

**IN A COUNTRY WITH NO MILITARY, ANOTHER WAY TO LIVE
BECKONS TO THE WORLD, AND STRUGGLES TO ENDURE.**

***“This is a story that every American
with a political pulse should know.”***
Veterans for Peace, Spokane, Washington

***“A Bold Peace is one of the most
enlightening films of our times.”***
Leon Stuparich, The Huffington Post

***“A Bold Peace should be given every
possible means of support and promotion.”***
David Swanson, Author of *War Is a Lie*

***“A Bold Peace captures the spirit of my father
and the soul of my country.”***
Christiana Figueres (UN Climate Chief)

a bold peace

***“Costa Rica is an example that the
world needs to follow . . .”***

– Arun Gandhi
(excerpt from the film)

FILM INFORMATION

FILM TITLE

A Bold Peace

LOG LINE

***One nation's quest
to abandon the fever of war.***



CONTACT INFO

Soul Force Media LLC
P.O. Box 50866, Eugene, Oregon 97405
www.aboldpeace.com

MATTHEW EDDY

WRITER, DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

matthew@aboldpeace.com

MICHAEL DREILING

CO-DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

michael@aboldpeace.com

TECHNICAL INFO

ORIGINAL CUT

TRT: 105 minutes

Exhibition Format: digital file .MOV

Aspect Ratio 16:9

Shooting Format – Full HD

Color, English, Spanish with English Subtitles

SYNOPSIS SHORT

In his famous “Cross of Iron”/ “Chance for Peace” speech in 1953, President Eisenhower critiqued the military-industrial complex while asking, “Is there no other way the world may live?” In Costa Rica today, we glimpse another way to live. In 1948, Costa Rica dismantled their military establishment and intentionally cultivated security relationships with other nations through treaties, international laws, and international organizations. Free of the burden of military spending, they used the financial savings to invest in their people, creating strong public institutions including public higher education and universal health care. In short, Costa Ricans created a society committed to peace, solidarity, and international law. They have survived with safety and relative prosperity for over 65 years without a standing army. A Bold Peace details the events which shook the country to its foundations, culminating in the 1948 civil war and the decision to abolish the military. Over the decades, the Costa Rican model has survived several serious crises, but the current threats may be the most formidable of all.

SYNOPSIS LONG

Chapter 1: Another Way

The film details Costa Rica's relative success as indicated by its #1 ranking in several global surveys of happiness and its #1 ranking in the Happy Planet Index. Costa Rica's "culture of peace" is explored as Costa Ricans explain their views on demilitarization, the value of social solidarity, and their perceptions of the cultural ethos of "Pura Vida."



Chapter 2: The Abolition of the Military

In the early 1940s, an unusual coalition of the Catholic Church, labor leaders, and the Calderon administration pushed through progressive reforms which laid the foundation for a strong welfare state. Political corruption and electoral fraud led to the Civil War of 1948. The film explores the formation of Jose Figueres as a uniquely visionary leader and his rise to the national stage. Figueres' decision to abolish the army was both pragmatic and idealistic. He was a self-taught man and a voracious reader of Tolstoy, Emerson, and other leading pacifists. As leader of the revolutionary Junta, he solidified Costa Rica's social democracy and walked away from power in order to honor that democracy.

Chapter 3: New Challenges

Costa Rica's peace model has been put to the test several times. In the 1980s, in the face of raging Civil Wars across Central America and intense pressure from the Reagan Administration, President Monge's Neutrality Declaration and President Oscar Arias' Peace Plan negotiations are highlighted as bold attempts to stand for peace during a major escalation of the Cold War. A fascinating grassroots effort to remove Costa Rica from the list of the "Coalition of the Willing" at the outset of the U.S.-led Iraq War is detailed. In 2010, in a shocking provocation, the Nicaraguan Army occupied part of Costa Rica's territory. Rather than retreat, Nicaragua doubled their forces on the border. Costa Rica diffused the crisis by appealing to the Organization of American States and

the International Court of Justice. Costa Rica's response offers a crucial case study in international law and diplomacy.

