

DR. TOM VENDETTI BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Tom Vendetti, Emmy® award-winning filmmaker, combines his work as a psychologist with over 30 years working in the mental health field with his passion as a filmmaker to direct and produce documentary features that have been viewed around the world. He began making documentaries over 20 years ago pointing his camera at different peoples, places and cultures in order to gain a deeper understanding, appreciation and celebration of their lives, customs and beliefs through the medium of digital cinema. His primary focus has been committed to producing documentary programs that preserve the environment/culture and promoting happiness.

Tom most recently directed, produced (with Robert C. Stone), the feature documentary "When the Mountain Calls: Nepal, Tibet & Bhutan" (2011). The film explores the director/producer's personal experiences and reflections from over 30 years of traveling through the Himalayas – a journey discovering the meaning and sources of happiness in unexpected places, and the changes over the decades to the people, the land, climate culture. Featured in the film are appearances by the Dalai Lama, Lama Tenzin, Paul Horn, Tenzing Norgay, Sir Edmond Hillary, the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Dorjee Sherpa and Green Peace China. Website: <http://WhenTheMountainCalls.com>.

Prior to this, Dr. Vendetti directed and produced the award-winning documentary feature "Bhutan: Taking the Middle Path To Happiness" (2007) which earned him an Emmy® Award for Historic/Cultural Program - Feature/Segment, and also Christopher Hedge for Musical Composition/Arrangement. The film aired on Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and is still showing today, and has been screened at film festivals around the world.

Tom Vendetti's filmmaking interests began in 1986 with the documentary "Therapy on the River," a program which he directed and produced, on the positive effects of a five-day river trip in Southern Utah with mentally ill clients. This soon was followed by his second venture into the world of documentary filmmaking with "Recovery Trek" (1991), a video he filmed and directed which documented a group of individuals suffering with alcoholism and drug addiction, and their trek in the Grand Canyon and other Northern Arizona locations in an effort to kick their habit.

Since then, he directed and produced numerous award-winning documentary films including:

- o "Sacred Tibet: The Path to Mount Kailash" (2006) which he also co-edited.
- o "Recovered Dignity" (2005) which currently is being used around the country to promote the rights of the mentally ill.

- o "Years of Darkness: A Spiritual Journey to Recovery" (2003) which aired on PBS nationwide.
- o "Fiji Firewalkers" (2002) which aired nationally on PBS.
- o The award-winning "Mount Kailash: Return to Tibet" (2001) which aired on PBS.
- o "Journey Inside Tibet" (1999) screened at film festival around the world and which aired on PBS.
- o "No Means No: Date Rape" (1999), a video made for the State of Hawai'i to be used to educate young adults about the facts and protective measures to take to avoid date rape.
- o "House of the Sun" (1998) featuring Haleakala National Park on Maui. The video continues to be sold by the Haleakala National Park Service.
- o "Canyon Sanctuary" (1997) which aired nationally on Oasis TV
- o "Africa: Earth Energy" (1996) which was filmed in Zimbabwe and aired nationally on Oasis TV.
- o "Paradise Blue: Hawaiian Tranquility" (1995) which was selected by QVC in 1998 as one of Hawaii's best products and sold on the channel. It also aired nationally in Oasis TV and also was used in psychiatric facilities to promote patient relaxation.
- o "Maui Meditation" (1994), distributed by Hawaii's Booklines and aired nationally on Oasis TV. It also was used in psychiatric hospitals around the country to promote relaxation.
- o "Hopi Rehabilitation Awareness" (1992), a video he edited and used on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona to introduce rehabilitation services for head injury victims.

Music is an integral component of all Tom Vendetti's films. Emmy® Award winning composer Christopher Hedge, with whom he has worked with on most of his recent documentaries, (<http://christopherhedge.com>) brings the sounds, voices and instrumentation of far away and exotic cultures and the effects are both intriguing and mesmerizing. His scores are a perfect complement to the inspiration aspects of Tom's work.

Also, Grammy® Award winning composer and flutist Paul Horn has worked with Tom and Christopher Hedge on number of these feature documentaries, composing

original, narrating and performing. Those films include "When the Mountain Calls: Nepal, Tibet & Bhutan," "Bhutan: Taking the Middle Path to Happiness," "Sacred Tibet: The Path to Mount Kailash," "Fiji Firewalkers," "Mount Kailash: Return to Tibet," and "Journey Inside Tibet."

Dr. Tom Vendetti is passionate about making and promoting documentary programs that lead to social change. To that end, he is founder of the Angkor Wat International Film Festival that debuts February 17-19, 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The mission of the Festival is to showcase and celebrate feature films, documentaries and short subjects whose subjects and themes deal with the preservation of culture and environment. Website: <http://AngkorWatFilmFestival.com>.