



Contacts:

POV Communications: 212-989-7425. Emergency contact: 646-729-4748

Cynthia López, [clopez@pov.org](mailto:clopez@pov.org), Cathy Fisher, [cfisher@pov.org](mailto:cfisher@pov.org)

POV online pressroom: [www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom](http://www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom)

## **POV Collaborates with *The New York Times* for Panel Discussion, “The Pentagon Papers: Daniel Ellsberg and The Times,” Streaming on the POV Website**

Panel Discussion Is Among Invaluable Resources on POV’s Popular Website  
For Oscar®-nominated Film “The Most Dangerous Man in America”

Why would a dedicated Cold Warrior throw away his career, his friends, and risk life in prison for a chance to help end the Vietnam War? In 1971, Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, a leading military planner, concluded that America’s role in the war was based on decades of lies. He leaked the 7,000-page Pentagon Papers to *The New York Times*, a daring act of conscience that led to Watergate, President Nixon’s resignation and the end of the Vietnam War. Rick Goldsmith and Judith Ehrlich’s **The Most Dangerous Man in America** concluded the 2010 season of the award-winning documentary series **POV (Point of View)** on PBS. The Oscar®-nominated film is a gripping tale told by Ellsberg with a who’s who of Vietnam- and Watergate-era figures.

Accompanying the documentary, POV presents **The Pentagon Papers, Daniel Ellsberg and The Times**, a special *New York Times* Community Affairs/POV forum held on Sept. 13 at the TimesCenter in New York, available online at the POV website. This lively conversation, moderated by *New York Times* Managing Editor Jill Abramson, features Dr. Ellsberg; Max Frankel, former *New York Times* executive editor (who in 1971 was the Washington bureau chief and oversaw the writing, editing and publishing of *The Times*’s Pentagon Papers stories); and Adam Liptak, *New York Times* Supreme Court reporter. They give the inside story of the Pentagon Papers’ release and discuss their effect on politics and whistle-blowing today. This marks the first community collaboration between POV and *The New York Times* and the first public forum with Dr. Ellsberg and *The Times* since the Pentagon Papers were published.

An extended video and complete transcript of *The New York Times* Community Affairs/POV forum is available on [http://www.pbs.org/pov/mostdangerousman/times\\_panel.php](http://www.pbs.org/pov/mostdangerousman/times_panel.php), and can also be embedded on other websites: <http://video.pbs.org/video/1602912290>.

The website for **The Most Dangerous Man in America**, [www.pbs.org/pov/mostdangerousman](http://www.pbs.org/pov/mostdangerousman), was the second most-popular for POV’s 2010 season, behind **Food, Inc.** The website offers extended interviews with the filmmakers and people in the film; updates; a list of related websites, partner organizations and books; downloadable discussion guides; classroom activities; background information and a multimedia timeline about other famous whistleblowers. The film was viewed nearly 20,000 times on the PBS Video Portal. A live chat with Dr. Ellsberg and the filmmakers drew more than 130 participants. The chat is archived on [www.pbs.org/pov/mostdangerousman/chat.php](http://www.pbs.org/pov/mostdangerousman/chat.php).

“We are thrilled that our landmark collaboration with *The New York Times* Community Affairs brought together members of the newspaper’s editorial team with Dr. Ellsberg,” said Cynthia Lopez, Executive Vice President, American Documentary/POV. “This was an opportunity for journalists, filmmakers and the public to discuss vital issues that are critical to the way we function as a society.”

“The publication of the Pentagon Papers was a defining moment in the history of *The New York Times*,” said Jill Abramson, managing editor of *The New York Times*. “The value of this journalistic enterprise and the courage it took to publish such an important story, despite threats of financial ruin and imprisonment, still reverberates today.”

#### **About “The Most Dangerous Man in America”:**

After *The New York Times* became the first newspaper to begin publishing the Pentagon Papers on June 13, 1971, National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger told his staff that Ellsberg was “the most dangerous man in America who must be stopped at all costs.”