Chapter 4: Costa Rica's National Security Model

Costa Rican and U.S. experts reflect on Costa Rica's 65 years without a military. Costa Rican commitments to diplomacy, international organizations, international laws and courts are detailed. The role of Oscar Arias in trying to export the Costa Rican model is also detailed. Both Panama and Haiti embraced demilitarization as a result of Arias' efforts. Interviewees point out that the Costa Rica's "no standing army" policy echoes Thomas Jefferson's hope that the U.S. would have no standing army.



Chapter 5: Threats to Peace

Costa Rica is no utopia. Rising inequality in the wake of economic globalization, including neoliberal "free trade" agreements, threaten to destabilize Costa Rica's traditions of solidarity and social democracy. And, much as in the 1980s, U.S. foreign policy – this time in the form of the Drug War – also threatens Costa Rica's tradition of demilitarization.

Chapter 6: The Permanent Warfare State

The Costa Rican model illuminates the heavy opportunity costs and ongoing human tragedy of the U.S. military-industrial complex and permanent war economy. The U.S. defense industry, U.S. spending priorities, and U.S. diplomatic failures to support international law and UN treaties including the Arms Trade Treaty (led by the Costa Rican leader Oscar Arias) are critiqued. In the film's conclusion, ordinary Costa Ricans read the names of 9 significant international peace and human rights treaties that Costa Rica has signed, but which the U.S. government has so far refused to sign.

FAQS OF WRITER/DIRECTOR MATTHEW EDDY

Why this film now?

Today in 2016, Costa Rica has lived for 68 years without a military – in one of the world's most violent regions. Their track record of diplomacy and nonviolent conflict resolution deserves examination, by other small nations as well as those of us living in the U.S., home of the world's most powerful military.

The film also details how demilitarization made a middle class revolution possible. Government budgets are zero-sum games – that's not rocket-science, but the film documents just how true that is. In the case of Costa Rica, demilitarization allowed them to invest in their people, to spend significant sums on public education and public health care – far more than their militarized neighbors in Central America.

Every U.S. citizen attracted to – or skeptical of – the presidential campaign of Bernie Sanders, a self-identified democratic socialist, should see this film. In his speeches and interviews, Sanders often points to the social progress made by social democratic parties in Scandinavia. But in this film, we see the example of a social democracy in Central America. We see how the social democratic party in Costa Rica made impressive progress over some 50 years – creating bold policies like free college tuition, social security, and universal health care. Critics of Sanders often say that the U.S. is not Scandinavia. Well, neither is Central America. Unlike Scandinavia, Costa Rica has long been a low to middle-income nation, but their social democracy has given them a high quality of life, good educational opportunities, universal health care, and a longer life-expectancy than the U.S.

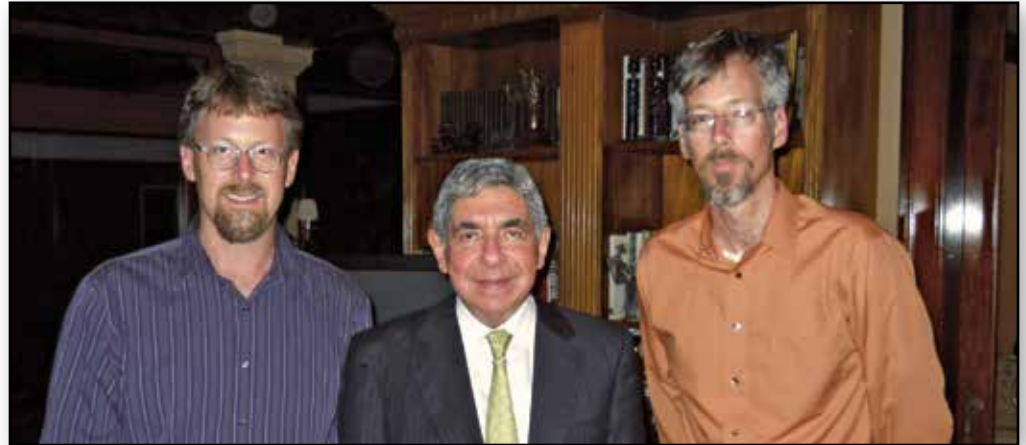
How did this film project emerge?

