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-A message from Annie-

Look up and look right! That is our new logo!

In the graphic above you can see our old logo as it was proudly displayed during last year's Sundance Film Festival's drive-in screening event in San Francisco.

I founded ro*co films international nearly 22 years ago, and inevitably everything has changed about our world of documentary distribution - and we have too. Our original focus was licensing and sales outside of the US. As the market evolved to be global and we expanded our team and expertise, we've found new ways to serve our films.

We act as a US sales agent for a curated selection of new, film festival documentaries. Our digital division generates TVOD and SVOD sales through our distributorships with companies like iTunes and Netflix, for example. Our

films to be accessed by students from their home or dorm room for coursework.

Our Educational division also developed a special expertise for creating live events for our films (read below about our latest live event with the film *Mission: JOY*). And finally, our impact division is driving film engagement and tailoring the long life of a film in the educational space. Students are perhaps our last captive audience, and we get to bring them our films, well, your films.

So with all of this, we can't be *ro*co films international* anymore, we are simply ROCO Films and we are ecstatic about our new logo…and our new website (coming soon!).

Annie

Live Events



Panelists from our recent live event: **Dr. Thupten Jinpa Langri (***English translator for His Holiness the Dalai Lama),* **Doug Abrams (***Author of The Book of Joy),* **Dr. Elissa Epel (***Professor of Psychiatry and Vice Chair at the University of California, San Francisco) and* **Peggy Callahan (***Co-director and Producer of Mission: JOY)*

On October 5th we produced a live panel discussion with our EVOD partners ProQuest and Film Platform which highlighted Mission: JOY, a film by Peggy

Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, includes cutting edge scientific research that reinforces that just like for these Holy Men, joy is an inside job. Not only is it something we can create for ourselves, but it is contagious, renewable, and leads to a longer and healthier life.

Our panelists acknowledged the real suffering that people, particularly college students, are experiencing, and provided practical tips for finding joy. They emphasized the importance of recognizing that there *is* an extraordinary amount of goodness happening in the world, despite our tendency to focus on the negative. And spoiler alert: deep connection is one of the secrets to joy.

The event reached over 3600 students, faculty members and librarians in over 70 countries spanning 1000 academic institutions. You can watch the event recording HERE if you feel like adding a little more joy to your day. :)

Educational



We are deeply honored to be distributing the educational and semi-theatrical rights for THE FIRST WAVE, scheduled for release theatrically by NEON in November. Director Matthew Heineman brilliantly takes us inside a NYC

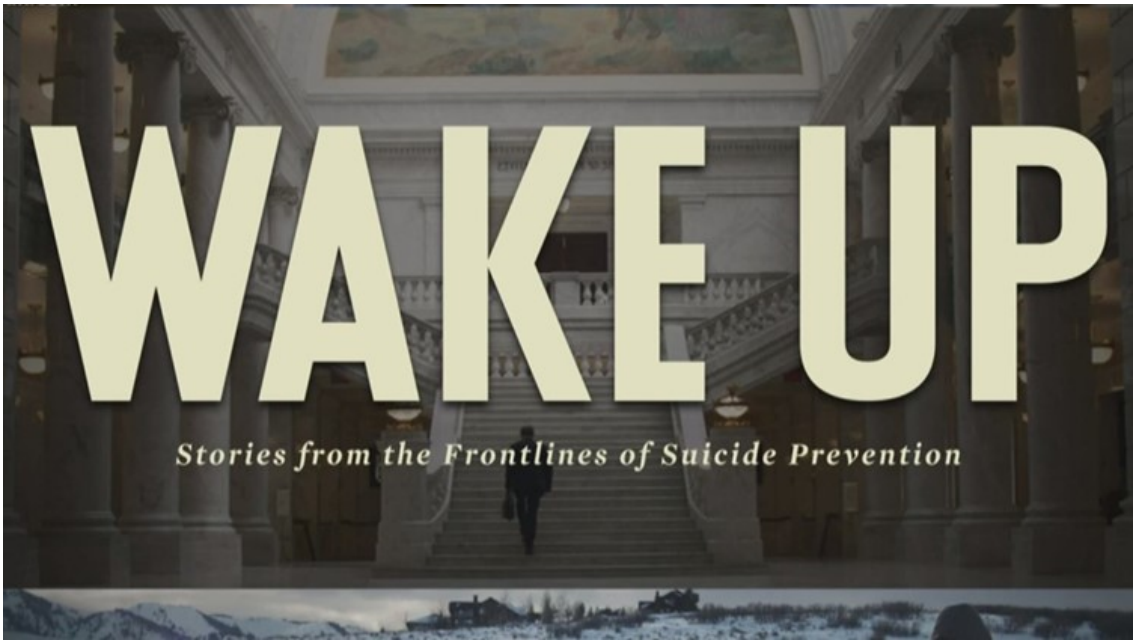
breathless. Special thanks to Participant Media, NEON and National Geographic for collaborating with us early on to make the most of the film's educational push.

