

Charlotte Street Films Presents

The House I Live In

A film by Eugene Jarecki



Running Time: 105 minutes

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THE HOUSE I LIVE IN **PRODUCTION NOTES**

Over the past 40 years, the War on Drugs has cost more than \$1 trillion dollars and accounted for over 45 million arrests.

The US incarcerates almost 25% of the prisoners in the entire world although we have only 5% of the world's population.

Black individuals comprise 13% of the US population and 14% of drug users, yet they are 37% of the people arrested for drug offenses and 56% of those incarcerated for drug crimes.

As America remains embroiled in conflict overseas, a less visible war is taking place at home, costing countless lives, destroying families, and inflicting untold damage on future generations of Americans. Over forty years, the War on Drugs has accounted for more than 45 million arrests, made America the world's largest jailer, and damaged poor communities at home and abroad. Yet for all that, drugs are cheaper, purer, and more available today than ever before.

Filmed in more than twenty states, THE HOUSE I LIVE IN captures heart-wrenching stories from individuals at all levels of America's War on Drugs. From the dealer to the grieving mother, the narcotics officer to the senator, the inmate to the federal judge, the film offers a penetrating look inside America's longest war, offering a definitive portrait and revealing its profound human rights implications.

While recognizing the seriousness of drug abuse as a matter of public health, the film investigates the tragic errors and shortcomings that have meant it is more often treated as a matter for law enforcement, creating a vast machine that feeds largely on America's poor, and especially on minority communities. Beyond simple misguided policy, the film examines how political and economic corruption have fueled the war for forty years, despite persistent evidence of its moral, economic, and practical failures.

CHARLOTTE STREET FILMS presents an EDGEWOOD WAY production A BBC/ITVS/ZDF co-production a film by EUGENE JARECKI "THE HOUSE I LIVE IN" editor PAUL FROST music ROBERT MILLER executive producers JOSLYN BARNES, NICK FRASER, DANNY GLOVER producers EUGENE JARECKI MELINDA SHOPSIN written & directed by EUGENE JARECKI.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have been thinking about making this film for over 20 years.

I first met Nannie Jeter, a prominent character in the film, when I was just a few days old coming home from the hospital. From that day on, she became a second mother to me, and her children and grandchildren a second family. I am white and Nannie and her family are black, and growing up in the wake of the civil rights movement, I think I imagined we were all living in a post-racial America – a place of greater equality and justice. Yet, as we grew older, our paths diverged – where I found privilege and opportunity, Nannie's family found a new kind of struggle that re-emerged with a vengeance for black Americans in the post civil rights era.

When I asked Nannie what had happened, she felt that it was chiefly the rise of drugs in America that had ravaged the lives of people in her family. But the more I talked to experts in drug abuse, the more I heard the same thing – that whatever damage drugs do to people has been made far worse by the laws America has enacted to stop drugs. Suddenly, the so-called “war on drugs” began rising into view as something I had to investigate and better understand. I wanted to know what it was that had most fundamentally hurt people I love.

With this in mind, I began interviewing people across the country whose families had been pulled into a vicious cycle of drugs and the criminal justice system. Alongside dealers, users and their family members, I spoke to police, wardens, judges, medical experts, and others to begin to understand how it was that America came to launch a war against her own people.

I interviewed experts who broadened my understanding of the subject in ways I wanted to share with others. I learned that drug abuse is ultimately a matter of public health that has instead been treated as an opportunity for law enforcement and an expanding criminal justice system. I spoke with scientists desperate for a drug policy based on data rather than rhetoric. I saw how this misguided approach has helped make America the world's largest jailer, imprisoning her citizens at a higher rate per capita than any other nation on earth, and how the drug war has become America's longest war, now entering its 40th year and having cost more than a trillion dollars.

For people to understand the scale and urgency of this crisis, I felt that facts, figures, and expert testimony weren't enough, so I sought out individuals whose lives were directly and deeply shaped by the war on drugs, hoping their stories would reveal some of the everyday tragedies left in its wake. Ultimately, with my beloved Nannie Jeter as its inspiration, THE HOUSE I LIVE IN grew into a larger examination of race, class and capitalism in America -- of a tragically misguided system that preys upon those least fortunate among us to sustain itself.