The filmmakers of **The Most Dangerous Man in America** assembled a who’s-who of participants in the events surrounding the papers’ publication: Mort Halperin, who supervised the “Vietnam War Study” at the Pentagon; Nobel Laureate Thomas Schelling, a fellow analyst with Dr. Ellsberg at the RAND Corporation; Egil “Bud” Krogh, the Nixon White House aide who directed the Watergate “Plumbers Unit”; Anthony Russo, another RAND analyst who later faced charges; John Dean, Nixon’s White House Counsel, who broke open the Watergate case; *New York Times* reporter Hedrick Smith, who wrote some of the first Pentagon Papers stories; *The Times*’ General Counsel James Goodale, who gave the go-ahead for their publication; Leonard Weinglass, Russo’s defense attorney; draft resister Randy Kehler; and Senator Mike Gravel (D-AK), who during a filibuster against the Vietnam War draft finally got the entire 7,000 pages of the Pentagon Papers into the Congressional Record.

The film includes archival audio and film footage of Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon; Henry Kissinger; Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara; early Congressional war critic Senator Wayne Morse (D-OR); iconic news figures including Walter Cronkite and John Chancellor and talk-show host Dick Cavett.

The story is illuminated with insight from Dr. Ellsberg’s wife of 40 years, Patricia Marx Ellsberg; his son Robert (from a previous marriage), who as a boy helped with the onerous job of photocopying the voluminous papers; and historian Howard Zinn, one of a group of radical academics who supported and befriended Dr. Ellsberg.

**The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers** is a production of Kovno Communications and Insight Productions, and a co-production of ITVS in association with American Documentary/POV. It is available for purchase at [www.pbs.org/pov/mostdangerousman](http://www.pbs.org/pov/mostdangerousman).

#### **About Daniel Ellsberg:**

Daniel Ellsberg was born on April 7, 1931 and grew up in Detroit. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University in 1952 and later earned a Ph.D. in economics with his thesis, “Risk, Ambiguity and Decision,” which described a paradox in decision theory now known as the Ellsberg Paradox. He was an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1954-57. From 1959-64, he was a strategic analyst at the RAND Corporation and a consultant to the Defense Department and the White House, specializing in the command and control of nuclear weapons, nuclear war plans and crisis decision-making. Dr. Ellsberg joined the Defense Department in 1964 as special assistant to Assistant Secretary of Defense John McNaughton, who reported to Robert McNamara. Dr. Ellsberg’s reports on Viet Cong atrocities helped Mr. McNamara justify plans for bombing North Vietnam.

Dr. Ellsberg transferred to the State Department in 1965 and served for two years at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. He returned to RAND in 1967, where he worked on the top-secret McNamara study “U.S. Decision-making in Vietnam, 1945-68,” which later came to be known as the Pentagon Papers — a study that confirmed his growing objections to the war. In October 1969, with the help of RAND colleague Anthony Russo, Dr. Ellsberg began photocopying the 7,000-page study. From the fall of 1969 through the spring of 1971, he offered copies of the study to several members of Congress, with little result.

In April 1970, Dr. Ellsberg left RAND to avoid implicating his colleagues in his efforts, and took a position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. That summer, he married Patricia Marx, a syndicated radio host and anti-war activist. She supported his decision to risk jail by making the study public. In March 1971, Dr. Ellsberg showed the study to reporter Neil Sheehan of *The New York Times*, which began

publishing excerpts from the top-secret document, now dubbed "The Pentagon Papers," on June 13, 1971. Identified as the source of the leak, Dr. Ellsberg turned himself in at the Federal courthouse in Boston on June 28, 1971. He was charged under the Espionage Act with "unauthorized possession" and "theft" of the Pentagon Papers. Mr. Russo was included in the indictment when he refused to testify against Dr. Ellsberg.

The Russo-Ellsberg trial began Jan. 3, 1973, and lasted four months. On May 11, 1973, presiding Judge Matthew Byrne dismissed the indictment because of massive governmental misconduct, including the revelations that the White House "plumbers" had burglarized the office of Dr. Ellsberg's psychiatrist and that Nixon aide John Ehrlichman had offered the position of FBI director to Judge Byrne.

Dr. Ellsberg wrote about his experiences and analysis of the war in Vietnam in his 1972 book, *Papers on the War*. He re-visited these experiences in his 2002 book, "Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers," which reached best-seller lists across the nation and won the PEN Center USA Award for Creative Nonfiction, the American Book Award and the Bay Area Book Reviewers Association Prize for Nonfiction and was a finalist for *The Los Angeles Times* Book Prize.

