



RED LIGHT FILMS

E-TEAM

a film by
Katy Chevigny & Ross Kauffman

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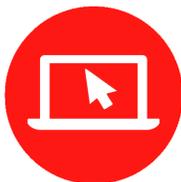
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LOGLINE

E-TEAM is driven by the high-stakes investigative work of four intrepid human rights workers, offering a rare look at their lives at home and dramatic work in the field.

THE CHARACTERS



Anna Neistat and Ole Solvang

Anna is a Russian émigré whose childhood experiences growing up in Moscow have endowed her with a righteous indignation about the practices of unaccountable dictatorships. She is as fashionable as she is formidable, a closet chain smoker, and she can talk her way into any situation – questioning victims and perpetrators alike -- in any of the four languages she speaks fluently. While detained in Georgia during the Russia-Georgia War of 2008, she fell in love with and eventually married a fellow investigator, the Norwegian, Ole Solvang. Ole balances Anna's fiery personality with a measured and calm manner, which he maintains even when he and his wife are in personal danger.



Peter Bouckaert

Peter, a savvy strategist and fearless investigator, has been called “the James Bond of human-rights investigators” by *Rolling Stone* magazine. Known as the “bang bang guy”, Peter uses his knowledge of weaponry to solve war crimes. He is prickly with the press and his own colleagues on the E-Team but his passion and outspokenness have earned him a solid and gritty reputation among journalists and investigators alike.



Fred Abrahams

Fred is a New York City native with a wickedly dry sense of humor and a tireless energy. The “father” of the E-Team, Fred faced down Slobodan Milosevic twelve years ago at the Yugoslav Tribunal after documenting evidence of genocide in Kosovo. Together with Peter, Fred investigates emerging human rights abuses in Libya as the Gaddafi regime topples and the country struggles to establish law and order.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FILM

Anna, Ole, Fred and Peter are four members of the Emergencies Team -- or E-Team – the boots on the ground division of a respected, international human rights group. Arriving as soon as possible after allegations of human rights abuse surface, the E-Team uncovers crucial evidence to determine if further investigation is warranted and, if so, to investigate, document, and capture the world's attention. They also immediately challenge the responsible decision makers, holding them accountable. Human rights abuses thrive on secrecy and silence, and the work of the E-Team, backed by their international human rights organization, has shone light in dark places and given voice to thousands whose stories would never otherwise have been told.

Using a *cinema verite* approach, our camera follows the E-Team investigators in the field as they piece together the actual events that take place in various troubled spots around the globe. Together we smuggle across the border into Syria to conduct undercover investigations as the civil war rages; amidst bullets and bombs we watch as Fred and Peter work to halt human rights abuses in the aftermath of the Gaddafi regime. We also spend time with each E-Team member at home -- from a quiet farm outside of Geneva to bustling urban lives in Berlin and Paris – as they balance the intricacies of family and personal relationships within the challenges of their exceptional work life.

Though they are different personalities, Anna, Ole, Fred and Peter share a fearless spirit and a deep commitment to exposing and halting human rights abuses all over the world.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Filmmakers Kauffman and Chevigny bring shared and complementary film experience to this project. Both of them are known for making films that bring viewers close to the individuals and organizations that fight human rights abuses, whether telling the story of children in Calcutta's red light district in the Academy Award winning film *Born Into Brothels* or showcasing a historic blow against capital punishment in *Deadline*.

It is because of their collective experience and credibility with human rights issues that the filmmakers have gained unprecedented access to the work of the E-Team. This is the first time the international human rights group, Human Rights Watch, has ever granted independent access to a film crew. To be perfectly clear, E-TEAM is a completely independent film and the filmmakers are committed to portraying the complexity, difficulty and importance of human rights work, not in lionizing a well-known organization.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

Ross Kauffman and Katy Chevigny:

We knew a little bit about the work of Human Rights Watch before we started making the film, but once we started spending time with the E-TEAM, we were blown away by two things: how intriguing their work is and what great characters they were, both as individuals and as a group. Then we started thinking this could really be a movie. We weren't interested in making an earnest film that heaped praise upon a worthy organization – plenty of those films exist and it's not our job to make another one. We wanted to draw viewers in with these people who fascinated us.

Ross Kauffman:

I want to tell a great story with great characters. It's all about connecting with people. Whether it's children in the brothels of India, or human rights investigators on the front lines of history. For me, the key is forming a connection. Once we can relate to our characters, anything is possible. But what really made this film work for me was the intimacy we managed to achieve by filming our characters at home with their families. That's where the real connection occurs. Their work in the field is incredible, but their lives at home are what we in the end can truly relate to.

