

Own Private Bin Laden

(plays with [War Tapes](#))

Maui Arts & Cultural Center

2005, 63 min

(In ENGLISH)

U.S.A. Premiere

Producer: Samira Goetschel

After she saw the World Trade Center collapse, Samira Goetschel needed to understand. As a girl, she had escaped to New York when Islamic extremists murdered her father in her native country, Iran. "I felt that what I had fled had now caught up with me." Who was this enemy, and what was its history? How had Osama Bin Laden suddenly become a global icon, and what did his image actually represent? "All I had was a backpack and a willingness to explore."

Her resulting documentary was named Best Foreign Documentary and Best Film of the Festival at the inaugural European Independent Film Festival in Paris. Goetschel's eye-opening work achieves the brilliance of Michael Moore with a great degree of dignity and restraint. By sheer determination, she collected a trove of high-caliber interviews with eminent investigative journalists and political figures such as Cold War-era CIA director Stansfield Turner, former national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Pakistani ex-president Benazir Bhutto.

One transparent conclusion: During the Cold War, especially during the Jimmy Carter Administration, the U.S. State Department created the Bin Laden myth by arming Islamic radicals, training them, and giving them the appetite for defeating world powers. Says one insider: "We created a religious fanatic force to fight Communists. How on earth did people not think of the consequences?"

"I don't have 'my own private bin Laden,'" says Samira Goetschel. "My film's point is that we have collectively produced one, and that is the problem."

Screening Schedule

Date Time Venue Tickets

Fri, Jun 16 5:00 pm MACC - McCoy Theater