

# America to me

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

## STEVE JAMES

Executive Producer, Director, Cinematographer and Editor

Steve James most recent film, *Abacus: Small Enough to Jail*, was nominated for an Academy Award®, a Directors Guild of America Award, was named Best Political Documentary at the Critics' Choice Awards and won numerous festival awards. James' other award-winning work includes *Hoop Dreams*, winner of every major critics prize including a Peabody and Robert F. Kennedy Award; *Stevie*, winner of the Sundance Cinematography Award, IDFA Grand Jury Prize and the Yamagata Mayor's Prize, among others; the Independent Documentary Association Award-winning miniseries "The New Americans"; Tribeca Grand Prize winner *The War Tapes*, which James produced and edited; *At the Death House Door*, co-directed with Peter Gilbert, and winner of numerous festival awards; "No Crossover: The Trial of Allen Iverson" for ESPN's Peabody winning "30 for 30" series; *The Interrupters*, which won an Emmy®, Independent Spirit Award and the DuPont Columbia Journalism Award; and *Life Itself*, which won an Emmy and was named the best documentary of the year by over a dozen critics associations, Rotten Tomatoes, The Critics' Choice Awards, The National Board of Review, and The Producers Guild of America.

## JOHN CONDNE

Series Producer

John Condne has been a producer of feature films, documentaries, music videos, and corporate commercials since 1993. He has worked with agencies including Havas and Ogilvy & Mather and created spots for Verizon, American Airlines, American Express and many others. His current project "Recovery High" is a documentary feature that takes place in a high school for students who are battling drug addictions. In addition to his career as a producer, Condne has been the Oak Park and River Forest High School television and film teacher for over 15 years. He has master's degrees in both film and video and secondary education.

## RISÉ SANDERS-WEIR

Series Producer

Rise Sanders-Weir has directed and produced documentaries for MSNBC, PBS, History, National Geographic, CNBC, A&E, The Weather Channel among others. Her work has been recognized with Emmy and Hugo awards. She also has been nominated for an NAACP Image Award and an MPSE Golden Reel Award. She produced *America to Me* and now serves as Director of Production for Kartemquin Films.

## BING LIU

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## **Segment Director and Cinematographer**

Bing Liu's debut documentary feature, *Minding the Gap*, premiered to great acclaim at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and has gone on to win over 27 film festival awards and distinctions, including the Audience Award at Sheffield Doc Fest, Mountainfilm, and Full Frame as well as Best Documentary at Sarasota, Mountainfilm, Nashville, River Run, CAAMFest, and Minneapolis St. Paul. When Bing was 19, he moved to Chicago and began freelancing while attaining his B.A. in literature from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude. At age 23, he joined the International Cinematographer's Guild, working in the camera department on fiction films and episodic television series. In 2014, he began collaborating with Kartemquin Films on *Minding the Gap*, a co-production of POV and ITVS. He has received support from Sundance Institute, Film Independent, and the Garrett Scott Development Grant.

## **REBECCA PARRISH**

### **Segment Director and Cinematographer**

Rebecca Parrish is an award-winning documentary director, cinematographer and editor. Her feature directorial debut, *Radical Grace* (2015), garnered multiple awards including Best of Fest (AFI Docs, IndieFest) and Audience Favorite (HotDocs). Executive Produced by Susan Sarandon, *Radical Grace* was ranked "among the year's best films" by RogerEbert.com. Through her company, Interchange Productions, Rebecca also makes impact videos for mission-driven organizations. These micro-documentaries have been featured in The Chronicle of Philanthropy and won multiple awards including the YouTube DoGooder nonprofit video award and the Salsa Labs 2012 Hot Tamale Award for outstanding campaign organizing.

## **KEVIN SHAW**

### **Segment Director and Cinematographer**

Kevin Shaw is an award-winning director, producer and cinematographer, who has produced documentaries for ESPN, PBS, the NFL Network and the Big Ten Network. Shaw's Big Ten Network short documentary on a quadriplegic trying to regain the ability to walk won the Edward R. Murrow Award for sports reporting excellence. Shaw won a National Sports Emmy for cinematography for ESPN's FIFA World Cup Show Opens and Teases. His most recent documentary as producer looked at the poignant relationship between megastar Shaquille O'Neal and his collegiate coach at LSU, Dale Brown. "Shaq and Dale" premiered on ESPN in 2015. Currently, Shaw is a fellow in Kartemquin Films Diverse Voices in Documentary program.

