

# THE VISIONARIES...

**Michael Cory Davis**  
**Director**  
**Co-Producer &**  
**Co-Executive Producer**

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Prior to *Cargo: Innocence Lost*, Davis wrote and directed the Hollywood Film Festival's 2005 Best Short, *Svetlana's Journey*, a film based on the true story of a young sex trafficking victim, Svetlana. Davis became involved in human trafficking issues while acting in a movie on location in Bulgaria. After attending a fundraiser by the Bulgarian non-government organization Face To Face, Michael was made aware of the vicious cycle of sex trafficking and began working with Face to Face to educate children on the dangers of the sex trade. Michael and representatives from the organization spent his remaining three weeks in Bulgaria visiting various orphanages and schools to meet victims as well as to help raise awareness to vulnerable children.

Upon returning to the U.S, Davis kept in touch with the organization and received a letter about Svetlana, a young girl he met. Moved by her story, Davis wrote the film in six hours, flew back to Bulgaria and shot the film in a week with non-English speaking Bulgarian actors.

Upon completion of *Svetlana's Journey*, Davis prolonged his stay in Sofia and toured the country with representatives of Face To Face, premiering *Svetlana's Journey* in over 20 public schools and orphanages and organizing fundraising events, generating thousands of dollars to provide financial support to a number of orphanages. In 2005, *Svetlana's Journey* aired on Bulgarian national television and is still being used as tool by the organization to spread awareness to the community.

In addition to the Hollywood Film Festival, *Svetlana's Journey* won Best Short Subject honors at the 2005 HD Film Festival in Los Angeles. Davis was also honored with runner-up for Best Director. The film had a huge impact with Non-Government Organizations and government agencies like the FBI using *Svetlana's Journey* as a training tool in their departments. Davis was invited to speak and screen his film at the U.S. Embassy in Sofia Bulgaria as part of the induction ceremony of its first anti-trafficking agency.

*Svetlana's Journey* has also screened at the World Culture Museum in Sweden and at a number of events sponsored by non-government organizations and Human Trafficking task forces within the United States.

While traveling throughout the U.S screening *Svetlana's Journey*, Davis realized that the problem of trafficking has reached American shores but has been well disguised. In early 2006 after an appearance on CNN's *Live From*, Davis decided to raise capitol and investigate the scourge of Sex Trafficking in America. Davis went on hiatus from his acting career and went into development of *Cargo: Innocence Lost*. The film was a passion project and Davis spent the entire year putting it together.

Davis is a firm believer in using art to inform the public and raise awareness about human rights violations around the world. Davis was presented with a Humanitarian award by actress, Anne Archer who is the spokesperson for Artist for Human Rights organization, honoring his commitment to helping others through his artistic abilities, and for his continued work to advocate awareness by making *Cargo: Innocence Lost*. *Cargo: Innocence Lost* is a certified training film for all law enforcement and non-government organization officials.

**Cicely Gilkey**  
**Producer**

Learning that slavery still exists in 2006 and that people are unaware of this crime compelled, Producer, Cicely Gilkey into action.

With a background writing and producing for television (MTV, CBS, MSNBC, BET, Dr. Phil Show, Tyra Banks Show, The Animus Group) she immersed herself in the horrifying world of sex trafficking and partnered with Filmmaker, Michael Cory Davis, to produce a groundbreaking docudrama on sex trafficking.

Marrying entertainment with social issues is a passion for producer, Cicely Gilkey, who believes television and film are vehicles to entertain, educate and more importantly, enlighten.