I was conducting research for my doctoral dissertation and I noticed that Costa Rica consistently scored among the most peaceful nations in the world in terms of their attitudes, as discovered by several international public opinion surveys. For that reason, I ended up going to Costa Rica and conducting my own survey. Since Costa Rica had taken the unusual step of abolishing their military in 1948, I thought it was a fascinating case study. I wanted to see to what degree demilitarization had shaped Costa Rican attitudes about many different types of conflict, violence and nonviolence – whether in the context of political conflicts, war, or daily life. I found that 91% of Costa Ricans said they would object to any attempt to bring back Costa Rica's military. That's about as close to a social consensus as any nation gets on any issue. I also found that Costa Rican university students had significantly more peaceful attitudes than University of Oregon students on 48 out of 52 attitudinal

indicators. Of course, we should keep in mind that UO students have a reputation for being fairly liberal compared to the rest of the U.S. The more I learned about Costa Rican history, the more convinced I was that it would make a compelling documentary film. Two years later, thanks to a grant from the Jubitz Family Foundation in Portland, I was back in Costa Rica filming interviews with my colleagues Michael Dreiling and Teal Greyhavens. Both Michael and Teal brought a diverse set of skills and prior experience in filmmaking, as well as a collaborative spirit which have been crucial to the success of the project. We've also been very fortunate that the Costa Rican people embraced our project and became excited about telling their story to a U.S. audience.

Does the film have a hero?

In the film, one of our interviewees argues that the Costa Rican people are the real protagonists. Through the decades, their convictions about the viability of using nonviolence, international law and diplomacy to solve conflicts has had a profoundly positive impact on the course of their history. The heart of the film is



The filmmakers with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Oscar Arias.

Costa Ricans telling us about their history and their culture of peace, as well as their struggles. And, in terms of heroic figures it wouldn't be a stretch to say that Jose Figueres is the most interesting Latin American leader that people in the U.S. have never heard of. Figueres represents the George Washington, the Lincoln and the Jefferson of Costa Rica, all rolled into one. Just to take a few examples, he was not only a victorious general, but he gave women and Afro-Caribbean people in Costa Rica the right to vote. But Costa Rica has been blessed with other amazing leaders too – President Oscar Arias and President Alberto Monge played important roles in keeping Costa Rica out of the bloody Central American wars of the 1980s. Although the Monge case is more ambiguous because he did bend in some limited ways to U.S. pressure, as Reagan sought to support the Contras using Costa Rica

as a secret base. Nevertheless, Monge did officially adopt a policy of Neutrality for Costa Rica and that was very important in solidifying the country's nonviolent national security policies moving forward. Arias received the Nobel Peace Prize for his crucial leadership in helping to resolve those regional conflicts through diplomacy, and more recently, he has been a pivotal figure in demilitarizing Panama and Haiti, and in promoting the vitally important Arms Trade Treaty at the United Nations.

What would you say to people who argue that Costa Rica may be an interesting country, but it's so small, how can it be a significant model for the world?

I believe its small size might magnify its significance. If a small nation can use diplomacy, international law and international organizations so effectively, how much more might large nations use the same tools, with the potential to leverage more resources. In terms of the significance of the Costa Rican case, you also have to remember that Costa Rica exists in one of the most violent regions of the world. Just as important is to consider how often Costa Rica and the entire region have been destabilized by U.S. policies – whether it be supporting the Contras in Nicaragua in the 1980s

or the U.S.-led Drug War today, just to cite two examples among many others. People often assume the U.S. has had Costa Rica's back all these years, but the historical record shows Costa Rican security has relied a great deal on European diplomatic support, the Organization of American States, the United Nations, and world courts. And, unlike a great many Latin American nations, there is no U.S. military base on Costa Rican soil. I don't think Costa Ricans would ever allow that, although a very small and noisy sector of Costa Rican elites have sometimes supported scenarios like that.

