

# SPEAKER REVIEWS

"Robbie Leppzer was extraordinarily well-received in his appearance in my classroom. Not surprising for such an outstanding documentary filmmaker, Leppzer is a natural teacher, both in terms of his presentation, as well as in his ability to ask the kinds of questions that can bring students into the learning process through engaged discussion. He was able to meld his personal stories with informed analysis that raised awareness of both the process of filmmaking and the subjects explored in the films themselves."

**Stephen Zunes, Ph.D., Professor of Politics,  
University of San Francisco**

"After the screening, 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., Professor of Communications  
Worcester State College**

"Recently, we held a seminar with Robbie Leppzer. 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**

"Robbie Leppzer is a seasoned filmmaker who helps elicit from viewers their own response to his films. Leppzer's documentaries, along with his personal presence as a speaker, are definitely conversation starters that continue long after his visit."

**Michael Duffey, Professor of Theology,  
Marquette University**

# COLLEGE SPEAKING PROGRAMS BY DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER ROBBIE LEPPZER

## 30 Years Of Chronicling Grassroots Social Change Movements

**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 works about contemporary social issues and multicultural themes have been broadcast globally by **CNN International** and broadcast nationally in the United States and Canada by **PBS, CNN, Cinemax, Sundance Channel, The Learning Channel, Black Entertainment Television, Link TV, Free Speech TV, Pacifica Radio, National Public Radio,** and the **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.**

From the environmental protests of the 1970s, to the growing global peace and social justice movement of the new millennium, Leppzer has chronicled grassroots social movements over the last three decades. His films show engaged citizens who take personal risks to work for nonviolent social change and build bridges across cultures.

Leppzer will be conducting a college speaking and screening tour throughout 2007 - 2008 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, teachers, clergy, and combat war veterans, as they take part in vigils, marches, theater performances, and civil disobedience sit-ins to protest the U.S. war in 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 challenges audiences to think critically and uses his own documentaries to spark discussions about media, culture, and contemporary social and political issues. In addition to presenting a large venue speaking and screening program with **THE PEACE PATRIOTS**, he is available to spend one or several whole days on a college campus to visit classrooms and present a multi-part retrospective screening program featuring selections from his previous documentaries chronicling social change movements over the past three decades.

A one-day speaking program on a school campus will include: a large venue speaking and feature-length film screening event (2.5 hours includes introductory talk and Q & A period with students following screening), **PLUS** up to 4 classroom visits presenting short films and speaking/discussion programs with students. Leppzer's feature-length and short documentary films are described in the following pages. Information about speaking fees and program logistics are described on the last page.



**Watch video clips from documentaries, excerpts from Leppzer's campus talks, and a television interview nationally broadcast on DEMOCRACY NOW! by host Amy Goodman at our website.**



**TURNING TIDE PRODUCTIONS**  
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# SPEAKING PRESENTATIONS WITH FILMMAKER ROBBIE LEPPZER FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES FOR LARGE VENUE PRESENTATIONS

## THE PEACE PATRIOTS

*"A filmmaker unafraid to go against the tide."  
Rhonda Stewart, THE BOSTON GLOBE*

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**THE PEACE PATRIOTS** is an intimate portrait of American dissenters reflecting on their personal participation as engaged citizens in a time of war.

Narrated by actress and Air America Radio host, Janeane Garofalo, this feature-length documentary film follows a diverse group of individuals, ranging in age from 14 to 75, including middle and high school students, college students, teachers, clergy, and war veterans from Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, as they take part in vigils, marches, theater performances, and civil disobedience sit-ins to protest the U.S. war in Iraq.

The film features contemporary music by Grammy Award winner Steve Earle, Pete Seeger, Ani DiFranco, Billy Bragg, Jonatha Brooke, Stephan Smith, Saul Williams, DJ Spooky, and original music by John Sheldon.

- Nationally Broadcast on Free Speech TV
- Excerpts Nationally Broadcast on DEMOCRACY NOW! with Amy Goodman on LinkTV and Free Speech TV
- Boston Independent Film Festival
- Northern Lights Documentary Film Festival
- Camden International Film Festival
- Vermont International Film Festival
- Northampton Independent Film Festival
- Global Peace Film Festival

### THE PEACE PATRIOTS

Film Running Time: 78 minutes

Total Event Time: 2.5 hours - includes 70 minutes for introductory remarks and Q & A with filmmaker.



