

“RESISTANCE”

a web series for revolutionaries



“ The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.”

- Alice Walker

Logline

Mass protests against the inauguration of Donald Trump serve as a backdrop for filmmaker and American expat Blake Lewis to explore the resistance groups that have been working to revolutionize a broken political system.

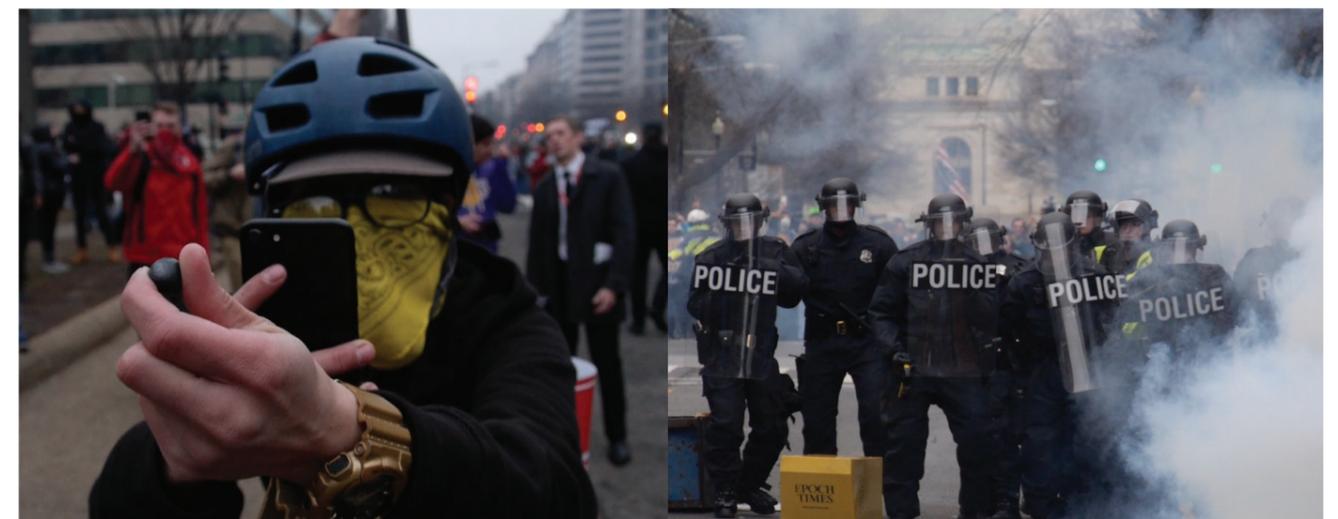
Synopsis

RESISTANCE is a documentary series that uses the mass demonstrations that took place in Washington DC to protest the inauguration of Donald Trump as a backdrop to delve into the systemic issues that led the United States to this point. Blake Lewis, an American expat, travels to Washington DC to document the first protests of the Trump era and in doing so reveals an underground network of political movements that have been resisting the corporate domination of politics for decades and who will be at the forefront of the resistance to the Trump administration. These are politically active people who have been conducting a revolution long before Bernie Sanders announced his 2016 bid and who don't divide themselves up with red or blue.



Part educational video and part on the ground journalism, RESISTANCE doesn't just shock with images of mass unrest, but attempts to put into context why these groups have come to this point of direct confrontation with the apparatuses of authority. The mainstream media has not been able to keep up or accurately explain the reasons and motivations for the emerging political climate. This series gives grassroots organizers and people on the front lines a chance to tell their stories and explain their revolution.

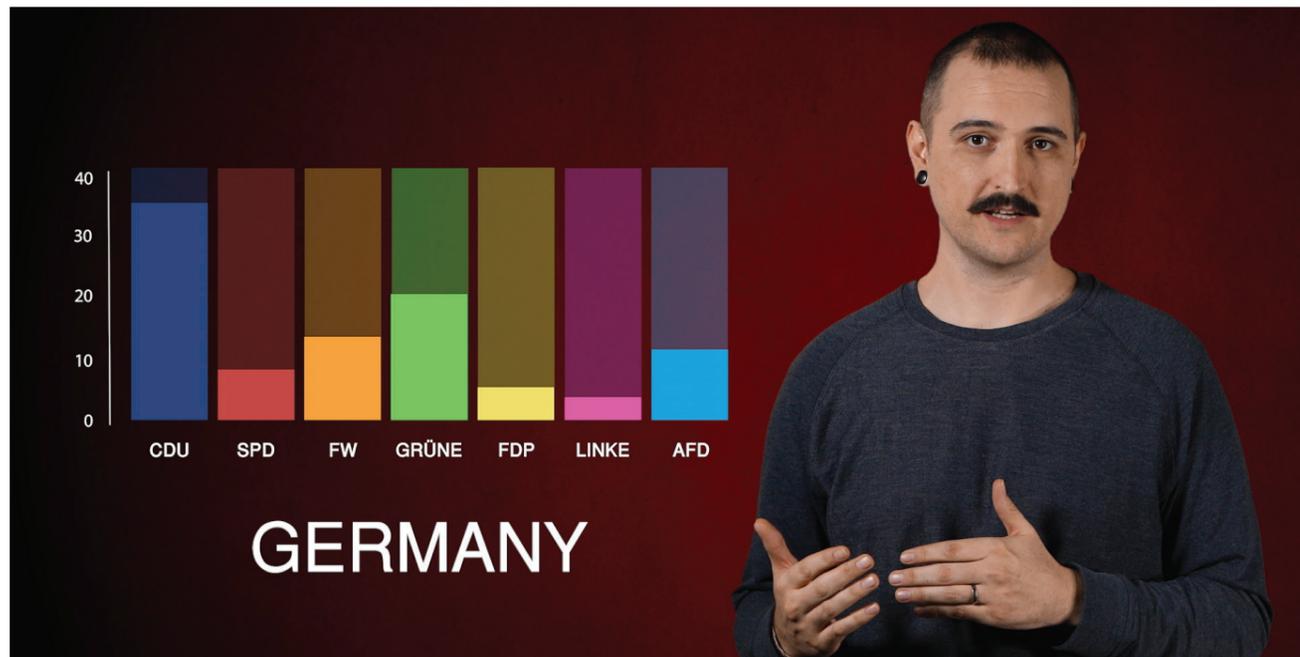
RESISTANCE will profile courageous activists leading and taking part in the demonstrations, creating a historical document of their struggle and a point of origin for the movements to come. Utilizing over 20 hours of interviews, from protesters to presidential candidates, RESISTANCE will not only document the anger and revolt that the 45th President has awakened, but also the political strategies that can harness this energy from the streets to the state houses. There is little doubt that the political landscape is shifting in unpredictable ways, but this series attempts to draw a clear line of distinction between the near sighted politics of short term gains and the long term struggle necessary for true liberation.





