



**WINNER Albert Maysles New
Documentary Director Award**

At the Tribeca Film Festival



BLUE LAWN PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A FILM BY DAVID FEIGE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH RACING HORSE PRODUCTIONS A MEERKAT MEDIA CO-PRODUCTION 'UNTOUCHABLE'
DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY ERIC PHILLIPS-HORST AND NADIA HALLGREN ORIGINAL SCORE MAX AVERY LICHTENSTEIN
EDITOR AND WRITER JAY ARTHUR STERRENBERG EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DAVID MENSCHEL CO-PRODUCER ADAM POGOFF
PRODUCER REBECCA RICHMAN COHEN www.untouchablefilm.com WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY DAVID FEIGE

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IN SHORT

Title	UNTOUCHABLE
Genre	Documentary
Length	105 minutes
World premiere	April 15, 2016 (Tribeca)
Awards	Albert Maysles New Documentary Director Award @ Tribeca

Written, Produced and Directed by DAVID FEIGE
Producer REBECCA RICHMAN COHEN
Co-Producer ADAM POGOFF
Executive Producer DAVID MENSCHER
Editor and Writer JAY ARTHUR STERREBERG
Directors of Photography ERIC PHILLIPS-HORST & NADIA HALLGREN
Original Music by MAX AVERY LICHTENSTEIN

Link to additional press materials www.untouchablefilm.com/press/#publicity

REVIEWS

News reviews as they are posted – and links to full articles available at:
<http://www.untouchablefilm.com/press/#reviews>

“Exceptional and important... one of the most impressive documentaries I have ever seen.”
—Jonathan Leaf, FORBES

After *The Hunting Ground* (the Oscar-nominated film about sexual assault on college campuses) comes *Untouchable*, David Feige's fearless new documentary about the issues surrounding child sexual abuse and the sex offender registry in America... It is a difficult, taboo subject that is handled sensitively by the filmmaker. The subjects and their views are treated with respect, while still allowing us access to the inner workings of this ongoing conflict. The film is balanced and well-paced, with Feige spending equal screen time on the many different facets of his complex argument... Each talking-head interview is brief but compelling. As well as detailing the extreme lengths many communities go to to protect their children, the film also looks at the many misguided, strict guidelines that Ron Book's laws, often named after abducted children, advocate. Feige combines his evidence to create a convincing case, without relying on sentiment or melodrama.

—Isabelle Milton, THE UPCOMING

“*Untouchable*” is the kind of movie that stays with you long after the credits roll and the lights come on in the theater. It's a documentary that makes each audience member reevaluate his or her moral compass... a truly remarkable example of three-dimensional storytelling.

—Sidney Butler, WASHINGTON SQUARE NEWS

Director David Feige ventures into one of the most difficult and emotional criminal justice issues of our time, the registration and restriction of sex offenders, and comes up with an eye-opening and powerful piece of work. He initially focuses on Ron Book, a multimillionaire lobbyist whose daughter's sexual abuse at the hands of the family nanny prompted a crusade against sexual predators, and that focus is indicative of the film's complexity; you feel so intensely for him, and his passion is so understandable, and yet his approach to this issue is, at the end of the day, wildly off-base. This becomes clear as Feige tells complementary and equally nuanced stories of survivors and perpetrators, most of them falling well outside the broad brush of these laws. This is an issue fraught with emotion yet beset by contradictions; Feige's thought-provoking film is properly complicated and illuminating.

—Jason Bailey, FLAVORWIRE

The debut feature documentary from David Feige, former attorney-turned-author and now filmmaker, is a thorough and thought-provoking examination of its theme. But the theme is not quite as straightforward as the viewer initially assumes. What starts out as an exploration of the highly emotive, hot-button topic of sexual offenses – particularly those in which children are the victims – turns out to be an indictment of the problems in the American legislative process and its dogmatic and draconian legal system.

— Wendy Ide, SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

ABOUT *UNTOUCHABLE*

Logline

Ricocheting from the halls of power to the cardboard homes of a marginalized pariah people, *UNTOUCHABLE* is a provocative look at sex offender laws around the country.

Synopsis

When the most powerful lobbyist in Florida discovers that the nanny has sexually abused his daughter, he harnesses his extraordinary political power to pass the toughest sex offender laws in the nation. *UNTOUCHABLE* chronicles his crusade and its impact on the lives of several of the 800,000 people forced to live under the kinds of laws he has championed. The film interweaves intimate portraits of men and women who have been branded sex offenders with the heartbreaking stories of those who have suffered sexual abuse. It is a film that pushes viewers toward an uncomfortable place, requiring them to walk in the shoes of those who have survived sexual abuse, but to still bear witness to the experiences of those we revile.

