

A Duane Baughman Film

BHUTTO

Directed by Duane Baughman and Johnny O'Hara

**The Story Of The Tumultuous Life And Violent Death Of
Two-Time Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto**

RT: 115 min

<http://www.bhuttothefilm.com>

**** Duane Baughman and Mark Siegel are available for interviews.**

Directors: Duane Baughman and Johnny O'Hara

Producers: Duane Baughman, Mark Siegel and Arleen Sorkin

Executive Producer: Glenn Aveni

Co-Producers: Pamela Green, Jarik Van Sluijs, Darius Fisher

Music: Mader, Herb Graham Jr. and special guest performance by Stewart Copeland and Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari

(San Francisco – May 11, 2010) As beloved by the people of her native Pakistan as she was reviled by the nation's military establishment and male-dominated ruling class, Benazir Bhutto remains a symbolic metaphor for the fight between terrorism and moderation that is being played out on the world stage today. Benazir remains a polarizing force in the Muslim world even two years after her death from a suicide bomber's attack on December 27, 2007. Hers was a turbulent three-decade run through the storm of Pakistani politics during which Bhutto enjoyed unprecedented outpourings of love and hate, triumph and tragedy, devotion by the people of Pakistan and rejection by the forces that most feared her.

Benazir's fascinating, oft-wrenching story reads like a Greek tragedy and is captured in the riveting documentary feature **BHUTTO** that had its world premiere in the U.S. Documentary Feature competition at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival, and its Canadian Premiere at Hot Docs. A Duane Baughman Film, **BHUTTO** is directed by Duane Baughman and Johnny O'Hara and produced by Duane Baughman, Mark Siegel, and Arleen Sorkin. The film casts an unblinking lens on the first woman ever elected to lead a Muslim state and uncovers the back story of the world's most strategically important country – Pakistan – the Muslim world's sole nuclear power, and the epicenter of the international War on Terror.

As the fast-paced **BHUTTO** makes clear, Benazir Bhutto's life and reign of power were marked by contradictions and questions as she wrestled from her first minute in office, with a male-dominated society and an entrenched military establishment leading up to her final act of courage that resulted in her unsolved murder at age 54.

BHUTTO opens as Benazir Bhutto is about to walk back into the lions' den after eight years of self-imposed exile in London, New York and Dubai amid a swirl of politically-motivated corruption charges. The very night of her triumphant return, a double-suicide bombing assassination attempt killed 170 of her supporters. "We will continue to meet the public," she said defiantly after narrowly escaping. "We will not be deterred."

After a breathtaking opening flashback, **BHUTTO** serves up an eye-opening dose of Pakistan's tumultuous 62-year existence, its frequent violent clashes with India, and the Benazir's own family history that runs deep in the DNA of Pakistan's feudal past.

Born on June 21, 1953, Benazir Bhutto credits her father, the iconic former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, for being “against the gender constraints of my time. My father always said that boys and girls are equal. He wanted me to have the same opportunities,” Bhutto recalls in her own words.

After having studied at Harvard and Oxford in anticipation of a quiet life in foreign service, Bhutto was unceremoniously thrust into politics when her father – the first democratically elected President of Pakistan -- was overthrown in a military coup by his hand-picked Army Chief, Gen. Zia ul-Huq. In April 1979, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was hanged in a “judicial assassination.” **BHUTTO** shows us, from that moment on, how Zulfikar Ali Bhutto’s eldest child dedicated her life to avenging his death, and restoring not only the Bhutto name in Pakistan, but democracy.

Referred to as the “Kennedy’s of Pakistan”, privilege, violence, controversy, and untimely death remain the hallmark of the Bhutto legacy.

Benazir Bhutto’s first election victory came under the banner of her martyred father’s popular Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in 1988. Her first government was removed in a military-backed coup in 1990. She rose again in 1993 but was toppled by the power elite in 1996. She would see both of her beloved brothers die mysteriously at the hand of others, with Shanahwaz the youngest poisoned in France, and Murtaza the first born son, gunned down in a shootout on a Pakistani street. Both murders remain unsolved.

Director/Producer Duane Baughman points out how Bhutto’s relationship with her father, and his execution, transformed her. “At that point she was an unstoppable force. Her life’s purpose became avenging her father’s dream for the people of Pakistan and that started and ended with democracy,” said Baughman. “And the fact that she was a young woman in the Muslim world staring down the same dictator who hanged her father, only makes the story that much more riveting.”

Using newly uncovered, never heard in public audio tape, Benazir tells her own story in her own voice. The film features exclusive, heart-wrenching interviews, just three months after her assassination, with her immediate family, including widower soon-to-be President Asif Ali Zardari, son Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, daughters Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari and Assefa Bhutto Zardari, and sister Sanam Bhutto.

Other interviewees include authors Tariq Ali (“The Clash of Fundamentalisms”) and Christina Lamb (“Waiting For Allah”), Victoria Schofield (“Bhutto”) as well as former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, Benazir’s co-author and friend Mark Siegel, diplomat Peter Galbraith, Arianna Huffington, and Reza Aslan.

