

# Web



Sundial Pictures Presents a Righteous Pictures Film in association with Preferred Content  
World Premiere release of Web

Directed by Michael Kleiman  
83 minutes

For more information and materials please go to [www.WebTheFilm.com](http://www.WebTheFilm.com)

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## **Logline**

As children in some of the most remote parts of the world connect to the Internet for the first time, *Web* considers the impact of global connectivity on all of our lives.

## **Synopsis**

*Web* follows Peruvian families living in remote villages in the Amazon Jungle and Andes Mountains as their children experience the One Laptop per Child (OLPC) program, gaining access to the Internet for the first time. *Web* considers both the benefits and complications that arise from digital connections. Alongside the poignant and sometimes humorous local stories, the film includes interviews with leading thinkers on the Internet including Foursquare Founder Dennis Crowley, Wikipedia's Jimmy Wales and OLPC founder Nicholas Negroponte for an insightful look at our times.

## **Festival Participation and Awards**

Winner, Audience Award – 2013 DOCNYC Film Festival

Winner, Special Jury Prize Documentary Feature – 2014 Atlanta Film Festival

Official Selection – 2014 Miami International Film Festival

Official Selection – 2014 Oxford Film Festival

Official Selection – 2014 Independent Film Festival Boston

Official Selection – 2014 Ashland Independent Film Festival

Official Selection – 2014 Salem Film Festival

## Director's Statement

*Web* is a project that grew out of a decade long fascination with interdependence and technology. I was a college sophomore when I first read Robert Wright's book, *Nonzero*, which retells the story of human history as one about people coming together and, with the aid of technology, forming groups that span wider and wider distances. Later that year, I saw President Bill Clinton speak on the same subject. Noting the contrast between the age-old trend toward cooperation and current ideological clashes that lead to polarization, Clinton called on my generation to find ways to bridge divides between cultures.

I had long been fascinated by this idea. My first film, *The Last Survivor*, focuses on what happens when people fail to recognize their common humanity. The film, which follows the lives of survivors of four genocides and mass atrocities, tells a story about the intolerance and evil that prevail when we see those who are different from us as "other". I wanted to explore the other side of the coin: how we can use the benefits of technology and globalization to blur cultural divisions.

In 2008, I learned about One Laptop per Child (OLPC). I saw their mission of bringing connected laptops to children in the most remote parts of the world as a perfect embodiment of both Wright's and Clinton's ideas. The arrival of laptops and the Internet allowed villagers to immediately have access to a forum for global exchange where they could engage with others from around the world.

I discussed the project with OLPC and determined that Peru would be an ideal location for the film due to the country's geographical and cultural diversity and the government's commitment to the OLPC program. I decided to treat the making of the film as an experiment of sorts. For 10 months, I embedded myself with families in Peru's Andes Mountains and Amazon Jungle. During my time there, I not only documented my host families' native use of digital technologies through the OLPC program, but I lived in their homes, pitched in with chores around the house and community, shared in their meals and tried to see whether the type of mutual understanding that President Clinton spoke of was possible. The result is a film that is deeply personal.

At its heart, *Web* is a film about friendships – how they are formed, what they mean, how far they can stretch with the help of technology, and how they are changed in that process. It's a tension we can all relate to and therefore one that allows us to recognize the common humanity we all share. I hope the film will allow people to reflect on the power information technology has to bring our world together, but also how the human experience is changed as our existences become increasingly digital.

—Michael Kleiman

## **Interview Subjects**

DR. VINT CERF, “Father of the Internet”; Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist, Google

NICHOLAS NEGROPONTE, Founder, One Laptop per Child

JIMMY WALES, Co-Founder, Wikipedia

DENNIS CROWLEY, Co-Founder & CEO, Foursquare

ANNE-MARIE SLAUGHTER, Former Director of Policy Planning, U.S. State Department

SCOTT HEIFERMAN, Co-Founder & CEO, Meetup

CLAY SHIRKY, Author, *Here Comes Everybody* and *Cognitive Surplus*

RICHARD A. CLARKE, Former U.S. Cyber Security Czar

ROBERT WRIGHT, Author, *Nonzero*

SHERRY TURKLE, Author, *Alone Together*

WALTER BENDER, Co-Founder, One Laptop per Child

MIKE WESCH, Professor, Digital Ethnography, Kansas State University

## **About the Production**

Shoot days: 150 over the course of three years (First shoot: April 2009. Last shoot September 2012.)

