

RIGHTS

CAMERA

ACTION

AN ACLU PRODUCTION

**What role do film, television,
and the arts play in the national
dialogue on civil liberties?**

**Does the way vital civil liberties
issues are addressed on screen,
stage, canvas, and the page,
influence how they are discussed
around the dinner table?**

At the 2008 ACLU Membership Conference

RIGHTS / CAMERA ACTION – Film Screening
The Trials of Darryl Hunt
Sunday, June 8, 2:30 PM – Room 202B

This award-winning documentary investigates a brutal rape/murder case and a wrongly convicted man, Darryl Hunt, imprisoned nearly 20 years for a crime he did not commit. At once a social justice story, a decades-long courtroom drama, and a personal narrative, the film follows this capital case from 1984 through 2004 and frames the judicial and emotional response to a chilling crime, against a backdrop of class and racial bias in the American criminal justice system.

Sunday, at 8:00 PM, Ricki Stern, co-director/co-producer of the film will take part in the panel "Rights, Camera, Action" which will look at the role that film, television, and the arts play in discussions on civil liberties. Darryl Hunt and Mark Rabil, the lawyer who defended Mr. Hunt, will appear on the panel "Capital Punishment: Race, Faith and the Courts" on Monday, June 9th at 8:00 AM.

Darryl Hunt, Mark Rabil, and Ricki Stern will be introduced at the screening.

RIGHTS / CAMERA / ACTION – Roundtable Discussion
Sunday, June 8, 8:00pm – Ballroom

Join leading artists and industry professionals for a conversation about how rights on camera can be a source of both entertainment and information and a launching pad for social action.

With: actor Kal Penn, acclaimed poet and playwright Ariel Dorfman, award-winning filmmakers Alex Gibney, Peter Gilbert, Robb Moss, and Ricki Stern, Anjuli Verma – Advocacy Director, ACLU DLRP, moderated by Johanna Blakley – Deputy Director, The Norman Lear Center

Panelist Bios:

Ariel Dorfman, the Chilean-American author of numerous works of fiction, plays, poems, essays and films in both Spanish and English, has been called a "literary grandmaster" (Time) and "one of the greatest living Latin American novelists" (Newsweek). His books have been translated into over 40 languages and have received many international prizes. Among his plays – performed in more than one hundred countries – are *Death and the Maiden*, which has won dozens of best play awards around the world, including England's Olivier award for Best Play.

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An expatriate from his country, he has been active in the defense of human rights for many decades, having addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations and the main Forum of UNESCO in Paris. As part of this human rights work, he has penned the play *Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark*, based upon a book by Kerry Kennedy, which premiered at the Kennedy Center with an all-star cast and which was transmitted by PBS in the United States and is being performed in a number of countries around the world.

He holds the Walter Hines Page Chair of Literature and Latin American Studies at Duke University and writes regularly for many of the most important newspapers and magazines in the U.S. and abroad.

Alex Gibney, award-winning filmmaker, took home the 2008 Oscar for Best Documentary for *Taxi to the Dark Side*, a gripping investigation into both the homicide of an innocent taxi driver at the Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan, as well as the overall policies condoning indefinite detention, torture and abuse, and ultimately the abrogation of human rights and reckless abuse of power by the Bush Administration. The film asks and answers a key question: what happens when a few people expand the wartime powers of the executive office to undermine the very principles on which the United States was founded.

Gibney is well known for producing 2006 Oscar-nominated *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*, one of the top grossing documentaries of all time. His other films include: *No End in Sight* (Executive Producer); *Mr. Untouchable* (Producer), *Who Killed the Electric Car* (Consulting Producer); *The Trials of Henry Kissinger* (Writer/Producer); *Herbie Hancock: Possibilities* (Producer); *Lightning in a Bottle* (Producer); *Wim Wenders' Soul of a Man* (Producer) and *Martin Scorsese Presents the Blues* (Producer). Gibney is currently working on a number of new projects including, *Casino Jack*, a look at lobbyist Jack Abramoff and the selling of the American government.

He is a regular contributor to the Huffington Post, and has written for Newsweek, The LA Times, Newsday, New Republic, The Wilson Quarterly, LA Reader, Chicago Reader, and San Francisco Chronicle.

