



FREEDOM FOR THE WOLF

Rupert Russell

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WORLD PREMIERE
Sheffield Doc/Fest 2017

EUROPEAN PREMIERE
International Documentary
Festival Amsterdam 2017

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
Slamdance Film Festival 2018

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BULLDOG
= AGENDA =



Cinephil



SYNOPSIS

Democracy is in crisis. A new generation of elected leaders are dismantling freedom and democracy as we know it.

Filmed over three years in five countries, **FREEDOM FOR THE WOLF** is an epic investigation into this new regime. From the young students of Hong Kong, to a rapper in post-Arab Spring Tunisia and the viral comedians of Bollywood, we discover how people from every corner of the globe are fighting the same struggle. They are fighting against elected leaders who trample on human rights, minorities, and their political opponents.

Philosopher Isaiah Berlin warned against this political hijacking long ago, "freedom for the wolves has often meant death for the sheep."

Now the wolves are on the rise.
Can they be defeated?



THE PRODUCTION

Filming began in August 2014 in Hong Kong and wrapped at 2am, June 22, 2017, the evening of the Women's March on Washington. This period stretched from the Umbrella Revolution in Hong Kong to Trump's inauguration.

Rupert Russell and his producers, Camilla Hall and Patrick Hamm, filmed in five countries – Tunisia, India, Japan, Hong Kong, United States – over three continents. In their search for the modern meaning of freedom, they interviewed pro-China politicians, leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hindu nationalist vigilantes, Tunisian rappers, Bollywood comedians, and Trump-voting autoworkers. They attended Hindu rallies, Salafi demonstrations, Republican fundraisers, and illegal Japanese dance parties. They were tear-gassed on the streets of Hong Kong and Washington D.C.

The team fused these character-driven vignettes together with interviews with leading academics: Francis Fukuyama and Larry Diamond, of Stanford University, and Lawrence Lessig and Orlan-

do Patterson, of Harvard University. Their arguments were brought to cinematic life with animations created by a team of artists in Poland at DARE Studio.

Countries filmed in:

- United States
- Japan
- India
- Tunisia
- Hong Kong



DIRECTOR INTERVIEW

Why did you make this film?

I was fixated with one question: can ideas shape the world? After studying sociology at Harvard University as a PhD student for seven years, I still wasn't sure and wanted to find out. Which idea has been more powerful in shaping the modern world than "freedom?"

Why do you find the concept of "freedom" so interesting?

Freedom is the ultimate paradox. In 2014, when I started making this film, ISIS was on the rise. Its origin? The peaceful protests in Syria during the freedom-loving Arab Spring. Freedom has a habit of promoting and promising freedom and then delivering the opposite.

You mix *vérité* and essay style – which genre is this?

The most frequent comment I get from people who see the film is that it plays like an "intellectual horror movie." I think that sums up what's inside my head most days.

How has the work of your father, Ken Russell, influenced you?

Dad made no apologies about taking on big ideas or intellectual subjects. But at the same time, no one ever said his films were boring. I try to do the same.

Do protests work?

Yes! The Women's Marches of January, 2017, have been incredibly successful already. The grassroots organizations that came from these marches are what have given women the spaces, opportunities, and platforms to begin to articulate and report sexual harassment and assault. The marches provided the opportunity for the #metoo movement and can take credit for the men already removed from power – and the many still to go.



DIRECTOR INTERVIEW *continued*

Why did you film in Hong Kong?

Hong Kong is the future. When China suffers an inevitable recession and is forced to implement some democratic “reforms,” it will be the Hong Kong model of managed democracy that will be rolled out. And as existing democracies are becoming more authoritarian and authoritarian governments are becoming more democratic, they will all begin to resemble the illiberal democracy imposed on the Hong Kong people right now.

Why did you film in India and Tunisia?

Most pundits in the West not only overlook Tunisia and India, but hold them up as success cases of the “Western model” of liberal democracy. I find this celebratory stance profoundly narcissistic: in wanting to see our own reflection around the world, we opt to keep one eye shut and not look too closely. Because, what you will find, as we did, is that these “success” cases are in crisis too - sharply turning away from democracy and towards authoritarianism.

PARTICIPANTS



Orlando Patterson, John Cowles Professor of Sociology at Harvard University. Author of *Freedom in the Making of Western Culture* (1991).



Francis Fukuyama, Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) and author of *The End of History* (1992)



Larry Diamond, Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and founding co-editor of the *Journal of Democracy*.



Lawrence Lessig, Roy L. Furman Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and the founder of Creative Commons.



Benny Tai, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Hong Kong and co-founder of Occupy Central.



Regina Ip, legislator and chairperson of the New People's Party.



Anson Chan, former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.



KLAY BBJ, rapper.



Moncef Marzouki, President of Tunisia (2011-2014).



Rashed al-Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian Islamist party, Ennahda.



Tanmay Bhat & Ashish Shakya, comedians and members of All India Bakchod (AIB).



Shri Ram Madhav, General Secretary of the BJP.



Subramanian Swamy, former academic and a Senior Leader of the BJP.



Terry Neese, Republican party fundraiser and founder of Terry Neese Personnel Service.

