

Directors' Comment

When artist Cheryl Rattner-Price and educator Jan Landau launched The Butterfly Project in 2006, there was no thought of making a film. That would come later, after Cheryl – who was not a filmmaker – had been videotaping footage of young people and Holocaust survivors painting ceramic butterflies and turning them into displays commemorating the 1.5 million children murdered in the Holocaust.

The project was inspired by the book *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, a collection of art and poetry created by children imprisoned at Terezin (Theresienstadt), and the documentary *Paper Clips*, which chronicles the efforts of a Tennessee middle school class to collect 6 million paper clips to represent the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis.¹

Cheryl and Jan recognized that the camera was capturing something that needed to be shared. Students were genuinely identifying with the lost lives they were learning about. Survivors were being comforted that their own legacies would live on. Teachers were accomplishing their goals of making history meaningful. Art was bringing communities of all backgrounds together, helping students to recognize their responsibility to stand up to injustice in their own communities and to bring a bit of healing to this tragic history. People of differing ages, religions and backgrounds were generating a real sense of community as they sat together, painting butterflies. And for a ceramic artist like Cheryl, the manifestation of art as a therapeutic tool was thrilling.

That's when Cheryl asked Joe Fab to help her shape a story around the project – a fitting idea, since Joe created the Emmy-nominated film *Paper Clips*. What followed was a filmmaking collaboration built around a shared passion for Holocaust education, the enthusiasm of students, the inspiration of survivors and, most certainly, a commitment that those young lives be honored. The result – *NOT The Last Butterfly* – is being recognized by festival audiences as both a moving documentary and a profound learning opportunity.

Whenever possible, the filmmakers encourage that screenings include a chance for audience members to paint butterflies, which is something The Butterfly Project can help presenters facilitate. Not only does this add to the overall experience of seeing the documentary, but it also helps bring the project closer to its goal of 1.5 million ceramic butterflies in installations around the world. So far, about 150,000 butterflies are displayed at locations across the U.S. and in Australia, Israel, Poland, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Canada and other countries.

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Director Bio
Cheryl Rattner Price

First Time Filmmaker, artist Cheryl Rattner Price has been leading The Butterfly Project since 2006. Determined to tell this grass roots story gone global, Cheryl metaphorically applied her skill set from mosaic design to "piece" together the stories with the most impact and beauty. Her shooting from the hip approach and genuine enthusiasm garnered more than 220 hours of footage visiting participants far and wide. Selecting the most important footage to show how The Butterfly Project has brought people of all faiths and generations together through the healing power of art, was not a simple task...but well worth the effort.

Director Bio
Joe Fab

Joe Fab is an Emmy-nominated producer, director and writer with over three decades of experience in film and video production, media and communications, event production and the live presentation of plays and music. His feature length documentaries and other programs have appeared on HBO, Showtime, Discovery, History, and PBS, among others. His diverse client list has included the Bipartisan Policy Center, Smithsonian Institution, United State Memorial Holocaust Museum, National Museum of the American Indian, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Senator Sam Nunn, National Education Association, et al. He is a member of the Producers Guild of America. Career highlights include: producer, writer, co-director for Paper Clips (HBO, theatrical documentary, national Emmy nomination, one of the National Board of Review's Top Five Documentaries of 2004); producer, writer, co-director of Bedford: The Town They Left Behind (feature broadcast documentary, Movieguide Faith and Freedom Award, GI Film Festival Award); producer/writer for the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree for Presidents Bush (both) and Clinton; Special Cultural Envoy for the U.S. State Department to India and Kuwait; producer of the premiere presentation of Amazing Peace, a poem by Dr. Maya Angelou, performed by the author; among others.

He is co-director and producer of the documentary Not The Last Butterfly, appearing in film festivals in 2016/2017.

Joe's skill and sensitivity in storytelling have earned broad recognition, including the Christopher Award for achievements in media that "affirm the highest values of the human spirit;" the Discovery & Imagination Award (previous recipients included Christopher Reeve and Dr. Jane Goodall); numerous Telly, Cine Golden Eagle, Insight, Vision and film festival awards.