"As a documentary filmmaker, Robbie Leppzer boldly accepts the role of contemporary historian who permits those working for peace to show that dissent is patriotic. He defies the censorship masterminded by the mass media to let the voices of students of all ages, combat veterans, teachers, clergy and all the outraged speak for themselves. **THE PEACE PATRIOTS** humanizes political activism by focusing on the eloquence of everyday people. This film has helped to awaken and empower our students."

—Shane Boeder, Ph.D., Professor of Foreign Languages, Marian College

"Anyone feeling burned out from resisting the direction our government is headed in will get a

shot of energy from this film."

—David Potorti, Director, September 11th Families For Peaceful Tomorrows

Watch Video Excerpts On-line:  
[www.TurningTideFilms.com](http://www.TurningTideFilms.com)

**"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**

**"THE PEACE PATRIOTS** is a powerful portrayal of activism. As a college professor who is interested in exposing students to nonviolent means of action against injustice, I have found this film to be very uplifting. I highly recommend it as a teaching tool."

Abbie Jenks,  
Professor of Psychology and Peace Studies,  
Greenfield Community College

**"THE PEACE PATRIOTS** is a moving documentary that is sure to inspire. In an atmosphere rife with frustration and apathy, this film stands out by giving hope to activists and inspiring those who may not be activists to be activists."

John Behnken,  
Student,  
Kent State University



# SPEAKING PRESENTATIONS WITH FILMMAKER ROBBIE LEPPZER FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES FOR LARGE VENUE PRESENTATIONS

## AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE

*"A balanced riveting story."*

**Renee Graham, THE BOSTON GLOBE**

**H**ow far are you willing to go to stand up for your deepest beliefs? For Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner of Colrain, Massachusetts, their life-long commitment to

pacifism led them to risk losing their home. For fourteen years, they publicly refused to pay federal taxes as a protest against war and military spending. As a consequence, their home was seized by U.S. marshals and IRS agents.

Narrated by Martin Sheen, this feature-length documentary chronicles the couple's five-year struggle to nonviolently resist the seizure of their home, in which they are joined by hundreds of supporters from across the country, including noted author and activist priest Fr. Daniel Berrigan and long-time folksinger Pete Seeger.

When a young couple buys the contested home at auction from the U.S. government for \$5,400, they become involved in a political and moral battle much larger than what they originally bargained for.

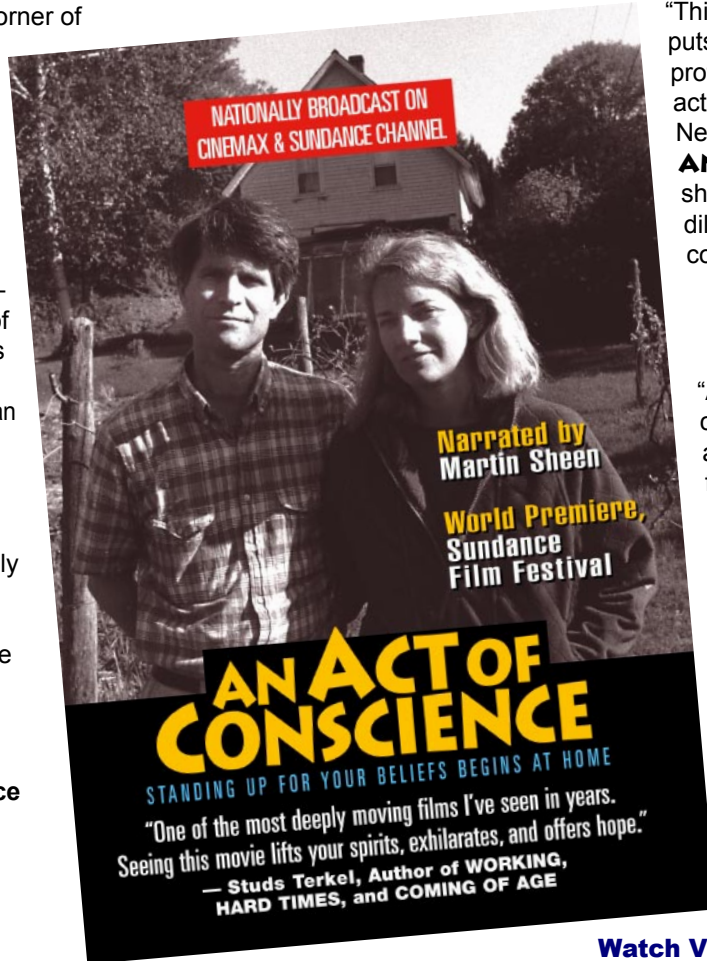
**AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE** provides a compelling and thought-provoking glimpse of the conflict between these two families: one couple reaching for the American dream, the other challenging the very foundation of that dream.

