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## **POV's "Armadillo" Follows the Raw Battlefield Drama as Danish Soldiers Go to War in Afghanistan, Premiering on PBS on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011**

The Seduction, Terror and Brutality of War Wear on Young Soldiers Who May Have Crossed the Line

"When the bombs go off and the bullets start flying, Metz and his cameraman provide a real-life vision of what a hurt locker is really all about." — Ray Bennett, *The Hollywood Reporter*

### ***MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET***

Premieres: **Armadillo** has its national broadcast premiere on **Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011** at 10 p.m. on PBS as part of the 24th season of **POV (Point of View)**. The film will stream on the POV website, [www.pbs.org/pov/armadillo](http://www.pbs.org/pov/armadillo), from Aug. 31 to Nov. 29.

American television's longest-running independent documentary series, POV is the winner of a Special Emmy Award for Excellence in Television Documentary Filmmaking, an IDA Award for Best Continuing Series and NALIP's 2011 Award for Corporate Commitment to Diversity.

The film: In 2009, Janus Metz and cameraman Lars Skree accompanied a platoon of Danish soldiers to Armadillo, a combat operations base in southern Afghanistan. For six months, often while under fire, they captured the lives of the young soldiers fighting the Taliban in a hostile and confusing environment, where official rhetoric about helping civilians too often met the unforgiving reality of being a foreign occupier. Winner of the Critics' Week Grand Prix at Cannes, **Armadillo** is one of the most dramatic and candid accounts of combat to come out of Afghanistan.

When **Armadillo** first screened in Denmark and elsewhere in Europe, it set off a political firestorm. The final dizzying, gut-wrenching firefight appears to show the soldiers executing wounded Taliban. Novelist and political columnist Carsten Jensen declared, "After [this film] it will not be possible to talk about Afghanistan in the same way as before."

**Armadillo** shows hardened soldiers, who six months earlier had been impressionable youths willing to believe in their mission to help Afghani civilians, but now are conspiring to justify their actions. Who can be sure, after all, that a movement by a wounded Taliban isn't an attempt to detonate a bomb? And who can be sure that an Afghan isn't a secret or potential Taliban fighter?

**Armadillo** is a production of Fridthjof Film Doc.

Embed a trailer, download press materials and learn more at [www.pbs.org/pressroom](http://www.pbs.org/pressroom).

POV Website: To further enhance the broadcast, POV has produced an interactive website to enable viewers to explore the film in greater depth. The **Armadillo** website — <http://www.pbs.org/pov/armadillo> — offers a streaming video trailer for the film; an interview with filmmaker Janus Metz; a list of related websites, organizations and books; a downloadable discussion guide; and special features including photography from the film, an interactive map of the military base FOB Armadillo and its surrounding area, a timeline of controversies relating to the war in Afghanistan, reactions from experts and leaders on issues raised by the film, and opportunities to join the conversation about the rules of engagement in war.

Outreach: POV works with public television stations, schools and community groups across the country to organize screenings of POV films. For a list of upcoming screenings, go to <http://www.pbs.org/pov/outreach>. POV and nationally recognized media educator Dr. Faith Rogow are developing a companion guide with background information and discussion guides to help event organizers. Cari Ladd, M.Ed., is creating a lesson plan. Educators may record and show **Armadillo** in their classrooms for one year following the premiere broadcast.

Filmmaker's Statement: "With **Armadillo**, I was curious to explore how the micro level of war — where human interaction takes place — affects one of the greatest conflicts of our time," says director Janus Metz. "I've always been interested in making films about people who go through life-altering experiences. This film involves a rite of passage where the men are ultimately faced with themselves and their own humanity — it is universal and basic. In the context of war and the young men who are fighting, I was interested in finding out how the perception of masculinity — the good, the bad, the civilized and the barbaric — is reflected in action and how these concepts are adapted in this coming-of-age story."

Bio: Janus Metz (Director)  
Born in Denmark in 1974, Janus Metz received a master's degree in communications and international development from Roskilde University. After working as a documentary researcher, he moved to South Africa, where he worked on the television drama "Soul City" before making his debut documentary short, "Township Boys," in 2006. Metz had his breakthrough as a director with his two feature documentaries on marriage and migration, "Love on Delivery" (2008) and "Ticket to Paradise" (2008). Metz's films have been televised throughout Europe and he has received wide recognition for his work (Silver Wolf nominee, IDFA; HBO Emerging Filmmaker, Full Frame; 2008 Documentary of the Year, Danish Association of Producers). In addition to his film work, Metz writes articles on the subject of documentary. *Armadillo* is his first feature-length documentary.

Related stories: "Armadillo: the Afghanistan war documentary that shocked Denmark," by Geoffrey Macnab, *The Guardian*, June 3, 2010. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/film/2010/jun/03/armadillo-danish-documentary-afghanistan>

Interview with Janus Metz, *Filmmaker* magazine, April 13, 2011.  
<http://www.filmmakermagazine.com/news/2011/04/janus-metz-armadillo/>

"Obama Thanks Danish PM for Troops in Afghanistan," Associated Press, March 14, 2011.  
<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=13133881>

Press release: "Political agreement on the Danish engagement in Afghanistan: The Danish Helmand Plan 2011-2012," Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense  
<http://tinyurl.com/3mdlzma>

Credits: Director: Janus Metz  
Producers: Ronnie Fridthjof, Sara Stockmann  
Cinematographer: Lars Skree  
Editor: Per K. Kirkegaard  
Original Music: Uno Helmersson

Running Time: 86:46

POV Series Credits:

Executive Producer: Simon Kilmurry  
Co-Executive Producer: Cynthia López  
Vice President of Production and Programming: Chris White  
Series Producer: Yance Ford

Awards and Festivals:

Winner, Critics' Week Grand Prix, Cannes Film Festival, 2010  
Winner, Grierson Award, London Film Festival, 2010  
Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival, 2010  
Official Selection, DOC NYC, 2010

POV: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and now in its 24th season on PBS, the award-winning POV series is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. Airing June through September with primetime specials during the year, POV has brought more than 300 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *POV's Borders*. Since 1988, POV 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. Visit [www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov).

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