

michael sheridan
filmmaker and educator
Founder and Director, Community Supported Film

Biography

Michael Sheridan is a filmmaker, educator and activist whose experimental and documentary films address issues of social and economic development and the tipping point between order and chaos. For nearly 20 years Michael has engaged the public in stories from Asia, Africa and the Americas about people in poor and developing communities challenging the status quo and struggling to improve their lives.

Michael co-founded Oxfam America's documentary production unit in the mid 90s and has sought to break new ground in the effective use of media to educate and change policy. He has worked on media campaigns for Save the Children-UK, Bread the World, Pact and many other national and international organizations.

Michael's documentaries have aired on PBS, ABC, TLC, and Discovery. The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston Cyberarts Festival, GASP and many other galleries have exhibited his experimental work. The National Education Media Network, the Columbia International Film and Video Festival, the United Nations Association Film Festival, and EarthVision have screened and awarded his films.

Michael has taught documentary and experimental filmmaking for 15 years at the community and university level including at Northeastern, MassArt and the former Boston Film and Video Foundation. He teaches a seminar in using video for education and advocacy at the Kennedy School. Michael has an MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art. During the 2007-08 academic year he was as Senior Fulbright Scholar in Indonesia teaching and working on new films.

In 2009 he began work on a documentary, *Brewing Tea in a Kettle of War*, on the role of economic development in peacemaking from the perspective of Afghan villagers. To accomplish this Michael is training Afghans in documentary filmmaking. From this work developed Community Supported Film an organization dedicated to strengthening documentary storytelling capacity in countries where the dissemination of objective and accurate information is essential to stabilization and development. Locals are trained in documentary filmmaking to tell stories from their perspective that can influence local and international views on sustainable paths to a more peaceful and equitable world.

You can learn more about Michael's work at www.sheridanworks.com

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