



**Critical Acclaim For
“BETTER THIS WORLD”**

By Kelly Duane de la Vega and Katie Galloway

“Riveting. . . . Structured like a taut thriller, *Better This World* delivers a chilling depiction of loyalty, naiveté, political zealotry and the post-9/11 security state.”

— **Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post***

“Poses thorny questions about government prosecutions of cases like the one involving [film subjects] Mr. Crowder and Mr. McKay, who were called terrorists but who were convicted of lesser charges. . . . The sheer amount of evidence in the film lends itself to a subtheme about surveillance . . . a hot topic on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.”

— **Brian Stelter, *The New York Times***

“Sharply focused and superbly put together. . . . *Better This World* is particularly relevant now, as its story of protesters in prison offers ironic counterpoint to the praise U.S. officials are giving activist youths on the other side of the world.”

— **John DeFore, *The Hollywood Reporter***

“Part conspiracy thriller, part mystery, part drama, and, in the end, part disaster movie. . . . Touches on questions about surveillance aimed at combating domestic terrorism. . . . Compelling.”

— **Linda Holmes, NPR**

“A case of solid journalism that happens to be cinematically interesting. . . . a docu thriller with twists that will catch many by surprise.”

— **Robert Koehler, *Variety***

“There’s a larger tale here, artfully and hauntingly told, about civil liberties and homeland security measures in the post 9/11 age. . . . as the story unfolds the viewer is guided through the many shades of grey that aren’t immediately evident in the open-and-shut facts of the case.”

— **Dave Walker, *The Times-Picayune, New Orleans***

“Superb and shocking. . . . it forces people to think about two kinds of zeal — of paranoid governments and of active dissidents. . . . As such, it says more than almost everything airing in the period around the 10th anniversary of 9/11.”

— **John Doyle, *The Globe and Mail***

“An engrossing, emotional documentary. . . . The film begs certain questions: Is the government preventing crime, or creating potential criminals they can then convict of domestic terrorism? . . . And, perhaps most importantly, is this tactic really helping to keep Americans safe from domestic terrorism?”

— **Mary Pauline Lowry, *The Huffington Post***

“Mind-boggling. . . . I was lucky enough to see *Better This World* at last spring’s Sarasota Film Festival, where two other doc jurors and I gave it top prize in an extraordinary category.”

— **David Edelstein, *New York Magazine***

“Riveting. . . a fast-paced, emotional film. . . explores the disturbingly fuzzy line between observing an alleged terrorist plot and encouraging one. . . [The filmmakers’] access was mind-boggling: FBI and court documents, audio from jailhouse phone calls, tapes of federal interrogations, and great footage.”

— **Michael Mechanic, *Mother Jones***

“Compelling. . . A dramatic story of idealism, loyalty, crime and betrayal.”

— **Chuck Barney, *San Jose Mercury News***

“Searching and provocative.”

— **Chris Barsanti, *Filmcritic.com***

“Nonfiction cinema with the pulse of a Hollywood thriller, *Better This World* is one of 2011’s most electrifying new films. . . Now, thanks to PBS and POV, it’s easier to watch than ever before, as it’s currently streaming online *FOR FREE*. Basically, this gives you zero excuses not to check it out.”

— **Mike Tully, *HammerToNail.com***

“Very nearly perfect.”

— **Cynthia Fuchs, *PopMatters.com***

“This profoundly important American story of friendship, trust, and betrayal. . . explores the theme of personal responsibility and government accountability . . . [It] asks the hard questions; but refreshingly, never imposes preconceived opinions of the filmmakers.”

— **Alexandra Marie Daniels, *TheWIP.net***