

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)
Nominee, Best Documentary, Winter Film Awards (NY)
Nominee, Best Documentary Score, Hollywood Music in Media Awards (CA)
Official Selection, Llanberis Mountain Film Festival (UK)
Official Selection, Hoboken International Film Festival (NJ/NY)

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

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Screenings, Press, and Other Inquiries

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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, 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

PRESS

New Documentary Takes Thoughtful Look at Volunteering Abroad - Travel2change

Mark Denega and Voluntourism in Peru - Frayed Passport

Rethinking Voluntourism - Kiwanis International Magazine March 2015

Responsible Tourism in Peru - Responsible Travel

Class Notes - COMtalk, Boston University College of Communication Magazine

COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY SCREENINGS AROUND THE WORLD

NYU Alternative Breaks, New York, NY

Boston University College of Communication, Boston, MA

James Madison University Alternative Break Programs, Harrisonburg, VA

University of Pittsburgh Global Brigades, Pittsburgh, PA

Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Pomona College, Claremont, CA

Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada (CAN)

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

"We definitely understand how crucial it is for participants to have already started the process of contemplating the effects of their service on different communities and this film is a great launching board. The entire project can be really beneficial to our community here in reinforcing our purpose and hopefully offers an opportunity for reflection.”

-Anne-Marcelle Ngabirano, Operations Chair, NYU Alternative Breaks

“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

"Many college students living in the US have never seen real poverty and these volunteer travel trips are, at the very least, a way to open the eyes of people who may already be inclined to want to help others. Your film has done a great job to show both the positive and negative aspects of these trips and to open a dialogue about how they should be approached. It was also just entertaining and interesting to watch."

-Sarah Long, Researcher, LAMP For Haiti

"Watch H.O.P.E. Was Here if you have volunteered abroad or are interested in doing so. Great film that stresses both the good and bad of our impact."

-Livvy Evans, International Volunteer

"When I did AmeriCorps, we had a monthly seminar called "The Meaning of Service." It was led by a philosophy professor and we often did readings and then would reflect on how we were feeling about our service. I got a lot out of those sessions and the discussions almost always led back to the questions raised in this film. So it really resonated with me."

-Erin Maher, Public Health Associate, ICF International and Former AmeriCorps Member

"The editing and sound design are amazing and seamless. It flows so naturally."

-Max Belin, Independent Filmmaker

"Outstanding and worth your time. I loved the trip to Jhonny's house."

-William A. Taylor, Higher Education Administrator

"Perfection."

-Catherine Mack, Writer, responsibletravel.com

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.