## **JEFF SKOLL**

### **Executive Producer**

Jeff Skoll is a philanthropist and social entrepreneur, working to bring life to his vision of a sustainable world of peace and prosperity. The first full-time employee and president of eBay, Skoll developed the company's inaugural business plan and helped lead its successful initial public offering and the creation of the eBay Foundation.

Since 1999, Skoll has created an innovative portfolio of philanthropic and commercial enterprises, each a distinctive social catalyst. Together, these organizations drive social impact by investing in a range of efforts that integrate powerful stories and data with entrepreneurial approaches.

The Jeff Skoll Group supports his organizations, which include the Skoll Foundation, the Capricorn Investment Group, the Skoll Global Threats Fund, and Participant Media, a company dedicated to entertainment that inspires and compels social change.

**DIANE WEYERMANN**  
**Executive Producer**

Diane Weyermann is President of Documentary Film and Television for Participant Media, a company dedicated to entertainment that inspires and compels social change. Participant's documentary projects include renowned artist and activist Ai Weiwei's *Human Flow*, Morgan Neville's *The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble*, Joshua Oppenheimer's *The Look of Silence*, Marc Silver's *3 1/2 Minutes, Ten Bullets*, Robert Gordon and Morgan Neville's *Best of Enemies*, Davis Guggenheim's *He Named Me Malala*, Bernardo Ruiz's *Kingdom of Shadows* and Rachel Dretzin's upcoming film, *Far From The Tree*.

Previous releases include the Oscar-winning *Citizenfour*, the Oscar-winning *An Inconvenient Truth* and its follow-up, *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*, Emmy-winning *Food, Inc.*, the Emmy-nominated *The Great Invisible*, *Chicago 10*, *Pressure Cooker* and *Page One: Inside the New York Times*, as well as *Merchants of Doubt*, *The Unknown Known*, *The Internet's Own Boy*, *A Place at the Table*, *Last Call at the Oasis*, *Waiting for "Superman,"* *Countdown to Zero*, *Standard Operating Procedure*, *Jimmy Carter Man from Plains* and *Darfur Now*.

**Justine Nagan**  
**Executive Producer**

Justine Nagan is the Executive Director of American Documentary, Inc., and an Executive Producer of its signature series POV and America ReFramed. Prior to AmDoc, Justine led Kartemquin Films as Executive Director for seven years, executive producing Emmy®-winning films *Life Itself*, *The Trials of Muhammad Ali* and the Dupont Award-winning series *Hard Earned* among over 20 completed projects, while expanding its programs to assist documentary makers and overseeing unprecedented financial growth. With Kartemquin, she also directed the award-winning *Typeface* and the short *Sacred Transformations*.

**Gordon Quinn**  
**Executive Producer**

Artistic Director and co-founder of Kartemquin Films, for over fifty years Gordon Quinn has been making and guiding documentaries that investigate and critique society via the lives of real people. His creative legacy includes *Inquiring Nuns*, *Hoop Dreams*, the PBS series *The New Americans*, and the Emmy®-winners *The Interrupters*, *The Trials of Muhammad*

*Ali, Life Itself, and The Homestretch*. He was also a leader in creating the Documentary Filmmakers Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use and was honored by the International Documentary Association (IDA) with their 2015 Career Achievement Award.

**Betsy Steinberg**  
**Executive Producer**

As Kartemquin Executive Director, Betsy Steinberg oversees daily operations, development, and production. Recent films she has executive produced include *Minding the Gap* (2018 Sundance Jury Award winner) and Oscar® nominees *Edith + Eddie* and *Abacus: Small Enough to Jail*. Prior to Kartemquin, she was Managing Director of the Illinois Film Office, and previously served as vice president of business development for Towers Productions producing, directing, and marketing documentary specials and series for networks such as A&E, History, Discovery and National Geographic.

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