

# PREVIOUSLY ON "MEDIA EDGE" (January-February, 2010)

## Episode #251 (February 27-March 1)

### Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

Taped in late 2005 before Peak Moment began, this conversation feels eerily prescient about the effects of the 2008 financial collapse. William Stewart reflects on the shadow side of the fossil fuel bonanza, which enabled hyper-individualism and mobility that have shredded our connections to community and place, along with increased violence and dysfunction. Likening our oil-dependent culture to an addict who must first bottom out, he suggests there may be a silken lining after collapse: the possibility of more communal and connected ways of life.

### Segment 2 -- "The July War"

A powerful look at the 2006 Lebanon War (the July War) and its devastating impact on Lebanon's people, economy, and environment. This film, by Brandon Jourdan and Francesca Caporali, examines the reasons behind the war and its impact on all parties involved. (From the "Nothing is Safe" series by Deep Dish TV.)

### Segment 3 -- "Leaving"

Threatened with kidnap and facing escalating and horrific violence in their neighborhood, a Mandaean family from Baghdad reaches the difficult decision to leave their home of more than 30 years and go to live in Damascus. The film documents the painful process of selling all their goods and dividing up their house so it can be rented out and finally it records their dangerous road trip to the Syrian border and their arrival to their new, temporary home.

## Episode #250 (February 20-22)

### Segment 1 -- "Amy Goodman -- Breaking the Sound Barrier"

In an especially poignant talk during a visit to Sacramento on November 21, 2009, "Democracy Now!" host Amy Goodman weaves moving stories about her mother (who passed away in October 2009) with the themes of her new book, "Breaking the Sound Barrier." The video recording of this event was a joint production of Media Edge and Access Sacramento.

### Segment 2 -- "Rethink Afghanistan"

At a time when the United States faces a damaged reputation abroad and an economic catastrophe at home, expanding the war in Afghanistan without debating a comprehensive exit strategy is a serious mistake. This version of "Rethink Afghanistan" is a recently expanded, full-length documentary focusing on the key issues surrounding this war.

## Episode #249 (February 13-15)

### Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"

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### Segment 2 -- "An Evening of Music and Comedy: Dave Lippman"

On January 16, satirical songwriter and comedian Dave Lippman brought his "viciously funny" show to the California Stage in Sacramento. A Media Edge crew was there to record this hilarious performance of "Wild Bill Bailout, the Bard of the Bankers." Audiences have enjoyed the post-corporate comic stylings of Lippman, an

anti-war troubadour who afflicts the complacent, takes the air out of the windbags of the week, de-distorts history, and updates worn-out songs with parody and thrust.

### **Segment 3 -- "A Candle for the Shabandar Cafe"**

Founded in 1917, the Shabandar Cafe in Al Mutanabbi Street in the heart of the old centre of Baghdad, was a cultural landmark, where generations of Iraqis came to discuss and debate literature and politics - a living repository of Iraqi intellectual history and one of the last places where people could gather to exchange ideas. Director Emad Ali had shot most of his film by the end of 2006, but in March 2007, a massive car bomb destroyed the Shabandar Cafe, all the bookshops on Al Mutanabbi Street and killed and wounded scores of people. Days later, Baghdad's poets and artists held a wake in the ruins of the street they loved so much and Emad took a small camera and went back to film. As he was leaving he was attacked, his camera stolen and he was shot in the legs and chest, and his own story is an epilogue to his film about the Shabandar Cafe and Mutanabbi Street - before and after they were destroyed.

## **Episode #248 (February 6-8)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Militainment, Inc." (Part 2)**

Militainment, Inc. offers a fascinating, disturbing, and timely glimpse into the militarization of American popular culture, examining how U.S. news coverage has come to resemble Hollywood film, video games, and "reality television" in its glamorization of war. Mobilizing an astonishing range of media examples - from news anchors' idolatry of military machinery to the impact of government propaganda on war reporting - the film asks: How has war taken its place in the culture as an entertainment spectacle? And how does presenting war as entertainment affect the ability of citizens to evaluate the necessity and real human costs of military action?

### **Segment 2 -- "SHADA"**

A photographic journey with Haiti's Forgotten Children by Sacramento area photographer and activist Leisa Faulkner.

### **Segment 3 -- "Baghdad Days"**

Hiba Bassem, a young woman from Kirkuk, returns to Baghdad after the war, to finish her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts. The film is a diary of her year as she tries to find a place to live, looks for work, graduates from college, deals with family problems and struggles to come to terms with her position as a woman on her own. This film won a New Horizon silver award at the Al Jazeera International Film Festival in Doha (2006) and a golden award at the Rotterdam Arab Film Festival (2006).

