



POV Communications: 212-989-7425. Emergency contact: 646-729-4748

Cynthia Lopez, clopez@pov.org

POV online pressroom: www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom

**“Better This World” Tells Gripping Tale of Idealism, Activism, Crime
And Betrayal, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011, on PBS’ POV Series;
Film Streams on POV Website Sept. 7 – Oct. 8**

How Did Two Boyhood Friends from Midland, Texas Find Themselves Accused
Of Domestic Terrorism?

A Co-production of ITVS in Association with American Documentary / POV

“Structured like a taut thriller . . . delivers a chilling depiction of loyalty, naïveté, political
zealotry and the post-9/11 security state.” — Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post*

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

Premiere: Katie Galloway and Kelly Duane de la Vega’s **Better This World** has its national broadcast premiere on **Tuesday, Sept. 6, 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/betterthisworld, from Sept. 7 to Oct. 8.

Now in its 24th year, POV is American television’s longest-running independent documentary series and is the winner of a Special Emmy Award for Excellence in Television Documentary Filmmaking, the International Documentary Association’s Award for Best Continuing Series and NALIP’s 2011 Award for Corporate Commitment to Diversity.

The film: The story of Bradley Crowder and David McKay, who were accused of intending to firebomb the 2008 Republican National Convention, is a dramatic tale of idealism, loyalty, crime and betrayal. **Better This World** follows the radicalization of these boyhood friends from Midland, Texas, under the tutelage of revolutionary activist Brandon Darby. The results: eight homemade bombs, multiple domestic terrorism charges and a high-stakes entrapment defense hinging on the actions of a controversial FBI informant. **Better This World** goes to the heart of the war on terror and its impact on civil liberties and political dissent in post-9/11 America.

Better This World reconstructs the story of the relationship between these three men and the subsequent twists and turns of their legal cases through interviews with Crowder, McKay and their family members; FBI agents and attorneys; and a wealth of intriguing surveillance and archival footage — presenting a well-documented account and untangling a web of questions: Why did Darby, a committed activist, become a government informant? What led the boyhood friends to build eight homemade bombs? Did Darby and law enforcement save innocent victims from domestic terrorists bent on violence and destruction? Or were Crowder and McKay impressionable youths set up by a government informant? Or does the answer lie somewhere in between?

Better This World is the winner of Best Documentary Feature prizes at both the San Francisco International Film Festival and Sarasota Film Festival.

Embed a trailer, download press materials and learn more at 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 **Better This World** website — www.pbs.org/pov/betterthisworld — offers a streaming video trailer for the film; an interview with filmmakers Katie Galloway and Kelly Duane de la Vega; a list of related websites, articles and books; a downloadable discussion guide; and special features including a quiz, a timeline of the events in the case, more stories about Brandon Darby and a live chat with the filmmakers and Bradley Crowder. In addition, the film will stream in its entirety on the website from Sept. 7 to Oct. 8.

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 **Better This World** in their classrooms for one year following the premiere broadcast.

**Filmmakers’
Statements:**

“When we first read about McKay and Crowder in *The New York Times*, we saw an opportunity to look deep inside one case and also to illuminate a much broader national story — about tensions between civil liberties and the domestic security apparatus in the United States,” says Katie Galloway. “We were familiar with dozens of cases where there had been FBI sting operations and domestic terrorism charges, followed soon after by defense allegations of misconduct or entrapment by government agents or informants.”

“Over the two and half years it took to make the film — interviewing FBI agents, attorneys, defendants, family members, jurors and journalists — we were repeatedly surprised by the twists and turns we found,” says Kelly Duane de la Vega. “At several points we were forced to reevaluate our perspectives; debates about personal morality and responsibility versus government accountability and meanings of entrapment erupted in the field and the edit room. We learned a lot through the process, and we wanted to allow audiences to share those experiences, so we committed early on to building the twists, moral ambiguity and big questions we wrestled with into the film.”

Bios:

Kelly Duane de la Vega (Director/Producer)

Kelly Duane de la Vega is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, 2009-2010 HBO/FIND Fellow and 2010 Sundance Documentary Fellow. Her feature documentaries have been shown at hundreds of film festivals around the world and broadcast on PBS stations and on the Documentary Channel. Her Emmy-nominated “Monumental: David Brower’s Fight for Wild America” opened theatrically nationwide and was selected by the New York Film Society to screen at Lincoln Center. Called “stylish and substantial” by *Variety* and “inspired” by *The New York Times*, the film is part of the curriculum at more than 50 universities worldwide. In addition to producing feature documentaries, Duane de la Vega has produced short-format web and television content for the Discovery Channel and Planet Green, among others. She recently produced two television series for IFC focusing on emerging and innovative artists. She and Katie Galloway are partners in the Bay Area production company Loteria Films.

Katie Galloway (Director/Producer)

Katie Galloway is an award-winning filmmaker and 2010 Sundance Documentary Fellow who has produced and directed more than 20 hours of cinéma vérité documentary films and series for POV and PBS' *Frontline*, among others. Her critically acclaimed POV 2007 feature documentary **Prison Town, USA** (which she co-directed with Po Kutchins), called "documentary making at its best" by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and "intriguing" by *The New York Times*, was developed by IFC as a fiction series for which she co-wrote the first three episodes. A 2009-2010 HBO/FIND documentary fellow, Galloway taught documentary production at the Columbia Journalism School and now teaches media studies at the University of California, Berkeley, where she is also the filmmaker-in-residence at the journalism school's investigative reporting program. She is partners with Kelly Duane de la Vega in Loteria Films.

Related stories: Interview with **Better This World** filmmakers by Mary Anderson Casavant, *Filmmaker* magazine, March 6, 2011: <http://www.filmmakermagazine.com/news/2011/03/better-this-world-directors-kelly-duane-de-la-vega-katie-galloway/>

Credits: Directors: Kelly Duane de la Vega, Katie Galloway
Producers: Katie Galloway, Kelly Duane de la Vega, Mike Nicholson
Co-Producer: David Layton
Executive Producers: John Battsek, Julie Goldman, Nicole Stott, Chana Ben-Dov
Executive Producer for ITVS: Sally Jo Fifer
Cinematographer: David Layton
Editor: Greg O'Toole
Original Music: Paul Brill

Running Time: 86:46

POV Series Credits:

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

Better This World is a production of Loteria Films in association with Picturebox, Motto Pictures, Passion Pictures and the Investigative Reporting Program at University of California, Berkeley. The film is a co-production of Loteria Films and ITVS in association with American Documentary | POV, with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Awards and Festivals:

- Best Documentary Feature, San Francisco International Film Festival, 2011
- Best Documentary Feature, Sarasota Film Festival, 2011
- Best Bay Area Documentary Feature, San Francisco International Film Festival, 2011
- Finalist, Best Documentary Feature, Ashland Independent Film Festival, 2011
- World Premiere, SXSW Film Festival, 2011
- Full Frame Documentary Festival, 2011
- Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, 2011
- Human Rights Watch Film Festival, 2011
- Silverdocs, 2011
- Stranger Than Fiction documentary series, 2011
- Official Selection, DocuWeeks, 2011

(For a list of upcoming screenings, go to <http://www.betterthisworld.com/screenings.html>.)

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.

Major funding for POV is provided by PBS, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Educational Foundation of America, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, FACT and public television viewers. Special support provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Funding for POV's Diverse Voices Project is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Project VoiceScape is a partnership of Adobe Youth Voices, PBS and POV. POV is presented by a consortium of public television stations, including WGBH Boston and THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG.



Media Sponsor:

