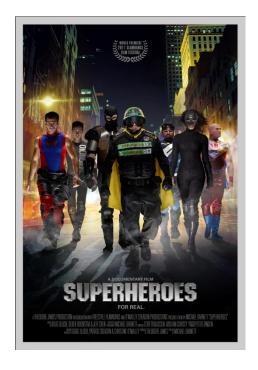


presents



### FIGHTING CRIME AND BRINGING EVILDOERS TO JUSTICE:

## SUPERHEROES RELEASES NOVEMBER 15 ON DVD, FOLLOWING HBO'S AUGUST PREMIERE AND NATIONAL THEATRICAL RELEASE

What If Superheroes Were Real?

"Fascinating"—IndieWire

"Recommended Viewing... 'Kick-Ass' Come to Life." - The Washington Post

**August 18, 2011** –What do Mr. Xtreme, Zimmer and Master Legend have in common? They might sound like comic book characters but these brave souls are real life superheroes (RLSH). Michael Barnett's **SUPERHEROES** documents the lives of ordinary citizens across America as they take matters into their own hands and attempt to bring criminals to justice.

Creating a sensation at Slamdance and winning a slot in the first-ever "Slamdance on the Road" theatrical tour, *SUPERHEROES* was also picked up by HBO for a premiere in August as part the network's acclaimed "Documentary Films Summer Series." This awe-inspiring film unmasks the true-life stories behind these costumed avengers as they confront not just drug dealers, muggers and slumlords, but also the most dangerous offender of all – apathy. Their worlds are revealed through in-depth interviews and man-on-the-street film footage

of these masked crusaders patrolling the streets in costume, safeguarding their cities from evildoers. RLSH groups such as The New York Initiative and Team Justice, which has non-profit status in Florida, detail their motivation behind their commitment to protect and serve their communities. Zimmer, who is part of The New York Initiative and lives with three other members of the group in Brooklyn, believes most governments are corrupt and the police are unreliable due to the limited number of officers patrolling areas with thousands of people.

Like superheroes in comic books, RLSH wear costumes, carry weapons (lasers, mace, pepper spray), and even in some cases wear a mask to keep their identities secret. Many RLSH physically train and prepare before patrolling the streets. Some make it their duty to kick out drug dealers from the park, capture muggers and protect the more vulnerable from real criminals like the Chula Vista Groper, a sexual predator on the loose for a fivementh period in San Diego until he was finally caught by police.

Along with fighting crime, a number of RLSH also play a pivotal role in helping the homeless and disenfranchised. Team Justice holds a yearly Christmas drive in Florida for families in need and, in Portland, Oregon, Zetaman and his wife, Apocalypse Meow, hand out basic toiletries to the homeless.

# "It's not the costume that makes you a superhero, it's what is in your heart and what you do; that's what makes you a real life superhero." – Mr. Xtreme

Not everyone agrees with the actions of these brave ordinary citizens. Lt. Andra Brown from the San Diego Police Department cautions that RLSH are not trained and don't have an understanding of the law or clear judgment the way law enforcement professionals do. Psychologist and author Robin S. Rosenberg, (*Superhero Origin*), explains that some RLSH might have experienced trauma in their lives and therefore have used this as a leverage to do good for others.

The film is presented in the style of a graphic novel and features Marvel Comics legend Stan Lee (*Spider-Man*) giving his perspective on RLSH. Key art is designed by Peter Tangen, who worked on the *Spider-Man* and *The Dark Knight* film posters. Comic-book panel animation is used as transitions between the RLSH and their stories.

**SUPERHEROES** is directed by Michael Barnett; produced by Theodore James; executive produced by Doug Blush, Patrick Creadon and Christine O'Malley; edited by Doug Blush, Derek Boonstra, and Jeff Chen. The DVD includes deleted scenes, bonus footage and trading cards of superheroes featured in the film.

Pricing: \$29.95 US

Runtime: 82 mins., plus extras

Rating: N/A

Catalog #: NNVG254430

Language: English Color: Color

Audio Format: Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo

Genre: Documentary

#### **About Docurama Films**

In 1999, **NEW VIDEO** launched **Docurama Films**® with the first feature documentary available on DVD: D.A. Pennebaker's *Bob Dylan: Dont Look Back*. Twelve years and 300 award-winning, highly-acclaimed documentary titles later, Docurama continues to discover and release the greatest nonfiction films of our time while spreading the word about filmmakers who are taking the form to new heights. Docurama's catalog features an array of topics including the performing and visual arts, history, politics, the environment, ethnic and gender interests, and all-time favorites including *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill, Andy Goldsworthy: Rivers and Tides* and *King Corn.* Recent releases include *The End of the Line, Best Worst Movie,* the 2011 Oscar®-nominated film, *Gasland,* and the first-ever Blu-ray release of *Dont Look Back*.

www.docuramafilms.com

#### **About New Video**

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2011, New Video is a leading entertainment distributor and the largest aggregator of independent digital content worldwide. Headquartered in New York City, with an international presence in 45 territories, the company delivers feature films, TV programs and web originals via digital download, streaming media, video-on-demand, Blu-ray and DVD, and theatrical release. New Video streamlines the distribution and marketing process for filmmakers, producers and brand partners to bring a wide variety of fresh content to new audiences. The company's library includes original TV series and movies from A+E® Home Entertainment, HISTORY™, and Lifetime®, unforgettable games and trophy sets from Major League Baseball®, storybook treasures from Scholastic®, award-winning documentaries from Docurama Films®, Arthouse Films, and Plexifilm, next-gen indies and web hits from Flatiron Film Company®, the best in Chinese cinema from China Lion, and festival picks from Tribeca Film. New Video is proud to distribute the 2011 Oscar®-nominated films *Gasland, Waste Land* and, on digital, *Restrepo*. www.newvideo.com.

#### For more information, please contact:

Luis Garza; 646-259-4144; lgarza@newvideo.com