- Nationally Broadcast on Cinemax, Sundance Channel, Link TV and Free Speech TV
- World Premiere, Sundance Film Festival
- Human Rights Watch Film Festival

## AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE

Film Running Time: 90 minutes

Total Event Time: 2.5 hours - includes 60 minutes for introductory remarks and Q & A with filmmaker.



"This brilliant documentary puts a human face on political protest through extraordinary acts by ordinary people. Never romanticized, **AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE** shows the human costs and dilemmas of living by one's convictions."

—**Marty Haas, Professor of History, Adelphi University**

"An exploration of conflicting beliefs, realities, and truths. The result is filmmaking that is both compelling and thought provoking."

—**Geoff Gilmore, Director, SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL**

"A compelling story of American dreams realized, lost, and questioned."

—**Robin Caudell, PRESS-REPUBLICAN**

Watch Video Excerpts On-line:  
[www.TurningTideFilms.com](http://www.TurningTideFilms.com)

*"In telling the story of two courageous people who were willing to sacrifice their home to declare their opposition to war and militarism, this engaging documentary reminds us of the long and honorable tradition of civil disobedience in this country. **AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE** should serve as an inspiration to young people today in suggesting how one can live one's life in defiance of the violence around us."*

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

*"**AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE** is one of the most deeply moving films I've seen in years. It's an anthem of praise—not just to a courageous couple, but to a beloved community that toughed it out against overwhelming odds and ultimately triumphed. Seeing this movie lifts your spirits, exhilarates, and offers hope."*

**Studs Terkel, Author of WORKING, HARD TIMES, "THE GOOD WAR", and COMING OF AGE**

*"**AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE** is the crown jewel in my American Studies class unit about Henry David Thoreau and the Transcendental movement. The film places the sentiments expressed in Thoreau's essay "Civil Disobedience" in a contemporary context easily accessible to today's high school students."*

**Rembert Briggs, English Teacher, Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School, Hyde Park, NY**



# SPEAKING PRESENTATIONS WITH FILMMAKER ROBBIE LEPPZER

## FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES FOR LARGE VENUE PRESENTATIONS

### SEABROOK 1977

The Seminal Protest of 1970's Environmental Activism  
30th ANNIVERSARY RELEASE • DIGITALLY RE-MASTERED

In April 1977, the small coastal town of Seabrook, New Hampshire became an international symbol in the battle over atomic energy. Concerned about the dangers of potential radioactive accidents, over 2,000 members of the Clamshell Alliance, a coalition of environmental groups, attempted to block construction of a nuclear power plant in Seabrook. 1,414 people were arrested in that civil disobedience protest and jailed en masse in National Guard armories for two weeks.

Filmed in a video-verité style, **SEABROOK 1977** chronicles the dramatic events which made world headlines and sparked the creation of a grassroots antinuclear power movement across the United States. Scenes of the nonviolent demonstration and subsequent internment are interwoven with interviews with participants on all sides of the event, including local Seabrook residents, antinuclear activists, New Hampshire's pro-nuclear Governor Meldrim Thomson, police and utility officials.

The video vividly documents the unfolding events as people march with banners and backpacks across the tidal marshes onto the construction site, erect a colorful tent city, and conduct on-site negotiations with the governor and police. After the mass arrests at the nuclear site, the scene changes to inside the armories, where the video follows the extraordinary experiences of the largest group of U.S. citizens incarcerated after the Vietnam war protests.

**SEABROOK 1977** tells the story of this seminal event of 1970's environmental activism and shows people making history from the grassroots.

