PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE

Public Enemy Number One **sheds light on the politics behind the war on drugs from Nixon to today, with first of its kind insight from U.S. Drug Czars, and the founders of the 'Just Say No' movement. The film brings perspective and sanity to a fight that's cost billions of dollars and affected millions of lives.**

In June 1971 Nixon declared the beginning of America's war on drugs as "Public Enemy Number One." Nearly fifty years later, we ask ourselves what has this war accomplished?

This eye-opening feature documentary digs deeper into the question of why America has kept up this half-century long war by focusing primarily on the policies around marijuana, where it all began. What were Nixon's motives for starting the War and Drugs and why did he designate marijuana as one of the most dangerous drugs of all time? But most importantly, how did it evolve into a self-perpetuating, constantly expanding policy disaster?

How did a drug that was moving towards decriminalization end up getting caught up in the mandatory minimum sentencing that would follow? And how did its medical value end up becoming the gateway to legalization at the state level years later?

Interviews with key figures from all sides of this debate such as the founder of NORML Keith Stroup, the founders of PRIDE Buddy Gleaton and Keith Schuchard, former Drug czars Robert DuPont and Peter Bourne and many others help illuminate how we got to where we are and what needs to be done about it.

WITH APPEARANCES BY:

Subject & Author – Keith Stroup, J.D.

Mr. Keith Stroup is a Washington, DC public-interest attorney who founded NORML in 1970. Stroup obtained his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Illinois in 1965, and in 1968 he graduated from Georgetown Law School in Washington, DC. Following two years as staff counsel for the National Commission on Product Safety, Mr. Stroup founded NORML and ran the organization through 1979, during which 11 states decriminalized minor marijuana offenses. Stroup has also practiced criminal law, lobbied on Capitol Hill for family farmers and artists, and for several years served as executive director of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). In 1992 Stroup was the recipient of the Richard J. Dennis Drugpeace Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Drug Policy Reform presented by the Drug Policy Foundation, Washington, DC. In 1994 Stroup resumed his work with NORML, rejoining the board of directors and serving again as Executive Director through 2004. He is currently serving as Legal Counsel with NORML. Mr. Stroup has appeared on numerous television shows such as The O'Reilly Factor, Crossfire, Buchanan and Press, and Hannity and Colmes.

Former U.S. Drug Czar (1973-1978) - Robert Dupont, M.D.

For 50 years, Robert L. DuPont, MD has been a leader in drug abuse prevention and treatment. Among his many contributions to the field is his leadership as the first Director of the NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse (1973-1978) and as the second White House Drug Chief (1973-1977). From 1968 to 1970 he was Director of Community Services, for the District of Columbia Department of Corrections, heading parole and half-way house services. From 1970 to 1973, he served as Administrator of the District of Columbia Narcotics Treatment Administration (NTA), the city-wide drug abuse treatment program that was the model for the federal government's massive commitment to drug abuse treatment in the early 1970s. Following this distinguished public career, in 1978 Dr. DuPont became the founding president of the Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc. Dr. DuPont maintains an active practice of psychiatry specializing in addiction and the anxiety disorders and has been Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Georgetown University School of Medicine since 1980. Dr. DuPont's signature role throughout his career has been to focus on the public health goal of reducing the use of illegal drugs.

Drug Policy Alliance Founder - Ethan Nadelmann

Described by Rolling Stone as "the point man" for drug policy reform efforts and "the real drug czar," Ethan Nadelmann is widely regarded as the outstanding proponent of drug policy reform both in the United States and abroad. He founded and directed (from 2000 to 2017) the Drug Policy Alliance. He has authored two books on the internationalization of criminal law enforcement – Cops Across Borders and (with Peter Andreas) Policing The Globe – and his writings have appeared in most major media outlets in the U.S. as well as top academic journals (e.g., Science, International Organization), policy journals (Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Washington Quarterly, Public Interest) and political publications from the right (National Review) to the left (The Nation).
He has played a key role as drug policy advisor to George Soros and other prominent philanthropists as well as elected officials ranging from mayors, governors and state and federal legislators in the U.S. to presidents and cabinet ministers outside the U.S.