How did the animation segments in the film emerge?

As our film explains, one of the pivotal moments in the creation of the modern Costa Rica was the abolition of the military on December 1, 1948. The National Archives of Costa Rica has only a couple photos of the abolition ceremony, and no film footage of the event exists. This project represents the first time the events of that day have been re-created in a film format of any kind. We were fortunate to find an artist, Micah Bloom, who brought the events to life through a hand-crafted process with cut paper, stop motion animation, and digital editing.

FAQs OF CO-DIRECTOR/PRODUCER MICHAEL DREILING

What does the abolition of the army have to do with the quality of life in Costa Rica?

This is a great question and gets to the core of how we approached the film narrative. As a sociologist, it is clear that when a national government commits to the common good of the people, a number of positive outcomes are assured. First, when the government is responsive to the needs of the people, rather than powerful private or military interests, the sense of ownership in democracy and trust in government improves – along with it is higher participation in elections, more political parties, and less control by the rich and powerful. The inverse, of course is true as well.

In the U.S., as the Vietnam War rolled on and then the Watergate scandal occurred, public trust in government dropped. That slide in trust has continued as conservative politicians came to define government as a problem – usually as cover for some monied interests to avoid responsibility for the public good – and faith in democracy reached historic lows. Second, freed from the burden of military spending, Costa Rica invested the financial savings in strong public institutions including public higher education and universal health care. The contrast with the U.S. is again telling. As the U.S. military budget and national debt skyrocket under President Reagan, and ever since, the schools, universities, infrastructure, and health and well-being of Americans have been shortchanged. While other nations invested in poverty alleviation, high quality public schools, and the health of their people (which the U.S.A. did do a better job of in the 1950s and 1960s), the U.S. continued to feed the military-industrial complex. A government in service to that master loses site of the well-being of the community.

You mention the Happy Planet Index, what does that mean?

Costa Rica is once again at the top of the Happy Planet Index for its mix of long-life, happiness and a relatively small ecological footprint. This is impressive because Costa Rica achieves levels of happiness, education, and long-life that compare with the richest, developed countries of the world – and they do it on a fraction of the income and resource use. Compared to the U.S., the people of Costa Rica are significantly happier, live longer, and live on a fraction of the environmental and economic costs of U.S. citizens. The commitment to peace includes a respect for nature. The HPI essentially tells us how efficiently the country achieves long and happy lives per unit of environmental input (see New Economics Foundation).

Not every country can abolish its army, but what would a cut to the U.S. military budget do over the long term?

Well, that is a question of priorities. If the people of the U.S.A. choose to cut their military expenditures in half over a period of several years, hundreds of billions of dollars would be freed for other purposes. One would hope that a vibrant, informed citizen discussion could cut through the murky waters of ideology and fear to see that specific investments in the welfare and stability of the next generation provide greater security than the frenzied feeding of a military-industrial complex or tax giveaways to the already rich and powerful. The comparative social science research shows what Americans should already know – investments in schools, universities, and health nurtures children, communities and empowers the next generation. That would be a bold peace for a thriving future!

CREDITS

Featuring Interviews From:

