Critical Acclaim For
P.O.V.'s “WAGING A LIVING”
By Roger Weisberg

“An eye-opening, often heartbreaking documentary about America’s working poor. . . .
Waging a Living is presented with [Roger Weisberg’s] customary empathy and willingness
to allow his indefatigable subjects to speak for themselves.”

“By the end of the film, we feel more admiration for [the subjects] than pity. Far from degrading
them, the intimacy of the camera reveals the complexity of people often invisible to the more
moneyed mainstream. . . . The subjects themselves tell their stories eloquently . . .”
— Amy Finnerty, The Wall Street Journal

“This isn’t ‘warts-and-all’ TV, but ‘soul-and-all’ TV. . . . these hard lives assume a certain dignity
and even nobility. That's the miracle of this kind of work when it's done well. . . . None of these
people whine, but they do worry - ferociously - and they do weep, for themselves and for their
misbegotten fates. Watch Waging a Living and you just might, too.”
— Verne Gay, Newsday

“Affecting.”

“A forthright documentary. . . . Through sensitive, in-depth profiles of four workers, Weisberg
drives home the point that hard-working men and women with fulltime jobs find themselves and
their families trapped in a seemingly endless cycle of poverty.”
— Kevin Crust, Los Angeles Times

“Waging a Living puts a human face on the Sisyphean task facing the estimated 30 million
American workers whose income is below the federal poverty level as they try to climb the
economic ladder.”
— Pam Grady, San Francisco Chronicle

“Although Living . . . clearly has a strong social agenda, it makes it points subtly and
intelligently. Forgoing excessive statistics or talking heads sermonizing, it instead allows its four
subjects to detail their woeful situations in articulate and moving fashion. It thus makes its all
too relevant points far more eloquently than if a more didactic approach had been taken.”
— Frank Scheck, The Hollywood Reporter

“Roger Weisberg’s documentary look at four low-wage workers and the daunting challenges
they face is a harrowing journey through the endless humiliations of American poverty.
Amazingly, despite his subjects’ desperation, Weisberg keeps the sentimentality to a minimum,
focusing matter-of-factly on the worker’s struggles to keep their heads above water.”
— New York Magazine

“Should be required viewing for every concerned citizen.”
— David Sterritt, The Christian Science Monitor

“Excellent.”
— Mike Hughes, Gannett News Service

“If you don’t feel your blood boiling, check for a pulse.”
— Fort Worth Star Telegram
“A stunning film.”
— Time Out Chicago

“Heartbreaking.”
— Dallas Morning News

“Waging a Living takes you through the ups and downs of its subjects’ daily lives. Weisberg is nonjudgmental, allowing his subjects to deliver the message that, for far too many people, the American dream is more of a nightmare.”
— V.A. Musetto, New York Post

“A fitting meditation on the true fruits of labor. . . . This cinema verité is better than reality TV. You actually experience the relationship between low-wage labor, lifestyle and the elusive American Dream.”
— Lawrence Aaron, The Record (Hackensack, N.J.)

“Moving.”
— Cincinnati Enquirer

“Waging a Living allows its subjects, who come from a variety of racial, religious and educational backgrounds, to tell their own harrowing stories.”
— Raven Snook, Time Out New York

“A beautifully simple, deeply affecting documentary about four members of America’s working poor.”
— Melissa Levine, SF Weekly

“Raw, straightforward and both alarming and hopeful. . . . Waging a Living could be the most important movie you’ll see this year.”
— Eleanor Sullivan, Home News Tribune (East Brunswick, N.J.)

“A heartfelt journey.”
— Scott D. Pierce, Deseret Morning News

“Director Roger Weisberg presents plenty of sobering statistics, but it’s his ability to get honest, sometimes heartbreaking human stories onscreen that makes this compelling viewing.”
— E! Online

“The strength of Weisberg's film lies in its constant reminder that every waitress, nurse, security guard or therapist you see may very well be struggling like some of the subjects in Waging a Living.”
— Cliff Vaughn, Ethicsdaily.com