis Ian, Pete Seeger, Dar Williams, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Hugh Masekela, Salif Keita, Richard Thompson, Susan Tedeschi, Shirley Horn, Diane Reeves, Herbie Hancock, Bruce Hornsby, Maxi Priest, Laura Love, Beausoleil, The Saw Doctors, and The Klezmatics. Globally broadcast on **CNN International**.



## AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE

(90 minutes, color video, 1997) *director, producer, videographer, editor, sound recordist.*

Filmed in a cinema-verité style over a five-year period, this feature-length documentary chronicles the story of a family in western Massachusetts whose home was seized by federal marshals and IRS agents after they publicly refused to pay federal taxes as a protest against war and military spending. Narrated by actor Martin Sheen. Produced in association with **HBO/Cinemax**. World Premiere, 1997 **Sundance Film Festival**.

Nationally broadcast on **Cinemax, Sundance Channel, Link TV, and Free Speech TV**.

“**AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE** is one of the most deeply moving films I’ve seen in years. Seeing this movie lifts your spirits, exhilarates, and offers hope.”

—Studs Terkel, *Author of WORKING, HARD TIMES, and THE GOOD WAR*

“A balanced riveting story.”

—Renee Graham, **BOSTON GLOBE**



## FUTBOLITO: A JOURNEY THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICA

(28 minutes, color video, 1994) *director, videographer, editor, sound recordist.*

A chronicle of five New England young people who travel through Guatemala and Nicaragua to show how a cooperative footgame can be used to make cross-cultural bridges. Produced in English and Spanish versions. Nationally broadcast on **Free Speech TV**. Excerpts nationally broadcast on **PBS** and **The Learning Channel**.

“This film about down-to-earth peacemaking sends a positive, constructive message to young people everywhere.”

—David Conrad, *Co-Director, Center for World Education, University of Vermont.*



## COLUMBUS DIDN'T DISCOVER US

(24 minutes, color video, 1992) *director, co-producer, videographer, co-editor, sound recordist.*

Indigenous people from North, South and Central America speak out about the impact of the Columbus legacy—past and present—on their lives. Produced in English and Spanish versions. Broadcast by **WGBH** (**PBS**, Boston, MA). Nationally broadcast on **Free Speech TV**. Excerpts nationally broadcast on **PBS**.

“This moving video offers an alternative view of Columbus’s place (or misplace) in history, seen through the eyes of Native Americans. A telling video, straight from the heart and the source.”

—Steve Garbarino, **BILLBOARD**.



## THE 90s

(various 4 - 8 minute segments, color video, 1991 - 1992) *field producer, videographer, editor, sound recordist.*

A national primetime weekly hour-long **PBS** series about contemporary social issues which featured the work of independent filmmakers from across the country. Produced special segments including, **MOHAWK CRISIS AT OKA**, about an armed stand-off between a Mohawk community and the Canadian Army; **SCOTT & NANCY**, a portrait of a married couple coming to terms with domestic violence and abuse in their relationship; and **WALLY NELSON**, a portrait of a 82-year old African-American pacifist and organic farmer.



## STRAIGHT TALK

(28 minutes, color video, 1990) *director, producer, videographer, editor, sound recordist.*

Vietnam veterans speak to high school students about their first-hand experiences in war. Nationally broadcast on **Free Speech TV**. Excerpts nationally broadcast on **PBS**.

“Painful and critical observations shared by Vietnam War veterans. Those who have survived combat know the real truth about war.”

—Lon Grahne, **CHICAGO SUN-TIMES**.



## CALL OF THE PEACE PAGODA

(28 minutes, color video, 1989) *director, producer, videographer, editor, sound recordist.*

A portrait of a Japanese and American Buddhist spiritual community in Leverett, MA dedicated to the philosophy of nonviolence. Co-produced with and broadcast by **WGBY-TV (PBS, Springfield, MA)**. Nationally broadcast in Canada by the **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation**. Nationally broadcast in the U.S. on **Free Speech TV**.

“Filmmaker Robbie Leppzer has made the film something of a universal prayer.”

—Wes Blixt, **UNION-NEWS**



## SONGS OF THE TALKING DRUM

(57 minutes, color video, 1989) *director, producer, videographer, editor, sound recordist.*

A portrait of a cross-cultural artistic collaboration: CBS jazz musicians Tony Vacca and Tim Moran link contemporary jazz with its African roots, and African-American performance artist Andrea Hairston blends dramatic monologue, movement, and music to create a “jazz theater.” Broadcast by **WGBY-TV (PBS, Springfield, MA)**.

“**SONGS OF THE TALKING DRUM** is a powerful musical and theatrical testimony to jazz and its African roots.”

—Carl Grant, **Professor of Education and African-American Studies, University of Wisconsin**



## HARVEST OF PEACE

(29 minutes, color 16mm, 1985) *director, videographer, editor, sound recordist.*

U.S. volunteers travel to a war zone in Nicaragua during the height of the U.S.-backed Contra war in the mid-1980s to harvest cotton in a unique citizen-to-citizen peace effort. Produced in English and Spanish versions. World premiere, 1985 **Telluride Film Festival**. Best Nonfiction Film, 1986 **San Antonio Cine Festival**. Curator's Choice, 1987 **New England Film Festival**. Broadcast by **WGBY-TV (PBS, Springfield, MA)**. Nationally broadcast on **Free Speech TV**.

“A striking evocation of Nicaragua's struggle and a moving expression of America's best response.”

—Andrew Kopkind, **THE NATION**



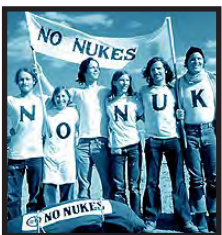
## CHOOSE LIFE

(10 minutes, color 16mm, 1984) *director.*

The historic march for world peace when over a million people gathered in New York City to call for an end to the nuclear arms race on June 12, 1982. Nationally broadcast on **Free Speech TV**.

“A stirring film about a stirring event. A must viewing for anyone concerned about halting the nuclear madness. **CHOOSE LIFE** documents an piece of history that must not be forgotten.”

—Harvey Wasserman, **Historian and Author of ENERGY WAR and KILLING OUR OWN**.



## SEABROOK 1977

(87 minutes, b/w video, 1978) *co-director/producer/videographer, editor, sound recordist.*

A chronicle of a seminal event of 1970s' environmental activism when 1,414 people were arrested in a civil disobedience protest at a nuclear power plant under construction in Seabrook, New Hampshire and jailed en masse in National Guard armories for two weeks. Broadcast by **WGBY-TV (PBS, Springfield, MA)**.

“**SEABROOK 1977** is an invaluable historical document. The film manages to capture not only the sights of an extraordinary action, but the voices of ordinary people expressing their most personal feelings about one of the critical issues of our time.”

—Howard Zinn, **Author of A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES**

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:** Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers, International Documentary Association.

**EDUCATION:** Hampshire College 1976-78 Designed independent program in documentary video.

**LANGUAGES:** English and Spanish.