

JAMIE MELTZER

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Department of Art & Art History
M.F.A. Program in Documentary Film and Video
435 Lasuen Mall
Stanford, CA 94305

EDUCATION

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CINEMA, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
2002

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH AND FILM, cum laude, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie,
NY 1996

TEACHING

Courses Taught in 2012-13:

Film Production 404: Advanced Film and Video Production

Shooting in HD Video, students direct individual projects as well as perform crew roles as cinematographer and sound recordist on films produced in the class. The course examines a range of working methods, formal styles, and aesthetic issues relevant to the documentary, with an eye towards expanding and rethinking formal possibilities and the role of the documentary.

Film Production 406B: M.F.A. Thesis Seminar

This course focuses on the post-production phase of an M.F.A. thesis film.

Film Studies 316: International Documentary

A film studies course that explores formal and conceptual innovation through the study of international documentaries produced in specific cultural contexts. The course traces the history and development of documentary form, as well as the aesthetic and ethical issues found in major theoretical and founding texts.

FILMS (2012-13)

Freedom Fighters (In Production) DIRECTOR

A Co-Production of ITVS

In association with Filament Productions. Funded in part through a production grant from Catapult Film Fund.

A feature-length documentary about a new detective agency in Dallas, Texas, started by three wrongly convicted and exonerated men, with 57 years in prison served between them. They call themselves the Freedom Fighters, and they are looking to free innocent people still behind bars. *Freedom Fighters* is a “documentary-noir” that follows these remarkable men as they wade into complex cases of possible wrongful conviction and try to put their own lives back together after decades in prison.

Informant (2012) DIRECTOR/PRODUCER, TRT: 82 minutes

Distributed by Music Box Films. Produced by Lucky Hat Entertainment in association with Filament Productions. Funded in part through production grants from Cinereach.

This feature-length documentary film closely follows Brandon Darby’s turbulent journey from radical activist to FBI informant. Using personal archival footage, stylized reenactments of key moments, footage of the intense protests around the 2008 Republican National Convention, as well as intimate and in-depth interviews with all the major players, the film reconstructs Darby’s experiences, while also presenting the dissenting views of those he worked with and eventually helped to imprison.

SCREENINGS AND DISTRIBUTION

Informant

Theatrical Release/ Digital Distribution (Fall 2013)

Music Box Films distributed *Informant* theatrically in 8 US cities in September 2013, beginning with a 2-week long run in Manhattan (at Lincoln Center - Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center). *Music Box Films* also released the film through all the major digital portals- iTunes, Youtube, Hulu etc. *Informant* was the # 1 Documentary on iTunes for the first 10 days after its release.

Canadian Theatrical Release/ Digital Distribution (Summer/Fall 2013)

KinoSmith, Canada’s most successful independent theatrical distributor, released *Informant* throughout Canada in Summer 2013 and through Canadian digital/streaming outlets.

Film Festivals (screenings in 2012-13)

Palm Springs International Film Festival Palm Springs, CA (January 2013)

Thin Line Film Festival Denton, TX (February 2013)

Big Sky Documentary Film Festival Missoula, MT (February 2013)

Fargo Film Festival Fargo, ND (March 2013)

WINNER, BEST DOCUMENTARY

Salem Film Festival Salem, MA (March 2013)

WINNER, BEST EDITING

Omaha Film Festival Omaha, NE (March 2013)

Sebastopol Film Festival Sebastopol, CA (March 2013)

WINNER, GRAND JURY AWARD

DocYard Cambridge, MA (April 2013)

Space Gallery Portland ME (April 2013)

Florida Film Festival Orlando, FL (April 2013)

Cleveland International Film Festival Cleveland, OH (April 2013)

Pitch Forums

***IFP (Independent Feature Project) Spotlight on Documentaries* New York, NY
September 2013**

Selected to participate with *Freedom Fighters* in this New York City based pitch forum.

PRESS (selected articles)

Freedom Fighters (In Production)

Huffington Post May 2013

"House Of Renewed Hope's Detective Agency Aids Wrongfully Convicted," Article profiling detective agency featured in film and mentioning film in production as well as fundraising efforts.

