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P.O.V.'s "The Camden 28" Tells Riveting Vietnam-Era Story Of Protest, Conspiracy and Double-Dealings, Tuesday, Sept. 11 on PBS

"A poignant documentary recalling the all-but-forgotten trial of 28 Vietnam War opponents, mostly members of the Catholic Left . . ." – Stephen Holden, The New York Times

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

Summary: The **P.O.V.** series (a cinema term for "point of view") celebrates its 20th year on PBS in 2007. It is American television's longest-running independent documentary series. P.O.V. is broadcast Tuesdays at 10 p.m. (check local listings), June through September on PBS, with primetime specials in the fall and winter.

Airdate: P.O.V.'s **The Camden 28**, by Anthony Giacchino, airs nationally on **Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007 at 10 p.m. on PBS.** (Check local listings.)

Description: How far would you go to stop a war? **The Camden 28** recalls a 1971 raid on a Camden, N.J., draft board office by "Catholic Left" activists protesting the Vietnam War and its effects on urban America. Arrested on site in a clearly planned sting, the protesters included four Catholic priests, a Lutheran minister and 23 others. **The Camden 28** reveals the story behind the arrests—a provocative tale of government intrigue and personal betrayal—and the ensuing legal battle, which Supreme Court Justice William Brennan called "one of the great trials of the 20th century." Thirty-five years later, the participants take stock of their motives, fears and the costs of their activism—and its relevance to America today.

Early Sunday morning, August 22, 1971, then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and Nixon Attorney General John Mitchell announced that 20 antiwar activists had been arrested the previous night attempting to break in and vandalize a Camden draft board office. Five days later, eight more plotters were indicted. Charged with conspiracy to remove and destroy files from draft, FBI and Army Intelligence offices, destruction of government property and interfering with the Selective Service system, members of the "Camden 28" faced up to 47 years in federal prison. Who were these dangerous radicals that America's premier law enforcement agency took down? And who was the 29th conspirator, who turned out to be a double agent?

The Camden 28 were a far cry from bomb-planting Weathermen or even fist-waving militants. But the very difference of these "Catholic Left" conspirators—their religious motives—may well have made them more dangerous opponents in the eyes of the Nixon Administration. A growing Catholic and religious opposition to the war could not be dismissed as extremist to mainstream America, so they had to be brought down.

Participants in the religious antiwar movement shared the belief that killing, even in war, was morally indefensible. Led by the charismatic Berrigan brothers, the "Catholic Left," though it included many non-Catholic religious and lay people, had conducted over 30 draft board raids, destroying close to a million Selective Service documents by 1971.

Filmmaker's
Statement:

"The inspiration to make **The Camden 28** was born 11 years ago," says director Anthony Giacchino, who grew up 15 miles north of Camden and whose parents attend mass at Father Doyle's Sacred Heart Church. "Dave Dougherty, the movie's cinematographer, and I had been looking for a local historical subject that would make an interesting film. A family friend encouraged me to talk to his priest, the Rev. Michael Doyle of the Church of the Sacred Heart, about his role in the Camden 28.

"What I heard made me understand how a war halfway around the world can impact a city like Camden, and that there are important lessons to be learned today from the group's actions—and the government's ensuing reactions."

Bios:

Anthony Giacchino, Director

A 1992 graduate of Villanova University, Anthony Giacchino has been working as a producer in television and documentary filmmaking since 1994. He co-produced and co-directed an independent documentary in Dresden, Germany, "Time Bomb," about how Germans remember the 1945 bombing and destruction of Dresden. He also shot, produced and directed a short documentary on David McReynolds, the 2000 Socialist Party candidate for president. For The History Channel, he has produced the Sunday-morning talk shows "HistoryCENTER" and "Hardcover History," as well as the primetime series "History vs. Hollywood," and a variety of specials. **The Camden 28** is the first feature-length documentary Giacchino has directed. A native of Edgewater Park, N.J., he lives in Astoria, N.Y.

David Dougherty, Director of Photography

David Dougherty began his career as an independent videographer in 1993. His clients have included numerous television stations, corporations and special interest groups. He also oversees a team responsible for audiovisual design, installation and production at a leading pharmaceutical firm. Dougherty graduated from Temple University in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in radio, television and film and is pursuing a master's degree in organizational dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the International Documentary Association.

Length: 86:46

Festivals: Philadelphia Film Festival, 2006, *Jury Prize and Audience Award, Best Documentary*
Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, 2006

Credits: Producer/Writer/Director: Anthony Giacchino
Director of Photography: David Dougherty
Editor: Brandon Park
Music: Michael Giacchino

P.O.V. Web: **The Camden 28** companion Web site (www.pbs.org/pov/camden28) offers a streaming video trailer of the film, an interview with filmmaker Anthony Giacchino (video, podcast and text); a list of related Web sites, organizations and books; a discussion guide and classroom activity; and these special features:

Additional scenes: Watch edited video clips not included in the film, including extended interviews with author Michael S. Foley about the history of the Vietnam protests, and with defense attorneys Carl Broge, David Hinden, David Kairys, and Marty Stolar about the legal case; archival footage of the Camden 28 group after their arrest; and recollections of those involved at their 2002 reunion, including a tribute to historian Howard Zinn.

Testimony from the trial: Read excerpts from the 1973 trial transcripts of historian Howard Zinn and Camden 28 member Jayma Abdo Good.

Outreach: P.O.V. is working with public television stations and national and community-based groups across the country to foster community dialogue around the issues presented in **The Camden 28**. For a list of upcoming screening and discussion events, go to: http://www.amdoc.org/outreach_news.php

P.O.V. also works with nationally recognized media educator Dr. Faith Rogow to develop a facilitation guide with discussion questions and background information to help event organizers carry out discussions around the film's content. Cari Ladd has created the lesson plan. In addition, the American Library Association and P.O.V. have created a multimedia resource list of related fiction and nonfiction books and videos that further explore the issues. The materials are available free of charge at: www.amdoc.org/outreach.

Pressroom: Visit P.O.V.'s pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom, for press releases, downloadable art, filmmaker biographies, transcripts and special features.

P.O.V.: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and celebrating its 20th season on PBS in 2007, the award-winning P.O.V. series is the longest-running showcase on television to feature the work of America's best contemporary-issue independent filmmakers. P.O.V. has brought more than 250 documentaries to millions nationwide, and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *P.O.V.'s Borders*. Since 1988, P.O.V. has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. More information about P.O.V is available at www.pbs.org/pov.

Major funding for P.O.V. is provided by PBS, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Educational Foundation of America, the Ford Foundation, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, and public television viewers. Funding for P.O.V.'s Diverse Voices Project is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, with additional support from JPMorgan Chase Foundation, the official sponsor of P.O.V.'s 20th Anniversary Campaign. P.O.V. is presented by a consortium of public television stations, including KCET Los Angeles, WGBH Boston, and Thirteen/WNET New York.

TAPE REQUESTS: Please note that broadcast versions of the films are available upon request, as the films may be edited to comply with new FCC regulations.

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