

BHUTTO

A Duane Baughman Film

111 minutes, HDCAM
1.78, Stereo
2010
(In English)



PRESS CONTACT

Julia Pacetti
JMP Verdant
1 Grand Army Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11238

juliapacetti@earthlink.net
(917) 584-7846

DISTRIBUTOR

First Run Features
630 Ninth Avenue, Suite 1213
New York, NY 10036

info@firstrunfeatures.com
(212) 243-0600

www.bhuttothefilm.com

PRAISE FOR BHUTTO

“★★★★! Fascinating!” – Andrew Schenker, *Time Out New York*

“Thorough and involving! A crash course in the ultra-turbulent history of Pakistan...makes fiction pale by comparison.” – Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times*

“Incisive, well-researched and ultimately moving” – Brandon Harris, *Filmmaker Magazine*

“Stirring. Contextualizing the prime minister's rise to power within a larger portrait of a nation under constant internal and external siege, 'Bhutto' conveys a forceful sense of tectonic social and geopolitical shifts, as well as the courageous, heartbreaking personal sacrifices its subject made in service to both her homeland and ideals.” – Nick Schager, *Village Voice*

“Fast-paced and intelligent!” – Cliff Doerksen, *Chicago Reader*

“A spellbinding portrait that moves with the speed, intensity and suspense of a psychological thriller. A riveting masterpiece.” – Amy Handler, *Moving Pictures International*

“A worthy portrait of a phenomenal woman. Thorough...exciting!” – John Anderson, *Variety*

“Effective as an elegy and as a crash course in the knotted politics of Pakistan.”
– Damon Smith, *Indiwire's Reverse Shot blog*

“A biographical documentary...with the pace of a Cold War conspiracy thriller”
– P. L. Kerpius, *Time-Out Chicago*

“An epic portrait of Pakistan's former prime minister...frames its controversial subject as one of the most charismatic and courageous women ever to wade into the political fray.”
– Brian D Johnson, *MacLean's*

“Enthralling.” – Justin Go, *National Post*

“A fine, scrupulously researched historical intro to one of the world's largest countries and a potential powder keg.” – Liz Braun, *Canoe*

“‘Bhutto’ is an exhaustive – look at a larger-than-life figure.”
– Michael O'Sullivan, *Washington Post*

"Footage of her fiery speeches keeps her passion and promise alive, and an audio interview running throughout serves as a haunting reminder of what path Pakistan might have taken."
– Ethan Gilsdorf, *Boston Globe*

“Duane Baughman and Johnny O'Hara's Bhutto is so well researched, with such complete access to Bhutto's inner circle, that it's the only Bhutto movie you'll ever need.”
– Kelly Vance, *East Bay Express*

SYNOPSIS

BHUTTO is an epic story about the first woman in history to lead a Muslim nation - Pakistan.

TIME Magazine called Pakistan "the most dangerous place in the world" with good reason: the 6th largest country on the planet (population: 180 million), Pakistan is bordered by Iran, Afghanistan and long-time rival India, with whom it has engaged in a decades-long and smoldering conflict. Pakistan is riven with often violent internal dissent between various tribes and political factions. And Pakistan remains the world's only nuclear-armed Muslim nation.

Benazir Bhutto was born into a wealthy family that has become Pakistan's dominant political dynasty. Often referred to as the "Kennedys of Pakistan," the Bhuttos share a painful history of triumph and tragedy, played out on an international stage.

Educated at Harvard and Oxford, Benazir's life changed forever when her father, Pakistan's first democratically elected president, chose Benazir, instead of his eldest son, to carry his political mantle. After her father was overthrown and executed by his handpicked Army Chief, Benazir swore to avenge him and to restore democracy - or die trying.

Benazir lived a life of contradictions. She broke the Islamic glass ceiling, but was wed in a traditional arranged marriage to Karachi playboy Asif Ali Zardari. Her two terms in power saw acts of courage and controversy as she restored democracy, eradicated polio, helped advance the status of women, and fought extremism, all the while battling politically-charged accusations of corruption and cronyism.

In 2007, with the country rolling in turmoil and under the thumb of yet another military dictator, Benazir was called back onto the world stage as Pakistan's best hope for democracy. With her assassination she transcended politics, but left behind a legacy of simmering controversy and undeniable courage that will be debated for years.

FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

Like most of the rest of the world, I watched CNN in horror on Dec. 27, 2007, when Benazir Bhutto, the first woman in history to lead a Muslim nation, was blown away by a suicide bomber. Millions felt Benazir was the best hope for democracy and progress in that strategically critical nuclear-armed country. I always wondered how Benazir managed to defeat the impossible odds stacked against ANY woman in Pakistan and accomplish what she was able to accomplish.

As an American political consultant, my experience is both domestic and international. Before Benazir's death a close colleague of mine reconnected me with Benazir's advisor and close friend Mark Siegel, who had been pulling together American consultants on her behalf in anticipation of her 3rd rise to power in Pakistan. Three days after she died, I watched Mark desperately trying – almost single-handedly -- to keep Benazir's legacy alive by making the rounds on every conceivable news show. Before long, we spoke about telling the world Benazir's story via a documentary film.


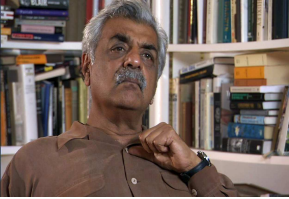




A few months later, myself and a film crew would find ourselves sitting in Dubai in what had been Benazir's living room, listening to her three heartbroken children and her shaken widower, Asif Ali Zardari, explain why Benazir was compelled to leave her family and the safe confines of a cushy self-exile to march back into Pakistan to face death threats and a political hurricane. Along the way on the amazing journey of making this movie, I discovered Pakistan and learned that Benazir's family story was something out of a Greek tragedy with unsolved murders, political intrigue, family feuds, hijackings, poisonings -- you name it. Her story had all the elements from triumph to tragedy.

I understand better now why the Bhutto's are called the "Kennedy's of Pakistan." Ironically, at Harvard, her roommate was Bobby Kennedy's daughter, Kathleen Kennedy. But what made this experience so visceral and unique, was how much a part of it you become when you immerse yourself into a completely different world. Three days after checking out of the Marriot Islamabad, where the crew and myself had stayed during filming and had gotten to know the staff, the entire hotel was blown to the ground by a suicide bomber and a truck full of explosives, killing over 40 people at the end of Ramadan. That attack made me realize that Benazir's story wasn't as much about a death-too-soon as it was about what we accomplish while we're here. What would you do? Rest in comfort as she could've or go back and fight?

As much as this film resonates with the entire world, I would like it to empower women and young girls everywhere with the message: If there are times when you think the world is against you, think of Benazir, who came from a country where the law dictates that women come second, and honor killings are LEGAL. Yet in her 54 short years, Benazir stared down the dictator who killed her father, restored democracy to her country, and shattered the glass ceiling in Pakistan forever. Something that's never been done in America.

From a country feared for its nuclear weapons and Taliban suicide soldiers, came a woman so brave that she made the world take notice. She reminded us that hope can spring from even the most dangerous place on earth. In 2007, with the South Asian country rolling in turmoil and under the thumb of yet another military dictator, Benazir was called back onto the world stage as Pakistan's best hope for democracy. With her assassination she transcended politics, but left a legacy of simmering controversy and undeniable courage that will be debated for years.

INTERVIEWEES

	<p>President Asif Ali Zardari The widower of Benazir.</p>
	<p>Tariq Ali A South Asian historian and author of numerous books including, "The Clash of Fundamentalisms."</p>
	<p>Condoleezza Rice The former US Secretary of State.</p>
	<p>Kathleen Kennedy Townsend Benazir's college roommate, the eldest daughter of Robert F. Kennedy, and the former Lt. Governor of Maryland.</p>
	<p>Pervez Musharraf A former general of the Pakistan Army who led a coup and appointed himself president. Some feel his government had a hand in Benazir's assassination. He lives in exile in London</p>
	<p>Victoria Schofield Closest friend of Benazir at Oxford, lifelong confidant, and author of "Bhutto."</p>

	<p>Dr. Reza Aslan An internationally acclaimed religious scholar, well known for his commentaries on South Asian politics, and author of “No God But God.”</p>
	<p>Arianna Huffington Befriended Benazir at Oxford, and is co-founder of the hugely influential Huffington Post.</p>
	<p>Husain Haqqani Pakistan’s ambassador to the United States.</p>
	<p>Peter Galbraith Met Benazir at Harvard, and is a lifelong diplomat, former US Ambassador to Croatia, and former United States Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan. .</p>

Aseefa Bhutto Zardari - the youngest of Benazir’s two daughters.

