

Academy Award Winning Filmmaker Comes To State College

On Tuesday September 12th and Wednesday, September 13th, Academy Award-winning filmmaker Barbara Trent will be in State College in a series of free public events screening two of her films and leading presentations on the media, American public, government, and censorship. **Ms. Trent will be available for phone interviews from Monday September 4th until Monday September 11th, and can be contacted at project4@mindspring.com or by phone at (919) 967-3966.**

Highlights include Wednesday evening's benefit screening of the recent *Soldiers Speak Out*, a 28-minute first-hand testament to the reality of the military experience, told entirely in the words of American veterans who have been to war and are now opposing it. Ms. Trent will lead a question and answer session following the film. A reception will begin at 7 PM and the film will be screened at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Building, Room 201, 243 South Allen Street. Donations will benefit distribution of *Soldiers Speak Out*. This event is sponsored by the State College Peace Center and is free and open to the public.

On Wednesday, Ms. Trent will also lead a Comparative Literature Lunch Presentation: "The Economics of Media Censorship." Drawing from over fifteen years as a filmmaker, Barbara Trent will walk her audience through the obstacles to a courageous and independent media with anecdotes drawn from her own experience producing, directing, and distributing three controversial and award-winning feature documentaries. Following a casual BYO lunch at 12:15 PM, the presentation will begin at 12:40 in Room 102 Kern Building.

Also highlighted is Ms. Trent's presentation: "The Search for Truth: The Responsibility of the Media, the Government, and the American Public," with a screening her Oscar-winning documentary, *The Panama Deception*, as a springboard for analyzing current domestic and international events as well as an illuminating case study of government deception and media disinformation. It is a poignant and alarming reflection of what is unfolding today. This presentation exposes the forces controlling our media as well as our government's covert policies. The film reveals the untold story of the US invasion, the shocking events of the assault, and the true motivation for the invasion, explaining how and why the mainstream media collaborated with the US government to censor information and deceive the public. *The Panama Deception* documents the untold story of the December 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama, the events which led to it, the excessive force used, the enormity of the death and destruction, and the devastating aftermath. The presentation will take place on Tuesday September 12th at 7 PM in 113 Carnegie Building, Penn State University. The two presentations are sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Visiting Artists Program; the Comparative Literature, Film-Video and Media Studies, Journalism, Latin American Studies, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese departments; and the Rock Ethics Institute at Penn State University.

A seasoned activist and filmmaker, Barbara Trent won an Oscar in 1992 for the documentary, *The Panama Deception*, and has both directed and produced other films

including *Waging Peace*, *Destination Nicaragua*, and *Coverup: Behind the Iran-Contra Affair*. She has publicly exposed criminal activities in the White House, Pentagon, and CIA; and has been the target of at least three FBI counter-intelligence operations. Appointed as an Expert Senior Training Specialist for the VISTA Program under Jimmy Carter, Ms. Trent has been decorated with the Gasper Octavio Hernandez Award by the Journalist's Union in Panama, and is a recipient of the American Humanist Association's Arts Award for her "courageous advocacy of progressive ideas."

Barbara Trent directed *Soldiers Speak Out* as a counter-recruitment and organizing tool for veterans, activists, schools, and organizations. Veterans voice their thoughts on the deceptive military recruitment tactics, the Bush administration's erroneous reasons for the necessity of military campaigning in Iraq, and the incredulous combat environment soldiers are exposed to. Not only does it provide a sober view of the war in Iraq, but it also sheds light on the growing and courageous anti-war movement within the military and their families.

Both films were directed by both Barbara Trent and David Kasper, who co-direct the Empowerment Project, based in Chapel Hill, NC. The Empowerment Project is a media resource center serving hundreds of progressive videographers and filmmakers each year. It produces and distributes its own documentary films and videos, and provides facilities, training and other support for independent producers, artists, activists and organizations working in video and other electronic media. Its purpose is to work towards democratizing access to the media, and to provide the resources necessary to put the power of media in the hands of individuals and organizations working to further important social, political and artistic purposes. For more information, visit www.empowermentproject.org.

Schedule of Events with Barbara Trent:

Tuesday, September 12th, 7 PM, 113 Carnegie Building
Screening and Q&A of *The Panama Deception*: "THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH: The Responsibility of the Media, the Government, and the American Public"

Wednesday, September 13th, 12:15 PM lunch, 12:40 presentation, 102 Kern Building
Lunch Presentation: "The Economics of Media Censorship"

Wednesday, September 13th, 7 PM 201 Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street.
Reception at 7, and *Soldiers Speak Out* at 7:30, with Q&A to follow

Press Photos:

Barbara Trent



Cover, Soldiers Speak Out