Since the end of the Vietnam War, Dr. Ellsberg has served as a lecturer, writer and activist. He has been arrested while protesting more than 70 times over the past four decades. In December 2006, he was awarded the Right Livelihood Award, known as the "Alternative Nobel Prize," in Stockholm. He was acknowledged "for putting peace and truth first, at considerable personal risk, and dedicating his life to a movement to free the world from the risk of nuclear war."

Dr. Ellsberg lives near Berkeley, Calif., with his wife, Patricia. He has two sons and a daughter and five grandchildren.

#### **About Jill Abramson:**

Jill Abramson was appointed managing editor of *The New York Times* in August 2003, after having been Washington bureau chief since December 2000. As bureau chief, Ms. Abramson directed the work of *The Times*' 60-member Washington bureau. She joined the newspaper in September 1997 and became Washington editor in 1999.

Previously, she worked at *The Wall Street Journal* from 1988-1997. While there, she served as deputy bureau chief in its Washington, D.C. bureau and investigative reporter, covering money and politics. From 1986 to 1988 she was editor in chief of *Legal Times*, a weekly newspaper in Washington, D.C.

Born in New York City, Ms. Abramson received bachelor's degree in history and literature, graduating magna cum laude from Harvard College. She is co-author of "Strange Justice," published by Houghton Mifflin in 1994, and "Where They Are Now," published by Doubleday in 1986. "Strange Justice" was a nonfiction finalist for the National Book Award and National Book Critics Circle Award in 1994.

In 2010, Ms. Abramson was honored with the Signet Medal for Achievement in the Arts given by the Signet Society of Harvard University. She won the National Press Club award for national correspondence in 1992 for political coverage of money and politics.

She teaches an undergraduate journalism seminar in the English Department of Yale University during the spring term. During the 2000-2001 fall term, she was a Ferris professor at Princeton University teaching an undergraduate seminar on politics and journalism.

#### **About Max Frankel:**

Max Frankel retired as executive editor of *The New York Times* in 1994. He attended Columbia College, where he was editor in chief of *The Columbia Daily Spectator*, the student newspaper, and also served for three years as Columbia correspondent for *The Times*. He received his bachelor's degree in 1952, and earned his master's degree in American government at Columbia in 1953.

He was hired as a full-time reporter for *The Times* in 1952. He was chief Washington correspondent and head of the Washington bureau from 1968 until 1973, Sunday editor until 1976, editor of the editorial page from 1977-1986 and executive editor from 1986-1994, and wrote a Magazine column from then until

2000. He won a Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for his reporting of President Nixon's visit to China the previous year. He is the author of an autobiography, "The Times of My Life and My Life With The Times" (Random House, 1999).

In 1971, Mr. Frankel oversaw the writing, editing and publishing of *The Times's* Pentagon Papers stories. He served as an important bridge between the reporters writing the stories, the publisher and the legal team defending the newspaper's right to publish. Responding to the U.S. government enjoining *The Times's* Pentagon Papers stories, Mr. Frankel wrote an essay revealing how "leaking" stories to the press was a common practice for government officials, rather than the "traitorous" practice the Nixon Administration claimed. The essay was read before the Supreme Court and was a contributing factor to the Supreme Court decision in favor of *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post* on June 30, 1971.

#### **About Adam Liptak:**

Adam Liptak became the Supreme Court reporter for *The New York Times* in 2008. Previously, he had served as a national legal reporter since April 2002. Before that, he had been a senior counsel in The New York Times Company's legal department since 1992, during which time he advised *The Times* and the Times Company's other media properties on defamation, privacy, newsgathering and related issues, and he frequently litigated media and commercial cases.

Before joining the company, Mr. Liptak was a litigation associate for four years at the law firm Cahill Gordon & Reindel, specializing in First Amendment matters. In 1995, Mr. Liptak was named one of 20 leading newspaper professionals under the age of 40 by *Presstime* magazine.