Directors Statement

I spent nearly 15 years as a public defender in New York City. Over those years, as I moved from Brooklyn to Harlem, and finally to being the Trial Chief of The Bronx Defenders, I watched the laws that governed sex offenders shift from harsh to draconian. With the expansion of registries, the imposition of residency restrictions and the clamor for community notification, it seemed as if every time there was a high-profile sex crime, politicians would race to the capitol to pass ever stricter and yet ever-broader laws, until the small group of scary individuals originally targeted became a small ocean of newly minted sex offenders.

In 2009, Miami-Dade County passed a residency restriction ordinance so stringent it essentially made the entire county off limits to men and women on the sex offender registry. The result was a colony of homeless registrants living under a bridge in the middle of Biscayne Bay. The ordinance re-ignited my interest in the subject and I began researching a film that would eventually tell real stories of people affected by these laws; that would dig deeply into the experience of living on the registry and the challenges of navigating the world branded as a sex offender; a film that could explain the politics of fear, expose a legal system gone awry and examine the complex relationship between victims and victimization.

It's my hope that *UNTOUCHABLE* is a film that tackles these confounding issues and pushes viewers toward an uncomfortable place, challenging viewers to walk in the shoes of those who have suffered sexual abuse, but to still bear witness to the experiences of those we revile. The film is not meant to advocate specific solutions, but rather to take us to places we seldom see, to let us live for a moment among a pariah people who have been pushed ever further toward the margins of our society, and in so doing, pose the question of whether the strategies we have adopted to deal with our profound fear of these people make sense, or make us safer.

– David Feige

FILMMAKER BIOS

David Feige *Director, Producer, Writer*

David is the former Trial Chief of The Bronx Defenders, the co-creator of the TNT series “Raising the Bar” and the author of “Indefensible: One Lawyer’s Journey Into the Inferno of American Justice.” He has written or produced over 75 hours of scripted television, as well as written about law for the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post and Slate. A nationally known lecturer on criminal law and trial tactics, David served as a Professor of Law and Director of Advocacy Programs for Seton Hall Law School. In 2004 he was awarded a Soros



Media Fellowship during which he wrote and produced a series of radio pieces about the criminal justice system. This is his first documentary feature.

Rebecca Richman Cohen *Producer*



Rebecca is an Emmy Award nominated documentary filmmaker and, since 2011, a Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School. Her directorial debut, *WAR DON DON* (HBO), won the special jury prize at the SXSW film festival. Salon called her second feature, *CODE OF THE WEST* (America ReFramed), “one of the best movies about America’s drug war.” Rebecca was profiled in *Filmmaker Magazine*’s 25 New Faces in Independent Film as an “up-and-comer poised to shape the next generation of independent film.” She is the founder and principal at Racing

Horse Productions. In addition to Harvard, she has taught classes at RISD, American University’s Human Rights Institute and Columbia University. She was a 2012 Soros Justice Fellow and a 2015 Fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society. Rebecca graduated from Brown University and Harvard Law School.

Adam Pogoff *Co-Producer*



Adam is a New York-based documentary filmmaker. He holds a Bachelors of Arts in ethnomusicology from Brown University. His first feature documentary film, *BRASSLANDS* (The Orchard, 2013), premiered at the Los Angeles Film Festival (2013) and was an Official Selection at CPH:DOX (2013), and International Film Festival Rotterdam (2014). Adam has associate produced documentary television for OWN and TV One, and traveled on assignment in India, Japan, the

Balkans and throughout the US producing documentary film and public radio features. He has been a member of Meerkat Media Collective since 2009.

Jay Arthur Sterrenberg *Editor & Writer*

Jay is a New York based filmmaker and editor whose work has appeared in theaters, on HBO, Arte, ESPN, and PBS. Documentary editing credits include Sundance premiering *Narco Cultura* (Cinedigm, 2013), Academy Award nominated *Redemption* (HBO, 2013), Emmy Nominated *Section 60: Arlington National Cemetery* (HBO, 2008), *Wartorn* (HBO, 2010). He served as consulting editor for Emmy Nominated *Good Fortune* (POV, 2009), Slamdance Grand Jury winner *Welcome to Pine Hill* (Oscilloscope, 2013) and *Five Star* (winner of the “Best Editing” award at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival).



Jay is also founder of the Meerkat Media Collective, an award winning arts collective and co-operatively run production company that prioritize shared authorship and skillsharing within their creative process. He edited, shot, produced and co-directed the collective’s two feature length documentaries: *Stages* (New Day Films, 2010) and *Brasslands* (The Orchard, 2013) which have screened around the world including Rotterdam, Los Angeles Film Festival, CPH:DOX and Thessaloniki.

