

Michael Chandler

Michael Chandler is an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker, working in non-fiction and fiction film.

His latest film, *Knee Deep*, is a feature-length documentary about a Maine farm boy who tried to kill his mother when she sold the family farm. The film won the prestigious Maysles Brothers Award for Best Documentary Film at the Starz Denver Film Festival, Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at the Florida and Hollywood Film Festivals, Best International Documentary at the DOCNZ Festival in New Zealand, and was an official selection of the Full Frame Documentary Festival. One reviewer called it: "A satiric study of rural American values wrapped in an attempted murder mystery. Funny and chilling, beautifully shot, cunningly edited, and eye-opening on every level."

Michael has produced and directed documentaries for the PBS series *Frontline*. *Blackout*, a collaboration with *The New York Times*, looked at the roots and repercussions of the California energy crisis and was the first media program to expose Enron's financial manipulation of energy markets. *The Future of War*, an examination of the U.S. Army's ability to meet emerging global military threats, won a Silver Plaque for Investigative Reporting from the Chicago International Television Competition. *Secrets of the SAT* dealt with the impact of standardized testing in college admissions and won First Prize in Broadcast Journalism from the Education Writer's Association.

Michael's film, *Forgotten Fires*, explored the burning by Ku Klux Klansmen of Black churches in South Carolina. It aired on over 250 PBS stations and won critical acclaim and numerous awards, including a Golden Spire at the San Francisco International Film Festival, a Crystal Heart from the Heartland Film Festival, and a Juror's Choice Award at the Charlotte Film Festival. Bill Moyers said about it: "If we wanted a real dialog about race in America, we'd start with this film."

Michael wrote and edited the documentary feature *Freedom on My Mind*, which chronicled the voting rights struggle in Mississippi during the sixties. The film earned an Academy Award Nomination and the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. He also wrote and edited the Academy Award-nominated *Waldo Salt: A Screenwriter's Journey*, the Emmy Award-winning *Yosemite: The Fate of Heaven*, and ABC's *Can't It Be Anyone Else?*, for which he received the Christopher Humanitarian Award.

Michael has also edited feature films, including *Never Cry Wolf*, *Mishima*, and *Amadeus*, for which he was nominated for an Academy Award.

MICHAEL CHANDLER

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PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

***KNEE DEEP** (2007, 81 Mins.)*

The Moenkopi Group, Inc. & Ingonish Films

Grand Jury Prize, Best Documentary Feature, Florida Film Festival, Hollywood Film Festival

Maysles Award for Best Documentary, Starz Denver Film Festival

Grand Jury Prize, Best International Documentary, DOCNZ, New Zealand

Official Selection, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Mill Valley, Maine, Camden, Woods Hole, Cucalorus, Hot Springs Documentary, Hollywood, and DocFest NY

One of the year's best 'believe it or not' documentaries, Michael Chandler's amazing documentary Knee Deep is a rural Rashomon... This is the rare effort that feels rightfully authentic. One of the best documentaries on closed-off communities and human politics ever mounted....A compelling cinematic experience...Highly Recommended

--Bill Gibron, DVDTalk

A satiric study of rural American values wrapped in an attempted murder mystery. Funny and chilling, beautifully shot, cunningly edited, and eye-opening on every level.

--Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel

Darkly satiric. Chandler, whose Forgotten Fires detailed the KKK's burning of black churches in a small Southern town, is a master at gauging the values of a community in crisis.

--Erin Clements, Timeout New York

Knee Deep, a relentlessly surprising feature by Michael Chandler, plays like a rural film noir directed by Errol Morris...leaving ample room to explore themes of urban development, the rural work ethic, and the curious overlap between truth and mythmaking. It's also hilarious and full of memorable characters.

--Chris Gray, The Phoenix

***FORGOTTEN FIRES** (1998, 60 min)*

Ingonish Films

Best Documentary, Canyonlands FF, Flagstaff FF, Golden Spire, SF Film Festival, Crystal Heart,

Heartland FF, Juror's Choice, Charlotte FF, Louisville FF, First Place, New Haven FF, San Luis

Obispo FF, Golden Apple, National Educational Media Network

Members of the racially mixed audience were moved by the film, some wiping away tears, others sitting in almost stunned silence.

--Allison Askins, The South Carolina State.

If we wanted a real dialogue about race in America, we'd start with this film. Its strong dose of reality begs for an honest response from a wide audience.

--Bill Moyers

A remarkable journey into a young racist mind.

--Morris, Dees, Southern Poverty Law Center

Filmmaker Michael Chandler seems genuinely more interested in understanding than blaming.

--John Leonard, *New York Magazine*

BLACKOUT (2001, 60 Min)

PBS Frontline & *The New York Times*

Blackout may not have solved the problem of whether or not deregulation will eventually work; it does make clear, however, that energy brokers like Enron and El Paso are getting filthy rich in the interim...Blackout is another investigative victory for the FRONTLINE crew, helping to make sense out of a complicated public issue.