Eugene Jarecki, New York NY

WAR ON DRUGS STATISTICS

- Over the past 40 years, the War on Drugs has cost more than \$1 trillion dollars and accounted for more than 45 million arrests.
- Today, there are more people behind bars for nonviolent drug offenses than were incarcerated for *all* crimes, violent or otherwise, in 1970.
- In 2009 nearly 1.7 million people were arrested in the US for nonviolent drug charges.
- Between 1973 and 2009, the nation's prison population grew by 705 percent, resulting today in more than 1 in 100 adults behind bars.
- To return to the nation's incarceration rates of 1970, America would have to release 4 out of every 5 currently held prisoners.
- The U.S. accounts for 5% of the world's population and 25% of its prison population.
- 1 in every 8 state employees works for a corrections agency.
- It costs an average of \$78.95 per day to keep an inmate locked up, more than 20 times the cost of a day on probation.
- In a 2010 survey, 8.9% of Americans over the age of 12 had used illicit drugs in the past month.
- Of the 1,841,182 arrests for drug law violations in 2007, 82.5% were for possession and only 17.5% were for the sale or manufacture of a drug.
- Marijuana arrests make up more than half of all the drug arrests in the US, and nearly 90% of those are charges for possession only.
- African-Americans make up roughly 13% of the US population and 14% of its drug users. Yet, they represent 56% of those incarcerated for drug crimes.
- Since 1986, though crack and powder cocaine are chemically the same, there has been a 100 to 1 disparity in the sentencing of crack cocaine vs. powder cocaine offenses. This has accounted for a vast disproportion of crack users going to prison over the past 25 years. In 2010, after decades of protest from judges and activists, this disparity was reduced to 18:1.

CHARACTER I.D.'S

Michelle Alexander is a civil rights litigator and author of *The New Jim Crow*.

Shanequa Benitez lives in Cromwell Towers, a housing project in Yonkers, New York.

The Honorable Mark Bennett is a U.S. District Court Judge Sioux City, Iowa.

Charles Bowden is a journalist covering drug war violence on the US-Mexico border.

Mike Carpenter is Chief of Security at Lexington Corrections Center, Oklahoma.

Larry Cearly is the Marshall of Magdalena, New Mexico.

Eric Franklin is Warden of Lexington Corrections Center, Oklahoma.

Maurice Haltiwanger is currently serving 20 years for crack cocaine distribution.

Dr. Carl Hart is a tenured Professor of Clinical Neuroscience at Columbia University.

Nannie Jeter lives in New Haven Connecticut, where she first met the film's director when he was a child.

Anthony Johnson is a former small-time drug dealer from Yonkers, New York.

Gabor Maté is a Hungarian-born physician specializing in the treatment of addiction.

Mark Mauer is director of the Sentencing Project and one of the country's leading criminal justice experts.

Richard Lawrence Miller is an American historian and expert on the history of drug laws.

Charles Ogletree is the Jesse Climenko Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and a former academic advisor to Barack and Michelle Obama.

Kevin Ott is currently serving life without parole on drug charges at the Lexington Correctional Center in Lexington Oklahoma.

Susan Randall has worked as a private investigator in Vermont for over a decade.

David Simon is creator of the acclaimed HBO series *The Wire*.

Julie Stewart is president and founder of Families Against Mandatory Minimums, a national organization working to change mandatory sentencing laws.

Dennis Whidbee is a former drug dealer and the father of Anthony Johnson.

FILMMAKER BIOS

Eugene Jarecki (Director, Writer & Producer) is an award-winning filmmaker, public thinker, and author. His recent film *REAGAN*, which examines the life and legacy of the 40th president, received wide critical acclaim after premiering at the Sundance Film Festival and on HBO for the occasion of Reagan's 100th birthday. In 2010, Jarecki worked alongside Morgan Spurlock and Alex Gibney as director of a documentary film inspired by the bestselling book *FREAKONOMICS*. Earlier that year, he directed *Move Your Money*, a short online film encouraging Americans to move their money from "too big to fail" banks to well-rated community banks and credit unions. The film went viral, becoming an online sensation with over 7 million hits in just its first three weeks online.

Jarecki's 2006 film, *WHY WE FIGHT*, winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and a Peabody Award, has been broadcast in over forty countries and released theatrically in over 250 US cities. In 2009, Simon & Schuster published Jarecki's acclaimed book, *The American Way of War: Guided Missiles, Misguided Men, and a Republic in Peril*, which explores how militarism disfigures America's foreign and defense policies as well as her broader national priorities.

Jarecki's prior film, *THE TRIALS OF HENRY KISSINGER* was released in over 130 U.S. cities and won the 2002 Amnesty International Award, was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award and has been broadcast in over thirty countries. In 2002, *TRIALS* was selected to launch BBC's prestigious digital channel BBC4 and the Sundance Channel's documentary division.

