



Presents

THE REAGAN SHOW

A film by Pacho Velez



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Told solely through archival footage, and set against the backdrop of the Cold War,
The Reagan Show captures the pageantry, absurdity, and charisma of a prolific actor's defining role: Leader of the Free World.

SYNOPSIS

The Reagan Show is an all-archival documentary about the original performer- president's role of a lifetime.

Teasing apart the spectacle at the heart of finger-on-the-button global diplomacy, the film follows Ronald Reagan's rivalry with the charismatic Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, tracing how the Communicator-in-Chief used his public relations chops to overcome Soviet mistrust, the objections of a skeptical press corps, and the looming threat of WWIII.

Chock full of wit and political irony, and told solely through 1980s network news and videotapes created by the Reagan administration itself, the film explores Reagan's made-for-TV approach to politics as he faced down the United States' greatest rival.





FILMMAKERS

Pacho Velez (Director, Writer) is an award-winning filmmaker. His last film, *Manakamana* (co-directed with Stephanie Spray) won a Golden Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival. It played around the world, including at the Whitney Biennial and the Toronto International Film Festival. His earlier film and theater work have been presented at venues such as the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the Boston Museum of Fine Art, and on Japanese National Television. He is currently a Princeton Arts Fellow.

Sierra Pettengill (Director, Producer) is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker. *Town Hall*, her directorial debut (co-directed with Jamila Wignot), broadcast nationally on PBS in 2014. She produced the Oscar-nominated documentary *Cutie and the Boxer*, which won the directing award at Sundance 2013 and a 2016 News and Doc Emmy Award for Best Documentary. She was the archivist on Jim Jarmusch's *Gimme Danger*, Mike Mills' *20th Century Women*, Robert Greene's *Kate Plays Christine*, and Matt Wolf's *Teenage*, amongst many others.

Houston King (Executive Producer) recently produced *Lemon* and *Hero*, both of which are premiering at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival. He also produced *Results* starring Guy Pearce, Cobie Smulders and Giovanni Ribisi directed by Andrew Bujalski, which premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival and was released by Magnolia Pictures.

He also executive produced *Anesthesia* starring Sam Waterson, Glen Close and Kristen Stewart directed by Tim Blake Nelson, which premiered at the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival and was released by IFC Films. Houston has distributed, sold and/or produced all of Andrew Bujalski's prior features, as well as produced the films *The Beautiful Game*, *Godspeed*, *Beeswax*, *Computer Chess* and *The Trip*. In addition, he has licensed and/or managed the theatrical distribution of approximately 60 other films as well as managed the outreach campaign for the documentary *Bully*.

Francisco Bello (Editor, Writer) is an Oscar and three time Emmy nominee. He shot and produced *Salim Baba* (HBO), a 2008 Best Short Documentary Oscar and 2009 Emmy Nominee. Francisco produced and edited *War Don Don* (HBO), the winner of the Special Jury Prize at the 2010 SXSW Film Festival, for which he was also given the inaugural Karen Schmeer Documentary Editing Award and two Emmy nominations. Additional highlights include editing the Peabody winning *Best Kept Secret*, the Cine Golden Eagle winning *Code of the West*, and the Karen Schmeer Award winning *Our Nixon*. Most recently he co-directed *Dreaming Against the World*, seen at the 2015 Telluride Film Festival, New York's Asia Society, the Museum of the Fine Arts in Boston and China Institute.

Daniel Garber (Editor) is a filmmaker based in Brooklyn, NY. He has edited short films that have played at festivals including the International Film Festival Rotterdam and True/False Film Festival, and has watched nearly 1,000 hours of Ronald Reagan footage.

Josh Alexander (Writer) is one of the founders of Group Effort Films. He wrote and co-directed the documentary *Prescription Thugs* which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and was released by Samuel Goldwyn Films in 2016. Previously, he wrote and produced acclaimed photographer Gillian Laub's debut documentary *Southern Rites*, which premiered on HBO in May 2015. Josh was nominated for The Humanitas Prize in 2016 for his writing on that film. He also wrote and produced the Sarah Jessica Parker executive-produced documentary *Pretty Old*, which was released in 2014.

Winner of the 2014 Camden International Film Festival Points North Pitch Contest
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LEF Foundation, and Catapult

In Association with Impact Partners and CNN Documentary Films

Three short films produced in affiliation with the feature film, *The Reagan Shorts*, premiered at the 2015 Rotterdam International Film Festival, and played at True/False, Sarasota Film Festival, Camden International Film Festival, BAM CinemaFest, RIDM, The DocYard in Boston's Brattle Theater, and AFI Fest, amongst others.