Katy Chevigny:

I really like documentaries that take you “behind the scenes” in a particular line of work. And due to the fact that we had phenomenal access to the E-TEAM members, we were able to really capture that sense of seeing what happens outside of what normally reaches the public at large.

Ross Kauffman:

Even though I knew about Human Rights Watch as an organization and even though Katy and I both had previous films play at their annual film festival, I didn't really understand exactly what they do as a whole. Once I started doing my research and began traveling the world with the E-Team, I realized that Human Rights Watch is everywhere. All of the sudden I thought, ‘Wait a minute! Who are these people that do this incredible work? I want to know more and I think the world deserves to know more too.’ Being out in the field with Anya, Ole, Fred and Peter was both an honor and quite frankly, very exciting. To be on the frontlines of history with the people who are helping shape that history is a rare privilege.

Katy Chevigny:

The fact that one of the E-TEAM members is a woman – Anna Neistat – definitely made the idea of the film more interesting. I suppose we all know that women are brave and smart, but nonetheless, seeing a woman like Anna putting her passion and efforts into investigating human rights in the field is an unusual perspective. Her role deepens the film and speaks to wider audiences.



KATY CHEVIGNY



ROSS KAUFFMAN

KATY CHEVIGNY, DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

Katy Chevigny is an award-winning filmmaker and is currently a partner at Big Mouth Productions. She directed the film *Election Day* (2007) which premiered at the South By Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival in 2007 and was broadcast on POV in 2008. With Kirsten Johnson, she co-directed *Deadline*, an investigation into Illinois governor George Ryan's commutation of death sentences. After premiering at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival, *Deadline* was broadcast on NBC to an audience of over six million, in an unusual acquisition of an independent film by a major network. It was nominated for an Emmy Award and won the Thurgood Marshall Journalism Award, among others. Chevigny also directed *Journey to the West: Chinese Medicine Today*, a feature-length documentary about traditional Chinese medicine and its influence in the West. She has produced several acclaimed documentaries: *Arctic Son*, *Innocent Until Proven Guilty*, *Nuyorican Dream*, *Brother Born Again*, *Outside Looking In: Transracial Adoption in America* and *(A)sexual*. Chevigny's films have been shown theatrically, on HBO, Cinemax, POV, Independent Lens, NBC, and Arte/ZDF, among others and have played at film festivals around the world, including Sundance, Full Frame, SXSW, Sheffield and Berlin. She is also a co-founder of the media arts organization, Arts Engine. Most recently, she produced *Pushing the Elephant*, which premiered on Independent Lens in 2011.

ROSS KAUFFMAN, DIRECTOR / PRODUCER / DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Ross Kauffman is the director, producer, cinematographer and co-editor of *BORN INTO BROTHELS*, winner of the 2005 Academy Award for Best Documentary. *Born into Brothels* was shown in over fifty film festivals worldwide and has since received a multitude of awards, including the 2005 Emmy Award for Best Documentary, National Board of Review Best Documentary 2004, LA Film Critics Best Documentary 2004, and the 2004 Sundance Film Festival

Audience Award. In 2009, Ross served as Executive Producer on the documentary feature *IN A DREAM* (director Jeremiah Zagar), short-listed for the Academy Awards and nominated for an Emmy. Ross is also regarded as a top documentary cinematographer. From the slums of Nairobi to the front lines of Kashmir, Ross has filmed around the world. He was part of the lensing team on *HALF THE SKY*, a landmark transmedia project inspired by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's best-selling book of the same name, and filmed *Project Kashmir*, a documentary that takes viewers into the war-zone of Kashmir and examines the conflict from emotional and social viewpoints. Currently, Ross is directing a variety of projects including: *WAIT FOR ME*, a documentary chronicling the story of a mother's spiritual and emotional search for her son who went missing twenty-seven years ago; and *BOY BOY GIRL GIRL*, a comedic narrative feature film about a gay couple trying to adopt a newborn baby from a drug-addicted pregnant woman and her abusive girlfriend.

Ross filmed a number of the E-Team missions filming with them in Syria and Libya and traveled with them to Moscow, Paris, Berlin, Geneva and beyond.

