



FREEDOM FOR THE WOLF

Rupert Russell

89 / GERMANY / 2017 / HD

WORLD PREMIERE
Sheffield Doc/Fest 2017

EUROPEAN PREMIERE
International Documentary
Festival Amsterdam 2017

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BULLDOG
= AGENDA =



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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 Orland

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'S STATEMENT

In 1989, the Berlin Wall fell. It marked the “End of History.” Liberal democracy had won. Or so we thought. It wasn’t long before democratically elected leaders realised that democratic institutions could be used for authoritarian ends and that the language of “freedom” could be used as instrument of oppression rather than liberation. By 2014, this “new normal” was a global epidemic and I sought to capture this revival of “History.”

FREEDOM FOR THE WOLF shows how a new breed of politicians are manipulating the idea of freedom, subverting the democratic process, and using organs of the state meant to protect people – the police – into agents of political oppression. From the failure of the Umbrella Revolution in Hong Kong to the victory of Donald Trump in America, the film shows first hand the awesome power of these “illiberal democrats” across the world.

This should not have surprised us. Since its invention, the very

idea of freedom has had two, contradictory meanings: freedom to oppress versus the freedom to liberate. Indeed, as the legendary British philosopher Isaiah Berlin wrote, “freedom for the wolves has often meant death for the sheep.”

This film is the first chapter in the History of the rise of “illiberal democracies.” The question is, will it be the last?

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.



Kevin Moore, filmed the Freddy Grey arrest and member of Copwatch.



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 Mukhtar Muhammad Sheikh,

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

VFX Supervisor

Andrew Ceperley

Animation Services

DARE studio

Production Supervisor

Borys Piasny

Animation and VFX

Borys Kubiak
Pawel Maslanka
Magdalena Parszewska

Colorist

Rebecca Goodeve

DCP

Breakwater Studios

Archival Producer

Megan Geier

Post Production Sound

Tibbo Sound, Inc.

Re-Recording Mixer

Stephen Tibbo, CAS

Supervising Sound Editor

Stephen A. Tibbo, CAS

Sound Designer

Victor Iorillo, MPSE

Sound Editors

Victor Iorillo
Kunal Rajan, MPSE

Dialogue Editor

Justin W. Walker, MPS

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

Patrick Hamm
Rupert Russell
Nelson Hernandez-Torrealba
Tobias Reeuwijk

Field Producer

Joyce Lau
Benny Kwok

Production Assistants

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

TUNISIA UNIT

Camera

Rupert Russell

Field Producer

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