David Menschel *Executive Producer*

David has helped to produce Academy Award winning and Emmy nominated documentary films like *Citizenfour*, *The Oath*, *Detropia*, and *War Don Don*. Before attending law school, he taught American history to high school students. He received a B.A. from Princeton University ('93) and a J.D. from Yale Law School ('02). He lives in Portland, Oregon.

Eric Phillips-Horst *Director of Photography*

Eric is a director, producer and cinematographer based in New York. Some of his featured work includes broadcast television (PBS, History Channel, Biography Channel, MTV, Nickelodeon, Arte France), documentary and independent festival circuits (Sundance, Tribeca, LA International, CPH:DOX, Rotterdam, Rooftop Films) and numerous online syndications (The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Huffington Post, TED, IndieWire). He was the principal cinematographer on *Stray Dog*, which A.O. Scott called “passionate cinema verité” and the Village Voice wrote “captures scenes of rare power.” He was also a director of photography on *Welcome to Pine Hill*, *Brasslands*, *Appropriate Behavior*, and *5Star*. Eric is a founding member of both Meerkat Media and the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective.

Nadia Hallgren *Director of Photography*

Nadia is an award winning filmmaker and cinematographer from the Bronx, New York with over a decade of experience working across 5 continents. She has DP'd numerous feature films including the Academy Award nominated and Sundance grand jury prize winner *Trouble the Water*, *Trapped*, *Citizen Koch*, *Tough Love*, *War Don Don*, and *The New Black*. Hallgren has also contributed photography to *Fahrenheit 9/11*, *Searching for Sugarman*, *The Hunting Ground*, *Suited*, *Southern Rites* and *How To Dance in Ohio*. Nadia has worked closely with top documentary filmmakers including, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Joe Berlinger, Morgan Spurlock, and recently co-directed a short film with Laura Poitras. Nadia specializes in cinema verite and was trained under the tutelage of Kirsten Johnson. Hallgren is a Sundance Fellow, a Cinereach fellow, and an alum of International Center of Photography. Nadia serves on the board of the Bronx Documentary Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to sharing photography and film with underserved Bronx Communities.

Max Avery Lichtenstein *Composer*

Max is a New York based film composer whose melodic sensibilities, understated arrangements and creative recording techniques infuse a special character into the movies his music accompanies. Max has written scores and songs for critically-acclaimed narrative features such as *The King*, *Jesus' Son*, and *Far From Heaven*. His scores can be heard in documentaries such as the Emmy-nominated feature *War Don Don* and the Academy Award-nominated short *Mondays at Racine*. Most recently, Max wrote the score for HBO's *Very Semi-Serious: A Partially Thorough Portrait of New Yorker Cartoonists*. In addition to composing for film, Max writes and performs his own songs under the name Camphor.

ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN THE FILM



Lauren Book is the founder and CEO of Lauren’s Kids, a not for profit organization that educates adults and youths about sexual abuse prevention. She has chronicled her own experience as a sexual assault survivor in two books “It’s Okay to Tell” and “Lauren’s Kingdom.”



Ron Book is one of the most powerful lobbyists in Florida, representing companies like AT&T AutoNation and the GEO group, as well as municipalities and charitable groups. He has been among the highest paid lobbyists in Florida for the last 10 years and is the driving force behind the movement to make it the toughest state in the nation for sex offenders.



Shawna Baldwin lives with her husband and children in McCloud Oklahoma. She has been on the sex offender registry for almost 15 years. Her crime: having consensual sex with an underage boy.



Patty Wetterling was, until recently, the chair of the board of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Twenty-six years ago, a masked man kidnapped her son Jacob at gunpoint while he was on his way back from the grocery store. Jacob has not been seen since. The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children Act, which established the first national sex offender registry, was named for her son.



Eric Janus is the dean of William & Mitchell School of Law in Minneapolis Minnesota and the author of “Failure to Protect: America’s Sexual Predator Laws and the Rise of the Preventive State”

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Recent high profile articles about sex offenders

Sarah Stillman, “The List” in the New Yorker (March 2016)

www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/03/14/when-kids-are-accused-of-sex-crimes

Abigail Jones, “The Hunt For Child Sex Abusers Is Happening In The Wrong Places”

Newsweek cover story (June 2015) about Lauren Book

www.newsweek.com/2015/07/03/hunt-child-sex-abusers-happening-wrong-places-345926.html

New York Times editorial board, “The Pointless Banishment of Sex Offenders” (Sept 2015)

www.nytimes.com/2015/09/08/opinion/the-pointless-banishment-of-sex-offenders.html