MARILYN NESS, PRODUCER

Marilyn Ness is a two-time Emmy Award-winning documentary producer. She produced Katy Chevigny and Ross Kauffman's feature documentary *E-TEAM* and Johanna Hamilton's feature documentary *1971*, both premiering in 2014. She is currently a partner at Big Mouth Productions and produces and directs feature length documentaries as well as short films for non-profits. She directed and produced the documentary feature film *BAD BLOOD: A CAUTIONARY TALE* that broadcast nationally on PBS in 2011 and was the centerpiece of a campaign to reform blood donation policies in the U.S. Prior to that, Ness spent four years as a producer for director Ric Burns, collaborating on four award-winning PBS films: *ANSEL ADAMS*; *THE CENTER OF THE WORLD*; *ANDY WARHOL*; and *EUGENE O'NEILL*. Ness's other credits include films for TLC, Court TV, and National Geographic. Ness's films have received funding from the Ford Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, the Sundance Documentary Fund as well as other innovative sources. She lives in New York City with her husband and two sons and currently teaches Producing Documentaries at Columbia University School of the Arts Masters Film Program.

DAVID TEAGUE, EDITOR

David Teague is a film editor whose work includes Oscar-winning and Emmy-winning documentaries. His work has played Sundance, Cannes, Berlin, Hot Docs, SXSW, Silverdocs, Tribeca, LA Film Fest, Full Frame, and True/False, amongst many others. He recently edited the award-winning feature documentary *Cutie and the Boxer*, which premiered at Sundance in 2013 and was named by the New York Times as one of the top five docs of the year. Previously, David edited the Oscar-winning documentary "*Freeheld*" (2007) as well as two other Oscar-nominated films ("*Mondays at Racine*", "*Sun Come Up*"). Other credits include the feature documentary *The Iran Job*, the PBS series "*Constitution USA*", and the Emmy Award-winning Sesame Street primetime special "*Growing Hope*

Against Hunger”. In 2009, David directed and edited his own award-winning documentary “Intifada NYC” which was broadcast on TV outlets all over the globe, including Al Jazeera. His documentary directing work also includes Our House, co-directed with Greg King, which premiered at Hot Docs 2010. Along with having taught cinematography and editing at Downtown Community Television, the New School, Brooklyn College and Long Island University, he is the author of three best-selling guides to film editing with Final Cut Pro and Final Cut Express. David lives in Brooklyn, NY, with Annie Wedekind and their son Henry Wedekind.

RACHEL BETH ANDERSON, CO-CINEMATOGRAPHY

Rachel has filmed in Libya, Syria, Afghanistan, Turkey, South Sudan, and Nepal for CNN “Hero’s”, Frontline, Human Rights Watch, and the independent feature documentary film E-TEAM. Her directorial debut feature documentary First To Fall was borne of a 7-month journey spanning the Libyan revolution. During the 2011 Egyptian revolution Rachel worked as a videographer and field producer for PBS Frontline documentaries: Gigi’s Revolution, and The Brothers. Her footage from the uprising is also included in multiple long form documentaries including BBC’s This World, Egypt – Children of the Revolution, PBS’s Before the Spring: After the Fall, and independent films, Zero-Silence and Uprising.

Rachel filmed with E-Team members Anna & Ole for two of their undercover missions in Syria, smuggling across the Turkish Syrian border with the investigators on foot.

FULL CREW

Big Mouth Productions and Red Light Films present

In association with Impact Partners

Directed & Produced by
Katy Chevigny & Ross Kauffman

Produced by
Marilyn Ness

Edited by
David Teague

Executive Producers
Jim & Susan Swartz
John & Marva Warnock

Executive Producers
Pamela Tanner Boll

Geralyn White Dreyfous
Pershing Square Foundation

Director of Photography
Ross Kauffman

Co-Cinematographer
Rachel Beth Anderson

Additional Cinematography
James Foley

Original Music by
T. Griffin

Associate Editor
Jamie Boyle

Written by
Katy Chevigny, Ross Kauffman & David Teague

Archival Producer
Sierra Pettengill

Production Manager
Jamie Boyle

Researcher
Danielle Varga

Sound
Katy Chevigny
Judy Karp
Agnes Szabo
John Zecca

Title Design by
BigStar

Digital Effects
Anthony Rhoads

Assistant Editor
Michael Peterson

Post Production Services
Final Frame

Digital Intermediate Colorist

Will Cox
Digital Intermediate Online Editor
Sandy Patch

Digital Intermediate Producer
Caitlin Tartaro

Post Production Sound
Gigantic Post, NY

Supervising Sound Editor & Re-Recording Mixer
Tom Paul

Sound Editor
Cory Choy

Foley Artist
Leslie Bloome

Foley Mixer
Carl Shilito

Legal Services
Ben Feldman, Esq.
Beigelman Feldman & Associates, P.C.
LynnAnn Klotz Esq.

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K.A. Trotter, Inc.
Philip A. Lane
Matthew Manger

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