



Twenty-five miles from town, a *million* miles from ordinary.

NOMINATED: 2007 IFP GOTHAM AWARD

WINNER: THE MICHAEL MOORE AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY
Ann Arbor Film Festival

US THEATRICAL RELEASE PRESENTED BY INDIEPIX SPRING 2008

SUNDANCE CHANNEL ACQUIRES US BROADCAST LICENSE

PRESS KIT

Production Company	Theatrical/Home Video	US Broadcast
Still Point Pictures 217 East 22 nd St. #17 New York, NY 10010 212-673-0873 info@stillpointpictures.com	IndiePix 31 E. 32 nd St, 12 th Fl New York, NY 10016 212-684-2333 www.indiepixfilms.com	Sundance Channel 1633 Broadway New York, NY 10019 www.sundancechannel.com



OFF THE GRID: LIFE ON THE MESA

SYNOPSIS

Twenty-Five miles from town, a *million* miles from mainstream society, a loose-knit community of eco-pioneers, teenage runaways, war veterans and drop-outs, live on the fringe and off the grid, struggling to survive with little food, less water and no electricity, as they cling to their unique vision of the American dream.

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE

VARIETY

"An insightful study of an alternative American lifestyle... The Stulbergs, whose film's stunning look is a combination of good cinematography and a majestic New Mexican landscape, achieved marvelous access to what has to be a very closed and insular community, given where and how the inhabitants choose to live. The various characters come to vivid life."

—John Anderson

TimeOut
New York

"This doc's co-director's, brother and sister, have wondered upon a terrific subject: 16 square miles of New Mexico desert that's home to a ragtag group of anarchist's who wouldn't be out of place in *Mad Max*."

— Joshua Rothkopf

Newsday

"Their 70-minute documentary has swept the festival circuit on a wave of positive press." —Cameron Bird

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PRESS HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

Orlando Sentinel

"Five Stars...revealing and engaging... a fascinating subculture, artfully presented on the screen." -[Roger Moore](#)



"This looks to be the strongest slate in **Silverdocs'** five-year history... we particularly recommend...two portraits of "*sustainable*" existence, *Off the Grid* and *Garbage Warrior*." - [Mark Jenkins](#)

The Baltimore Sun (Baltimore, Maryland)



"Daring and satisfying..." - [Michael Sragow](#)



"Survivalism meets counterculture in this riveting new documentary."
- [Jesse Walker](#)



"An exemplary documentary...manages to be both unflinching and tender."
-[Ari Glogower](#)

OFF THE GRID: LIFE ON THE MESA

INTERNET PRESS:

BuzzFeed find your new favorite thing



Off The Grid

MOVIE BUZZ A new documentary looks at life in a remote alternative community in New Mexico. Following a loose group of hippies as they deal with the growing pains of civilization, *Off The Grid* looks like an eerie mix between *Lord Of The Flies* and *Kid Nation*. The [trailer](#) is amazing.

- [Buzzfeed.com](#)



"A look at the American Southwest that will send chills down your spine."

- [Michael Lerman](#)



"The film looks beautiful...the thing that struck me about so many of the people in the film is how amazingly lucid and eloquent they are... I was moved to tears."

- [Ingrid Kopp](#)



"The documentary was well-made, and heartfelt...Expect more from these sure-handed filmmaking siblings."

- [LOGOonline.com](#)



"*Off the Grid* feels very fresh topically...this is a beautifully shot trip into an outsider community that is hard to forget."

- [Agnes Varnum](#)

OFF THE GRID: LIFE ON THE MESA

FESTIVALS TO DATE:

Slamdance Film Festival
AFI/Silverdocs
Miami Int'l Film Festival
True/False Film Festival
Sarasota Film Festival
Raindance Film Festival
Jihlava International Film Festival
Florida Film Festival
San Francisco Int'l Documentary Film Festival
Starz Denver Film Festival
Maryland Film Festival
Chicago Underground Film Festival
Martha's Vineyard Independent Film Festival
Athens Int'l Film Festival
Viennale-Vienna Int'l Film Festival
Ann Arbor Film Festival
Crossroads Film Festival
Calgary Underground Film Festival
USA Film Festival

Breckenridge Film Festival
Nickel Independent Film Festival
Real To Reel Film Festival
Maine International Film Festival
Lakedance Film Festival
Montana Independent Film Festival
DocuFest Atlanta
Camden International Film Festival
Ojai Film Festival
BendFilm!
Tallgrass Film Festival
Santa Fe Film Festival
American Conservation Film Festival
Sheffield Film Festival, Videotheque
Big Sky Screening Series
Documenta Madrid
Phoenix Film Festival
Tiburon Film Festival
Portland Int'l Film Festival

SPECIAL NEW YORK CITY SCREENINGS:

Film Society of Lincoln Center's Independents Night – Official Selection
Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) -IFP's Gotham Award Screenings
IFC Center – Best of Slamdance Documentary Showcase 2007– Official Selection
New Filmmakers at Anthology Film Archives, New York– Official Selection

