

WAR ON THEIR MINDS

VOICES OF AMERICAN KIDS



Produced & Directed by JENNIFER W. GLOS Edited by ALICIA DWYER
Directors of Photography NICOLE HAEUSSER, KRISTINA MALSBERGER, NATHAN MARSHALL
Original Music by MIRIAM CUTLER

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and the UCLA SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM AND TELEVISION.
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WAR ON THEIR MINDS

VOICES OF AMERICAN KIDS

Documentary, TRT 25:32
Galago Studio, LLC
1506 10th St. #414, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Director/Producer:
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Film Synopsis

War on their Minds: Voices of American Kids is a 25-minute documentary that explores American children's impressions of war.

Ages 4 to 18, our interviewees include sons and daughters of soldiers in Iraq, a political cheerleading team that protests war, children of activist parents, and cadets at a military boarding school. They are Caucasian, African-American, Latino, East Asian, East Indian, and Native American – painting a portrait of the diversity of America.

They speak out passionately on 9-11, the Iraq War, and their hopes and fears for their future. They ask: What justifies war? Is protest effective? What is worth dying for? They express themselves through words, drawings, and playacting.

War in the 21st century will be determined by the children of today. This film encourages viewers to contemplate the moral grounding of children and the parental and socio-economic influences on their perspectives toward war.

At a time when Americans are debating the merits and justifications of war, it is a timely and important film, one that reflects on what we're teaching the next generation, and what they have learned.

Quotes from the production



"War, that's such a short word. Short as a person's life."

-- Brittania, age 14



"I love this country. I'm willing to fight for it, I'm willing to kill for it, I'm willing to die for it."

-- Conner, age 15



"There's only one way to be born, but because of mankind, there are hundreds of ways to die. I think about that a lot."

-- Benjamin, age 10



"We're teens, we're cute
We're radical to boot.
We're angry, we're tough,
And we have had enough!"

- Radical Teen Cheerleaders cheer



"Guns are, you know, tight. I can't even explain it, cause you hold them, and you lift them, and a lot of bullets come out."
-- Treveon, age 12



"War, it's where people fight, but not with their words. They actually kill."
-- Stella, age 6



"I sometimes feel that our government's not even watching. They're all like, 'Oh, there's millions of people out there protesting. What? I'm reading the funnies, go away.'
-- Olivia, age 12



"My brother was going to go to Iraq and I really didn't want to see him go... In the back of your mind, you're always thinking, 'You know what? You might see your brother next time in a coffin.'
-- Larry, age 17

Crew Biographies

Jennifer W. Glos Producer & Director

Jennifer left her hometown of Columbus, Ohio to study cognitive neuroscience at **MIT** for her bachelor degree, research psycholinguistics in Paris, develop computer interfaces at **Microsoft**, create websites for kids in Japan, and design technological children's toys for her Master of Science at the **MIT Media Lab**. Her thesis work is published in the book **Human Cognition and Social Agent Technology** (editor: Dautenhahn). She lived through the boom and bust of Silicon Valley before deciding to try something a bit saner -- the film industry.



For the last three years, Jennifer has studied documentary filmmaking under Marina Goldovskaya, one of Russia's most acclaimed documentary filmmakers. **War on their Minds: Voices of American Kids** is the culmination of Jennifer's MFA studies at the **UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television**, where she directed and produced multiple short films, wrote several feature length scripts, and received numerous awards.

War on their Minds: Voices of American Kids was honored as one of seven student films chosen by UCLA and Showtime Networks Inc. for partial funding and distribution by Showtime.

Alicia Dwyer Editor

Alicia Dwyer is a filmmaker working mainly in documentary as a director, editor, producer and cinematographer. She is directing a feature documentary narrated by Martin Sheen about Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers. She was a producer on the **Academy Award**-winning documentary **Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport**, narrated by Judi Dench, about Britain's rescue of 10,000 Jewish children from the Nazis just before WWII, and an editor on the feature film and **HBO** series **Pandemic: Facing AIDS**, narrated by Elton John, music by Philip Glass, about families dealing with HIV/AIDS in India, Thailand, Brazil, Uganda and Russia. Alicia has worked as a cinematographer in the US, Mexico, Africa, and the Middle East and on an **Emmy** Award-winning comedy short, **Sway**.