Hours of footage: 300

Media size: 10 terabytes

Locations: Peru: Lima, Antuyo, Puerto Esperanza, Palestina. United States: New York, San Francisco, Boston, Princeton, NJ, Washington, DC.

Cameras used: Panasonic HVX200, Canon 5D / 7D.

## **About the Filmmakers**

### **Michael Kleiman, Director/Producer/Editor**

Michael is the co-director, co-producer, and editor of the documentary, *The Last Survivor* (2010), which won honors of Best Documentary and the Audience Award at the 2010 Oxford Film Festival and the Special Jury Prize in Documentary at the 2010 Dallas International Film Festival and the 2010 Indie Memphis Film Festival. In addition to his feature work, Kleiman has made a number of short films on international policy issues such as education, healthcare, and government transparency. In 2009, Michael was named a Fulbright Scholar by the U.S. State Department. He is currently a candidate for a Master's Degree in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where he is a fellow at the Center for Public Leadership.

### **Michael Pertnoy, Producer/Editor**

Michael is the founder of Righteous Pictures (RP), a film and new media production company that specializes in social issue documentaries and public engagement campaigns. He is the producer, co-director and editor of the award-winning documentary film, *The Last Survivor*. For his work in the human rights field, Michael was selected as one of the inaugural members of the Carl Wilkens Fellowship run by the Genocide Intervention Network. Previously, Michael worked as editor and post-production supervisor for the critically acclaimed documentary, *Celia The Queen*, about the life and times of salsa star, Celia Cruz, which was distributed through Sony International and selected as part of the PBS Latino Voces Series. Michael's achievements were recognized in 2010 when he was the youngest person to be named one of South Florida's "Top 20 business leaders under 40" by the Miami Herald.

### **Stefan Nowicki and Joey Carey, Producers**

Stefan Nowicki and Joey Carey founded Sundial Pictures in 2008 to produce independent documentary and narrative feature films. Since then they have produced Brian Brightly's LIARS ALL (Phase 4), and executive produced JIRO DREAMS OF SUSHI (Magnolia Pictures), Dee Rees' PARIAS (Focus Features), Elgin James' LITTLE BIRDS (Millennium Entertainment), Matt Ross' 28 HOTEL ROOMS (Oscilloscope), and Doug Karr's ART MACHINE (Film Buff). Sundial Pictures is in post-production on the dark comedy OBVIOUS CHILD starring Jenny Slate and the suspense horror film DARK WAS THE NIGHT. Other documentaries in production include HOW TO THINK LIKE A TREE about Biomimicry, the science of applying nature's solutions to human problems, CITIZEN

WEALTH which focuses on Wade Rathke, the founder of the community organizing group ACORN, and THE SEVENTH FIRE which follows a Native American community on a reservation in Minnesota caught between the violent rise of Native gangs and the fight for personal and cultural identity. Stefan and Joey live and work in New York City.

**Kevin Iwashina, Executive Producer**

Kevin Iwashina is a Managing Partner of Preferred Content, a film sales, project finance, and media advisory company. Founded in January 2010, Preferred Content (PC) specializes in the sale of North American and Worldwide distribution rights for both narrative and documentary filmed entertainment content. In addition to his responsibilities at PC, Iwashina is the Managing Partner of Preferred Ventures, a digital media venture fund. Iwashina also holds the title of Managing Director and Co-President of City Room Creative, a creative editorial and production services company. Lastly, he is partnered with Christine Vachon in Killer Digital, a production company focused in creating original content for digital platforms. Iwashina holds a B.A. in English Literature with a minor in French Language and Culture from U.C.L.A. He is active in the non-profit and political sectors and currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment (CAPE) and is a Member of the Board of Directors of the International Documentary Association (IDA). He began his career in the mailroom at the United Talent Agency (UTA).