

DEMOCRACY

Through the Looking Glass

POLITICS & MEDIA in the POST-TRUTH ERA

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kevin Bowe

Tel: 978-317-6572; email: Kevin@story-crafters.com

www.democracythroughthelookingglass.com

North Shore Man Creates Documentary About Broken Political Information System

New Hampshire Primary Spurs Examination into Media and its Effect on Democracy

April 6, 2017, Newburyport, MA – *Democracy Through the Looking Glass: Media & Politics in the Post-Truth Era*, a documentary movie that was filmed during the 2016 New Hampshire Primary, is making its national premiere at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April, 22nd at the Firehouse Center for Arts in Newburyport, MA. Tickets are available at <http://www.firehouse.org/see-a-show/129-democracy-through-the-looking-glass>.

“The movie is about our broken political information system, and there is no better place to document the interactions of the media, politicians and voters than right over the border in the New Hampshire Primary,” said director Kevin Bowe, a resident of West Newbury.

“One thing that unites Americans of all political stripes is their dissatisfaction with the media, yet that subject does not get close scrutiny because the media does not cover the media. I did,” Bowe explained.

Bowe spent nine months embedded with the media, covering more than 100 campaign events and press conferences. He supplemented his field recordings with expert analysis from veteran CBS Journalist Bob Schieffer, *Boston Globe* Editor Brian McGrory, and Charles Sennott, Founder and Director of The Ground Truth Project, as well as academics from New England’s top universities.

“It is a great laboratory to observe what the media decides is news, based on how they cover the candidates and events. There certainly is a media bias, but not the kind most people think exists,” Bowe said.

The documentary first examines the shortcomings of traditional media practices that often do not reflect the interests and concerns of voters, before looking at the challenges that newspapers and other traditional media outlets face due to technology.

“It isn’t just the technology threatening traditional media like newspapers. Technology is also changing the way we, the consumer, receive and react to news. This impacts how media companies market the news for the ‘anywhere, anytime, anybody’ world,” he said.

Equally significant is that technology allows for new, fragmented sources of information. People are flocking to sites like "InfoWars" on the right and "YoungTurks" on the left, without making the distinction between what is propaganda and what is verifiable truth.

According to Bowe, the movie is ultimately about the natural, but destructive, changes that technology is having on our media, politics and society and the implications for our Democracy.

For more information, please visit www.democracymethod.com. For tickets, please visit <http://www.firehouse.org/see-a-show/129-democracy-through-the-looking-glass>.

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