Alicia was born in Santa Cruz, and then lived in Australia, New York, Germany, Los Angeles and Mexico. She studied German and Politics at **Princeton University**, and holds an M.F.A. from **USC film school**, where she made her first documentary about her family fighting over religion. She has received special recognition from the **U.S.**

House of Representatives for work on the issue of HIV/AIDS and was recently a Distinguished Visitor in Global Studies at **UC Santa Cruz** where she taught documentary filmmaking.

Nicole Haeusser
Director of Photography

Nicole grew up in Germany and has lived in Switzerland, Spain, New York, London and Los Angeles. She left Germany to study economics and politics at the **London School of Economics**. After graduating with her Master of Science in international relations, she worked as a production manager for **Reuters News** and on independent features. She switched into the camera department and soon became a camera operator on a German TV series shot in Mallorca, Spain before she came to Los Angeles to study at **UCLA**.

She is currently pursuing a MFA in directing and cinematography from **UCLA** and is preparing to shoot her thesis film in Berlin, Germany and Los Angeles. She works as a DP on documentaries and independent productions. Nicole has shot and directed numerous shorts and rock documentaries which have been screened in over 20 U.S. cities. She is working towards a career in film directing and cinematography.

Kristina Malsberger
Director of Photography

An M.F.A film student at **UCLA**, Kristina Malsberger is drawn to the challenges of documentaries involving children. In filming a documentary on inner-city 9th graders attempting their first backpacking trip, Kristina braved river crossings, hail storms, mudslides, and teen angst, all while trying to keep her lens clean; for her documentary **Kindergarten Rock**, winner of a **2003 Christopher Award**, Kristina had to continually keep a class of excitable five-years-old from petting the microphone.

Before coming to UCLA, Kristina earned a degree in English from **U.C. Berkeley** and worked as a travel writer and editor. Her job took her to the World's Fair in Germany, the breweries of British Columbia, and the jungles of Southern Thailand before she left to explore the ultimate exotic destination: Los Angeles. After receiving her M.F.A., Kristina hopes to continue her travels and travails in a career as a documentary cinematographer.

Nathan Marshall **Director of Photography**

Nathan Marshall grew up in Brooklyn, New York. As a teenager, Nathan hosted the PBS television show **In The Mix**, but quickly shook off his acting bug and began creating his own short films.

After graduating from **Cornell University**, Nathan worked as an Editor and Field Cameraman for **National Geographic Television**, and has since worked for **NATURE**, **Lions Gate Films**, **Chait/Day** Advertising and **PBS**. In 2003, Nathan won the Kodak 35mm Project Student Filmmaker contest, and in September, 2004, his short film **Still Life** is premiering at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. At present, Nathan is pursuing an MFA in Film Directing at **UCLA**, and is working towards a career in film writing and directing.

Miriam Cutler **Composer**

Miriam Cutler, composer and producer, began her musical career as a performer in bands, including **Mystic Knights of the Oingo Boingo** and **Swingstreet**. She has scored numerous documentaries including **Pandemic: Facing AIDS** (Moxiefirecracker/HBO), **Lost in La Mancha** (IFC Films/Berlin Film Festival), **Scout's Honor** (POV/Sundance), **Death – A Love Story** (Sundance), **Licensed to Kill** (POV/2 Sundance/Berlin), and **The Castro**, (Peabody, CineEagle, 2 Emmys). She wrote the theme music for **PBS** affiliate daily newshow **Life & Times** on the air for over 10 years, and the **Book Show**. She has also scored numerous indie films, and provided music for studio films like **Arlington Road**, **Bachelor Party**, **Grandview USA**, and **The Billionaire Boys Club**.

Since 1988, Cutler has been resident composer for St. Louis-based Circus Flora, featured at the Kennedy Center and Charleston's Spoleto Festival. She has also co-produced live jazz albums on Polygram/Verve for Joe Williams, Anita O'day, Nina Simone, Shirley Horn, and Marlena Shaw – three of which were **Grammy** nominated.

Full Credits

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Edited by
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Directors of Photography
NICOLE HAEUSSER
KRISTINA MALSBERGER
NATHAN MARSHALL

Original Music by
MIRIAM CUTLER

Additional Camera
CAMFEL PRODUCTIONS, Hollywood Rally
ELI ELLIOTT, Venice Beach Rally
JENNIFER W. GLOS

Associate Editor
JENNIFER W. GLOS

Title Design & Technology Consultant
MANISH K. TUTEJA

Sound Design & Audio Post Production
BRUCE HANIFAN PRODUCTIONS

Post Production Services
FLYING MIND

Color Correction
DAN LEVY

Legal Services
DAVID ALBERT PIERCE, ESQ.
THE LAW FIRM OF PIERCE GORMAN, LLP

UCLA Thesis Film Committee
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NANCY RICHARDSON
BECKY SMITH