Additional Participants

Hong Kong: Michael Tse

India: Shabnam Hashmi, Basharat Peer, Raheel Dhattiwala, Lalji Desai, Ajay Tyagi, Mahesh Bhatt, Sanjiv Bhatt, Danish Reyaz

Tunisia: Sayed Ferjani, Abdelatif Abid, Amna Guellali, Habib Belhadi

U.S.: Norm Stamper, Tom Nolan, Kevin Moore, Ed Neumeier, Ash-Har Quraishi, Shadi Hamid.



TEAM

Rupert Russell

WRITER & DIRECTOR

He has just completed his first feature documentary, *Freedom For The Wolf*, on the state of freedom and democracy across the world. He is currently working on a series of animated short films, *How the World Went Mad*, about the rise of political insanity for the documentary streaming platform, Yaddo. His work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Mashable*. He has a Double-Starred First from Cambridge University and a PhD from Harvard University, where he was National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. He is the son of British film director, Ken Russell. [@Rupert_Russell](#)

Patrick Hamm

PRODUCER

Founder of Bulldog Agenda, a Berlin-based production company. His debut as documentary producer, *Freedom For The Wolf*, took him to the frontlines of protest movements around the world. Bulldog Agenda's first narrative feature, *The Man Who Was Thursday* (directed by Balazs Juszti), premiered on the festival circuit in 2016. Patrick is also an executive producer of *Copwatch*, directed by Camilla Hall. He holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Harvard University and a B.A. in Ethics, Politics & Economics from Yale University. He is also an affiliated faculty member at Cambridge University. [@PatrickHamm](#)

Camilla Hall

PRODUCER

Her directing debut *Copwatch* premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival 2017. She left her award-winning career in journalism at the Financial Times in 2014 to produce *Freedom For The Wolf*, travelling to Tunisia, India and around the United States. She has also created a docu-web series titled *Uber Lives: LA* and produced various music videos in Los Angeles. [@CamillaHallNYC](#)

Nick Fraser

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Nick Fraser is the founder and editor of Yaddo, an international, subscription-based online documentary platform. He was formerly the editor of Storyville, the BBC's successful and long-running series of international documentaries. Awards won by Storyville programmes include an Oscar, Sundance prizes, Peabody awards, IDFA trophies and Griersons. Nick has written five non-fiction books, including *The Voice of Modern Hatred: Encounters with the European Far Right*, and is a contributing editor of *Harper's* magazine, New York. His latest pamphlet, *Why Documentaries Matter*, is published by Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. Nick was the series editor of the global documentary project *Why Democracy?* and executive producer of *Why Poverty?* He is the Honorary President of Sheffield Doc/Fest. [@NickHFraser](#)



CREDITS

Writer & Director
Rupert Russell

Producers
Camilla Hall
Patrick Hamm

Executive Producer
Nick Fraser
Stephen Robert Morse
Sarena Snider
Maria Springer

Music
Alex Williamson

Editors
Bobby Good
Rupert Russell
Anthony Stadler

Additional Editing
Atsuko Atake
Steph Zeneé Perez

Consulting Editor
Doug Blush

Artwork
Mark Badger

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Andrew Ceperley

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DARE studio

Production Supervisor
Borys Piasny

Animation and VFX
Borys Kubiak
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Magdalena Parszewska

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Rebecca Goodeve

DCP
Breakwater Studios

Archival Producer
Megan Geier

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Tibbo Sound, Inc.

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Supervising Sound Editor
Stephen A. Tibbo, CAS

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Victor Iorillo, MPSE

Sound Editors
Victor Iorillo
Kunal Rajan, MPSE

Dialogue Editor
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Foley
The Soundtroop

Foley Mixer
Diego Staub

Foley Walker
Miguel Barbosa

ADR Casting
Jocelyn Fillman

JAPAN UNIT

Camera
Nelson Hernandez-Torrealba
Rupert Russell
Patrick Hamm

Field Producer
Takenori Nagatani

Field Producer
Yuka Uchida

HONG KONG UNIT

Camera
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Nelson Hernandez-Torrealba
Tobias Reeuwijk
Field Producer
Joyce Lau
Benny Kwok

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Melanie Ko
Hong Tsun-Lai
Jerra Chan, Eros Kwok
Dickson Lok

TUNISIA UNIT

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Myriam Ben Sana Abdeljalil

Transportation
Walid Rmedi

INDIA UNIT

Camera
Rupert Russell

Field Producer
Mehboob Jeelani

Transportation
Maneesh Inc.

Fixer
Dev Desai

US UNIT

Camera
Rupert Russell
Andrew Ceperley

Aerial Videography
Drone Brothers

Sound Recorder
Seb Blach
Frank Coakley

English Transcriptions
Rae Crothers
Derrick Patterson
Charlie Schmidlin
Jenny Vanderbilt

Foreign Language Transcriptions
Ahmed Medien
Abdullah Halawani
Mohammed Reda Boulaich
Francesco Lo Bello
Karan Sahni
Winnie So
Himmel Yeung
Luna Leung
Nicole Pun

WOMEN'S MARCH

Camera
Andrew Ceperley
Daniel Frank
Justus Ndichu
Hélène Bougy
Young G Kim

Production Assistant
Yesha Hayes