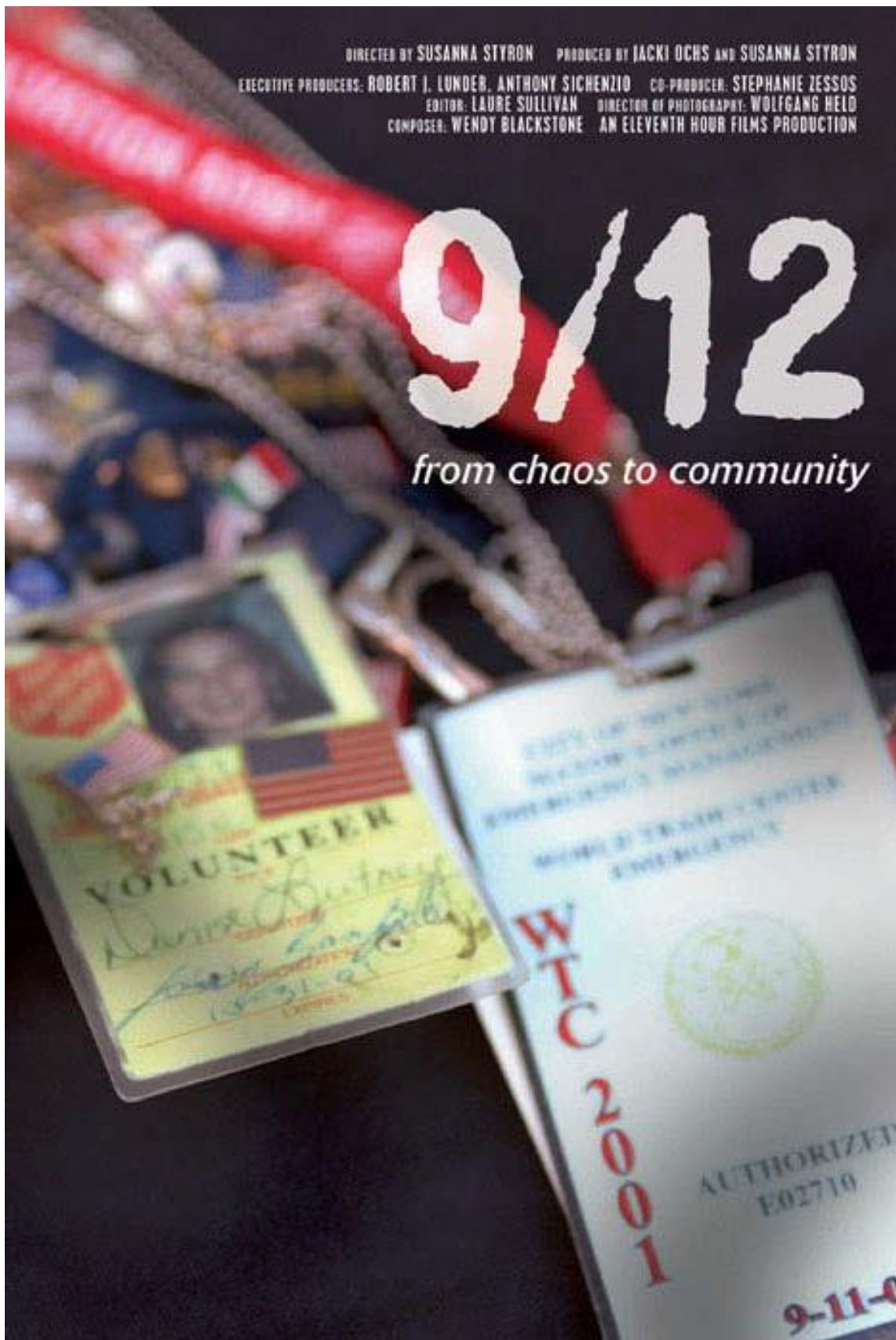


DIRECTED BY SUSANNA STYRON PRODUCED BY JACKI OCHS AND SUSANNA STYRON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: ROBERT J. LUNDER, ANTHONY SICHENZIO CO-PRODUCER: STEPHANIE ZESSOS
EDITOR: LAURE SULLIVAN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: WOLFGANG HELD
COMPOSER: WENDY BLACKSTONE AN ELEVENTH HOUR FILMS PRODUCTION

9/12

from chaos to community



Eleventh Hour Films

9/12: From Chaos to Community SYNOPSIS

9/12: From Chaos to Community is a 56-minute character-driven documentary about a community of people that grew out of the volunteer effort at Ground Zero in New York City after the World Trade Center attacks.

In the wake of the attacks, New Yorkers from all walks of life felt compelled to overcome their sense of powerlessness by volunteering to help out in the recovery effort. They brought in supplies, set up relief stations, and for ten months fed and cared for the recovery workers. Many deep and unexpected - even unlikely - relationships developed out of this.

Using cinema verite footage, interviews and archival photographs we follow several characters through a series of events reuniting them with each other after the closing of the site. Through their stories we present a portrait of the city within a city that was Ground Zero, and examine how a diverse group of people transcended politics and culture in an effort to heal their city and themselves.

9/12 is a vibrant, moving, sometimes funny, sometimes painful portrayal of hope and healing in the wake of disaster.

