



## **SPEAKING PRESENTATIONS BY FILMMAKER ROBBIE LEPPZER 25 YEARS OF CHRONICLING GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM**

From the anti-nuclear power protests of the 1970's, to the nuclear disarmament, labor and Central America solidarity struggles of the 1980's, to the protests of indigenous peoples across the Americas and peace activism during the 1990's, to the growing global peace and social justice movement of the new millennium, award-winning independent documentary filmmaker Robbie Leppzer has chronicled grassroots activism over the last 25 years.

Leppzer will be conducting a college speaking and screening tour throughout 2006 with his latest feature-length documentary, **THE PEACE PATRIOTS**, 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.

Leppzer will lead discussions after the film highlighting the importance of grassroots citizen activism in a participatory democracy. He will also critique mainstream media coverage of the anti-war protests and the on-going U.S. military occupation of Iraq and underscore the importance of independent "un-embedded" media. In addition, he will talk about the grassroots peace movement in the context of an expanding world-wide movement for global justice.

Leppzer has directed over twenty independent film, video and public radio documentaries over the past 25 years for national and international distribution. His critically acclaimed works about contemporary social issues, grassroots activism, and multicultural themes have been globally broadcast by **CNN International** and broadcast nationally in the United States and Canada by **PBS, Cinemax, Sundance Channel, The Learning Channel, Free Speech TV, Pacifica Radio, National Public Radio**, and the **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation**.

Leppzer challenges audiences to think critically and uses his own documentaries to spark discussions about media, culture, and contemporary social and political issues. He is available to spend one or several whole days on a college campus and present a retrospective screening program featuring selections from his previous documentaries chronicling social change movements over the past three decades.

(For descriptions of these screening programs, see following pages.)

## **SPEAKER REVIEWS**

"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 of Programming, Sundance Film Festival**

"Filmmaker Robbie Leppzer spoke and led a discussion after the screening. It was clear from his skill and patience in handling the questions and comments of the audience that he has a high respect for dialogue as a means for political transformation."

**Chris Holme, Student Activist**

**University of Massachusetts at Amherst**

"Filmmaker Robbie Leppzer's speaking presentation sparked a skillfully moderated dialogue where he provided a safe environment for people to disagree respectfully."

**Kate Harris, Co-chair, Massachusetts Green Party**

"After the screening of **AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE**, Leppzer skillfully elicited an usually lively and prolonged discussion. In a perceptive way, he built on the students' knowledge and differing opinions to arrive at insights about media, democracy, and social change. His presentation was so successful that it remained a topic of conversation for the next several weeks."

**Carlos Fontes, Ph.D.**

**Assistant Professor of Communications**

**Worcester State College, Worcester, MA**

"Recently, we held a seminar with Robbie Leppzer and his film, **AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE**. This seminar was one of the most engaging of the year. The discussion left the students with new questions to ponder. The resulting student essays were some of the most provocative I have read this year.

Robbie Leppzer has an engaging presence. His enthusiasm for the subject of film and the social consciousness it can express is infectious. He is high on our list of repeat performances next year."

**Rembert Briggs, English Teacher**

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School**

**Hyde Park, NY**



**THE  
PEACE  
PATRIOTS  
COLLEGE  
SPEAKING &  
FILM TOUR**

**TURNING TIDE**



**TURNING TIDE  
PRODUCTIONS**

**PO BOX 864**

**WENDELL, MA 01379**

**TEL: (800) 557-6414**

**FAX: (978) 544-7989**

**info@TurningTide.com**

**www.TurningTide.com**

# ROBBIE LEPPZER SCREENING PROGRAMS

## War and Peace - Program 1



### THE PEACE PATRIOTS

(2005, color video, 78 minutes)

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.

"**THE PEACE PATRIOTS** takes the word 'patriotism' and gives it a rich positive meaning, removing it from the ugliness of war and nationalism, and restoring it's original idea as 'love of country.' It does this by showing us true patriots—those people who, with artistry and imagination, as well as deep moral commitment, have spoken and acted to end the war in Iraq. 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**

**2.5 hour program - includes 70 minutes for introductory remarks and Q & A and audience discussion with filmmaker.**

## War and Peace - Program 2



### AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE

(1997, color video, 90 minutes)

The story of pacifists Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner of Colrain, 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 Martin Sheen. World Premiere, **Sundance Film Festival**. Nationally broadcast on **Cinemax**, **Sundance Channel** 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**

**2.5 hour program - includes 60 minutes for introductory remarks and Q & A and audience discussion with filmmaker.**

## War and Peace - Program 3



### STRAIGHT TALK

(1990, color video, 31 minutes)

Vietnam veterans speak to high school students about their first-hand experiences in war. Excerpts broadcast nationally on the **PBS** series, *The 90s*. Broadcast nationally on **Free Speech TV**.

"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**.

### HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR

(2004, color video, 40 minutes)

A film about conflict transformation and the work of Karuna Center For Peacebuilding, a U.S.-based organization, which brought together 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**

**2 hour program - includes 50 minutes for introductory remarks and Q & A and audience discussion with filmmaker.**

## War and Peace - Program 4



### CALL OF THE PEACE PAGODA

(1989, color video, 28 minutes)

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). Broadcast nationally in Canada by the **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation**. Broadcast nationally on **Free Speech TV**.

"Filmmaker Robbie Leppzer has made the film something of a universal prayer." —Wes Blixt, **UNION-NEWS**

### VOICES FOR PEACE

(2001, color video, 25 minutes)

A documentary about the first national anti-war demonstrations which took place in Washington, DC and New York City following the September 11 attacks, featuring Nobel Peace prize laureates Mairead Maguire and Adolfo Perez Esquivel. Broadcast nationally 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**

**2 hour program - includes 65 minutes for introductory remarks and Q & A and audience discussion with filmmaker.**



# ROBBIE LEPPZER SCREENING PROGRAMS



## War and Peace - Program 5

### HARVEST OF PEACE

(1985, color 16mm, 29 minutes)

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. World premiere, **Telluride Film Festival**. Best Nonfiction Film, **San Antonio Cine Festival**. Curator's Choice, **New England Film Festival**.

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

—Andrew Kopkind, **THE NATION**



### FUTBOLITO: A JOURNEY THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICA

(1994, color video, 28 minutes)

A chronicle of five New England young people who travel through Guatemala and Nicaragua waging peace with "Hacky Sack" to show how a cooperative footgame can be used to make cross-cultural bridges. Broadcast by **WGBY-TV (PBS, Springfield, MA)** and on **Free Speech TV**. Excerpts broadcast nationally on **PBS**.

"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

(1992, color video, 24 minutes)

Indigenous people from North, South and Central America speak out about the impact of the Columbus legacy—past and present—on their lives. Broadcast by **WGBH (PBS, Boston, MA)** and on **Free Speech TV**. Excerpts broadcast nationally on the **PBS** series, *The 90s*.

"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**.

**2.5 hour program - includes 65 minutes for introductory remarks and Q & A and audience discussion with filmmaker.**



## War and Peace - Program 6

### CHOOSE LIFE

(1984, color 16mm, 10 minutes)

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. Broadcast nationally 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

(1978, b/w video, 87 minutes)

Robbie Leppzer's first documentary. 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**

**2.5 hour program - includes 50 minutes for introductory remarks and Q & A and audience discussion with filmmaker.**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Robbie Leppzer is available for speaking engagements in conjunction with video screenings at colleges and universities, high schools, middle schools, conferences, libraries, community forums, media art centers, museums, independent theaters, bookstores and community organizations.

We are currently booking engagements for our 2005 - 2006 film screening and speaking tour. For program fees, see next page. To inquire about scheduling a speaking engagement, contact us:

**1-800-557-6414 • info@turningtide.com**

For complete video descriptions, visit our website:

**www.turningtide.com**



# SPEAKING PRESENTATIONS WITH FILMMAKER ROBBIE LEPPZER 2006 COLLEGE FILM TOUR



**1977: Robbie Leppzer filming SEABROOK 1977.**



**2003: Robbie Leppzer filming THE PEACE PATRIOTS.**

## 1-DAY SPEAKING PACKAGE

- Any two speaking/screening programs (2 - 2.5 hours each, 4 - 5 hours total seminar), includes, introductory talk, plus discussion and question and answer period with students following screening.
- Two video titles from our documentary collection (DVD or VHS) that you choose, for the school or student group to own (\$500 value, includes public performance rights).

**Speaker Honorarium and Video Screening Fee:** \$1,500 (plus travel and lodging)

## 2-DAY SPEAKING PACKAGE

- Any four speaking/screening programs (2 - 2.5 hours each, 8 - 10 hours total seminar), includes, introductory talk, plus discussion and question and answer period with students following screening.
- Four video titles from our documentary collection (DVD or VHS) that you choose, for the school or student group to own (\$1,000 value, includes public performance rights).

**Speaker Honorarium and Video Screening Fee:** \$2,500 (plus travel and lodging)

## 3-DAY SPEAKING PACKAGE

- All six speaking/screening programs (2 - 2.5 hours each, 14 hours total seminar), includes, introductory talk, plus discussion and question and answer period with students following screening.
- Six video titles from our documentary collection (DVD or VHS) that you choose, for the school or student group to own (\$1,500 value, includes public performance rights).

**Speaker Honorarium and Video Screening Fee:** \$3,000 (plus travel and lodging)

## ADDITIONAL INFO

- Programs may be modified for length and video title selection.
- Presentations are designed for large audience venues, but may be modified for classroom settings.
- Depending on scheduling, 2 and 3-day speaking programs could be spread out over 3 - 5 days.
- Travel and lodging costs are extra. (Robbie is willing to stay in people's homes to save on costs.)
- DVD player with video projector with large screen and separate sound amplifier and speakers is required for large venue screening.
- We can supply you with digitized photos and poster/flyer templates for publicity.