Indiewire May 2013

"There's A New Detective Agency In Dallas Started By Exonerated Black Men"

Dallas Morning News May 2013

"Detective agency assembled by Dallas County DNA exonerees catches the eye of

acclaimed documentary director”

NPR, *All Things Considered* April 19, 2013

Co-produced a 12-minute radio documentary for *All Things Considered* on the Freedom Fighters detective agency. Audio used in piece was excerpted from fundraising trailer.

Texas Monthly April 2013

“These Men Won’t Stand for Injustice,” Featured article/ interview for a piece on *Informant* and the fundraising effort for *Freedom Fighters*.

San Francisco Bay Guardian April 24, 2013

“Help fund Goldie Winner Jamie Meltzer’s latest doc!”

Texas Observer April 2013

“Innocence Revisited: *Observer* Story Inspires Documentary, NPR Feature”

Indiewire April 2013

“New Doc: Ex-Con Detectives Fight to Exonerate Wrongfully Convicted

Informant (2012)

The Village Voice September 11, 2013

“Riveting and Timely, *Informant* Shows the Corruption that Comes with Power” by Ernest Hardy

“Informant is riveting as it slowly assembles a damning profile of its subject. It's also timely. As government spying and erosion of civil liberties both escalate, Informant serves as a cautionary tale for the amount of trust granted those who wield power in activist circles.”

ArtINFO September 13, 2013

"From Left to Right in Jamie Meltzer's Documentary 'Informant'" by Jordan Riefe

Salon September 12, 2013

"The Left-Wing Activist Who Became a Tea Partier" by Andrew O'Hehir

Moviemaker, September 12th, 2013

“Jamie Meltzer on his Startling Documentary, ‘Informant’” by Jamie Meltzer

NPR.ORG, September 12th, 2013

“Meet Brandon Darby, Grass-Roots Activist (And FBI Rat)” by Ella Taylor

“Meltzer isn't out to pass any overt judgment; he wants to show Darby as a man of many parts — and, in his way, an all-American. Without a doubt, his subject is given to hurtling between extremes.”

Slant September 10, 2013

Review by Calvin Henely

"Instead of taking sides it smartly gives all sides of the story their chance to speak, creating an almost Rashomon-like viewing experience where, without easy answers, we're encouraged to decide the truth on our own."

Indiewire April 2013

"Exclusive: Music Box Films Acquires Trio of Documentaries,"
Press regarding acquisition of film for theatrical run.

The Hollywood Reporter November 2012

"Activist groups of all stripes will want to see it, but the force of Darby's personality — a rich stew of righteousness, arrogance and self-delusion — gives the doc a psychological appeal independent of politics. The Grand Jury Prize winner in DOC NYC's Viewfinders competition, it deserves a theatrical run."

San Francisco Bay Guardian November 2012

"Goldies 2012: Jamie Meltzer" Goldie Award (best local film) for filmmaker

Yahoo Feature November 2012

"Interview: Jamie Meltzer on His Documentary 'Informant'," Featured in review of Starz Denver Film Festival

Huffington Post November 2012

"10 Films You Can't Miss," DOC NYC preview piece

PBS' POV blog November 2012

"A Preview of DOC NYC 2012"

Off To The Films blog November 2012

Review of film

Take Part blog November 2012

"'Informant' Caught on Film: Post-Katrina Hero Brandon Darby Turns Up in New Doc as FBI Snitch"

Pop Matters blog November 2012

"Judgement, Clouded: 'Code of the West' and 'Informant'"

"Informant takes as its focus not the truth or even the pursuit of truth, but rather, its perpetual elusiveness. Premiering at DOC NYC... Informant is... one of several [films] that ponder the limits and expand the possibilities of what documentaries can do."

