



Critical Acclaim for P.O.V.'s "ELECTION DAY"

By Katy Chevigny

"All that slick, heavily financed campaigning at the top of the ticket in a presidential election year makes it easy to forget that the whole democratic system sinks or swims on mundane things like this: 'E, F, G, J, H.' . . . The overall collage [of *Election Day*] is interesting."

— **Neil Genzlinger, *The New York Times***

"In *Election Day*, filmmaker Katy Chevigny combines 11 stories – all shot simultaneously on Nov. 2, 2004 – into a single revealing portrait of democracy."

— **Frazier Moore, *Associated Press***

"Let others prepare to poll the voters and lobby for votes. P.O.V. examines the process of voting itself in *Election Day*."

— **Robert Bianco, *USA Today***

"Democracy is a messy business and few places illustrate that better than the polls. On November 2, 2004, director Katy Chevigny set out to capture a cross-section of American voters, in hopes of moving beyond the horse race and red-state-blue-state debates."

— **John Hockenberry, Adaora Udoji, "The Takeaway," NPR**

"*Election Day* follows a jumble of activity at 11 polling places during Election Day 2004, showing that the promise of universal suffrage is still uneven in practice."

— **Lisa Gulya, *Utne Reader***

"*Election Day* is unique largely because it's not about politics so much as the act of voting and what voting means to people of various walks of life . . ."

— **Chris Vognar, *Dallas Morning News***

"This film will shame anyone who ever failed to vote. . . . Through all the frustrations, we see glimmers of idealism."

— **Mike Hughes, *Gannett News Service***

"Tell me you created a season pass for [P.O.V.]. Tell me you . . . will see *Election Day* on your PBS station."

— **Aaron Barnhart, *Kansas City Star***

A remarkable, winning patchwork . . . Refreshing to anyone who tires of a constant stream of pie charts, graphs and exit-poll punditry, the film refocuses political coverage to the myriad gears that turn it: about 122 million people, each with their own story, who cast a ballot for the leader of the free world. . . . Footage runs the gamut from touching to hilarious to frustrating

— **John Ross, *Columbus Dispatch***

"When the results roll in on shiny electronic displays, it's easy to forget how haphazard and literally fly-by-night many of the nation's polling places are at the grass-roots level."

— **Roger Catlin, *Hartford Courant***

"A bracing, insightful documentary. . . . Each story resonates in its own way."

— **Cynthia Fuchs, *PopMatters.com***

“On election night, we see the big broadcast and cable news studios filled with . . . statisticians galore to break down voting groups. . . . What we don't see are the faces, hopes, dreams and disappointments of those who line up to have their say. . . . P.O.V. brings those people to vivid life in a profile of Election Day 2004 from tiny little towns to great metropolitan areas.”

— **Tom Dorsey, Louisville *Courier-Journal***

“You don't need to be told that we need serious election reform in this country. What you might need, though, is a refresher on how badly our voting system is damaged. For that, turn to *Election Day*.”

— **Marc D. Allan, Orlando *Weekly***

“As the Fourth of July draws near . . . P.O.V. will show citizens across the United States truly how to exercise their independence [in] the eye-opening *Election Day*.”

— **Karen Shade, Tulsa *World***

“The cumulative effect is [like] a multi-character, multi-tracking drama by the late director Robert Altman (*Nashville*) — only it's non-fiction, and it was all filmed simultaneously by an organized cadre of camera crews. . . . with a cast of colorful characters and natural story arc.”

— **Mark Hinson, Tallahassee *Democrat***

“Chevigny's well-established *vérité* style reveals the profound stake that citizens across the country have in the voting process.”

— **Pat Aufderheide, In *These Times***