

METROPOLE FILM BOARD and **Prologue Productions, LLC**
present

a **Storyville Films** production



Directed by
Oren Jacoby

Produced by
Oren Jacoby, James Carroll
Michael Solomon and Betsy West

LA FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

1:00 PM – Wednesday, June 6th – PRESS SCREENING
7:15 PM – Sunday, June 24th – Mann Festival Theater – WORLD PREMIERE
7:30 PM – Friday, June 29th – The Landmark (Pico & Westwood)

95 Minutes. USA. (HD Cam 24P, Dolby LTRT)

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CONSTANTINE'S SWORD

PRODUCTION NOTES

CAPSULE SYNOPSIS

Constantine's Sword is the story of James Carroll; a former Catholic priest on a journey to uncover the roots of religiously inspired violence and war. His search also reveals a crisis of religion and power coming together, yet again, in America today.

SYNOPSIS

No war is holy.

Constantine's Sword is the story of James Carroll; a former Catholic priest on a journey to confront his past and uncover the roots of religiously inspired violence and war. His search also reveals a growing scandal involving religious infiltration of the U.S. military and the terrible consequences of religion's influence on America's foreign policy.

Carroll focuses on Christian antisemitism as the model for all religious hatred, exposing the cross as a symbol of a long history of violence against Jews (and, most recently, Moslems). The film brings the history of religious intolerance to life, tracing it as a source of the fanaticism that threatens the world today. At its core, *Constantine's Sword* is a compelling personal narrative -- a kind of detective story -- as one man uncovers the dark areas of his own past, searching for a better future.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We're living in a world at war. And we're living at a time when people on both sides are using religion as an excuse to go to war.

When I met James Carroll and heard his concerns about the coming together of *religion* and *power* in our country (set against the backdrop of America's rush to war) and the long history he had begun to trace of religious hatred and violence, I knew I had to work with him to get this story out.

Our movie poses the question: Where did anyone get the idea that it was all right to kill people in the name of God?

When we started to make this film we were shocked to discover how many Americans don't seem concerned about a possible breakdown between the separation of *Church* and *State*. They insist that America is a Christian nation, and have somehow revised history to convince themselves that this was a principle of our Founding Fathers. They don't seem at all concerned about the message this sends to the people in the Middle

East, where we're entrenched in what's already one of the longest wars ever fought by our country.

Whenever the U.S. is involved in an armed conflict and the lives of American men and women are on the line, it's controversial to question the reasons that we're in that war or in what direction our country is headed.

But for many Americans our film asks an even more troubling and controversial question: is there something in the DNA of Christianity – the majority religion in our country – that demonizes “the other” and is inclined toward violence?

This has become an even more controversial point, since that was exactly the suggestion Pope Benedict XVI made about Islam. He called it a religion that embraced violence and rejected reason.

Just as he was saying these words, we were listening to Evangelical Christian preachers in Colorado calling young Americans to war and urging them to reject rational arguments and years of serious scientific research in physics, astronomy and biology that might conflict with the Church's views about the origin of the earth, evolution and human sexuality.

At the U. S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs we discovered that the mission to proselytize and convert is so widespread in the US military, that it could be hard to convince the world that this is not our intent, that we are not a *Crusading* Christian nation, seeking converts.

I think many Americans are uncomfortable with the idea of religion and power coming together. This is true of people of faith as well as others. They will be glad for the opportunity offered by our film to get a clearer idea of where this impulse comes from and will have a better understanding for the terrible price that has been paid for it, especially by Jews.

On of the great pleasures directing **Constantine's Sword** was working with the extraordinary actors Live Schrieber, Natasha Richardson, Phillip Bosco and Eli Wallach. Each portrays a real character in a voice over performance, and each of them delivers a key emotional turning point in the film.

Oren Jacoby

BIOS

OREN JACOBY is an Oscar® nominated filmmaker who has written, directed, and produced award-winning films for more than two decades. He has made documentaries for the BBC, ABC, HBO, PBS, National Geographic, VH-1, and NHK (Japan).

His last film, "Sister Rose's Passion", was winner of Best Documentary Short at the 2004 Tribeca Film Festival and was nominated for a 2005 Academy Award®.

Recent credits include: "Downtown Stories" 5 portraits/jam sessions commissioned by Nokia and the Tribeca Film Festival, featuring Rosie Perez and Ed Burns; "The Topdog Diaries" with the 2002 Pulitzer prize-winning playwright, Suzan-Lori Parks, and performances by Don Cheadle and Jeffrey Wright; "The Shakespeare Sessions" starring Kevin Kline, Cynthia Nixon, Liev Schreiber, and Charles S. Dutton; "The Beatles Revolution", for ABC and VH-1, "Swingin' with Duke", starring Wynton Marsalis and "Sam Shepard: Stalking Himself", "Master Thief" on the 'art heist of the century'; and "Success" for the Emmy award-winning PBS series, *The Irish in America*.