## **Episode 247 (Jan. 30 - Feb. 1)**

### **Segment 1: "Militainment, Inc." (Part 1)**

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### **Segment 2: "Oil, Smoke and Mirrors"**

This film offers a sobering critique of our perceived recent history, of our present global circumstances, and our shared future in light of imminent, under-reported and mis-represented energy production constraints. Through a series of candid, informed and articulate interviews, "Oil, Smoke and Mirrors" argues that the bizarre events surrounding the 9/11 attacks, and the equally bizarre prosecution of the so-called "war on terror", can be more credibly understood in the wider context of an imminent and critical divergence between available global oil supply and global oil demand.

### **Segment 3: "Citizens Arrest Warrant"**

For years, American health insurance companies have been more concerned about corporate greed than patient need. Insurance executives have lined their pockets with millions of dollars, while premium costs have skyrocketed three times faster than wages and four times faster than general inflation. On October 5, 2009, Sacramento citizens came together to demand real reform - quality, affordable healthcare for all Americans, with the choice of a strong public option - and an end to the insurance industry's harmful, abusive practices, calling for the arrest of Wellpoint CEO, Angela Braly, a key player in the health insurance industry.

## **Episode #246 (January 23-35)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Break the Siege on Gaza"**

Although the war on Gaza ended, its residents continue to suffer the aftermaths and ongoing siege. Member of the British Parliament George Galloway was recently in Gaza, and shared his experience and thoughts with a large Sacramento audience on May 22, 2009. Recorded by a Media Edge crew.

### **Segment 2 -- "Yes We Can, Can"**

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, blending inspirational images with the music of Maria Muldaur.

### **Segment 3 -- "Generation M"**

Despite the achievements of the women's movement over the past four decades, misogyny remains a persistent force in American culture. In this important documentary, Thomas Keith, professor of philosophy at California State University-Long Beach, looks specifically at misogyny and sexism in mainstream American media, exploring how negative definitions of femininity and hateful attitudes toward women get constructed and perpetuated at the very heart of our popular culture.

## **Episode #245 (January 16-18)**

### **Segment 1 -- "The Hollywood Librarian"**

Using the context of American movies, this film holds surprises for people who think they know what librarians do. American film contains hundreds of examples of librarians and libraries on screen -- some positive, some negative, some laughable and some dead wrong. Dozens of interviews of real librarians are interwoven with movie clips of cinematic librarians and serve as transitions between the themes of censorship, intellectual freedom, children and librarians, pay equity and funding issues, and the value of reading.

### **Segment 2 -- "Make a Better World"**

A music video by Media Edge producer Michael Stavros, blended with the music of Maria Muldaur.

### **Segment 3 -- "Let the Show Begin"**

This film documents a 5 day international short film festival held in Baghdad in extremely difficult circumstances in September 2005. The young organizers of the event are determined to do something constructive and to assert a sense of creativity in a situation where daily violence traumatizes and paralyzes people.

## **Episode #244 (January 9-11)**

### **Segment 1 -- "Peak Moment"**

Kris Holstrom's off-grid permaculture farm at 9000 feet high is living proof that food can be grown nearly anywhere. Managing with a very short growing season and water constraints, she and her interns have created magic. Tour the sun-warmed, insulated greenhouse where greens are grown year-round. It's home to a waterfall and pond with fish, trellises for grapes and seedlings, artwork for the soul, and mushrooms growing from straw. The outside garden offers herbs, berries, greens and prayer flags. Kris sees herself as a steward of the land, and delights in sharing it with kids and interns in a spirit of love and reciprocity.

**Segment 2 -- "Dr. Nabil"**

A gentle and committed surgeon, with literary talents, works at a small understaffed Baghdad hospital, which suffers from lack of equipment and medicines. While many other doctors have been killed or have fled the country in fear of their lives, Dr. Nabil has decided to stay. He worries, though, about the effect that the atmosphere of violence and brutality is having on his young son.

**Segment 3 -- "August Peace Event 2009"**

"No more Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis" on the 64th Annual Day of Remembrance and Action. This annual event -- sponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility -- featured the story of Sadako, presentation of origami cranes, essays read by PSR essay finalists Monika Robbins and Ryan Suleiman, music, and more.

**Episode #243 (January 2-4)****Segment 1 -- "First Lesson in Peace"**

The Jewish-Arab conflict through the eyes of a six-year-old girl.

**Segment 2 -- "Reel Bad Arabs"**

This devastating tour of the American cinematic landscape reveals an astonishing and persistent pattern of slanderous Arab stereotyping. Reel Bad Arabs exposes a long love affair with Arab villainy and buffoonery in American films.

**Segment 3 -- "A Stranger in His Own Country"**

Thousands of Iraqis have been displaced by sectarian violence and have had to seek refuge in other parts of the country. This is a portrait of Abu Ali, a refugee from Kirkuk living in a displaced person's camp on the outskirts of Kerbala. He is a peace-loving man with a keen sense of justice, trying to find a way to survive and provide for his family in the difficult circumstances in which they now find themselves.