--Ronnie D. Lankford, Jr., All Movie Guide

THE FUTURE OF WAR (2000, 60min)

PBS Frontline

Silver Plaque, Chicago Int'l TV Competition, Investigative Reporting

Bronze Award, Worldfest Houston

SECRETS OF THE SAT (1999, 60 min)

PBS Frontline

***First Prize, Education Writer's Assn.**

Behind the criticisms of the test, as the documentary makes clear, is a larger debate over the goal of diversity in American society.

--Walter Goodman, *New York Times*

Disarms the worst myths and stereotypes about testing.

--Connie Langland, *Boston Globe*

Pokes gaping holes in the argument that the SAT is an unbiased way of determining who gets into college.

--DeWayne Wickham, *Baltimore Sun*

Exposes how the original intent of the test to make America's elite colleges accessible to all students based on merit, not birth, has been subverted.

--Clarence Page, *Kansas City Star*

DIRECTOR

FOOLING WITH NATURE (1999, 60 min)

PBS Frontline/The Center for Investigative Reporting

***Gold Award, Houston FF**

This episode, without becoming shrill or hysterical, makes a case so strong that it lingers long after the program is over.

--David Bianculli, *The Fort worth Star-Telegram*.

FIGHTING MINISTERS (co-director) (1989, 60 min)

The Catticus Corporation

All these hours later I am still haunted...by what I saw of conviction so powerful it is socially and spiritually explosive.

-- Bill Moyers, Public Affairs Television, Inc.

IN OUR DEFENSE (30 min), ***FACES OF WAR*** (1987,30 min)
Foundation for the Arts of Peace

WRITER & EDITOR

FREEDOM ON MY MIND (110 min)

Clarity Films

- * Academy Award Nomination, Best Documentary
- * Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize

WALDO SALT: A SCREENWRITER'S JOURNEY (60 min)

American Masters/The Sundance Institute

- * Academy Award Nomination, Best Documentary

YOSEMITE: THE FATE OF HEAVEN (60 min)

Sundance Institute/Polaroid Corporation

- * Emmy Award
- * First Place, American Film Festival

CAN'T IT BE ANYONE ELSE? (60 min)

ABC News Closeup/Korty Films

- * Dupont/ Columbia Journalism Award
- * Christopher Humanitarian Award
- * American Cinema Editors (A.C.E.) Award

EDITOR

Feature Films

AMADEUS

Director: Milos Forman

- * Academy Award Nomination: Best Editing
- * American Cinema Editors (A.C.E.) Award

MISHIMA

Director: Paul Schrader

NEVER CRY WOLF

Director: Carroll Ballard

EMPIRE RECORDS

Director: Allan Moyle

WIND

Director: Carroll Ballard

DIGGER

Director: Rob Turner

HOWARD THE DUCK

Director: Willard Huyck

JULIA & JULIA

Director: Peter DelMonte

AMAZONAS

Dir: Mika Kaurismaki

Documentary Films

XTREME: SPORTS TO DIE FOR (60 min)

Telling Pictures /HBO

HOT GUNS (60 min)

PBS Frontline/Center for Investigative Reporting

***Emmy Award**

THE SQUIRES OF SAN QUENTIN (30 min)

J. Gary Mitchell Films

***Academy Award Nomination, Best Short Film**

MOSES PENDLETON PRESENTS MOSES PENDLETON (60 min)

ABC Arts Channel

***First Place, US Film Festival; Silver Medal, Chicago Film Festival**

FIRE ON THE WATER (60 min)

PBS "Crisis-to-Crisis"

***First Place, US Film Festival**

MY FATHER THE CIRCUS KING (60 min)

NBC Special Projects

WE WERE JUST TOO YOUNG (30 min)

J. Gary Mitchell Films

AMERICAN FARMER (30 min)

Quest Films

CONSULTING EDITOR

Documentary Films

THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN AMERICA: DANIEL ELLSBERG AND THE PENTAGON PAPERS

<http://www.mostdangerousman.org/>

Kovno Communications

Directors: Judith Ehrlich & Rick Goldsmith

Pre-Release

TRIMPIN: THE SOUND OF INVENTION

<http://www.trimpinmovie.com/>

Participant/Observer Productions

Director: Peter Esmonde

SXSW, Silverdocs, Seattle, Nashville, Boston, London

FROM GHOST TOWN TO HAVANA

PlayTwo Pictures

Director: Gene Corr

Work-In-Progress

ARCHEOLOGY OF MEMORY: VILLA GRIMALDI

(And Editor)

http://www.archeologyofmemory.org/the_film.html

Interfaze Productions

Directors: Quique Cruz, Marilyn Mulford

***Audience Award, Mill Valley FF, *Special Jury Award, Mendocino FF, Vancouver, Ashland**