

DARWIN

a nonfiction film

DARWIN PRODUCTION TEAM

NICK BRANDESTINI - Director, Producer, Camera, Editor

Nick Brandestini is a filmmaker based in Zurich, Switzerland. His first documentary, *Return to Florence* (2006), about a small group of young American and British artists studying classical methods at an unconventional school in Florence, screened at numerous film festivals across North America, winning several awards. His next documentary, *H.R. Giger's Sanctuary* (2007), about the renowned and reclusive artist, H.R. Giger, most famous as the creator of Ridley Scott's "Alien", was an official selection at the AFI Film Festival in Los Angeles.

From 1999 to 2002, Mr. Brandestini was a Producer and Editor for the music television channel VIVA (now part of the MTV network), where he produced, among other things, a weekly program about the latest movie releases.

SANDRA RUCH - Co-Producer

Sandra Ruch is a producer and consultant, as well as a Film Expert for the American Documentary Showcase, an international cultural exchange program of the U.S. Department of State. She regularly serves on juries and expert panels at film festivals and conferences around the world.

Ms. Ruch is Director Emeritus of the International Documentary Association, where she served as Executive Director and Publisher of Documentary magazine from 2001 to 2008. Ms. Ruch enjoyed a wide range of responsibilities, including initiating the first IDA Pare Lorentz Film Festival. Prior to I.D.A., Ms. Ruch was President of Marketing for New Line Cinema, Sr. Vice President for Cinergi Pictures, and, for 12 years, served as Manager of Cultural Programs for Mobil Oil Corporation where she supervised the Mobil/PBS television series, *Masterpiece Theater* as well as *MYSTERY!*

In 2008, she started Cinelixir - a full service company devoted to advising independent documentary filmmakers on development, marketing and distribution, as well as festival and outreach strategies. Ms. Ruch is also co-founder of DocAngeles: The Los Angeles International Documentary Film Festival (in development).

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TAYLOR SEGREST - Writer, Co-Producer, Co-Editor

Taylor Segrest is a writer and filmmaker based in Los Angeles. He is a principal of Cinelixir, a consultancy for independent documentary filmmakers he established with former executive director of the International Documentary Association, Sandra Ruch. As a contributing editor at Documentary magazine, he has interviewed and written about a variety of filmmakers, from first-time directors to IDA Career Achievement Award recipients Werner Herzog and Errol Morris. He has served as a juror at numerous international film festivals and sits on the advisory board of the National Film Festival for Talented Youth (NFFTY). He is also the Digital Media Director of the Comedy Central Stage, the development space of the television network Comedy Central.

Mr. Segrest is developing, as co-founder, DocAngeles: The Los Angeles International Documentary Film Festival. He is currently in production on his next film which is about the most tragically forgotten rebellion in American history.

MICHAEL BROOK - Composer

Michael Brook is a Canadian guitarist, inventor, producer, and film music composer familiar with many disciplines including rock, world music, minimalism and film scores. He is perhaps most famous for his sonic contribution to U2's multimillion-selling 1987 album *The Joshua Tree* in the form of his invention, the Infinite Guitar. He was nominated for a Grammy Award in 1996 for his production work and as a co-artist on Pakistani singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's album *Night Song*.

Mr. Brook has produced albums for Mary Margaret O'Hara, Jane Siberry, Youssou N'Dour, The Edge, The Pogues, Hukwe Zawose, and many others. He has also written for a number of film soundtracks including *Albino Alligator*, *Affliction*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Who Killed the Electric Car* and Sean Penn's critically acclaimed *Into the Wild*, for which Mr. Brook was nominated for a Golden Globe Award.

He has recently composed the scores for *The Fighter*, starring Mark Wahlberg and Christian Bale and *Country Strong*, starring Gwyneth Patrow and Tim McGraw.

VESNA BRANDESTINI - Executive Producer

Vesna Brandestini earned her Master's degree of Science ETH in Architecture from the Swiss Federal Institute Of Technology in 2006. She has practiced architecture in Zurich and Los Angeles, where she has been involved in numerous public and private projects. Before becoming an Architect, Ms. Brandestini studied acting in Graz, Austria. Additionally, she has been involved in numerous documentary films produced for Swiss public television.

Ms. Brandestini lives in Zurich, where she is at work on a children's book due for publication in 2011.

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