Artistic Approach

RESISTANCE is composed of two elements. The first is footage collected by Blake and our production team in Washington DC as well as in Europe. This footage is shot guerilla style with Blake serving as both reporter and camera operator, allowing the audience to experience the events with him and giving them a first hand view of what its like to be in the middle of a political riot in the capitol city of the United States. The second part is composed of green screen studio shoots recorded after Blake returned to his home base of Munich, Germany. Shot at Moonbase Studios, these sections allow Blake to explain the context around the images of rebellion by using animated graphics and statistics to give the audience a better understanding as to the political realities and lack of representation in the United States today. Combined the two elements of the series create a conversation that is at times entertaining and distressing, but always informative. One of the main goals for starting this project was that this subject matter and these subjects have never really been presented in a high quality production, Stewis Media aims to change that trend and have invested heavily in producing a high quality series that looks, sounds and feels professional while maintaining its authenticity.



Target Audience

Our target audience includes progressives and left leaning independents who consider themselves to be a part of the Resistance movement. This would include the over 6 million American's who voted for a third party candidate in the last election and the 12 million plus who supported Bernie Sanders. Our secondary audience would include people with a general interest in American politics and culture both domestically and internationally. The style of our film is designed to appeal to those interested in activism and millennials who are new to the political process. The political leaders that are featured interviews in the film also appeal to a wide audience. Figures like Ralph Nader, Jill Stein and Kshama Sawant speak at rallies and summits year round. They have large networks of supporters around the country that will be interested and share the film on social media and within their peer groups. This organic advertising is particularly advantageous for our distribution strategy of releasing the film independently under a creative commons license. This means the film can be downloaded, embedded and shown by anyone and anywhere that can help mobilize and motivate people to become active in the various movements that are featured in the series. Ultimately our goal is to do our part to unify those who feel left out of the process and show them that their unity is power.

“A government which deliberately enacts injustice, and persists in it, will at length ever become the laughingstock of the world.”
 - Henry David Thoreau





History of the Project

The idea for the project came from a need to do something to counter the prevailing messages that Blake saw coming out of his home country following the 2016 election. He knew after spending much of his early years photographing and documenting these movements, that they were not prepared to just let an authoritarian like Trump take over without a fight. This deep need to do something eventually led to the start of a small crowdfunding campaign which raised enough to get Blake and a small camera crew to Washington to get the interviews and footage for what at the time was envisioned as a film. Upon returning to Munich, the production company sought to secure funds for post production through grants and other initiatives, but was denied any additional funding to complete the proposed film. With no funds the footage and the project was put on hold and was close to being shelved all together. But as the years went on and a new election drew near the concept of releasing the project as smaller episodes over the course of the election cycle became more attractive and thus the series was born. Each episode will be released at a strategic point to coincide with the 2020 election campaign. Many of the issues that are addressed in the series are still relevant and need to be discussed more. For this reason Stewis Media decided to release the RESISTANCE series as the flagship project of our new online channel called "de facto".



Website & Trailer

<https://defacto.stewismedia.com/>

<https://defacto.stewismedia.com/resistance-doc-series/>

About the Filmmakers

BIOGRAPHIES

Blake Ryan Lewis - Director/Producer

Blake earned his Bachelor's Degree in Visual Journalism from Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, California. He gathered his early experience in the Los Angeles television industry before he moved to Munich in 2010 where he works as a freelance producer and videographer in both documentary and commercial productions.

Janine Stengel-Lewis - Producer

Janine earned her bachelor's degrees in Visual Journalism from Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, California. Upon returning to Munich, Stengel-Lewis furthered her studies in accounting and project management. For the last 7 years she has been producing mixed media content and building the financial structure of Stewis Media. This year Stewis Media will release two web series while continuing production of new documentary films for television and theatrical release.

Randy M. Salo - Producer/Editor

After receiving his Bachelors Degree in Directing and Cinematography at the School of Visual Arts in NYC, Randy produced his first feature length documentary which premiered at the Sarasota Film Festival. Since relocating to Munich in 2011, Randy works as a freelance content producer and has produced more than 100 short documentaries, music videos and other formats.

FILMOGRAPHIES

Blake & Janine: "terra arMEnia" - 33 mins.

-World Premiere, Arpa International Film Festival

Randy: "The Dragons of Jim Green" - 77 mins.

- World Premiere, Sarasota Film Festival,

- Audience Award, Indie GritsFest

"Dream Theater: Images, Words & Beyond

25th Anniversary, Documentary" - 14 min.

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