CREW

Director: Susanna Styron

Producers: Jacki Ochs; Susanna Styron

Co-Producer: Stephanie Zessos

Executive Producers: Robert J. Lunder; Anthony Sichenzio

Director of Photography: Wolfgang Held

Editor: Laure Sullivan

Composer: Wendy Blackstone

Eleventh Hour Films

PRAISE FOR 9/12: *From Chaos to Community*

It's about Ground Zero, but more broadly it's about the extraordinary sense of solidarity, fellow-feeling, and, yes, patriotism that was experienced by nearly everyone in New York, and maybe everyone in the country, in the days and weeks after the attack. This is a moving picture in more ways than one. The milk of human kindness flows through it, mixed with tears. -- **Hendrik Hertzberg, *The New Yorker***

Styron's beautifully crafted documentary is a poem to a group of everyday New Yorkers who discover in themselves a quiet greatness born from the darkness of 9/11.
-- **Davis Guggenheim - Director, "An Inconvenient Truth"**

9/12: From Chaos to Community is a powerful and moving tribute to the overwhelmingly enormous rescue and recovery effort that began on 9/11. I am especially grateful to the filmmakers for capturing so poignantly and accurately the shared feelings of awe, camaraderie, loss, and love that brought everyday people together in our city's greatest time of need. -- **Steve Buscemi - Actor; Former New York City firefighter**

9/12: From Chaos to Community beautifully documents what many of us who live and work in Lower Manhattan came to realize after the terrorist attacks in our neighborhood: that the greatest resource for healing after such tragedies are the community members themselves - coming together to support each other, offer assistance, rebuild, and to share their stories of coping and renewal.
-- **Jack Saul, PhD - Director, International Trauma Studies Program, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University**

I have not been more surprised and provoked into reflection by any other 9/11 homage. What this movie shows us, on a disarmingly delicate and human scale, is something we talk about in disaster mental health but don't really understand: the way "social support" was manifested after 9/11 under extreme conditions, in an ordinary way, and why.
-- **Randall D. Marshall, MD - Director of Trauma Studies and Resilience, New York State Psychiatric Institute**

A poignant and moving celebration of the human spirit and capacity for good will in the aftermath of catastrophe, this is highly recommended. -- **Video Librarian Magazine**

9/12: From Chaos To Community BIOS

SUSANNA STYRON

Director/Producer

[SUSANNA STYRON](#) is a screenwriter, director and documentary filmmaker. Her debut feature was Columbia Pictures' **Shadrach** starring Harvey Keitel and Andie MacDowell. Susanna has written numerous TV movies, written and directed for Sidney Lumet's **100 Centre Street**, and written for Tom Fontana's **Borgia**. She directed the web series **All Downhill From Here**, starring Brooke Adams; and wrote and directed the narrative short, [House of Teeth](#). Her award-winning feature documentary, [Out of My Head](#), was also a collaboration with Jacki Ochs. She teaches Writing for Television at Princeton University.

Susanna volunteered at Ground Zero from November 2001 to May 2002.

JACKI OCHS

Producer

JACKI OCHS is a Producer/Director of documentary film. Her directorial work includes [Vietnam: The Secret Agent](#), **Letters Not About Love** and **Jazz Summit**. Some awards she has received include New York Film Festival premiere, Sundance Special Jury Prize, SXSW Best Feature Documentary, American Film Festival Best New Director. Jacki executive produced Keith Beauchamp's Emmy nominated **Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till**, and EP'd and produced the PBS American Master's film **Everybody Knows...Elizabeth Murray**, directed by Kristi Zea. She is a Guggenheim and two-time MacDowell Colony Fellow and Executive Director of [Human Arts Association](#) in NYC.

On September 11th, Jacki and her family fled their home two blocks away from the World Trade Center. Her daughter watched the towers burn from her classroom window down the street. They returned home on Thanksgiving Day 2001.

STEPHANIE ZESSOS

Co-Producer

Stephanie Zessos volunteered at Ground Zero for several months. Her 9/11 work also included helping downtown residents and workers receive financial assistance from the Red Cross, Salvation Army and the United Way September 11th Fund. After the official end of the recovery effort at Ground Zero in May 2002, she produced "Brothers Lost: Stories of 9/11", a feature length documentary about men who lost their brothers on September 11th which premiered on HBO/Cinemax Reel Life on September 11, 2006.

Stephanie began her film career working for feature film directors Phillip Noyce, Sam Shepard and Hector Babenco. Some of the films she worked on include "The Saint", "Clear And Present Danger", "Carlito's Way", "The Doors", "Bram Stoker's Dracula", "Point Break" and "Barton Fink".

9/12: From Chaos to Community DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In November of 2001 I began volunteering at Ground Zero after months of effort to get to the site. Like so many people, I felt that only by contributing to the recovery effort could I somehow overcome my sense of helplessness. What I expected was a grim, dark and hopeless place. What I found instead was a city within a city where people worked, slept, ate, cried -- even laughed -- and above all gave each other support and comfort. Its inhabitants were people from all walks of life, and all political and cultural persuasions who had come together with a common purpose. Relationships formed quickly and deeply and permanently -- similarly, I suppose, to those of people in war, where the fragility of life and the value of friendship are never more acutely apparent.

It was a unique place with an extraordinary feeling of solidarity and human kindness - and an intensity of purpose and experience that I couldn't quite describe to my friends and family who had not been there. Everyone down there said the same thing: "You can't describe it - no-one would understand."

This is my attempt -- through the recollections and experiences of those who lived and breathed it -- to share it, to describe it, and to any extent possible, make it understood.

-- SUSANNA STYRON

9/12: From Chaos to Community CONTACT INFORMATION

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