Peter Gilbert has had a distinguished career in producing, directing, and photographing documentaries, feature films, commercials, and music videos. He produced and directed, along with Steve James, the Full Frame Festival Inspiration Award-winning film *At the Death House Door* which premieres on IFC in May 2008. Also with James, Gilbert is one of the filmmakers behind *Hoop Dreams* (1994), which won every major documentary

award and a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, serving as a producer and DP. He produced and directed *With All Deliberate Speed* (2004), which was nominated for a Prime Time Emmy for Distinguished Work in Non-Fiction Film. Gilbert executive produced the Sundance Festival Grand Jury and Audience award winning film, *The Gods Grew Tired of Us* (2005) and the award winning, Emmy nominated, *Deadline* (2004). Earlier work includes the Emmy Award-winning documentary *Vietnam: Long Time Coming* (1998) for which he won the DGA Award for Best Directing; *Stevie* (2003), as co-DP and co-producer; *Married in America* (2002), as DP; and Barbara Kopple's Academy Award-winning, *American Dream* (1991), as DP.

Peter Gilbert is a Board Member of Kartemquin Films in Chicago.

Robb Moss is the co-director (with Peter Galison) of *Secrecy*, a new documentary that explores the vast, invisible world of government secrecy. By focusing on classified secrets, the government's ability to put information out of sight if it would harm national security, *Secrecy* explores the tensions between our safety as a nation, and our ability to function as a democracy. It premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and has won awards and critical acclaim at festivals across the country. Moss' recent film, *The Same River Twice*, premiered at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival, was nominated for a 2004 Independent Spirit award, and played theatrically in more than 80 cities across North America. Other films have shown at the Telluride Film Festival, screened at Lincoln Center and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and at numerous venues around the world, including in Amsterdam, Paris, Munich, Sydney, Ankara, and Rio de Janeiro. As a cinematographer he has shot films in Ethiopia, Hungary, Japan, Liberia, Mexico and Turkey—on such subjects as famine, genocide and the large-scale structure of the universe—many of these pieces were shown on Public Television. He was on the 2004 documentary jury at the Sundance Film Festival and has thrice served as a creative advisor for the Sundance Institute documentary labs. He is the past board chair and president of the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers and has taught filmmaking at Harvard University for the past twenty years.

Actor **Kal Penn** can currently be seen reprising the role of Kumar in the recently released *Harold And Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay*, sequel to 2004's cult classic *Harold And Kumar Go To White Castle*, as well as on the critically acclaimed television series, *House*.

Penn received rave reviews for his starring role in last year's highly anticipated film *The Namesake*, based on the novel by Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri and directed by Mira Nair. The film deals with issues of personal and national identity that

many immigrants around the world face on a daily basis. Penn has appeared in other recent films including *A Lot Like Love* and *Superman Returns*. He had a recurring role on season 6 of 24 and recently guest starred on the hit series, *Law & Order: SVU*. Earlier credits include the Emmy Award winning HBO comedy *Express: Aisle To Glory*, *Spin City*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *NYPD Blue*, *The Agency*, and *Angel*.

Penn was born and raised in New Jersey where he graduated from the Freehold Regional High School District's Performing Arts High School. He received a bachelor's degree in Sociology with a Specialization in Theatre, Film and Television from the prestigious School of Theater, Film and Television at UCLA. Penn is currently an Adjunct Professor of Cinema, Sociology, and Asian American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He serves on the celebrity advisory board of the Red Cross, and is also currently pursuing a Graduate Certificate in International Security at Stanford University.

Ricki Stern is a director, producer and writer. She is the co-director and a producer on *The Devil Came on Horseback* which premiered at Sundance in 2007 and has won several festival awards, including a Gotham Best Documentary nomination.

Stern also co-directed and co-produced the award-winning documentary *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, about a man who spent 20 years in prison for a brutal rape/murder he did not commit. The film premiered at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, and has won more than twenty festival awards to date. The film premiered on HBO followed by a theatrical and DVD release, October 2007 (THINKFilm).

Stern is the director and co-producer of the award winning *In My Corner*, a documentary film on the world of amateur boxing. She also directed and produced the Emmy nominated *Neglect Not The Children*, a documentary about a Harlem based youth program, hosted by Morgan Freeman (PBS).

Stern's producing credits include four films for HBO, *Autopsy I, II, III* and *Murder 9 to 5*. She founded Break Thru Films, Inc. in 1990.

Anjali Verma is the Advocacy Director of the ACLU's Drug Law Reform Project. Verma oversees and manages the Project's communications and advocacy strategies, which include national campaigns to reduce the number of people of color incarcerated for drug offenses, to reform marijuana laws and defend medical marijuana users, and to reduce the harms associated with both drug addiction and the drug war. She has collaborated with film producers and entertainment industry professionals on multi-media representations of the harms of current drug policies,

including Robert Greenwald's *The ACLU Freedom Files: Drug Wars* and Off-Center Production's *Hearne, Texas: Scenes from the Drug War*. She is actively involved with a research project from the ACLU's new Rights / Camera / Action program (in conjunction with The Norman Lear Center) that will examine how audience's receive information from film and television about government use and abuse of power in the "War on Terror" and "War on Drugs".