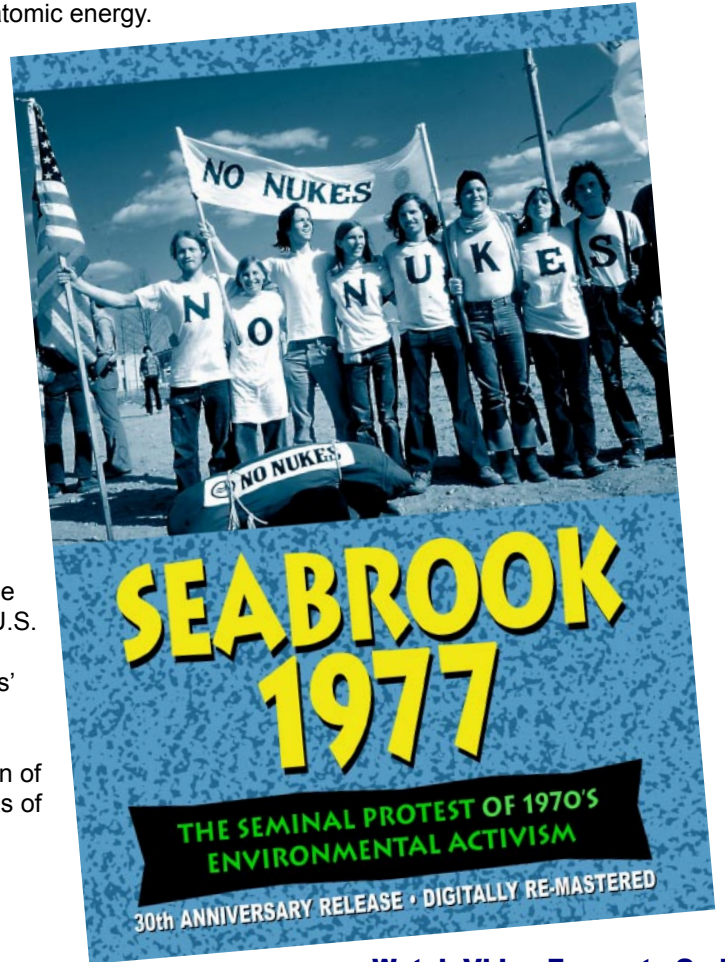
As the Bush Administration is currently pushing for an expansion of nuclear power plants to be built in the United States, the experiences of 1970's anti-nuclear activists are more relevant than ever.

• Broadcast on Public Television

### SEABROOK 1977

Film Running Time: 85 minutes

Total Event Time: 2.5 hours - includes 65 minutes for introductory remarks and Q & A with filmmaker.



Seabrook Photo Credit: Lionel Delvigne

*"SEABROOK 1977 is an invaluable historical document. It portrays one of those events in American history omitted from our textbooks but which is an important part of the ongoing struggle of the people in this country for a healthy society. 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**

*"A potent catalyst for social action. A fascinating educational and emotional experience that left me feeling that at last I understood exactly what happened at Seabrook. SEABROOK 1977 is full of surprises. Not only does it document the events—it also makes them meaningful. Above all, it never loses sight of the essential humanity of all the individuals involved."*

**Monica Faulkner,  
AMHERST MORNING RECORD**

*"A political and environmental drama. SEABROOK 1977 is a powerful document which should stand up well over the years."*

**Rob Okun,  
VALLEY ADVOCATE**

*"Superb directing. SEABROOK 1977 shows why Seabrook became legend."*

**William Scaife,  
SPRINGFIELD  
REPUBLICAN**



## SPEAKING PRESENTATIONS WITH FILMMAKER ROBBIE LEPPZER SHORT DOCUMENTARIES FOR CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS



### VOICES FOR PEACE

Featuring Nobel Peace prize laureates Mairead Maguire and Adolfo Perez Esquivel, grassroots peace activists speak out in New York City and Washington, DC soon after the September 11 attacks. An effective discussion catalyst to widen the scope of debate about U.S. responses to terrorism. Broadcast nationally on **Free Speech TV**. 25 minutes

“**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**



### HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR

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. 40 minutes

“Dialog is so very important. We will never be able to sit at the same table and listen to each other’s needs, wishes, and hopes.” —**Senka Jakupovic, Bosnian Teacher**



### STRAIGHT TALK

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**. 31 minutes

“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**.



