

LOUIS ALVAREZ & ANDREW KOLKER
Producer-Directors

Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker, twice winners of both the Peabody Award and the duPont-Columbia Journalism Award, have over the past 25 years produced critically praised documentaries on American life and culture. Their most recently completed project is *Sex:female*, a fresh and funny look at female sexuality as related by the woman next door. This feature-length documentary will be shown on the Oxygen network in June 2003.

In 2001 Alvarez and Kolker 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 Kolker and Alvarez 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." Seen on prime time PBS, *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.

Alvarez and Kolker 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 *P.O.V.* 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 Alvarez and Kolker 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." *Louisiana Boys* was produced with Paul Stekler and broadcast on *P.O.V.* Other work includes *L.A. Is It with John Gregory Dunne*, a meditation on the culture of Los Angeles that *Entertainment Weekly* called "deft, sharp and pointed... one of *Travels'* best hours"; 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.

Current projects for Alvarez and Kolker include *Small Ball*, a portrait of Little League for PBS, and *Palimpsest: Cairo*, an interactive web/DVD documentary on Egypt and the West.