



STEPHEN OLSSON - BIOGRAPHY

STEPHEN OLSSON, has produced and directed documentary films, television series and feature news reports throughout the world for US and European broadcasters, including the BBC, PBS, CNN, National Geographic Television, NBC, CBS, ARTE, Canal+, NHK & TV Asahi. He has been the recipient of television's three major awards: the National Emmy Award, the Du-Pont-Columbia Award and the George Foster Peabody Award. He is currently the president of Cultural & Educational Media, a non-profit, 501c3 media organization and Head of Original Programming at Link TV.

Stephen's documentary work has often focused on international issues and character-driven stories. His recently-completed feature-length documentary: **"Sound of the Soul"**, a portrait of The Fez Festival of World Sacred Music, has been broadcast in Europe and Australia, and is currently playing in film festivals throughout the world. Previous documentary films include **"Our House in Havana"**, broadcast nationally on PBS and throughout Europe, Japan, Canada and Latin America, **"Last Images of War"**, for the BBC, photographed in eight countries, narrated by actor Ben Kingsley, and premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, before receiving the National Emmy Award for Outstanding Director, and two additional National Emmy nominations. After September 11th, Olsson wrote and co-produced a re-release of **"Last Images of War"** for National Geographic Explorer. Prior to this, he produced & directed: **"Afghanistan: The Fight For a Way of Life"**, which was broadcast throughout the world and cited by The New York Times as one of the best documentary films of the year.

Olsson was writer and Series/Senior Producer for **"School Colors"** a three-part series produced for the PBS "Frontline" series, which received the Dupont-Columbia Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism, and was cited by The Boston Globe (and others) as one of the best television programs of the year. **"School Colors"** was also broadcast on Arte in France & Germany, TV Globo in Brazil, NHK in Japan. Olsson has also produced television documentaries, news features and development programs in Africa, Eastern Europe, Central and South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

More recently, as Head of Original Programming for Link TV, (a national public television satellite channel available in 26 million US households), Olsson has created and/or produced a number of original programs and television series, including the Peabody award-winning: **"Mosaic: World News from the Middle East"**, a daily, half hour digest of news broadcasts, presented in English from various

Middle eastern broadcasters, **“Lunch with Bokara”** a 13-part TV series on human consciousness, science and spirituality, currently airing nationally on Link TV and various PBS stations, **“Link TV Spotlight”** hosted by investigative journalist Mark Hertsgaard, and **“The Active Opposition”** and **“Outside the Box”** hosted by Peter Coyote. Upcoming series include: **“Global Spirit”**, hosted by Phil Cousineau and premiering in February 2009.

Olsson has also worked as a senior media consultant, supervising producer and project director for a number of media projects in Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and South America. He has directed large television projects in Ukraine and Pakistan and has led film and television workshops at universities in the US and in many countries worldwide. He holds a Master’s degree in Anthropology and Communications.