ADDITIONAL APPEARANCES BY:

Journalist and Author - Dan Baum

Dan Baum has been a staff writer for The New Yorker, as well as a reporter for The Wall Street Journal, The Asian Wall Street Journal, and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He is the author of Gun Guys: A Road Trip, Nine Lives: Death and Life in New Orleans, Citizen Coors: An American Dynasty, and Smoke and Mirrors: The War on Drugs and the Politics of Failure. He has written numerous articles for The New York Times Magazine, Playboy, Rolling Stone, and Wired. While living in New Orleans to research Nine Lives, Dan wrote a daily online column for The New Yorker. All of his work is a collaboration with his wife and writing partner, Margaret Knox.

Acclaimed Author - Marsha Keith Schuchard

In 1976, Marsha "Keith" Schuchard and her husband, Ronald, were appalled when confronted with evidence that their 13-year-old daughter was smoking pot. With a neighbor in their suburban Atlanta neighborhood, Sue Rusche, Schuchard formed Families in Action, a parents' group that promoted anti-drug education and zero-tolerance policies. Within a few years, they had formed organizations that offered support to thousands of similar groups around the country. Under commission from the federal National Institute on Drug Abuse, Schuchard wrote a handbook for parent organizations, Parents, Peers, and Pot. More than a million copies were distributed and more than 4,000 parents' groups formed by 1983. Schuchard stated in the book that her goal was to protect psychologically vulnerable children from a popular culture that pushed them toward drugs, not to advocate prohibition for adults. However, the fine distinction was lost by politicians who built on the movement's support.

ADDITIONAL APPEARANCES BY:

Former U.S. Drug Czar (1987-1988) - D. Ian MacDonald, M.D.

Dr. Donald Ian MacDonald is a founder and serves as the Chairman of the Board and Medical Director at Employee Health Programs, Inc. Dr. MacDonald served as Assistant Surgeon General and Acting Assistant Secretary for Health during the Reagan administration. In addition, Dr. MacDonald directed the activities of The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, The National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Mental Health and he played a key role in the creation of the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention. Dr. MacDonald, who is certified in pediatrics and addiction medicine, has more than 30 years of experience in identifying and treating substance abuse and is a leading expert in the field of medical review. He published numerous articles, including "Drugs, Drinking and Adolescence," and helped develop federal standards and procedures to ensure quality in drug testing. Dr. MacDonald worked extensively on the development of Medical Review Officers. During his tenure as the Director of the White House Drug Abuse Policy Office, Dr. MacDonald wrote the foreword to the Medical Review Officer Manual, the first publication describing the role of the MRO; in 1989, he presented the first training courses for MROs. Dr. MacDonald has been the Chairman of the American Society of Addiction Medicine since 1990 and continues to direct ASAM's MRO certification course.

Former U.S. Drug Czar (1973-1978) - Peter Bourne

Dr Peter Bourne is Visiting Senior Research Fellow at Green Templeton College, University of Oxford, Vice Chancellor Emeritus of St. George's University in Grenada, West Indies,.and Chairman of the Board of Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC). Dr Bourne has had a career as a clinician and researcher, senior government official, international civil servant, diplomat and author. In 1970 he was appointed director of the Georgia Narcotic Treatment Program, a state agency providing statewide drug abuse treatment services. As Special Assistant to the President for Health Issues in the Carter White House he led the fight to get the administration's national health insurance plan through the US Congress. Simultaneously, he held the job of Director of the Office of Drug Abuse Policy (ODAP), the position generally referred to as the "drug czar," where he was responsible for coordinating the law enforcement, treatment, and foreign policy aspects of America's drug policy. He also established for the President national commissions on world hunger and malnutrition and mental illness. He served as the official emissary of the president in negotiations with the heads of state or government of several nations and represented the US government on the governing bodies of a number of UN organizations including UNDP, WHO, UNICEF, and the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. He is the author of more than 100 articles and nine books including biographies Fidel, and Jimmy Carter: A Biography from Plains to the Post-presidency.

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

Producer - Chris Chiari

A graduate of Admiral Farragut Academy and Clark University with a degree in economics, Chris Chiari has spent twenty years at the helm of American Millennium Investment Corp. Beginning with a modest investment, the firm netted a 50x average return to its investors through agriculture and tech investments—coupled with forecasting and corporate strategy led by Mr. Chiari.
In 2006, Mr. Chiari ran twice for the Florida State House of Representatives followed by the Denver City Council in 2015. For over a decade, Mr. Chiari has been involved in entertainment producing a live event with Cheech & Chong and Live Nation, a feature documentary about policy and the war on drugs, as well as Aletheia Film's feature, Strive. Mr. Chiari is enthusiastic to join Aletheia Films as Head of Business Affairs as the company expands its slate and access to financing.

