

= Abby Martin =

Abigail Suzanne " Abby " Martin (born September 6 , 1984) is an American journalist and presenter of The Empire Files , a weekly investigative news program on teleSUR English . She was formerly the host of Breaking the Set on RT America network , working from the Washington , D.C. bureau . Before hosting her own show , she had worked for two years as a correspondent for RT America .

Martin is also an artist and activist , and helped found the citizen journalism website , Media Roots . She serves on the board of directors for the Media Freedom Foundation which manages Project Censored . Martin appeared in the documentary film Project Censored The Movie : Ending the Reign of Junk Food News (2013) , and co @-@ directed 99 % : The Occupy Wall Street Collaborative Film (2013) .

= = Early life = =

Martin grew up in Pleasanton , California , where she attended Amador Valley High School , graduating in 2002 . She became interested in journalism when her old high school boyfriend enlisted in the military after the September 11 attacks in 2001 . " I didn 't want him going to war , let alone fighting in one , " she recalls . " I began to critically ask ' What is really going on ? ' " By the time she was a sophomore at San Diego State University , she began questioning what she called the " selling " of the Iraq War by the media . She received an undergraduate degree in political science and minored in Spanish .

In 2004 , she campaigned for John Kerry 's presidential campaign , but became disillusioned with the left @-@ right paradigm , a concept proposing that societies have a tendency to divide themselves into ideological opposites . Martin worked for a time as an investigative journalist for a San Diego @-@ based online news site until moving back to Northern California . In 2008 , Martin posted a video showing her support for the 9 / 11 Truth movement . She has labelled the US government 's version of September 11 , 2001 as " propaganda " . During the administration of President George W. Bush she said of the attacks : " I 've researched it for three years and every single thing that I uncover solidifies my belief that it was an inside job and that our government was complicit in what happened . " The New York Times described her as a 9 / 11 conspiracy theorist , but Martin told the Associated Press in March 2014 that she " no longer subscribes " to the theory that 9 / 11 was an inside job as she did earlier .

= = Graphic arts = =

After high school , Martin began painting . Themes in her paintings include politics , nature , and psychedelia . She also takes photographs and makes collages . Her works have been exhibited several times around California . She views art as " an amazing outlet " and a " way to interpret the ugly truths in the world and reflect a better future . "

= = Media Roots = =

In 2009 , Martin founded the organization Media Roots , a citizen journalism platform for reporting news . As an independent journalist with Media Roots , Martin covered the Occupy Oakland (California) actions during the Occupy Wall Street movement in 2011 . Her documentary video footage of Occupy Oakland protests was used by the family of 24 @-@ year @-@ old Scott Olsen , who was injured during the protests , in a lawsuit against the Oakland Police Department . Martin 's footage was used to argue that the protests were non @-@ violent at the time Olsen was allegedly hit in the head with a police projectile . RT took notice of Martin 's work and began using her as a correspondent . In the fall of 2010 , she moved to Washington , D.C.

= = Breaking the Set = =

Martin began hosting her own show , Breaking the Set , on RT America in September 2012 from Washington , D.C. The show mixes media criticism with investigative journalism . It describes itself as " a show that cuts through the pre @-@ written narrative that tries to tell you what to think , and what to care about " , and as a show that " cuts through the false Left / Right paradigm set by the establishment & reports the hard facts " . The original opening credits depict Martin applying a sledgehammer to a television tuned to CNN . A later version of the opening credits depicted Martin traveling in a helicopter over Manhattan 's Central Park . According to Rolling Stone magazine , past shows investigated " Monsanto , Nestle , the U.S. federal electoral system , the drone program , the NSA , Israel , Obama , and water fluoridation " .

Martin drew widespread media attention when she closed her show on March 3 , 2014 , with a minute @-@ long statement condemning the Russian military intervention in Ukraine . She appeared to be reading from a teleprompter , leading observers to conclude that her remarks were made with the consent of the show 's producers . Glenn Greenwald wrote a piece that compared Martin 's statement favorably to the behavior of the United States media during the 2003 invasion of Iraq . RT also issued a statement saying : " Contrary to the popular opinion , RT doesn 't beat its journalists into submission , and they are free to express their own opinions , not just in private but on the air . " RT added : " [W] e 'll be sending her to Crimea to give her an opportunity to make up her own mind from the epicentre of the story . " Martin declined the offer , saying " I am not going to Crimea despite the statement RT has made . "

The Breaking the Set program came to an end in February 2015 , with Martin leaving RT and stating she had " decided to focus on investigative field reporting " . Speaking for RT , Anna Belkina told BuzzFeed , " Abby decided that this is the time for her to try something new . We are proud of the great work she has done as the host of Breaking the Set . "

= = Reception = =

Journalist Nik Afanasjew of Der Tagesspiegel said Martin " looks like a model and acts like a punk . " Writer Jeremy Koss described her as " vibrant , artistic and outspoken " . Millennial Magazine portrayed Martin as an " unfiltered " media representative for the Millennial generation who reports " stories that deserve public recognition " .

= = Selected work = =

Television

The Empire Files (2015 ? , host)

Breaking the Set (2012 ? 15) , host

RT America (2010 ? 12) , correspondent

Film

99 % : The Occupy Wall Street Collaborative Film (2013) , co @-@ director

Project Censored the Movie (2013) , as herself

Books

Martin , Abby . (2011) . Framing the Messengers : Junk Food News and News Abuse for Dummies . In Mickey Huff (Ed .) Censored 2012 : The Top 25 Censored Stories of 2010 ? 11 . Seven Stories Press . ISBN 1609803582 .

Martin , Abby . (2011) . Media Democracy in Action . In Mickey Huff (Ed .) Censored 2012 : The Top 25 Censored Stories of 2010 ? 11 . Seven Stories Press . ISBN 1609803582 .

Radio

Media Roots Radio (2010 ? 15)

Project Censored , KPFA (94 @. @ 1 FM) , co @-@ host

Video

Media Roots TV (2009 ? present)

Artwork

The Crisis of Civilization (2011) , film poster