"Images of War in the 21st Century" Project
BARBARA BOYLE, UCLA
The team at SHOWTIME NETWORKS

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SCOTT LEHMAN

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MANEESHA PRAKASH
SHELLEY & MATTHEW SCHAFFER

GAIL MIDGLEY
CELIA & BOB POOL
SARAH & ROBIN RUSSIN

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FERNALD CHILD CARE CENTER
GENIE SAFFREN & SOFIA SILVA
THE GEAR-UP PROGRAM
MINERVA AVILA, DR. OBIDAH & MIA WATSON
MT. VERNON MIDDLE SCHOOL
JORDY GREEN
RADICAL TEEN CHEERLEADERS
SUMMER BERNAL & MEREDITH RYLEY
SEEDS UNIVERSITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
RAUL ALARCON, SUSAN DEBLASIO, DONNA ELDER,
JUDY PERLMUTTER, JENNIFER ZOLLO

HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL THE KIDS:

Army and Navy Academy

ABE	ADAM	A.J.	ALLEN
BRAD	CHRISTIAN	CONNER	DAVID
JONATHAN	NATHAN	PETER D.	PETER Z.
RON			

California Kids Filmed at Home

ADRIANNA	ALEINA	ASHTON	BENJAMIN
EDWARD	ELLEN	ERICA	JOHN
KATY	LEXI	MARCO	NICOLE
OLIVIA	SEAN	SONIA	STELLA
VEENA			

Ms. DeBlasio, Mr. Alarcon, & Ms. Zollo's 2nd & 3rd Grade Classes

ADAM	ABIGAIL	AMANDA	AMBER
BARBARA	BENJAMIN	BIANCA	BRANFORD
BRYAN	CARLOS	CERI	CHARLIE
CLARALYSE	CONNER	DANIELA F.	DANIELA G.

ELI	ERIN	FRAN	GABRIELA
ISAAC	IVAN	JAKE	JOHN
JUAN	KARINA	KATI	LUIS
MACCHIATI	MARIA	MICHAEL	MONICA
NICHOLAS	OCTAVIA	PATRICIO	RAYMOND
SOFIA	SOPHIA	SUMMER	TRISTAN
YADIRA			

Fernald Child Care Center

ALEXANDRA	CATHERINE	MEGAN	PRADEEP
SIMON	SYLVIA	THEODORE	

The Gear-Up Program

ASIA	BRITTANIA	CRAIG	EBREON
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Mt. Vernon Middle School

CHANTELLE	GABRIELA	JASMIN	KATIE
MARLON	RASHAUDAH	TREVEON	

Ms. Perlmutter's 6th Grade Class

AARON	ADAM	ANGELA	ARIE
ASHLEY	AZIZA	BILLIE	BRUNO
CAMILA	CEDRIC	CHRISTOPHER	CODY
DAVID	EMILY C.	EMILY Z.	ERVIN
EVA	GRAHAM	HENRY	ITXEL
JENNIFER	KARINA	KATRINA	LAURA
NATALIA	NATE	OLIVIA	OWEN
PHILLIP	PIPER	RUTNA	SACHA
SAMUEL	SHANI	SPENCER	STEVY
TIMOTHY B.	TIMOTHY S.		

Radical Teen Cheerleaders

AIRESS	ANTONETTE	BEN	DANIELA
DESIREE	GRISELDA	JASMINE	JESSICA
JOE	KATE	KRYSTLE	LARRY
LAURA	LOURDES	LIDIA	NATALIA
NICK	NIDIA	ROBYN	SOPHIA
SUMMER	TANYA	VERONICA	YESENIA

"Pachelbel's Canon"

Composed by Johann Pachelbel. Performed by JACOB.

"A Song of War"

Performed & Composed by SEAN POOL.

Additional Thanks to

ABDOSH ABDULHAFIZ	JAN ALDRIN
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JUSTIN LERNER
KRISTINA MALSBERGER
SARAY NAVARRO
SCOTT VEACH

DWYER FAMILY
MEHER GOURJIAN
SAMANTHA GREEN
JENNIFER LYNN GREGA
SANDRA LAWTON
LESH FAMILY
DEANA MESA
VIVIAN UMINO
BILLY WOODBERRY

This film is dedicated to my mom & my husband.

Produced at the School of Theater, Film, and Television
University of California, Los Angeles.

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