“This film shows that Benazir Bhutto was a more complex and historically unique figure than people may’ve realized,” says producer Mark Siegel, an expert on the politics and history of Pakistan. “She was an extraordinary bridge between cultures, continents and religions selflessly accepting a political mantle she never wanted, and a responsibility she never sought.”

“Sacrificing personal happiness to public service, she became an icon of change and hope to half a billion Muslim women around the world. And as a champion of a modern Islam that is tolerant, pluralistic and democratic with unlimited possibilities for women, she became the Jihadists’ worst nightmare. What is most fascinating is the love and hatred this woman generated around the world and the extent some would go to destroy her and what she embodied. Politically and personally her life was a plethora of contradictions and contrasts that are captured in this film. Like with John Kennedy and Anwar Sadat, we will always wonder what she could have accomplished had she lived,” concluded Siegel.

From the heart-pounding opening sequence, the film leaves no doubt that Pakistan remains in the throes of Jihad. Fifty percent of the country is under 18 years old, and is 97% Muslim. 60% of its citizens live on under \$2 a day, but the military machine controls every aspect of political life. The South Asian nation remains a powder-keg with a nuclear arsenal of 90 armed warheads, averaging three terrorist attacks a week since Bhutto’s death two years ago.

BHUTTO was produced by Yellow Pad Productions in association with Icon TMI. All rights reserved. ©2010 Bhutto Film, LLC.

###

Media Contacts:

Duane Baughman, dbaughman@baughmancompany.com, 415-673-7466

Melinda Cardwell, mcardwell@baughmancompany.com, 415-673-7466

Sales Contacts:

Glenn Aveni, Icon TMI, ga@icontvmusic.com, Ofc. 818-385-0200 x117, Cell 818-634-4912

To download pictures, go to www.bhuttothefilm.com

*** Screeners available upon request, for review purposes only***

BHUTTO BIOGRAPHIES

Duane Baughman, Producer/Director

Duane Baughman is the owner and founder of the San Francisco-based Yellow Pad Productions, through which he produced and funded the 2010 Sundance Film Festival feature-length documentary selection **BHUTTO**. He is the owner of the nationally regarded political direct mail firm, The Baughman Company which has been responsible for helping elect Michael R. Bloomberg mayor of New York City, and the historic presidential campaign of another barrier-breaking woman, Hillary Clinton.

Johnny O'Hara, Director/Writer

Johnny O'Hara is a writer-director born and raised in New York City. He was the winner of the Sundance 2008 Audience Award for Best Documentary as the writer of FUEL, which went on to become one of 15 documentaries shortlisted for the 2009 Academy Awards®. FUEL also was nominated by the Writers Guild of America for Best Documentary Screenplay in 2009. An author, O'Hara's first book, published by Penguin, is titled ELVIS & YOU.

Mark Siegel, Producer

Pakistan expert Mark Siegel, a partner at Locke Lord Strategies, has a vast political resume' that includes serving as Deputy Assistant to President Jimmy Carter, Assistant to former Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Executive Director of the Democratic National Committee.

Mark assisted Benazir Bhutto in updating her autobiography, "Daughter of Destiny" in 2007 and co-authored with her the international best selling book "Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West" shortly before her death. He frequently appears on television as a political analyst, and was a guest on THE DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART interviewed about his book and friendship with Ms. Bhutto. During three Democratic National Conventions, Siegel served as political consultant to the late long-time CBS News anchor and newsman Walter Cronkite. A prominent speechwriter, he has written for Presidents, Vice Presidents, Senators, Congressmen and corporate executives as well as international dignitaries.

Glenn Aveni, Executive Producer

Glenn Aveni is the owner and founder of Icon TMI and has 25 years' experience in Hollywood producing, directing, and distributing major motion pictures and documentary features. He served as Executive Producer of LES PAUL – CHASING SOUND that won the Chicago Film Festival's *Silver Hugo Award* as well as the Park City Music Festival's *Gold Medal for Best Documentary Subject*.

Arleen Sorkin, Producer

Arleen Sorkin acted on the soap opera DAYS OF OUR LIVES. She played the role of Calliope and earned many awards for her comedic and acting skills. During this time, she was also a semi-regular on the Fox situation comedy DUET, which later became OPEN HOUSE in which she played the wisecracking maid Geneva. Soon after, she became the host of AMERICA'S FUNNIEST PEOPLE. She continues to provide the voice of Harley Quinn on the animated series BATMAN and the internet's GOTHAM GIRLS, and co-penned the humor books "From Here to

Maternity” and “My Bad: The Apology Anthology.” Arleen co-created and co-executive produced the sitcom FIRED UP, and co-produced two comedy specials for HBO. Arleen is married to Christopher Lloyd, executive producer of FRAISER and currently, MODERN FAMILY.