



## Biographies

### James Jandak Wood

Director, Producer, Screenwriter, Editor

James Jandak Wood's filmmaking debut, CRUDE IMPACT, is a documentary feature first inspired by a life-altering trip to the Amazon rainforest in 2004. Subsequent reading on the effects of oil exploration and use on the rainforest, world climate, humanity and other species motivated him to create the film.

In 2001, after more than twenty years in the high technology industry, including fifteen years as a CEO and founder of two successful software companies, James began to focus his energies on not-for-profit organizations. These efforts led him to the Pachamama Alliance and the rainforest.

The Pachamama Alliance, with whom James is an advisory council member and a donor, is an international organization collaborating with the indigenous people of Ecuador to both protect their native lands from oil exploitation and raise awareness throughout the world of the global impact of rainforest destruction. James is also an involved benefactor with Search for Common Ground, the world's foremost conflict transformation non-profit with offices in over a dozen countries, including Sierra Leone, Burundi, Nepal, Israel/Palestine and the United States. He is also active with the Post Carbon Institute and the Association for the Study of Peak Oil.

In order to bring his passion to a wider audience, James pursued studies in film making through the Film Arts Foundation and the Bay Area Video Coalition.

James holds a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Pennsylvania's Villanova University and pursued graduate studies in at Villanova and Drexel University in Philadelphia. He is married to co-producer Jennifer Wood.

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## Steve Michelson

Executive Producer

Steve Michelson was Executive Producer of Oil on Ice, an award winning film which presents the beauty and grandeur of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge against the political backdrop of oil exploration and development, and its impact upon Alaska Natives and the land.

In 2006 he has launched Specialty Studios, a distribution service that handles all aspects of distribution for documentary projects including: traditional, specialty, Broadband and video on demand (VOD).

In 2001 he opened the Studio at Lobitos Creek Ranch, which offers video and digital media production, including development, co-production, editing, animation, DVD, Web-enabled DVD, and multimedia design and authoring.

Steve was founder and president of One Pass, Inc (1975-87), San Francisco's largest production and post-production studio. He is a recipient of the Gilbert Award for outstanding contribution to Northern California's film community and is a former board member of Film Arts Foundation, the country's largest regional organization of independent producers. He has served four terms as a Governor with the National Academy for Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS).

Steve is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where he attended The Annenberg School of Communications and the Wharton School of Business.

## John DeBorde

Composer

John DeBorde is an award-winning composer of music for Film and Television. John received the prestigious Telly and Aurora Awards in recognition of the dramatic music scores he wrote for a series of short films titled Reconocer, and a second Telly Award for his score for The

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Moment. His credits also include the films *Voices of the Sierra Tarahumara* (Sundance 2001) and *Pursuit of Equality* (Best Documentary - San Francisco Int'l 2005), and the television special *Islam in America: Faith Under Fire*, which aired on MSNBC. John has also composed more than 500 promos for the Warner Brothers Television Network.

In addition to studying and performing numerous instruments, with a focus on piano and guitar, John broadened his training to include film and drama and received a Masters Degree in Music Composition from San Francisco State University.

John remains active in concert performance. He recently premiered his work *New Moon Haze* (a chamber concerto featuring solo electric guitar) with the Nieuw Ensemble in Amsterdam, featuring himself as the soloist. His works have also been performed at CSU Summer Arts in Long Beach California, June in Buffalo and at various venues in the San Francisco Bay Area.

### Sharon Anderson

Director of Photography, Editor

Sharon Anderson has over 20 years experience in the field of graphic design and photography. Her interest in film and television began while living on the east coast where she did an internship at New Jersey Network. Sharon has been a design consultant with Adobe Systems, Inc. for many years and has art directed a number of award-winning national magazines. Sharon studied cinematography at Bay Area Video Coalition and Film Arts Foundation. She is currently Creative Director of Blue Moon Design in San Francisco.

### Pamela Sptizer

Sound Designer, Editor

Pamela Spitzer started her career in advertising, producing a wide variety of radio and television commercials. Shortly after that, she became an audio engineer and worked on various sound recording and

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mixing projects in Los Angeles. She was hired as the Audio Operations Director for DGS, an audio digitizing company, developing the process by which audio signals are digitized, compressed and sent over an extensive network. In 2004, she studied documentary film editing and sound recording. Prior to working on Crude Impact as the sound designer and editor, Pamela had experience working on several short films. Pamela is currently working as the Sound Director for the podcast company ApplauseCast.

## Jennifer Jandak Wood

Co-producer

Jennifer Jandak Wood is a graduate of Smith College, where she earned a degree in Biology. She subsequently received her Master's Degree in Biomedical Engineering from Brown University. Jennifer worked for over fifteen years in the medical device industry. She holds more than a dozen patents for devices used in both brain and heart surgery.

Jennifer was a key participant in the making of Crude Impact, taking on the role of co-producer, attending many of the filming sessions and adding creative input to the film. She is also heading the design team for the website [www.crudeimpact.com](http://www.crudeimpact.com).

## Joanne Shen

Co-producer

Joanne Shen is a graduate of Princeton University where she received her bachelor's degree in English literature. After working as a journalist in China and Hong Kong, Joanne completed a two year program in documentary film making at Stanford University.

Among Joanne's many credits are the film *King of Kowloon*, a half-hour documentary about a crippled Cantonese graffiti artist, which she co-directed and co-produced and which won the Distinguished Award at the Hong Kong Independent Film and Video Awards. She also produced and directed *Cricket Outta Compton*, a half hour documentary about an American cricket team which won first prize in the Black Maria Film Festival.



## Yussef Cole

### Motion Graphics Design

Yussef Cole is a recent graduate of Oberlin College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences with Honors in Studio Art. His first film work was as a freelance video editor for "The Unrecovered", a film by Roger Copeland. Yussef joined the team on Crude Impact as a researcher, but as his talent with Adobe After Effects became evident, Yussef took on the role of Motion Graphics Design. He is currently a designer with Current TV in San Francisco.