



Karen Thorsen

Writer / Producer / Director

An award-winning writer/filmmaker, **Douglas K. Dempsey** is, with Karen Thorsen, Co-Director of the James Baldwin Project. Their first collaboration was THE FED, a behind-the-scenes exploration of America's financial system; it won a Cine Golden Eagle. Their second joint effort was JAMES BALDWIN: THE PRICE OF THE TICKET, a feature-length biography which won awards all over the world. and is now considered a classic. Most recently, he supervised the restored and re-mastered, WideScreen 2K HD version of the film - now the centerpiece of their Outreach & Engagement initiative, "James Baldwin Centennial: Identity, Then & Now."

On his own, Dempsey wins awards as well. As a narrative story editor, his credits include both award-winning feature films (for Producer Steven Haft and Director John Avildsen) and IMAX productions – among them, LIVING PLANET, FLYERS (both produced for the Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum) and SHACKLETON'S ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE (winner, Best Film Award, 2005, Big Screen Association).

Dempsey has also worked extensively in museum media – often in collaboration with Dennis Earl Moore Productions and Christopher Chadbourne & Associates. Credits include the Mystic Aquarium's DIVE THEATER, the Smithsonian Institution's PRICE OF FREEDOM, and the GREAT PLATTE RIVER ROAD ARCHWAY MONUMENT in Nebraska. He was Content & Media Developer for the North Carolina Museum of History. His ONE SMALL CANDLE – a documentary film history of the Pilgrims and their Native neighbors, made in partnership with Karen Thorsen – has recently become a permanent installation at Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth, MA.

In addition, Dempsey has been honored as a writer and editor. He was Writer / Editor of BURIED PRAYERS, a feature-length film about the buried treasure of Maidanek, a Nazi death camp for Polish Jews. A story of defiance and redemption, it was narrated by artist Laurie Anderson and won Best Documentary Feature at the Cinequest Film Festival. His documentary narration for KEEPERS OF EDEN, a film about the Huaorani tribe in Ecuador, was performed by Joanne Woodward. His scripts have been produced by CBS Mystery Theater, National Geographic and The Learning Channel.

Other collaborations with Thorsen include two works-in-progress: PEACEJAM: CHANGE STARTS HERE, a series of web-based shorts and longer-form docs about teenage activists mentored by Nobel Laureates – and THOMAS PAINE: VOICE OF REVOLUTION, a feature-length documentary & multi-media museum exhibit. Most recently, Dempsey co-produced a Play-on-Film, with Karen Thorsen, of Michael Tucker's THE NICE MAN COMETH, in collaboration with Michael Tucker & Jill Eikenberry; it has been presented online since 2021, by various theater companies and streaming services.