Jacoby also wrote, produced and directed "The Return Ticket", adapted from a short story by Anton Chekhov; "Ghosts of the Bayou"; "Idols of the Game", featuring Michael Jordan; "Benny Goodman: Adventures in the Kingdom of Swing" for *American Masters* and "The Second Russian Revolution", a behind the scenes investigation of the collapse of the USSR, called 'the best BBC series of the decade' by the London *Independent*.

He is currently producing "The Italian Secretary", based on the novel by Caleb Carr and "The Marquis de Lafayette" (working title). He has just completed "The Last Girl on Earth" a romantic-comedy short commissioned by the Tribeca Film Festival based on a screenplay by Richard Dresser; see it online @ <http://surround.verizon.net/presents/tff/>

In addition to being honored by the Academy and the Tribeca Film Festival, he has won CINE Golden Eagles, the Royal Television Society (UK) journalism award, and the MacArthur Golden Owl award, as well as grants from the American Film Institute and ITVS (The Independent Television Service).

Jacoby has directed plays at Theater for the New City, the Williamstown Theater Festival, Ensemble Studio Theater, the West Bank Café and regional theaters, including new works by Richard Dresser, Quincy Long, and Franz Xavier Kroetz. He collaborated with Adrian Hall on an adaptation of Robert Penn Warren's "All the King's Men", with songs by Randy Newman, at the Dallas Theater Center and Trinity Rep. His stage adaptation of Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* was performed in a reading at the Tribeca Theater Festival, in a co-production with the Classical Theater of Harlem. He wrote the screenplay for "Shores of a Dream" (in development) and is co-author with Forrest Stone of the original screenplay "Tarzan Brown" for the Oxford Film Company. He attended Brown University, RISD and the Directing Program of the Yale School of Drama and is a native New Yorker.

JAMES CARROLL was born in Chicago in 1943, and raised in Washington where his father, an Air Force general, served as the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Carroll attended Georgetown University before entering the seminary to train for the Catholic priesthood. He received BA and MA degrees from St. Paul's College, the Paulist Fathers' seminary in Washington, and was ordained to the Catholic priesthood in 1969. Carroll served as Catholic Chaplain at Boston University from 1969 to 1974 and then left the priesthood to become a writer.

In 1974 Carroll was Playwright-in-Residence at the Berkshire Theater Festival in Stockbridge, MA. In 1976 he published his first novel, *Madonna Red*, which was translated into seven languages. Since then he has published nine additional novels, including the *New York Times* bestsellers *Mortal Friends* (1978), *Family Trade* (1982), and *Prince of Peace* (1984). His novels *The City Below* (1994) and *Secret Father* (2003) were named Notable Books of the Year by the *New York Times*. Carroll's essays and articles have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Daedalus*, and other publications. His op-ed page column has run weekly in the *Boston Globe* since 1992.

Carroll's memoir, *An American Requiem: God, My Father, and the War that Came Between Us*, received the 1996 National Book Award in nonfiction and other awards. His book *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews: A History*, published in 2001, was a *New York Times* bestseller and was honored as one of the Best Books of 2001 by the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and others. It was named a Notable Book of the Year by the *New York Times*, and won the Melcher Book Award, the James Parks Morton Interfaith Award, and National Jewish Book Award in History. *Constantine's Sword* is the basis of a 2007 documentary film directed by Oren Jacoby. Responding to the Catholic sex abuse crisis in 2002, Carroll published *Toward A New Catholic Church: The Promise of Reform*. In 2004 he published *Crusade: Chronicles of an Unjust War*, adapted from his *Boston Globe* columns since 9/11. In 2006, he published *House of War: The Pentagon and the Disastrous Rise of American Power*, a history of the Pentagon, which the *Chicago Tribune* called "the first great non-fiction book of the new millennium." Among its honors is the PEN-Galbraith award for distinguished non-fiction published in 2005 or 2006. An HBO dramatic series based on *House of War* is in preparation.

Carroll is a regular participant in on-going Jewish-Christian-Muslim encounters at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Carroll is a member of the Council of PEN-New England, which he chaired for four years. He has been a Shorenstein Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a Fellow at the Center for the Study of Values in Public Life at the Harvard Divinity School. He is a trustee of the Boston Public Library, and a member of the Dean's Council at the Harvard Divinity School. Carroll is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at Suffolk University.

James Carroll lives in Boston with his wife, the novelist Alexandra Marshall. They have two grown children.