Born in Stamford, Conn., Mr. Liptak received a bachelor's degree in English from Yale College, where he was the editor of *The Yale Daily News's* monthly magazine. He was a copyboy at *The Times* in 1984 and 1985. He graduated from the Yale Law School, where he was an editor of the *Yale Law & Policy Review*.

#### **"The Most Dangerous Man in America" Credits:**

Co-directors:	Judith Ehrlich, Rick Goldsmith
Co-producers:	Judith Ehrlich, Rick Goldsmith
Cinematographers:	Vicente Franco, Dan Krauss
Editors:	Michael Chandler, Rick Goldsmith, Lawrence Lerew
Writers:	Lawrence Lerew, Rick Goldsmith, Judith Ehrlich, Michael Chandler; Based in part on the book "Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers" by Daniel Ellsberg

Original Music:	Blake Leyh
-----------------	------------

Running Time:	116:46
---------------	--------

#### **POV Series Credits:**

Executive Producers:	Simon Kilmurry, Cynthia López
----------------------	-------------------------------

#### **Awards & Festivals:**

- National Board of Review, 2009 – *Freedom of Expression Award; named one of Five Best Documentaries*
- International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, 2009 – *Special Jury Award*
- Mill Valley Film Festival, 2009 – *Audience Award*
- Sydney Film Festival, 2010 – *Audience Award, Best Documentary*
- Palm Springs International Film Festival, 2010 – *Audience Award, Best Documentary*
- Boulder International Film Festival, 2010 – *Best Feature Documentary Award*
- San Luis Obispo International Film Festival, 2010 – *Best in Fest Award*
- DocAviv, 2010 – *Special Jury Mention*

(For a complete list of festivals, go to [www.mostdangerousman.org](http://www.mostdangerousman.org).)

#### **About The New York Times Community Affairs Department:**

[The New York Times Community Affairs department](#) focuses on programs in areas such as arts and culture, literacy, journalism, diversity, and encouraging social and civic engagement.

#### **About ITVS:**

The Independent Television Service (ITVS) funds and presents award-winning documentaries and dramas on public television, innovative new media projects on the Web and the Emmy Award-winning weekly series *Independent Lens* on PBS. ITVS was created by media activists, citizens and politicians seeking to foster plurality and diversity in public television. ITVS was established by a historic mandate of Congress to champion independently produced programs that take creative risks, spark public dialogue and provide for underserved audiences. Since its inception in 1991, ITVS programs have revitalized the relationship between the public and public television, bringing TV audiences face-to-face with the lives and concerns of their fellow Americans. More information about ITVS can be obtained at [www.itvs.org](http://www.itvs.org). ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people.

#### **About POV:**

Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and now in its 23rd season on PBS, the award-winning POV series is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. Airing June through September, with primetime specials during the year, POV has brought more than 300 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *POV's Borders*. Since 1988, POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. More information is available at [www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov).

#### **POV Interactive** ([www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov))

POV's award-winning Web department produces special features for every POV presentation, extending the life of our films through filmmaker interviews, story updates, podcasts, streaming video and community-based and educational content that involves viewers in activities and feedback. POV Interactive also produces our Web-only showcase for interactive storytelling, *POV's Borders*. In addition, the *POV Blog* is a gathering place for documentary fans and filmmakers to discuss and debate their favorite films, get the latest news and link to further resources. The POV website, blog and film archives form a unique and extensive online resource for documentary storytelling.

#### **POV Community Engagement and Education**

POV works with local PBS stations, educators and community organizations to present free screenings and discussion events to inspire and engage communities in vital conversations about our world. As a leading provider of quality nonfiction programming for use in public life, POV offers an extensive menu of resources, including free discussion guides and curriculum-based lesson plans. In addition, POV's *Youth Views* works with youth organizers and students to provide them with resources and training so they may use independent documentaries as a catalyst for social change.

Major funding for POV is provided by PBS, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, The Educational Foundation of America, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The Fledgling Fund, FACT and public television viewers. Funding for POV's *Diverse Voices Project* is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Special support provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. POV is presented by a consortium of public television stations, including KCET Los Angeles, WGBH Boston and THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG.

#### **American Documentary, Inc.** ([www.amdoc.org](http://www.amdoc.org))

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation.



#### **Media Sponsor:**

