

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



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 AND OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Bronze Palm Award, Mexico International Film Festival (MEX)

Award of Merit, The Indie Fest (CA)

Official Selection, Winter Film Awards (NY)

Official Selection, Llanberis Mountain Film Festival (UK)

Official Nominee, Best Documentary Score, Hollywood Music in Media Awards (CA)

FUNDING AND PARTNERS

Travel2change, Grant Winner

Poverty Cure

BU College of Communication

Newburgh Brewing Company

WEBSITES

hopewasherefilm.com

facebook.com/hopewasherefilm

@HOPEWasHereFilm

peaceofmebook.com

TECHNICAL SPECS

58 mins / USA / 16:9 HD / Color / Stereo (English)

CONTACT

Broadcast and Theatrical Sales

Jim Blanchflower

President/CEO, Eco Films

jimb@eco-films.com

Screenings, Press, and Other Inquiries

Mark Denega

Director/Producer, H.O.P.E. Was Here

mark@thirdman.in

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, Boston-based college students embark on a weeklong goodwill trip to the slums of Lima, Peru in this story about the phenomenon of volunteer vacations—also known as “voluntourism” or service trips—which have fast become both a hallmark of global citizenry and a point of controversy for socially conscious millennials. In their attempts to teach English and work with 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 an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose work has screened at international film festivals, on television, and across the web. In addition to the accolades earned for his debut feature, H.O.P.E. WAS HERE, Mark has won multiple Telly Awards. He is a Boston University film alum and now produces, shoots, and edits at MSG Networks in NYC.

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

COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY SCREENINGS AROUND THE WORLD

Boston University, Boston, MA

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Pomona College, Claremont, CA

LOVE Volunteers, Pukekohe, New Zealand (NZL)

International Volunteer Day, Lochristi, Belgium (BEL)

Youth Centre Domžale, Ljubljana, Slovenia (SVN)

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“Will generate some heated discussion.”

-Lindsey Kotowicz, Community Service Center, Boston University

“We screened H.O.P.E. Was Here to nearly 600 undergraduate students and the reception was outstanding. Those who had volunteered abroad before—and there were many—had a lot to share during the Q&A with Mark. Students were still talking about the film days later during their smaller discussion sections.”

-Micha Sabovik, Assistant Dean, BU College of Communication

“Subtly questions the value of short-term volunteering abroad and captures the fish-out-of-water feeling that many volunteers experience.”

-Ken Budd, Author, *The Voluntourist*

“In addition to some beautifully poetic moments, it thoughtfully questions the nature of privilege.”

-Dorian Tocker, Director, Everyday Saturday

“We showed H.O.P.E. Was Here to all of the participants at our [alternative break] retreat and it brought about a lot of discussion and reflection. There were definitely some people who felt that it was uncomfortable, but the general consensus was how eye-opening it was. The word transformative kept being thrown around, and I think the film really helped our participants in being more intentional and self-aware about the work they plan to do.”

-Nico Climaco, Alternative Break Trip Leader, James Madison University

“Awesome documentary! You captured so many things that I think people need to hear in the realm of international service. After watching I knew I had to screen it to our entire Global Brigades chapter, and it definitely sparked some good conversation.”

-Jenna Hanner, President, Global Brigades at University of Pittsburgh

“A thoughtful look at good intentions.”

-Peter Koutsogeorgas, Young Explorers Grantee, National Geographic

STILLS



PRODUCTION PHOTOS



Director Mark Denega (left) and Associate Producer Travis Kumph (right) scout locations for H.O.P.E. WAS HERE in the slums of Lima, Peru in March 2013. Photos by Anna Desousa.