In addition to his work in film, Jarecki is also a thinker on international affairs, and has appeared on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, *Charlie Rose*, *The Colbert Report*, FOX News, CNN, PBS NOW, BBC World, NPR, MTV, *The Tavis Smiley Show*, Current TV, Clear Channel, Pacifica Radio, and Sirius Radio as well as having been featured in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Financial Times, the Daily News, the Village Voice, the New Yorker, the New York Observer, Vanity Fair, GQ, and Newsday.

Melinda Shopsin (Producer) began her production experience working at Radical Media in London. She served as Production Coordinator for *THE TRIALS OF HENRY KISSINGER* (2002) and as head of development for the 2005 film *WHY WE FIGHT* (winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and a Peabody Award). She Co-produced *REAGAN* (2011) as well as *FREAKONOMICS* (2010) and currently serves as Executive In Charge of Production for Charlotte Street Films.

Robert Miller (Composer) is a prolific composer of film, concert, and commercial music. His distinctive style has made its mark on over 1800 commercials, a growing body of film scores, as well as works for concert and the stage. Over the years, his talent and passion have garnered him six CLIO awards, an AICP award and three Emmy nominations. His film work includes the Lionsgate/Weinstein company release, *TEETH*; the 2005 Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner, *WHY WE FIGHT*; the 2005 Tribeca Film Festival Best Feature winner, *RED DOORS*; His newest film work includes the score for Richard Bowen's *CINDERELLA MOON*, a cinematic re-telling of the original

Cinderella story from 768 A.D. China; HBO Films' REAGAN, directed by Eugene Jarecki; and another fruitful collaboration with Jon Hock on THE REZ, the story of an American Indian basketball star named Shoni Schimmel that premiered at the 2011 Tribeca Film Festival.

Paul Frost (Editor) is an editor working in narrative and documentary film as well as television. Beginning in 2009, Paul worked on a number of Jarecki's projects, including MOVE YOUR MONEY (featured on the Huffington Post and The Colbert Report), FREAKONOMICS, and REAGAN. Paul got his start in documentary working on DOUBLETIME with director Stephanie Johnes. He has also worked on a handful of narrative films, including one from legendary auteur, Melvin Van Peebles. Prior to his work in the US, Paul lived in Germany for a year where he worked on syndicated television, capping off his international experience by presenting the German Bundestag with a documentary short he produced and edited, which is included among the German National Archives. Paul's television editing includes work for the Style Network, the Discovery Channel, and Logo.

Nick Fraser (Executive Producer) has been editor of BBC Storyville since it started in 1997. His published works include a biography of Eva Peron and *The Voice of Modern Hatred*, a study of extremism and race hate in contemporary Europe. He is proud of being a contributing editor of Harper's Magazine in New York, "the best magazine in the world", in which his essays about the BBC, Isaiah Berlin and anti-Americanism have been published. In recent years films shown on Storyville have won many major awards, including an Oscar, a Grand Jury prize at Sundance, multiple Griersons and Emmys. A sampling of films Fraser has produced while at Storyville are as follows: CONTROL ROOM, THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEVISED, WHY WE FIGHT, THE LIBERACE OF BAGHDAD, ENRON, THE TRIALS OF HENRY KISSINGER, THE AMERICAN RULING CLASS, PEACE ONE DAY, and NEVERLAND: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE SYMBIONESE LIBERATION ARMY.

Joslyn Barnes (Executive Producer) is a screenwriter and Emmy nominated producer. She is the author or co-author of numerous commissioned screenplays for feature films including the upcoming epic TOUSSAINT and the award-winning film BÀTTU, directed by Cheikh Oumar Sissoko (Mali), which she Associate Produced. Among the films Barnes has executive produced or produced since co-founding Louverture Films are the award-winning features BAMAKO and SALT OF THIS SEA, Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner and Oscar and Emmy nominated TROUBLE THE WATER, Oscar shortlisted SOUNDTRACK FOR A REVOLUTION, Bollywood thriller DUM MAARO DUM, and the award-winning BLACK POWER MIXTAPE. Barnes also wrote and directed the short film PRANA for CinéTévé France as part of an internationally distributed series of 30 short films to promote awareness of environmental issues.