AWARDS/HONORS

Ann Arbor Film Festival – Winner: Michael Moore Award for Best Documentary
Calgary Underground Film Festival - Jury Award, Best Documentary
Real to Reel Film Festival - Jury Award, Best Documentary
Nickel Independent Film Festival - Jury Award, Best Documentary
Lakedance Film Festival - Jury Award, Best Documentary
Montana Independent Film Festival - Jury Award, Best Film
Ojai Film Festival - Jury Award, Documentary Film
Santa Fe Film Festival – Best of the Southwest
DocuFest Atlanta - Jury Award, Best Documentary

*2007 Gotham Award Nominee

*2006 New York State Council on the Arts Grantee

DISTRIBUTION

US Theatrical/Home Video – IndiePix
US Broadcast – The Sundance Channel

OFF THE GRID: LIFE ON THE MESA

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

In the wake of the 2004 U.S. presidential elections and the death of our father, we felt disillusioned, both politically and personally. We began traveling and found ourselves in the desert of New Mexico where we discovered a politically charged community comprised of teenage runaways, outlaws and veterans. They had dropped out of society to live off the grid.

We were inspired, scared and enthralled by this underground community - a melting pot of forgotten Americans of all ages and backgrounds. We fell in love with their individual stories and felt drawn to this place they created. There was a sense of freedom and patriotic ideals that's been lost in recent years in our country. They were living on the edge in what they believed was "the last part of America that is truly free." For us, this fringe community illuminated everything about America that we loved and feared.

With a combination of curiosity, desperation, audacity, and political conscience, we set out to make this documentary. We slowly gained acceptance from members of the community and we were able to capture some intimate and powerful moments. Two years later, what began as a small film about alternative living has become a story filled with the tragic struggles of life, death, love and insanity.

- Jeremy Stulberg & Randy Stulberg

WAR STORIES

Making Off the Grid has been one of the greatest adventures ever. At various points during the two-year filmmaking experience, we've driven off cliffs, had our lives threatened, survived a car breakdown during a snowstorm, and in one insane instance of "friendly fire", Randy almost shot Jeremy with an automatic rifle.

OFF THE GRID: LIFE ON THE MESA

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Country: USA
Running time: 67 min

CAST AND CREDITS

Directed and Produced by
Jeremy Stulberg
Randy Stulberg

Produced by
Eric Juhola

Edited by
Jeremy Stulberg

Cinematographers
Reed Dawson Morano
Isabel Vega
Liz Rubin
Ari Issler

Music Composed by
Christopher Libertino

Sound Design
Matthew Polis

Graphics/Animation
Manny Palad

Consulting Producer
Emily Gardiner Herzog

Featuring
Dreadie Jeff ...Gulf War Veteran
Mama Phyllis ...Psychiatric Nurse
Maine ...Gulf War Veteran
Gene a.k.a. Gecko ...Gulf War Veteran, Father of Four
Dean Maher ...Vietnam Veteran
Robbie ...Mesa Elder, Princeton graduate
Stan ...Pig Farmer
Virginia ...Teen Runaway
Austen "One Man Circle Pit" ...Teen Runaway



This film is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts a state agency

OFF THE GRID: LIFE ON THE MESA

BIOGRAPHIES OF KEY PARTICIPANTS

JEREMY STULBERG – DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/EDITOR

Jeremy Stulberg was the Editor and Associate Producer for "The Education of Shelby Knox" (PBS's POV), which premiered in competition at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival. The film also won the audience award at SXSW and the Full Frame Documentary Festival. Jeremy edited the narrative feature film "Another Gay Movie" starring Graham Norton and Scott Thompson, released theatrically in the summer of 2006. He was also the associate editor of "In Memoriam: New York City" (HBO), which won an Emmy for Outstanding Picture Editing for Non-Fiction Programming. Jeremy is a 2006 NYSCA grantee. He is a graduate of the Institute of Film and Television at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

RANDY STULBERG – DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Randy Stulberg is a video artist/filmmaker whose work "Jeff Pearson: American Patriot" showed at Exit Art in New York. The piece was the inspiration for Off the Grid: Life on the Mesa. Randy transitioned into documentary filmmaking by assisting Academy Award winning filmmaker Maryann Deleo on the HBO global warming doc "Too Hot to Handle". Her work has been featured on Al Gore's Current TV, Sundance Channel, BBC NY and Brooklyn Independent Television. She is a recipient of the 2006 NYSCA grant. She currently produces, shoots and edits a new art show called "Caught in the Act: Art in Brooklyn" which features artists working and living in Brooklyn, and curates a Brooklyn Teen Filmmaking show called "BK 4 Reel" for Brooklyn Independent Television. She is also a mentor at *Reel Works* teen filmmaking in Park Slope. She is a graduate of NYU's Studio Art program.

ERIC JUHOLA – PRODUCER

Eric Juhola is a Producer/Director whose work has appeared on ABC, The Discovery Channel, MTV, Tru TV, and A&E. Credits include The Barbara Walters Specials, The View, and MTV's Made. Eric also produced and directed a national public service campaign for the Southern Poverty Law Center and was nominated for a PR Platinum award.