"*A breathtaking testament to the fight to live, the calling to heal, and the power of human connection.*"
-The Hollywood Reporter

"*If Heineman always goes straight for the heart of the matter, this time he goes for our hearts, too.*"
- Indie Wire



In her first post covid, in-person film festival, Annie attended The Hamptons International Film Festival for the premieres of both THE FIRST WAVE and THE ART OF MAKING IT. "It felt great to be able to connect to our community again and watch a film with an audience", Annie reports, "though the *working while on the road* muscles were a bit out of shape." Pictured left, she's flanked by *The Art of Making It* editor Nyneve Laura Minnear and director Kelcey Edwards.



With September being Suicide Awareness Month, our impact team saw an opportunity to cultivate a meaningful partnership with Mental Health Academy to feature *WAKE UP: Stories from the Frontline of Suicide Prevention* as part of their 2021 Suicide Prevention Summit. Through this offering, the film was made available to over 50,000 mental health professionals and educators around the world. Not only was this screening a valuable training event for registrants, but it has also served as a powerful engagement booster, resulting in hundreds of follow-up screening requests from campuses and organizations who wish to bring the film to their own communities. While an 'awareness month' brought this campaign to fruition, we know that this is just the beginning of how our work with this important film will continue to have an impact.

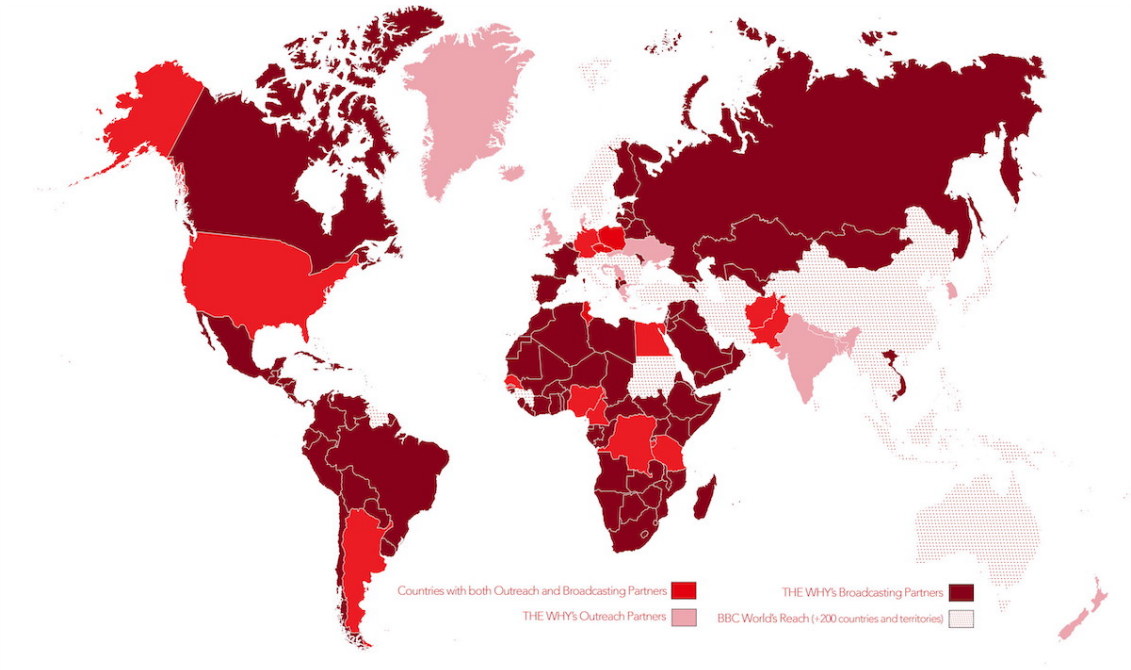
Contact us for more information about our impact services







WHITE NOISE was introduced by the Head of Documentaries for SKY Italia at Visioni dal Mondo IFF in Milan. SKY is broadcasting it in Italian-speaking countries in Europe. In Director Daniel Lombroso's words, "We had such a lovely Italian premiere. Elena, Dario, and the Italian distributors are fantastic. So kind and thoughtful...Thank you again for all your efforts! I'm grateful to see White Noise reaching such large audiences overseas."



In other news, we have long admired and supported the work that the Why Foundation's WHY STORIES? initiative is doing to bring critically-acclaimed documentaries to communities around the world on a sliding-fee scale. This

winning THE RESCUE LIST, Erika Cohn's THE JUDGE and Joe Piscatella's MAI KHOI AND THE DISSIDENTS.

Finally, ROCO is back on the road for in-person meet ups! Cristine Platt Dewey will be attending MIP Cancun and IDFA back-to-back in November. Inquire about a meeting with Cristine HERE.

We're Hiring!

Interested in joining our team or know someone who would be? LEARN MORE and GET IN TOUCH to apply!

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