

BEYOND THE MOTOR CITY

A DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT THE PAST AND FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION



BEYOND THE MOTOR CITY IS PART OF BLUEPRINT AMERICA, A NATIONAL, MULTI-PLATFORM INITIATIVE EXAMINING THE STATE OF AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE. BLUEPRINT AMERICA WAS CREATED AND PRODUCED BY THIRTEEN FOR WNET.ORG AND SUPPORTED BY THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION AND THE SURDNA FOUNDATION. THE BLUEPRINT AMERICA SCREENING TOUR IS PRODUCED BY MOSAIC FILMS, INC. AND FILM SPROUT, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

"BLUEPRINT AMERICA: BEYOND THE MOTOR CITY" A PRODUCTION OF THIRTEEN FOR WNET.ORG
WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY AARON WOOLF NARRATOR MILES O'BRIEN PRODUCED BY JUSTINE SIMONSON
EDITED BY BERNADINE COLISH ASSOCIATE PRODUCER KRISTINE CAFARELLA ASSOCIATE EDITOR DAWN RIDER AND SARA SHAW CAMERA LLOYD HANDWERKER COMPOSER NEIL CLEARY ANIMATING PRODUCER IN COLLABORATION WITH AMERICA 2050
FOR BLUEPRINT AMERICA, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER KATHLEEN HUGHES SENIOR PRODUCER NEVA ANISKO PRODUCED BY TOM MCNAMARA AND REUBEN SAVITS FOR WNET.ORG, EXECUTIVES IN CHARGE STEPHEN SEGALLER AND NEAL SHAPIRO

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SYNOPSIS

Beyond the Motor City, a new documentary directed by acclaimed filmmaker Aaron Woolf (*King Corn*), examines how Detroit, a grim symbol of America's diminishing status in the world, may come to represent the future of transportation and progress in America.

Narrated by Miles O'Brien, the film explores Detroit's historic investments in infrastructure—from early 19th-century canals to the urban freeways that gave The Motor City its name and made America's transportation system the envy of the world.

But over the last 30 years, much of the world has left Detroit—and America—behind, choosing faster, cleaner, more modern transportation. In a journey that takes us into the neighborhoods of Detroit and then beyond to Spain, California, and our nation's capital, *Beyond the Motor City* urges us to ask how we might finally push America's transportation system into the 21st century.

Beyond the Motor City is part of Blueprint America, a national, multi-platform initiative examining the state of America's transportation infrastructure. Blueprint America was created and produced by Thirteen for WNET.ORG and supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Surdna Foundation.

CREDITS

MILES O'BRIEN, Narrator: Miles O'Brien is an Emmy award-winning, 27-year broadcast news veteran who has completed three documentaries with WNET's Blueprint America initiative. Born and raised in Detroit, O'Brien worked for 17 years as an anchor, correspondent, and producer for CNN in Atlanta, and he wrote and reported the network's first hour-long documentary on climate change. He is known for his passion for aviation, space, technology, and the environment, and for his unparalleled coverage of space exploration—including the loss of the space shuttle Columbia in 2003—as well as for his acclaimed, live coverage of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He lives in Manhattan with his wife and daughter.

AARON WOOLF, Producer, Director, and Writer: Aaron Woolf is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose work aims a spotlight on the often far-reaching social ramifications of government policy. The director of the feature documentary *King Corn*, which was awarded a George Foster Peabody Award and aired on PBS's *Independent Lens* series (2008), Woolf also directed the WNET-ITVS co-production, *Greener Grass: Cuba, Baseball, and the United States* (2000) and *Dying to Leave: The Global Face of Human Trafficking and Smuggling*, which aired on PBS's *Wide Angle* series in 2003. In 2007, he opened Urban Rustic, a Brooklyn grocery specializing in locally sourced and organic foods. He divides his time between New York City and Elizabethtown, NY.

KATHLEEN HUGHES, Executive Producer: Kathleen Hughes is a two-time Emmy Award-winning producer, director, writer, and executive whose documentaries and magazine pieces have appeared on *Now With Bill Moyers*, *Frontline*, *Wide Angle*, and ABC News' *Turning Point*. In 2007, her 90-minute documentary with Bill Moyers, *Buying the War*, won an Emmy Award for Best Report in a News Magazine, and was dubbed "one of the most gripping and important pieces of broadcast journalism so far this year" by *The Washington Post*. Hughes began her television career as an associate producer for Channel Thirteen in New York and for CBS News' *Sixty Minutes*. She is Executive Producer of the Blueprint America series.

THE BLUEPRINT AMERICA SCREENING TOUR

This May and June, The Blueprint America Screening Tour will bring *Beyond the Motor City* to cities across America's industrial heartland—and beyond—in a community screening initiative intended to raise questions and seek answers about the future of transportation in America.

In screenings to take place in Memphis, St. Louis, Detroit, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, Nashville, and many more, The Blueprint America Screening Tour seeks to energize debate around:

- New hopes for accessible, clean and modern mass transit in America
- The role of cities and consumers in shaping the next generation of transit systems
- A roadmap for revitalizing the way we move through our cities and neighborhoods

Major cities already included in the tour line-up include:

San Diego (May 5), Memphis (May 13), St. Louis (May 17), Detroit (May 18), Oakland (May 18), Kansas City, MO (May 19), Indianapolis (May 20), Olympia, WA (May 26), Minneapolis (June 8), Seattle (June 11), Cambridge, MA (June 17), Nashville (June 17) and Montgomery, AL (June 19).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Beyond the Motor City is available for public, community screenings across the United States in May and June, 2010.

To apply to host a screening in your neighborhood, contact Caitlin Boyle and Lucy Flores at beyondthemotorcity@gmail.com.

To find a screening near you, visit the Blueprint America Screening Tour page at www.pbs.org/blueprintamerica/ontheroad or check out our interactive map at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/blueprintamerica/reports/on-the-road/map-the-tour/998/>.

To watch our trailer or to embed the trailer on your website or blog, visit <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/blueprintamerica/reports/on-the-road/preview/1001/>.

To download poster artwork, press releases, headshots, and production stills, visit <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/blueprintamerica/reports/on-the-road/promote-your-screening/1002/>.

FOR PRESS

If you're a member of the press and would like to cover a local *Beyond the Motor Screening* or to interview director Aaron Woolf, please contact:

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