Bahkatwar Bhutto Zardari - the eldest of Benazir’s two daughters.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari - the son of Benazir.

Sanam "Sunny" Bhutto - the sister of Benazir, and only living Bhutto sibling.

Mark Siegel - close friend, top US political advisor, and co-author along with Benazir of her book “Reconciliation.”

Steven Coll - *The New Yorker* magazine journalist and author, accompanied Benazir Bhutto on her first visit home to Pakistan in 8 years.

Ahmed Ispahani - Benazir's uncle and lives and teaches in the United States.

Akbar Ahmed - served as the former Pakistan Ambassador to the UK.

Amna Piracha - PPP official and long-time Bhutto family confidant who held one of the 20 Parliamentary seats legally reserved for women in Benazir's government.

Christina Lamb - the Washington bureau chief for the Sunday Times of London and Author of "Waiting for Allah."

Feroz Hassan Khan - a retired Pakistan Army Brigadier General and Pakistan's representative in diplomatic nuclear arms control negotiations.

John F. Burns - the London bureau chief for *The New York Times*.

Fatima Bhutto - the estranged niece of Benazir, the daughter of Murtaza, best known for her controversial anti-Benazir writings.

Khurram Dastgir - a top aide to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, a long time nemesis of Benazir.

Rehman Malik - was the former head of the Federal Investigation Agency, and her one-time chief security officer.

Wajid Shamsul Hasan - Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.




Amy Wilentz - wrote "Martyr's Crossing."

Ibrahim Mahlik - the Senior Correspondent for SAAMA TV Pakistan.

Shuja Nawaz - known for his book "Crossed Swords: Pakistan, its Army, and the Wars Within."

Sadia Abbas - a professor of Post Colonial Studies at Rutgers University.

BIOGRAPHIES

	<p>Duane Baughman, Producer/Director</p> <p>Duane Baughman is the owner and founder of the San Francisco-based Yellow Pad Productions, through which he produced and funded the 2010 Sundance Film Festival feature-length documentary selection BHUTTO. He is the owner of the nationally regarded political direct mail firm, The Baughman Company which has been responsible for helping elect Michael R. Bloomberg mayor of New York City, and the historic presidential campaign of another barrier-breaking woman, Hillary Clinton.</p>
	<p>Johnny O'Hara, Director/Writer</p> <p>Johnny O'Hara is a writer-director born and raised in New York City. He was the winner of the Sundance 2008 Audience Award for Best Documentary as the writer of FUEL, which went on to become one of 15 documentaries shortlisted for the 2009 Academy Awards®. FUEL also was nominated by the Writers Guild of America for Best Documentary Screenplay in 2009. An author, O'Hara's first book, published by Penguin, is titled ELVIS & YOU.</p>
	<p>Mark Siegel, Producer</p> <p>Pakistan expert Mark Siegel, a partner at Locke Lord Strategies, has a vast political resume' that includes serving as Deputy Assistant to President Jimmy Carter, Assistant to former Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Executive Director of the Democratic National Committee. Mark assisted Benazir Bhutto in updating her autobiography, "Daughter of Destiny" in 2007 and co-authored with her the international best selling book "Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West" shortly before her death. He frequently appears on television as a political analyst, and was a guest on THE DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART interviewed about his book and friendship with Ms. Bhutto. During three Democratic National Conventions, Siegel served as political consultant to the late long-time CBS News anchor and newsman Walter Cronkite. A prominent speechwriter, he has written for Presidents, Vice Presidents, Senators, Congressmen and corporate executives as well as international dignitaries.</p>



Glenn Aveni, Executive Producer

Glenn Aveni is the owner and founder of Icon TMI and has 25 years' experience in Hollywood producing, directing, and distributing major motion pictures and documentary features. He served as Executive Producer of LES PAUL – CHASING SOUND that won the Chicago Film Festival's Silver Hugo Award as well as the Park City Music Festival's Gold Medal for Best Documentary Subject.