MIKEY WEINSTEIN is the Founder and President of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. He is an attorney, businessman and political activist. Among his accomplishments is the launching of the campaign to protect the religious freedoms of members of the United States Armed Forces by campaigning for restoration of the constitutionally mandated separation of church-and-state in the military.

Mikey has appeared widely on national television and radio, his essays have been published on the op-ed pages of leading newspapers, and he has been the subject of countless newspaper and magazine articles extolling his efforts.

Mikey comes from a family that has dedicated itself to the service of the United States. One indication of the family's commitment is its multi-generational association with the nation's military academies, in particular, the United States Air Force Academy. His father graduated from the United States Naval Academy. Mikey is a graduate of the Air Force Academy, as are his brother-in-law, eldest son and daughter-in-law. His youngest son is currently a cadet at the Air Force Academy.

Mikey's professional experience is broad. He served for ten years on active duty in the United States Air Force as a Judge Advocate, stationed at military installations in California, New Mexico, Illinois, and Washington, DC. He also served as the Air Force's first Chief of Telecommunications and Information Systems Procurement Law.

Mikey also has been a federal prosecutor and a defense attorney, and spent more than three years serving in the Reagan Administration, in both the Office of Management and Budget and as Assistant General counsel in the Executive Office of the President.

After leaving government service, Mikey practiced law in senior capacities at international law firms based in Washington and New York. At the behest of his client, H. Ross Perot, Mikey later became Mr. Perot's first General Counsel of Perot Systems Corp. He recently rejoined Perot Systems as Director of Business Development/Department of Energy Programs after holding a number of senior positions in public and private business endeavors, generally specializing in high technology services and products.

He has been married nearly 30 years and resides in Albuquerque, NM.

BOB RICHMAN (Director of Photography) started his career working with cinema verite pioneers Albert and David Maysles. He worked closely with them on many projects and eventually acted as director of photography on Maysles Films Inc. documentaries "Christo's Umbrellas" and "The Producers: A Musical Romp With Mel Brooks." His recent credits include, "My Architect: A Son's Journey," "Metallica: Some Kind Of Monster," "An Inconvenient Truth" and Series DP for "Iconoclasts: Season 2."

JOEL GOODMAN (Composer) Acclaimed by The Hollywood Reporter as an "Indie Composer to Watch," Joel Goodman is a multi-talented, award-winning composer. His original composition credits include work on Oscar and Emmy Award winning films, including "To Be Alive!" (Academy Award Winner); "Sister Rose's Passion" (2005 Academy Award Nomination); "The Collector of Bedford Street" (2004 Academy Award Nomination) and "Children Underground" (2002 Academy Award Nomination) for such producers as HBO, Disney, GreenStreet Films, Good Machine, Anonymous Content, TriggerStreet Films, Double A Films, Maysles Films, PBS, Hybrid Films, Working Pictures and Cypress Films. He has also worked with an impressive array of distinguished directors and producers, including Wong Kar-wei, Kevin Spacey, Albert Maysles, Andrew Jarecki, John Penotti, Barbara Kopple, Susan Froemke, Stephen Ives and Fisher Stevens. Joel's original music for television has included "The Staircase" (ABC); "Brooklyn North Homicide" (Court TV); "Seabiscuit" (American Experience/PBS); and "Robert Capa: In Love and War (American Masters/PBS); as well as Emmy Award winning shows "Born Rich" (HBO) and "Reporting America At War (PBS).

KATE HIRSON (Editor) began her film career with the pioneers of cinema verite, David and Albert Maysles, working on everything from their Beatles film, to their film on the artist Christo ("Running Fence"). She has a particular interest in documentaries about artists – whether they be painters ("14 Americans," "Directions of the 1970's"), dancers ("Dancing!"), classical musicians ("Playing For Real"), or film directors like Arthur Freed ("Musicals Great Musicals"), Busby Berkeley ("Going Through The Roof"), and Clint Eastwood ("Clint Eastwood: Out of the Shadows"). She recently received an Emmy Award for her work on "Judy Garland – All By Myself", and was an editor on the landmark PBS series "African American Lives."

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A FILM BY OREN JACOBY

CREDITS

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER	Oren Jacoby
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS	Oren Jacoby James Carroll
PRODUCERS	James Carroll Michael Solomon Betsy West
CO-WRITERS	Oren Jacoby James Carroll
EDITOR	Kate Hirson
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Bob Richman
MUSIC BY	Joel Goodman
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COLORIST/ON-LINE EDITOR	Will Cox/Final Frame
LOCATION SOUND	Eddie O'Connor
RE-RECORDING MIXER	Richard Fairbanks

FEATURING

Constantine.....	Liev Schreiber
Gian Pietro Caraffa.....	Phillip Bosco
Edith Stein.....	Natasha Richardson
Piero Terracina.....	Eli Wallach