PRESIDENT LUIS GUILLERMO SOLIS	President of Costa Rica
DR. ÓSCAR ARIAS SANCHEZ	Former President of Costa Rica, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
CHRISTIANA FIGUERES	United Nations Climate Chief, Daughter of Jose Figueres
MARIANO FIGUERES	Son of Jose Figueres
GLORIA BEJARANO DE CALDERÓN	Legislative Assembly, Former First Lady
LUIS ROBERTO ZAMORA BOLAÑOS	Constitutional Lawyer
ARUN GANDHI	Gandhi's Grandson, M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence
DAVID BARSAMIAN	Alternative Radio
NORMAN SOLOMON	Institute for Public Accuracy
FRANCISCO CORDERO GENÉ	Friends Peace Center, San Jose
DR. MIRTA GONZALEZ SUAREZ	University of Costa Rica
DR. AARON ARGUEDAS	National Autonomous University
DAVID BODDIGER	Tico Times
VICTOR RAMIREZ	Former Assistant Minister
DR. ALISON BRYSK	University of California at Santa Barbara
DR. FERNANDO MANGEL	Hospital Mexico
DR. ESTEBAN GONZÁLEZ RAMÍREZ	Hospital Mexico
DR. MAURICIO LEANDRO	University of Costa Rica
MARIO GRANT SÁENZ	Friends Peace Center, San Jose
DR. RODRIGO PARIS	Former Senior Officer, United Nations
FATHER PABLO RICHARD	Ecumenical Research Center
WALTER CHACON ROJAS	Coopesarapiquí Coffee Cooperative
DR. LUIS GARITA BONILLA	Director, Banco Popular
LUIS GERARDO VILLANUEVA MONGE	Legislative Assembly

**A
Soul Force Media
PRODUCTION**

**In Association With
Spiral Pictures**

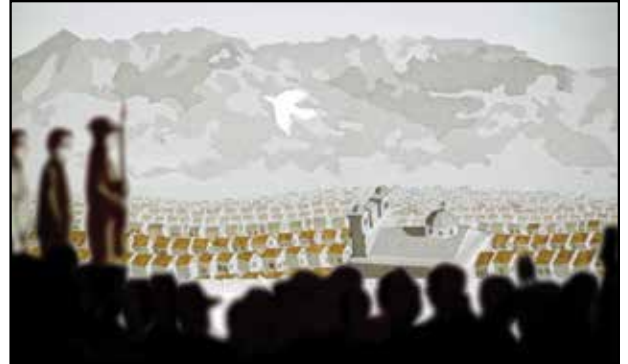


ANIMATION SEGMENTS

Animator Micah Bloom selected an analog process, cut paper, to depict the scenes of Costa Rican leader Jose Figueres. Inspired by Lotte Reiniger's silhouette paper animations of the early 20th century, Bloom selected various papers according to their level of translucency/opacity, preferring those with warm, nostalgic tones. To maintain consistency with the time period, Bloom referenced the black and white film coloring and using stop-motion, intentionally animated to replicate the jerky film technology. Following the meticulous frame by frame photo process over the light table, the individual animations were layered digitally, on the computer, to increase spatial complexity and dynamic movement. Lastly, the animation was edited in Premiere Pro to sync the audio of Figueres with the corresponding visuals.



Artist Micah Bloom rendering the cut paper animation of the 1948 speech by Jose Figueres during the historic ceremony abolishing the Costa Rican army.

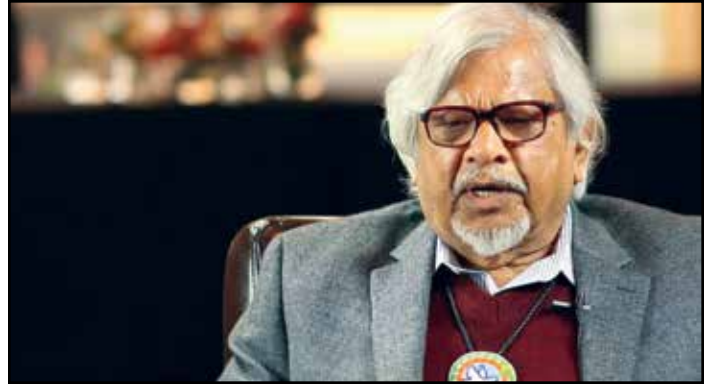


In the studio for the animation scenes, we recorded the voices of Jose Figueres (voiced by Carlos Aguirre, left) and journalists, including Franco Quiroz Burbano (right).

SCREEN SHOTS



Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias explains, “The destiny of millions of Central Americans was in our hands.”



Arun Gandhi explains the similarities in views held by the Costa Rican leader Jose Figueres and his own grandfather Mahatma Gandhi. “My grandfather thought the same about moral force, he felt that soul force, moral force is much more powerful than any weapon in the world that we have created.”



