

WE WANT THE AIRWAVES

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LOGLINE:

Three first time TV makers risk everything to get their groundbreaking show on the air.

SYNOPSIS:

Filed over the course of 10 years, *We Want the Airwaves* chronicles the journey of a trio of first time TV makers as they set forth on a daring adventure. The group creates and films an activist focused docuseries (*Manifesto!*) with the goal of launching the first citizen's platform on network television.

Cut from countless hours of behind the scenes footage and interviews with TV & Cultural insiders and outsiders, *We Want the Airwaves* follows the making of the grassroots television series *Manifesto!* all while exposing the harsh realities of the ethically challenged unscripted television world.

The challenges for the trio are great. Besides the inevitable interpersonal conflicts that develop, how do you sell a series which challenges the status quo? The kind of series that advocates for viewers to get off the couch and get active in their communities?

As the filmmakers continue their journey, with a nearly blind commitment to their plan, they are fueled by adulation from their peers & TV executives alike. These accolades bolster their belief that they will change television as they know it and give a broadcast voice to a generation.





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ABOUT THE FILM/THE HOLLYWOOD DIGITAL DIVIDE

We Want the Airwaves began shooting in 2005 during the Hollywood digital divide (prior to Youtube and accessible high definition cameras). Because of this, the film offers a very unique perspective; a chronological point in time of mostly analog broadcast distribution, prior to the crossover into digital streaming. These circumstances frame and add texture to the narrative and the visuals.

DETAILS

Runtime: 82 minutes
Format: HD, Color
Language: English

Genre: Documentary
Website: wewanttheairwaves.net

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QUOTES

"This is like a gigantic call to action" - [Barry Jossen, ABC](#)

"*Manifesto!* is the next evolution in television" - [Damon Berger, ABC](#)

"The making of *Manifesto!* is the unlikeliest of Hollywood stories - no celebrities, no attitudes and no manufactured drama - a compelling look inside an "invisible republic" of citizen changemakers." - [Scott Ryan](#)

"A tweaked *60 Minutes* for a new generation." - [Anonymous](#)

"If people try to enter the [media / television] system that don't have a ["tow the line"] point of view, they're likely to be excluded... No institution is going to happily design a mechanism to self destruct. [These systems] all work to exclude or marginalize or eliminate dissenting voices or alternative perspectives, because they are dysfunctional to the institution itself." - [Noam Chomsky, *Manufacturing Consent*](#)



PRODUCTION BIOS

SCOTT RYAN (DIRECTOR, WRITER, PRODUCER)

A life-long advocate, Scott began his filmmaking career directing documentaries for the startup streaming platform Zoom Culture. Many of these short films were produced for the national TV shows *Playground Earth* and *Hip Hop Nation* which ran on NBC and MTV networks. During his time at 'ZC' Scott found himself shooting stories on everything from professional street lugers to Los Angeles street art and multiple PSAs. Scott further honed his documentary skills shooting with the Gantz Brother's production company View Film (of *Taxicab Confessions* fame). Recently, Scott founded Monkey Wrench Agency, a company focused on production of PSAs for underserved non-profits. A PSA he directed and produced for 5 Gyres Institute was featured in their international campaign to ban plastic microbead pollution in our waterways; this resulted in a statewide ban in California and contributed to a nationwide ban, signed by Barack Obama in 2015, known as "The Microbead Free Waters Act." *We Want the Airwaves* is Scott's feature documentary directorial debut.

CHARMEL GREEN (PRODUCER)

A native Californian, Charmel grew up just outside of Hollywood, building strong, respected relationships with many high profile industry veterans. The scope of her production work includes: feature length and short films, commercials, TV shows, documentaries, and live stage events. Charmel's work includes supporting the directorial debuts of Bruce Block's short film, *Stuck*, Eric McCormack's *Pirates*, as well as Kevin Connolly's *Whatever We Do*, produced by Tobey Maguire. Charmel co-created and produced *Manifesto!*

CORY B. CLAY (CO-PRODUCER)

As a Director of Photography he suspended on a stage from the 25th floor of a skyscraper for the Emmy Award winning *American Tower*. Cory also directed the photography for the PBS documentary *Scott Air Force Base* and found himself a passenger on flights to seven different cities, on an Aerovac mission with the USAF. He was on the crew of the Emmy winning *No Greater Love* which – for 30 hours straight followed a human organ procurement story to its end, transplant surgery. This documentary included full coverage in the operating room. Needless to say, Cory has true love and passion for documentaries. His camera work on documentaries for PBS, Discovery and NOVA have gathered multiple Emmy Awards.



KAREN EVERETT (STORY CONSULTANT)

Karen taught editing for 18 years at the #1-ranked U.S. documentary program at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, also named the top U.S. documentary program by *Documentary* magazine. She directed and produced five documentaries, including an award-winning PBS biography of the late Marlon Riggs. Everett got her BA from Smith College and her Masters in Journalism from UC Berkeley. Karen is currently writing a book entitled *Documentary Editing*. Some of her consulting credits include *Connected*, *I Shall Not be Removed*, and *Althea*.

ACTIVISTS

A variety of everyday people and notable activists appear in the film, including Ruthie Bolton, Jack Rose, Chris DeRose, Elle Wittlesbach, Scott Harrison, Julia Butterfly Hill, and Erin Brockovich.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Manifesto! may have started in 2005 but it has never been more relevant. Today, in the era of actual fake news and attacks on journalism in general, a citizen's platform is incredibly important. A platform of this kind has never been seen on televisions in the United States. Today we have these voices on the web and increasingly on forward thinking news programs, but with net neutrality being reversed, how long will it be until these voices are drowned out online or when the news trend reverses? *We Want the Airwaves* documents the struggle to bring these stories to the masses, whatever the cost.

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