Arleen Sorkin, Producer

Arleen Sorkin acted on the soap opera DAYS OF OUR LIVES. She played the role of Calliope and earned many awards for her comedic and acting skills. During this time, she was also a semi regular on the Fox situation comedy DUET, which later became OPEN HOUSE in which she played the wisecracking maid Geneva. Soon after, she became the host of AMERICA'S FUNNIEST PEOPLE. She continues to provide the voice of Harley Quinn on the animated series BATMAN and the internet's GOTHAM GIRLS, and co-penned the humor books "From Here to Maternity" and "My Bad: The Apology Anthology." Arleen co-created and co-executive produced the sitcom FIRED UP, and co-produced two comedy specials for HBO. Arleen is married to Christopher Lloyd, executive producer of FRAISER and currently, MODERN FAMILY.

BHUTTO TIMELINE

June 21, 1953

Benazir Bhutto is born in Karachi, Pakistan.

June 1973

Bhutto graduates cum laude from Radcliffe College with a B.A. in government. Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a former Pakistani president, begins serving as prime minister.

1976

Bhutto earns a B.A. in philosophy, politics and economics and is the first woman elected president of the Oxford Union, the prestigious debating society.

June 1977

After leaving Oxford, Bhutto returns to Pakistan. Soon after, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is overthrown in a military coup led by dictator Gen. Mohammad Zia ul-Haq.

April 4, 1979

After having been imprisoned for two years on Zia's charges of conspiring to murder a political opponent, Benazir's father is "judicially assassinated" in the Rawalpindi District Jail. Bhutto has said that her father's death vigil prepared her for her political career.

May 28, 1979

Bhutto and her mother are released after being detained for two months prior to the execution. Both had been active in Mr. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and had been detained to minimize demonstrations. Zia outlaws the printing or speaking of the name "Bhutto."

March 8, 1981

Bhutto and her mother are arrested in a round-up of political dissidents after her two brothers are linked to the hijacking of a Pakistani airliner. Bhutto spends the summer in solitary confinement and is then transferred to house arrest before leaving the country in exile in 1984.

July 18, 1985

In exile in France, Shannawaz Bhutto, Benazir's beloved younger brother, is found poisoned to death, under mysterious circumstances.

August 29, 1985

Bhutto returns to Pakistan from her self-imposed exile to assume leadership of her father's party. In defiance of dictator General Zia, millions of Pakistanis greet her at the airport.

April 11, 1986

Bhutto confronts her father's killer, Gen. Zia, and demands new elections while making a pledge of non-violent change.

December 18, 1987

Bhutto takes part in a traditional arranged marriage to Karachi businessman, Asif Ali Zardari.

December 2, 1988

Prime Minister Bhutto, age 35, is sworn into office, becoming the first woman Prime Minister of a Muslim nation.

January 25, 1990

Bhutto becomes the first female leader to give birth while in office.

August 6, 1990

Bhutto's government is dismissed by the president of Pakistan after only 20 months in office. Bhutto blames the military for her ouster.

October 7, 1993

After more than two years of political battling, Bhutto's PPP captures the most seats in parliamentary elections. Bhutto returns for a second term as prime minister.

September 20, 1996:

Bhutto's brother Murtaza dies in a gun battle with police in Karachi.

November 5, 1996

Pakistan's president dismisses Bhutto as the head of the government, justifying the action with a proclamation that depicted her administration as incompetent, corrupt and defiant of constitutional restraints on executive power. Bhutto is placed under house arrest and her husband is arrested.

April 15, 1999

A Pakistani court, stacked by her political opponents, accuses Bhutto of corruption. She is sentenced to five years in prison and barred from holding political office. Bhutto, in London at the time the sentence is handed down, denies all charges but remains in self-exile.

April 6, 2001

Pakistan's Supreme Court sets aside the conviction and orders a retrial for Bhutto and her imprisoned husband.

November 22, 2004

Bhutto's husband is released after 11 years in prison and never convicted of any crime.