Christiana Figueres, UN Climate Chief and daughter of Costa Rican leader Jose Figueres, says, “After the revolution that my father led . . . he just baked boldness right straight into us.”



David Barsamian, a leading journalist and director of Alternative Radio, talks about a UN treaty that Oscar Arias has strongly advocated for, “The Arms Trade Treaty is badly needed . . .”

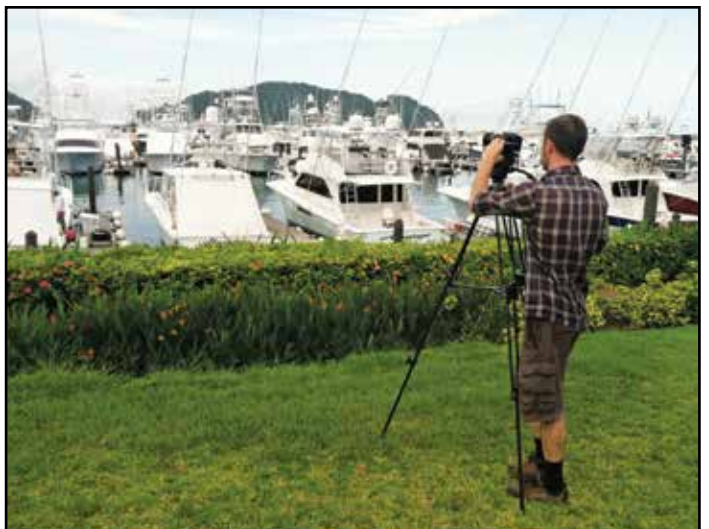


Norman Solomon, founder of the Institute for Public Accuracy, describes the U.S. role in the greatest crisis in the history of Central America. “The Reagan administration was worried that peace might break out in Central America.”



Costa Rican children march with a United Nations flag in the capital city of San Jose, Costa Rica.

SCENES FROM MAKING THE FILM



BIOS



Matthew Eddy – Writer, Director & Producer

Matthew is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, and father of two children. Matthew graduated from the doctoral program in sociology at the University of Oregon in 2013. His dissertation included several chapters analyzing Costa Rican history as well as survey evidence of robust nonviolent attitudes among the Costa Rican people today. He has spent three summers collecting data and filming interviews in Costa Rica. This is his first documentary film. He has served as a human rights observer engaged in nonviolent protective accompaniment in Chiapas (Mexico) and Israel-Palestine, and published several articles on nonviolence and international human rights organizations operating in high-conflict zones around the world.



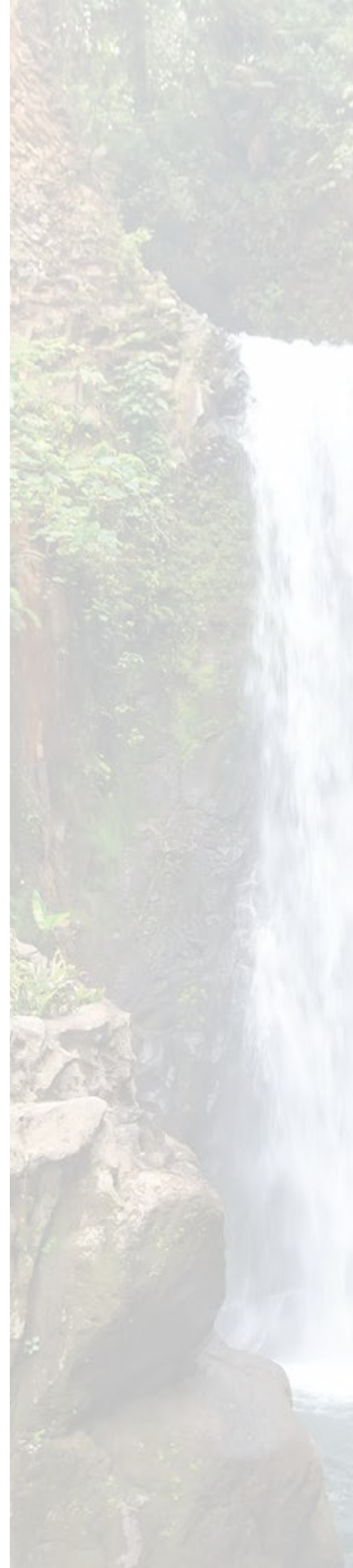
Michael Dreiling – Co-Director & Producer