Danny Glover (Executive Producer) is the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Louverture Films. In addition to being one of the most acclaimed actors of our time, with a career spanning 30 years from PLACES IN THE HEART, THE COLOR PURPLE, THE LETHAL WEAPON series and the award-winning TO SLEEP WITH ANGER, Danny Glover has also Produced, Executive Produced and financed numerous projects for film, television and theatre. Among these are GOOD FENCES, 3 AM, FREEDOM SONG, GET ON THE BUS, DEADLY VOYAGE, BUFFALO SOLDIERS, THE SAINT OF FORT

WASHINGTON and TO SLEEP WITH ANGER, as well as the series *Courage* and *America's Dream*. Since co-founding Louverture Films, Glover has executive produced BAMAHO, AFRICA UNITE, TROUBLE THE WATER, SALT OF THIS SEA, SOUNDTRACK FOR A REVOLUTION, DUM MAARO DUM, and the forthcoming BLACK POWER MIXTAPE and THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MCKINLEY NOLAN. He has associate produced THE TIME THAT REMAINS and the 2010 Cannes Palme d'Or winner UNCLE BOONMEE WHO CAN RECALL HIS PAST LIVES.

CREDITS

A film by	Eugene Jarecki
Executive Producers	Nick Fraser Joslyn Barnes Danny Glover
Music	Robert Miller
Editor	Paul Frost
Produced by	Eugene Jarecki Melinda Shopsin
Written and Directed by	Eugene Jarecki
Lead Producer	Melinda Shopsin
Executive Producers	Roy Ackerman David Alcaro
Producers	Samuel Cullman Christopher St. John
Archival Producer	Daniel DiMauro
Associate Producer	Shirel Kozak
Consulting Producer	Alexandra Johnes
Production Manager	Kara Elverson
Directors of Photography	Sam Cullman Derek Hallquist
Technical Supervisor	Joe Beirne

Music Supervisor	John McCullough
Additional Editing	Simon Barker Anoosh Tertzakian
Key Advisor	Claudia Becker
Production Designer	Joe Posner
Story Development	Christopher St. John
Co-Producers	Kathleen Fournier Alessandra Meyer
Additional Camera	Etienne Sauret Joe di Gennaro Christopher Li Christopher St. John Matt Boyd Taylor Krauss David Sperling Kathryn Westergaard Lili Chin Joe Posner Robert Hatch-Miller
Sound Recordists	Matthew Freed Timothy McConville Arthur R. Jaso
Head Researcher	Dan DiMauro
Researchers	Shirel Kozak Christopher St. John Meg Charlton Anoosh Tertzakian Patrick O'Brien Nora Colie Julia Simpson
First Assistant Editor	Anoosh Tertzakian
Second Assistant Editors	Robert Hatch-Miller Patrick O'Brien
Field Correspondents	Melinda Shopsin Christopher St. John Kara Elverson

Creative Consultants	Peter Schmidt-Nowara Ed Eglin
Production Assistants	Patrick O'Brien Ben Cortes Sophia Figuereo Akil Gibbons
Production Intern	Isabelle Fraser Ian Greenspan
Motion Graphics	Joe Posner
Post Production Supervisor	Melinda Shopsin
Post Production Services	Postworks
Colorist/Online Editor	Benjamin Murray
Assistant Online Editors	Ryan McMahon
Re-recording Mixer	Christopher Koch, CAS
Audio Post Assistants	Randy Matuszewski Eric Distefano
Dialog Editor	Ron Bochar
Transcription Services	Irina Grobman Karen Holmes Liza Mueller Scott Rogowsky Rachel Young
Legal Counsel	The Law Firm of Rosalind Lichter
E&O Legal Counsel	F. Robert Stein
Production Insurance	Kent Hamilton Mike Groner Megan Medrano
Production Accountants	Hermes Laoudas Yelena Kirzhner Tim Wells

Piano and Orchestration	Robert Miller
Violin	Jonathan Dinklage
Nylon Acoustic Guitar	Peter Calo
Music Mixers/Engineers	Chris Kedzie Nick Tuttle
Music Production Coordinator	Megan Kate Campbell
Additional Score	Pete Miser
Commissioning Editor for BBC Storyville	Nick Fraser
Commissioning Editor for ZDF/ARTE	Hans Robert Eisenhauer
Executive Producer for ITVS	Sally Jo Fifer
Commissioning Editor for SVT	Axel Arno
In Association with	Aljazeera Documentary Channel VPRO Louverture NHK SBS-TV Australia
BBC Business Affairs	Jason Emerton
ZDF/arte Production Manager	Christian Schwalbe
Vice President of Programming: ITVS	Claire Aguilar
Director of Production: ITVS	Richard O'Connell
Senior Producer: NHK	Imamura Ken-ichi
Aljazeera Head of Production	Montaser Marai
VPRO Head of Documentary Acquisition	Nathalie Windhorst