Flixist blog November 2012

"A good documentary about a (probably) bad guy"

Mile High Cinema blog November 2012

"SDFE Interview: Jamie Meltzer's INFORMANT," Feature article for Starz Denver Film Festival

IndieWire October 2012

"'Informant': How Brandon Darby Went from Anarchist to F.B.I. Stool-pigeon"

The Wall Street Journal September, 2012

"Repertory Film: They Can Handle the Truth," Film featured in DOC NYC preview piece in "Greater New York" section

The Brooklyn Rail September, 2012

"DOC NYC: Gotham's Documentary Film Festival," Film featured in DOC NYC preview piece

Variety April, 2012, Review of film

"The unreliable-narrator docu develops a new wrinkle or two with 'Informant.' Jamie Meltzer's engrossing portrait lets Brandon Darby tell his own story – of a self-proclaimed far-left, anti-government activist-turned-FBI snitch now feted at Tea Party gatherings –while fellow travelers cast doubt on that testimony every step of the way. It's an absorbing puzzle with the potential to intrigue viewers all along the political spectrum."

VISITING ARTIST/PANELS

Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford, CA April 2013

Panel member, *Human/Resources: A Film Series on Energy, Environment, and Justice*.

Salt Institute for Documentary Studies, Portland, ME April 2013

Guest artist in a class on documentary storytelling.

UFVA Conference, Chicago, IL August 2012

Presented *Informant* film at annual UFVA (*University Film and Video Association*) conference.

SERVICE

Faculty Mentor/Course Development - *"Image and Sound"* (a Creative Expressions Course)

Developed a new CE course for undergraduates called Image and Sound, to be taught by an adjunct professor in Winter and Spring 2014.

Faculty Advisor, "REVS Documentary" 2013

Advisor to two documentary films about cars and car culture being made in Summer 2013 by two groups of Stanford M.F.A. students. The project is co-sponsored by the Department of Art & Art History and CARS (Center for Automotive Research at Stanford) and the Revs Program (a trans-disciplinary program at Stanford connecting the past, present and future of the automobile).

Educational Liaison *(between the San Francisco Film Society and Stanford's M.F.A. Documentary Film Program)* 2013

Coordinated events and visits from filmmakers year round as a liaison between the Stanford Documentary M.F.A. program and the San Francisco Film Society.

IDA Awards 2012 and 2013

Jury Member, Short film Jury for the Independent Documentary Association.

CINE Educational Board Member 2008-present

This Board is comprised of media educators from around the country who will support and advise CINE in its mission to support student and emerging filmmakers.

GRANTS, AWARDS, and HONORS

ITVS Open Call Funding, Freedom Fighters August 2013

Freedom Fighters was one of 5 projects selected for funding in ITVS' Open Call 2013.

San Francisco Film Society's Documentary Film Fund August 2013

Freedom Fighters was one of three film projects awarded a Documentary Film Fund grant.

Sundance Development Grant Finalist, Freedom Fighters May 2013

Freedom Fighters was a Sundance Development Grant finalist.

Best Documentary Award, Informant March 2013

Fargo Film Festival, Fargo, ND

Best Editing Award, Informant March 2013

Salem Film Festival, Salem, MA

Statement from the Jury reads:

"Jamie Meltzer, along with editors John Kane and Summer Henderson, constructed the story in such a way that viewers have no choice but to become completely drawn into an extremely convoluted mystery from the first frame of the picture. From that moment on,

one is seduced and completely caught off-guard by a powerful and twisted tale that challenges the definition of 'good intentions'.

Grand Jury Award, Informant March 2013

Sebastopol Film Festival, Sebastopol, CA

Statement from the Jury reads:

"For pushing the edge of non-fiction storytelling with this complex and timeless story."

Grant Finalist, Freedom Fighters December 2012

Cinereach Grant

Grand Jury Award, Informant November 2012

DocNYC, Manhattan, NY

Statement from the Jury reads:

"The Grand Jury Prize goes to a film that is thrilling from beginning to end, that innovates documentary form, that takes a small corner of America and looks at our widest issues. For its Rashomon-like investigation of a terrorist crime that did or didn't happen, the Grand Jury Prize goes to Informant."

Best Feature Documentary Award, Informant November 2012

Austin Film Festival, Austin, TX

CINE Golden Eagle competition, Informant November 2012

WINNER, CINE Golden Eagle

Catapult Film Fund, Freedom Fighters September 2012

Received a grant for a production proposal: *Freedom Fighters*