At the ACLU, she has co-authored *Caught in the Net: the Impact of Drug Policies on Women & Families* and a revised edition of the educational booklet, *Making Sense of Student Drug Testing: Why Educators Are Saying No* with the Drug Policy Alliance and authored an article criticizing student drug testing in the *American Journal of Bioethics*.

Moderated by:

Johanna Blakley is the deputy director of the Norman Lear Center, a research and public policy institute that explores the convergence of entertainment, commerce and society. Based at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California, Blakley performs research on a wide variety of topics, including global entertainment, cultural diplomacy, celebrity culture, digital media and intellectual property law. Much of her work addresses the intersection between entertainment and politics: most recently, she conducted a nationwide poll, with Zogby International, on the relationship between political ideology and entertainment preferences. Blakley has guided more than forty manuscripts through the publication process at the Lear Center, including *Frank Capra and the Image of the Journalist in American Film*, *Ready to Share: Fashion & the Ownership of Creativity*; *Artists, Technology & the Ownership of Creative Content* and *Warners' War: Propaganda, Politics & Pop Culture in Wartime Hollywood*, to which she contributed an essay on propaganda and public diplomacy. She received a Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she taught courses on popular culture and twentieth-century literature. Blakley has held a variety of positions within the high-tech industry, including Web producer and digital archivist at Vivendi-Universal Games.

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RIGHTS / CAMERA / ACTION – Film Screening

Taxi to the Dark Side

Sunday, June 8, 10:00 PM - Ballroom

This 2008 Oscar-winner for Best Documentary is a gripping investigation into both the homicide of an innocent taxi driver at the Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan, as well as the overall policies condoning indefinite detention, torture and abuse, and ultimately the abrogation of human rights and reckless abuse of power by the Bush Administration.

Prior to the screening, at 8:00 PM, the director of the film, Alex Gibney will participate on the panel "Rights, Camera, Action."

Alex Gibney will introduce the film.

RIGHTS / CAMERA / ACTION – Film Screening

At the Death House Door

Monday, June 9, 4:30 PM – Room 202B

The award-winning documentary *At the Death House Door* follows Rev. Carroll Pickett's career at Texas' infamous "Walls" Unit in Huntsville, home of Texas's death row, as he presided over 95 executions over 15 years as the chaplain there. In the film, Pickett reflects on his personal journey, as well as the institutional changes that were made after his retirement, and what he hopes to accomplish as an anti-death penalty advocate.

Rev. Pickett will discuss his experiences in person during "Capital Punishment: Race, Faith and the Courts" on Monday at 8:00 AM; while co-director/co-producer of the film Peter Gilbert will appear on the "Rights, Camera, Action" panel.

RIGHTS / CAMERA / ACTION – Film Screening

Secrecy

Monday, June 9, 4:30 PM – Room 207B

In a single recent year the U.S. classified about five times the number of pages added to the Library of Congress. We live in a world where the production of secret knowledge dwarfs the production of open knowledge. Depending on whom you ask government secrecy is either the key to victory in our struggle against terrorism, or our Achilles heel.

Secrecy is about the vast, invisible world of government secrecy. By focusing on classified secrets, the government's ability to put information out of sight if it would harm national security, *Secrecy* explores the tensions between our safety as a nation, and our ability to function as a democracy.

Co-director Robb Moss will participate on the "Rights, Camera, Action" panel on Sunday, June 8th at 8pm and his fellow co-director Peter Galison will be speaking on the panel, "The Battle Between Government Secrecy and the Public's Right to Know," on Monday, June 9th 3pm.

Robb Moss and Peter Galison will be introduced at the screening.

RIGHTS / CAMERA / ACTION at the Action Center:

(Hours: 6/8 12:00-5:00pm, 6/9 9:00am-12:30pm, 2:00-6:30pm, 6/10 9:00am-12:30pm)

•Rights/Camera/Action – Booth 15

Historically, film and the arts have provided us with stories about racial equality, criminal justice, gender and sexual equality, the fundamental freedoms of press, speech, and dissent, and protections from government abuse of power. The past couple of years have offered up critical, critically acclaimed, and award-winning works that both examine and engage audiences on issues dealing with civil liberties. We are fortunate that several of these provocative films, filmmakers, and film subjects will be represented at this year's Conference, on panels, screenings, and workshops. Come meet some of them face-to-face at the R/C/A booth where they will be talking more about their work and signing books and DVDs.

www.aclu.org/rightscameraaction