

H.O.P.E. WAS HERE

A VOLUNTEER TRAVEL DOCUMENTARY



AUGUST 2014

THIRD MAN IN IN ASSOCIATION WITH CREATIVE VISIONS FOUNDATION WITH FUNDING FROM TRAVEL2CHANGE PRESENTS
A FILM BY MARK DENEGA "H.O.P.E. WAS HERE" SOUND DESIGN BY ANDREW DUNCAN WILL
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY EMILIO D. MILLER ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS TRAVIS KUMPH AND JUSTIN THOMPSON STORY DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN MATT TRANZILLO
PRODUCED BY MARK DENEGA AND MIKE LYONS INSPIRED BY THE BOOK PEACE OF ME BY TRAVIS KUMPH



VHX presents

H.O.P.E. WAS HERE

A film by Mark Denega

A **THIRD MAN IN** production in association with **CREATIVE VISIONS FOUNDATION**

Inspired by the book **PEACE OF ME: REFLECTIONS OF SERVICE AND SELF-DISCOVERY**
by Travis Kumph

AWARDS

Bronze Palm Award, Mexico International Film Festival
Award of Merit, The Indie Fest

FUNDING

Grant Winner, Travel2change

WEBSITES

hopewasherefilm.com
facebook.com/hopewasherefilm
@HOPEWasHereFilm

RELEASE

August 15, 2014 via VHX
58 mins / USA / 16:9 HD / Color / Stereo (English)

CONTACT

Mark Denega
Director/Producer
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THE FILM

H.O.P.E. WAS HERE is a story about the merits and pitfalls of short-term volunteering abroad, or “voluntourism.”

SYNOPSIS

Affluent college students from Boston embark on a one-week goodwill trip to the slums of Lima, Peru in this story about the phenomenon of volunteer vacations, which have fast become both a hallmark and a point of controversy for today’s socially conscious generation. In their attempts to teach English and rehab developmentally disabled children, the students must confront the reality of their work and whether or not it’s creating positive change. A fresh take on a classic moral dilemma, H.O.P.E. WAS HERE deals with the intersection of privilege and poverty by asking what it really means to help people.

CREW

Shot, Directed, and Edited by Mark Denega

Produced by Mark Denega and Mike Lyons

Associate Produced by Travis Kumph and Justin Thompson

Original Music by Emilio D. Miler

Sound Design by Andrew Duncan Will

Artwork by Matt Tranzillo

MARK DENEGA

Mark Denega is a Boston University film alum whose documentary web videos have earned multiple Telly Awards. This is his debut film.

DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

When production for H.O.P.E. WAS HERE began in Lima, Peru in March 2012, I waved my camera excitedly while dashing through the sprawling, overcrowded slums that surround the central, wealthier part of the capital. It was my first film, and like the do-good students I came to observe, I had uniformed aspirations of making a difference in the world.

Six days later, on the bus back to the airport, I was weeping.

I hope this film captures what I, and I suspect many of my peers, felt that night leaving Lima: intense inner struggle with how, or if, we can actually help people who need it, particularly in the context of the booming trend--and industry--of “voluntourism.”

-Mark Denega