
The world little remembers the murder of more than 1 million Indonesians in 1965, but in Indonesia the massacre is honored as a patriotic act

“I have not seen a film as powerful, surreal and frightening in at least a decade . . . It is unprecedented in the history of cinema.” — Werner Herzog

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

National Dates: Joshua Oppenheimer’s Academy Award® nominated The Act of Killing film, has its national broadcast premiere on Monday, Oct. 6, 2014 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings) as part of the 27th season of POV (Point of View). The film will stream on POV’s website, www.pbs.org/pov/actofkilling/ from Oct. 7 – Oct. 21, 2014.

The Film: The Act of Killing is as dreamlike and terrifying as anything that Werner Herzog (one of the executive producers) could imagine. This film explores a horrifying era in Indonesian history and provides a window into modern Indonesia, where corruption reigns. Not only is the 1965 murder of an estimated one million people honored as a patriotic act, but the killers remain in power. In a mind-bending twist, death-squad leaders dramatize their brutal deeds in the style of the American westerns, musicals and gangster movies they love—and play both themselves and their victims. As their heroic facade crumbles, they come to question what they’ve done.

The Act of Killing is a Final Cut for Real, DK production. The film has won more than 70 international awards, including a 2013 European Film Award, a 2013 Asia Pacific Screen Award and the 2014 BAFTA Award for Best Documentary. For a full list of awards and screenings, visit www.theactofkilling.com.

Embed a trailer, download press materials and learn more at www.pbs.org/pressroom.

Online: POV’s website for The Act of Killing – http://www.pbs.org/pov/theactofkilling/ – offers a broad range of exclusive online content to enhance the PBS broadcast. Watch the full film online for free for a limited time (Oct. 7 – Oct. 21, 2014), learn from the filmmakers in an extended video interview, view photos from the film, download a discussion guide and other viewing resources, and find out what’s happened since the cameras stopped rolling.

Filmmaker Statement: “There is no easy resolution to The Act of Killing,” says Oppenheimer. “The murder of one million people is inevitably fraught with complexity and contradiction. All the more so when the killers have remained in power, when there has been no attempt at justice and when the

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story has hitherto only been used to intimidate the survivors. Seeking to understand such a situation—intervening in it, documenting it—can only be equally tangled, unkempt.

“I have developed a filmmaking method with which I have tried to understand why extreme violence, which we hope would be unimaginable, is not only imaginable, but routinely performed,” he continues. “We attempt to shed light on one of the darkest chapters in both the local and global human story, and to express the real costs of blindness, expedience and an inability to control greed and the hunger for power in an increasingly unified world society. This is not, finally, a story only about Indonesia. It is a story about us all.”

Filmmaker Bio:  Joshua Oppenheimer/Director
Born in 1974 in the United States, Joshua Oppenheimer is based in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he is a partner at the production company Final Cut for Real. He has worked for over a decade with militias, death squads and their victims to explore the relationship between political violence and the public imagination. He was educated at Harvard and Central Saint Martins, and The Act of Killing is his debut feature-length film. His companion documentary, The Look of Silence, had its world premiere at the 2014 Venice Film Festival, where it won five awards including the Grand Jury Prize. Oppenheimer was recently named a 2014 MacArthur Fellow.

His earlier works include The Globalization Tapes (2003, co-directed with Christine Cynn), The Entire History of the Louisiana Purchase (1998) and These Places We’ve Learned to Call Home (1996). He is artistic director of the International Centre for Documentary and Experimental Film, University of Westminster.


Outreach:  POV works with educators, public television stations and national and community groups to present more than 650 free screenings nationwide. In addition, POV and nationally recognized media educator Dr. Faith Rogow develop discussion guides and standards-aligned lesson plans for each of our films. The Act of Killing discussion guide includes background information on Indonesia, the 30th of September Movement, prompts for dialogue and a list of further educational resources. Join POV’s Community Network to borrow The Act of Killing for free to host your own screening. Visit the Partner Toolkit for the resources you need to get involved with the film, from spreading the word to hosting a screening and discussion. For a list of upcoming events, visit www.pbs.org/pov/outreach.
Credits: (Due to the nature of this film it has been necessary to credit numerous Indonesian partners and collaborators, working in roles ranging from co-direction and cinematography to sound recording, production management, makeup, music, choreography and technical support, as anonymous.)

Director: Joshua Oppenheimer
Co-directors: Christine Cynn and Anonymous
Producer: Signe Byrge Sørensen
Producers: Joram ten Brink and Anonymous, Anne Köhncke, Michael Uwemedimo, Joshua Oppenheimer, Christine Cynn
Executive Producers: Werner Herzog, Errol Morris, André Singer, Joram ten Brink, Torstein Grude, Bjarte Mørner Tveit
Cinematographers: Carlos Arango de Montis, Lars Skree
Editors: Niels Pagh Andersen, Janus Billeskov Jansen, Charlotte Munch Bengtsen, Ariadna Fatjó-Vilas Mestre, Mariko Montpetit,
Original Sound Design: Elin Øyen Vister

Running time: 86:46

POV Series Credits:
Executive Producer: Simon Kilmurry
Co-Executive Producer: Cynthia López
VP, Programming and Production: Chris White
Associate Producer: Nicole Tsien
Production Coordinator: Nikki Heyman

Visit http://theactofkilling.com/ for a complete list of screenings and events.


POV: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and now in its 27th season on PBS, POV is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today’s best independent documentary filmmakers. POV has brought more than 365 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide. Its films have won 32 Emmys, 17 George Foster Peabody Awards, 12 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, three Academy Awards® and the Prix Italia. 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.

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