Michael is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon and father of three children. In addition to his formal academic specializations in political and environmental sociology, international trade policy, and peace studies, Dreiling has produced an activist documentary on the Detroit newspaper strike in 1995 (*Stopping the Press*), consulted for Parallax Pictures on *The Ad and the Ego*, and has contributed to various cable access programs over the years. He is author of two books and numerous research articles. Awarded for distinguished university service and teaching, Professor Dreiling is also active in the nonprofit world to promote nonviolence, an environment safe for future generations, and an economy that is fair for all. *A Bold Peace* reaches toward that vision of a better world for our children.



Teal Greyhavens – Director of Photography & Editor

Teal has lived and filmed in China, Costa Rica, France, India, Malta, Scotland, Thailand, Tunisia, and a few other places too. He has shot and directed numerous award-winning documentaries and episodes for travel, historical, and cultural platforms including the Archaeology Channel and Brave New Films. His work has been featured in Indiewire, Filmmaker Magazine, DocGeeks, Film Slate, Film Threat, and more. His first feature documentary Cinema is Everywhere screened all over the world and is now widely available through several platforms including Amazon and SnagFilms.



BIOS

Micah Bloom - Animator

Micah is an artist living in Minot, North Dakota and teaching at Minot State University. He is the father of five children. He received his MFA from the University of Iowa in painting and drawing. He has been selected for numerous artist-in-residence fellowships and published his work in literary and art journals. Showing his work nationally and internationally, Bloom has exhibited in private galleries in China, including the Shanghai Museum of Contemporary Art. Bloom's most recent project is a multimedia work titled *Codex*. Involving film, photography, and installation, *Codex* addresses cultural themes using the book as subject. The film has been presented in galleries, theaters, film festivals, and universities around the country. *Codex* was awarded grand prize in the Curator/Ruminate short film contest in New York City.