### VIETNAM STORIES

A gripping oral history video documentary made in collaboration with high school students about the Vietnam War. Eleventh grade students interview five Vietnam combat veterans who fought in the war and two draft resisters who went to jail fighting against it. 35 minutes

“I recommend **VIETNAM STORIES** for viewing by students in American History classes. It facilitates study of the Vietnam War by giving access to primary sources—the veterans themselves. It is educational in the real sense—it makes you think about the impact of the war on real human beings.”

—**John Fitzgerald, Social Studies Teacher, Longmeadow, MA High School; Vietnam Veteran (U.S. Army)**

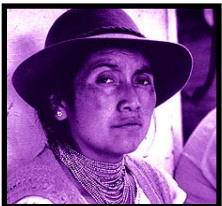


### HARVEST OF PEACE

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**. 29 minutes

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

—**Andrew Kopkind, THE NATION**



### COLUMBUS DIDN'T DISCOVER US

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*. 24 minutes

“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**.



### FUTBOLITO: A JOURNEY THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICA

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**. 28 minutes

“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**.



### CALL OF THE PEACE PAGODA

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**. 28 minutes

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



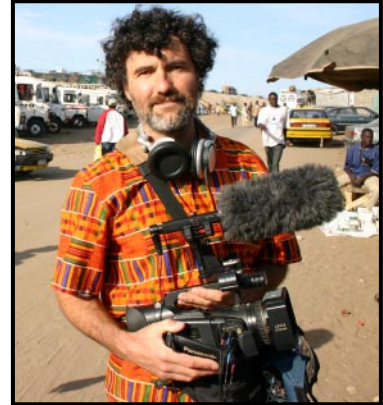
# SPEAKING PRESENTATIONS WITH FILMMAKER ROBBIE LEPPZER 2007 - 2008 COLLEGE FILM TOUR



**1977: Filming SEABROOK 1977 in Seabrook, New Hampshire.**



**2003: Filming THE PEACE PATRIOTS in Boston.**



**2006: Filming AFRICA CALLING in Dakar, Senegal. (A new documentary work-in-progress).**

## 1-DAY SPEAKING PACKAGE

- **One large venue speaking and feature-length film screening event** (2.5 hours includes introductory talk, plus discussion and question and answer period with students following screening),
- **Up to 4 classroom visits** presenting short films and speaking/discussion programs with students.
- **Two DVD titles** from our documentary collection that you choose, for the school or student group to own (**\$400 - \$500 value**, includes public performance rights).

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

## 2-DAY SPEAKING PACKAGE

- **Two large venue speaking and feature-length film screening events** (5 hours includes introductory talk, plus discussion and question and answer period with students following screening),
- **Up to 8 classroom visits** presenting short films and speaking/discussion programs with students.
- **Four DVD titles** from our documentary collection that you choose, for the school or student group to own (**\$800 - \$1,000 value**, includes public performance rights).

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

## 3-DAY SPEAKING PACKAGE

- **Three large venue speaking and feature-length film screening events** (7.5 hours includes introductory talk, plus discussion and question and answer period with students following screening),
- **Up to 12 classroom visits** presenting short films and speaking/discussion programs with students.
- **Six DVD titles** from our documentary collection that you choose, for the school or student group to own (**\$1,200 - \$1,500 value**, includes public performance rights).

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

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Set a tentative date (with two alternative dates) for your event at least six weeks in advance. Contact us as soon as possible to inquire about tentative booking dates and travel costs.
- Travel and lodging costs can range between \$100 - \$600 depending on numerous factors. Check in with us and we'll help estimate these costs before you submit a funding request to your campus organizations. (Robbie is willing to stay in people's homes to save on costs.)
- Most campus events are funded by a variety of different student groups, student activity funds, and college departments at your school. Plan to contact several student groups, college programs, and departments on your campus as potential co-sponsors and funding sources for your event. Funding decisions can take several weeks, so submit your funding proposal with as much advance notice as possible.
- Speaking/screening programs may be modified for length and video title selection.
- A DVD player with video projector, large screen, and separate sound amplifier and speakers are required for large venue screenings.
- We can supply you with digitized photos and customized posters, flyers, email announcements, and press releases for your publicity campaign.