Director, Producer - Robert Rippberger

Robert is a director/producer of documentaries and feature films that look to make a positive impact in the world through entertainment. He has made over four dozen documentaries, music videos, short films, and features that have reached millions of viewers worldwide.Robert has studied under directing teacher Judith Weston, at UCLA Film School, and he received a B.A. in philosophy from UC, Berkeley where he was awarded the Eisner Prize. It is the 'highest award for creativity given on the UC, Berkeley campus.'In 2005 at age 16, Robert made his first feature film, "The Hoodwink." Robert was the 2012 recipient of the Dan Eldon Activist Award. He writes periodically for the Huffington Post, published a novel in 2014 called "Escape To Anywhere Else," with a foreword by Mariel Hemingway, and co-founded and is acting editor of the magazine, Cinema of Change.

Executive Producer - Phil Viardo

With over two decades in the entertainment industry, Emmy Award - nominated producer Phil Viardo has built Viardo Artists into a respected brand in the fast-paced world of Hollywood dealmakers. In a 2013, Viardo partnered with Natural 9 Entertainment under the Tri-Crown Production Group umbrella, making a major focus pivot to production and content creation. Instrumental in growing the company's production and development slate with numerous non-scripted and scripted projects that include new TV series for ABC, CW, A+E, National Geographic, GSN and Univision, Viardo assumed a partner position and became the Executive VP of Development & Talent for the overall company, while Viardo Artists became the de facto Tri-Crown management wing. Viardo and Natural 9 Entertainment first collaborated on producing an acclaimed program "Chris & Adrianne Do Russia" for WEtv in 2007, and then again in 2009 as they co-created popular weekly internationally syndicated entertainment news program "Hollyscoop." Phil has since been responsible for creating a non-fiction development slate of over 100 active projects. He is also an EP for the upcoming major feature film Hellfire Club, written by Jeffrey Hatcher (The Duchess, Casanova) and produced by Cross Creek Pictures (Black Swan, Rush) as well as a number of other scripted film/TV projects in development and production.

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

Executive Producer - Jeff Androsky

14-time Emmy Award-winner Jeff Androsky, whose innovative style and creativity has established him as one of TV industry's foremost producers/directors of non-fiction programming, has an extensive credit list that includes the long-running and highly successful FOX SPORTS Series "Celebrity Sports Invitational" that helped launch careers ranging from Pat O'Brian to Ryan Seacrest; major TV Network Specials such as "Robbie Kneivel: Live!" hosted by Joe Buck for FOX; "Victoria's Secret: Angels Across America" for VH1; the PAX reality drama, "It's A Miracle with Richard Thomas" and "New Years Eve LIVE!" for big FOX to name a few. He has also produced and directed numerous award shows broadcasts from the LA Emmys to the Movieguide Awards. As president and CEO of Natural 9 Entertainment, Androsky is currently the Executive Producer for ABC's award-winning series "The Wildlife Docs" ; Consulting Producer for NFL's animated series "NFL Rush Zone" for Nickelodeon, and EP for Univision's latest primetime hit "La Gran Sorpresa" among numerous other projects and credits. Androsky began his producing career at KABC-TV where he played a key role in creating the highly successful magazine series, "Eye on L.A" which ultimately led to the long-running late-night ABC network series, "Eye on Hollywood."

Writer - Brian Welsh

Brian Welsh is a writer and political communication professional. He has honed a unique talent over a twenty-year career for capturing the voice of the speaker. He is an award winning screenwriter winning the 2004 Telluride Film Festival in the original screenplay category for his script "Beyond Belief" and has spent much of his career conducting opposition research for major political organizations and campaigns.

About Aletheia Films

Originally founded in 2006, Aletheia Films is a production company that produces feature films, documentaries, commercials, music videos, concerts, and major events. The company has produced for various high profile brands such as Trumbull Studios, The Jane Goodall Institute, Spyder Active Sports, Warren Miller, NetApp, Elevate Services, The Grand Prix Denver, Beck-Tech Corp., The Adam Radly Foundation, and Hey Guy Media. The company has worked with notable figures such as Q'orianka Kilcher, Mariel Hemingway, Danny Glover, Jane Goodall, Ice T, among others, and its projects have been distributed on Netflix, Hulu, Delta Airlines, to Magnolia Pictures, and The New York Times.