October 4, 2007

The government of yet another dictator, Gen. Pervez Musharraf announces an American-brokered accord that includes amnesty for Bhutto, which clears the way for the General to run for election as president and for Bhutto to return to Pakistan for parliamentary elections.

December 27, 2007

Benazir Bhutto is assassinated while attending a political rally in Rawalpindi.

September 9, 2008

Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari is elected President of Pakistan.

February 2009

President Zardari requests an independent UN investigation into the assassination of Benazir Bhutto.

December 2009

Two years after her death, her murder remains unsolved.

CREDITS

Directors:	Duane Baughman and Johnny O'Hara
Producers:	Duane Baughman, Mark Siegel and Arleen Sorkin
Executive Producer:	Glenn Aveni
Co-Producers:	Pamela Green, Jarik Van Sluijs, Darius Fisher
Writer:	Johnny O'Hara
Music:	Mader, Herb Graham Jr., special guest performance by Stewart Copeland and Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari

NATIONAL POST

Hot Docs Q&A: Bhutto -- Portrait of an iconic leader
Mark Medley, National Post · Monday, May 3, 2010

Q How did you meet Benazir Bhutto?

Siegel I met her in 1984. A mutual friend of ours, one of her Harvard classmates, class of '73, asked my wife and I to have a dinner party for a friend of his that was getting out of jail. ... She was a very shy, very quiet young woman at that point, in her early 30s, but she was very captivating, and we got to be very close. And from that point on I was sort of taking care of her affairs in Washington. ... I travelled around the world with her on lecture tours. We spent countless time together. I think I knew her very, very well. I think what I wanted to make sure of, and I think Duane does this in the movie, is the rest of the world gets to know her like I knew her. Not just the icon, but as a woman, as a person, as someone who can be very funny, who can also suffer pain.

Baughman Also not just as a woman, or as a political leader, but also as a human being, a person with real flaws. And you can only tell a story, and I think people can only leave a theatre with a sense of her true strength and her worthiness to be considered an icon if they understand that she was human like the rest of us. Which is why we needed to make a story that gave a real opportunity for the people who disagreed with her, with her politics, to have their say, and allow viewers to decide whether or not she was corrupt, whether or not she a feminist, whether or not she was the leader that I believed she was.

Q Mark, did you have any hesitation about appearing in the film?

Baughman I can answer that ... Mark is so close and intricately and emotionally tied to the family that when I decided that I thought it was a good idea to make a film to codify her legacy on film, I knew that the only way I could get the access and a historical perspective that was unmatched by any other American, that I would have to go through Mark. Without Mark it would be impossible and not anything that I would undertake. But

I called Mark literally -- perhaps a bit morbidly -- two, three days after she was assassinated and asked him if this was something that he was interested in. And Mark was absolutely torn up and told me that it wasn't anything that he could think about right then, and I kept on him over the course of the next few weeks. And one day came where Mark felt comfortable, and I flew to Washington and I convinced him -- I had to twist his arm -- and lay out a picture of how I saw this movie being made, and what his involvement would be in it. If he could give me that level of participation, then we would do it and do it together.

Siegel After the assassination, there were many people who came to me with ideas, and I didn't want her to be exploited. I was very careful. And after a while, after talking to Duane, I thought he would be able to produce the kind of fair, balanced, important film that would be critical to preserving her legacy. At that point I was still very raw. I wanted her to be alive, and I thought the film would keep her alive.

Q *The UN report on her death just came out a couple of weeks ago. What's the fallout?*

Siegel The government of Pakistan was waiting until after the UN reported to begin a full-scale investigation. ... A tribunal of three justices has been established. Just today they arrested the person who was apparently the facilitator of the assassination. ... They have put many of the people who were involved, we think, in the cover up on what's called the exit control list, preventing them from leaving the country. A couple of the key people who were involved have escaped and have left the country. Musharraf is not coming back to the country. He said he's not coming back. But I think there is going to be a thorough investigation.

Q *What are the plans regarding a theatrical release in Pakistan?*

Baughman We're extremely proud that the first place that the movie actually got distribution was in Pakistan. ... It will premiere on what was Benazir's 57th birthday, June 21, in Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi. We expect it that to be extremely controversial [but] we expect it to be hopeful.