

LOUIS ALVAREZ, ANDREW KOLKER, PETER ODABASHIAN
Producer-Directors

Louis Alvarez, Andrew Kolker, and Peter Odabashian have over the past 25 years created some of the most honored and critically praised documentaries on American life and culture. Twice winners of both the Peabody Award and the duPont-Columbia Journalism Award, their most recent project is *The Anti-Americans (a hate/love relationship)*, a look at European attitudes towards the US post-9/11. The film will be broadcast on PBS as part of the upcoming *America at a Crossroads* series in 2007.

Previously, the three made *Small Ball*, a clear-eyed road movie for PBS that follows a California Little League team on its epic journey to the Little League World Series, and *Sex:female*, a fresh and funny look at female sexuality as related by the woman next door. This feature-length documentary was shown on the Oxygen network throughout 2003 and has become an international film-festival favorite.

In 2001 Kolker Alvarez and Odabashian garnered attention for their landmark *People Like Us: Social Class in America*, the first American television documentary to explicitly look at how social class affects American society. Called "pointed and witty" by the *New York Times*, the two-hour special appeared on the PBS core schedule and was a finalist for the 2003 duPont-Columbia Journalism Awards. The *Baltimore Sun* called it "landmark television. It will make you smile even as it changes the way you see the world." It was awarded the 2003 Henry Hampton Award by the Council on Foundations.

In 1999 the three producers made *MOMS*, a poignant and hilarious look at motherhood starring a cast of over 40 mothers who dish about what one calls "the hardest job in the world-raising children". The film has become a staple on Mother's Day broadcasts worldwide. Their previous credits include *Vote for Me -- Politics in America*, a four-hour examination of politics, politicians, and voters that the *Chicago Tribune* called "the standout in a season of documentaries," *USA Today* said was "pure Americana, merry and marvelous and authentic" and that the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* called "a masterpiece -- unmatched by anything you'll see this political season in the breadth and depth with which it makes you laugh, makes you enraged, and -- most remarkable of all -- makes you care about politics." *Vote for Me* was awarded the George Foster Peabody Award, the duPont-Columbia Journalism Award, and a News and Public Affairs Emmy Award in 1997. The series was co-produced with Paul Stekler.

Kolker and Alvarez won their first Peabody in 1988 for *American Tongues*, about the differences in the way Americans speak and the attitudes people have about regional and social accents. It launched the PBS anthology series *POV*, and since then has become something of a classic. *The Washington Post* described it as "celebratory and swell, right down to the closing credits" and *The Los Angeles Times* wrote that "this is the perfect example of a film that begins with a simple-enough subject and expands it seductively -- it's enthralling."

In 1993 Kolker and Alvarez received the duPont-Columbia Journalism Award for their documentary *Louisiana Boys -- Raised on Politics*, a rollicking look at Bayou State

politics that *The Washington Post* called "as insightful as it is entertaining...the first documentary within memory to see the American political process for what it really is -- cultural anthropology." Other work includes *L.A. Is It with John Gregory Dunne*, a meditation on the culture of Los Angeles, and *The Japanese Version*, an exploration of what happens when American popular culture gets to Japan. Shorter works include *The News Doctors*, a look at TV news consultants for the ITVS/PBS series *Signal to Noise*, and a series of short films on permanent exhibit at the Ellis Island Museum of Immigration in New York. At present, they are creating a series of PSAs about major American novels, produced under the sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Arts' *The Big Read* initiative.

Before joining Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker, Peter Odabashian worked as an Emmy award winning editor. He has edited more than 20 documentaries and has been a sound editor on over 17 feature films from *REDS* to *Carlito's Way*. In 1984, he won a Golden Reel Award for best feature sound editing for the film *Places In The Heart*. In 1987, he cut *The Beat Generation* which was selected for screening at the Berlin Film Festival. From 1988 to 1992 he edited three films for *The American Experience*, one for *NOVA* and one for *Frontline*, all produced by Irv Drasnin.