Pedro García-Caro - Narrator

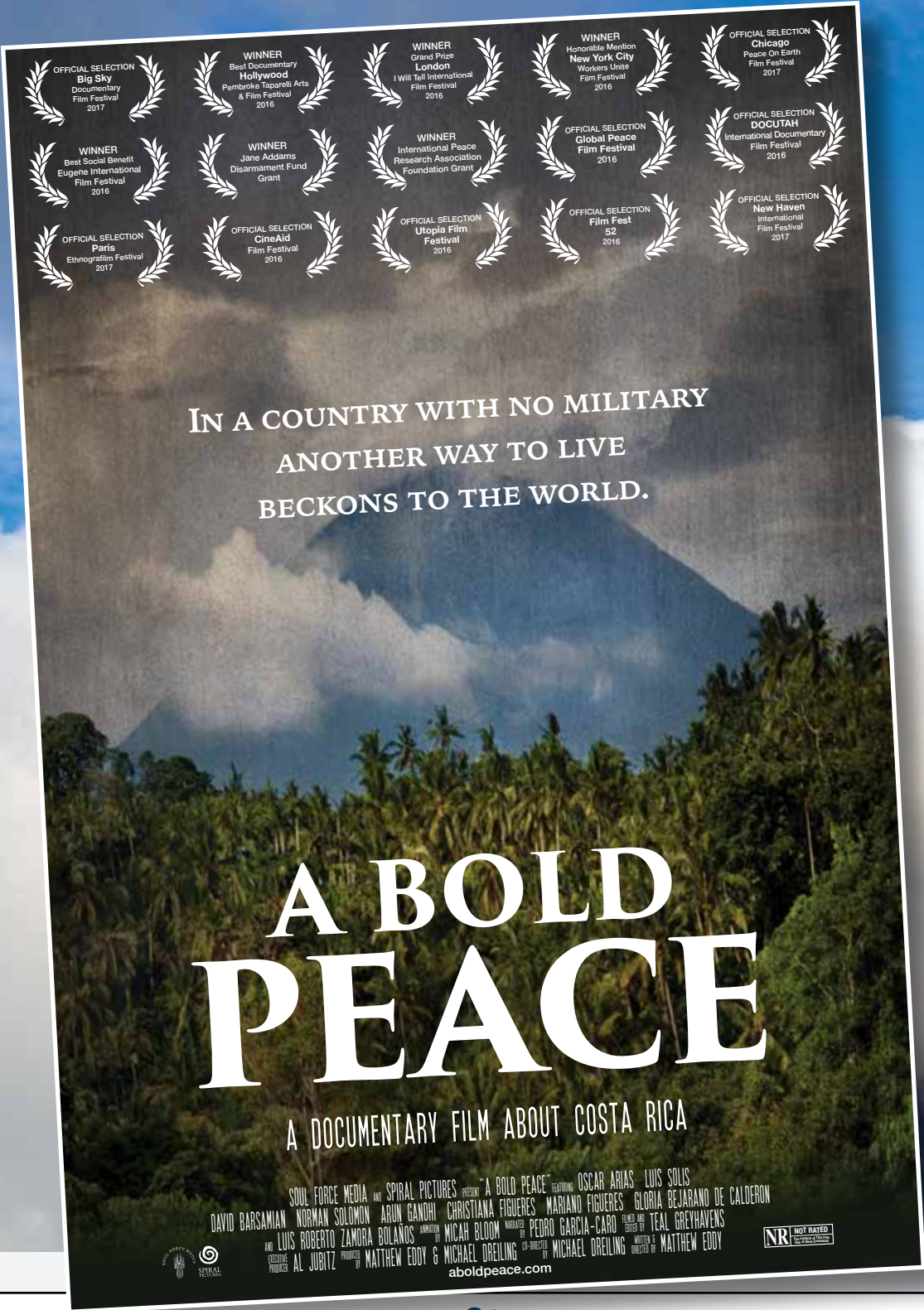
Pedro is an Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of Oregon, where he is currently directing the Latin American Studies Program. His most recent work concentrates on the cultural history of mining (literature, film, and photography) in the Western hemisphere throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. His published books include *After the Nation: Postnational Satire in the Works of Carlos Fuentes and Thomas Pynchon* (2014), a translation into Spanish of Wallace Shawn's *The Fever* (2012) in collaboration with Rafael Spregelburd, and a critical edition of the first secular play performed in California in the late eighteenth century, *Astucias por heredar un sobrino a un tío* (1789) by Fermín de Reygadas (2015). He completed his PhD in American Studies at King's College London and has previously taught at Oxford and MIT.



Carlos Aguirre – Voice of Jose Figueres

Carlos Aguirre is a Professor of History at the University of Oregon. Coincidentally, Carlos once met Jose Figueres in Peru during the 1980s. Specializing in the history of modern Peru and Latin America, Carlos has written extensively about slavery and abolition, the history of crime and punishment, political imprisonment, intellectuals and power, and the history of archives. Among other books, he is the author of *La ciudad y los perros: Biografía de una novella* (2015) and *The Criminals of Lima and their Worlds* (2005). He completed his PhD at the University of Minnesota, and previously taught in Peru and Puerto Rico.





Jane Addams Peace Association



**International Peace Research
Association Foundation**

*Sisbro Social
Justice Fund*

**The Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting of
The Religious Society of Friends**

Quakers in Manhattan, New York City



Friends Meeting at Cambridge



CALC
Community Alliance of Lane County

Educating and mobilizing for peace, human dignity and social, racial and economic justice.



Center for Responsible Travel



**Centro Costarricense de
Producción Cinematográfica**
Ministerio de Cultura y Juventud