

Nicolas Rossier – Independent Producer and Reporter

Nicolas Rossier is an American film producer, journalist and cameraman whose works have appeared on television and in various venues around the world, including PBS, Hallmark channel, Al Jazeera, RT and Yes Docu in Israel. His latest films include the acclaimed feature length documentaries “American Radical”, about disgraced American scholar Norman Finkelstein, and “Aristide and the Endless Revolution”, which investigates the events leading up to the 2004 overthrow of Haiti’s controversial president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Rossier lives in Brooklyn, New York and has been living in the US for almost fifteen years. He was born and raised in Geneva, Switzerland and moved to New York in 1997. After a few years spent in the corporate world, he decided to study acting and directing at the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute as well as film production at the School for Visual Arts and the New-York Film Academy. He is currently developing a new reality show on human rights and law enforcement as well as working on his first narrative feature.

Directing credits include “American Radical”, (www.americanradicalthefilm.com) made with acclaimed Canadian director David Ridgen (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_Cold_Case), about the disgraced academic Norman Finkelstein. The film explores the controversial path of the Jewish American intellectual – born to survivors of the Nazi death camps – and his positions on the Israel-Palestine conflict. It won the audience award for best documentary at the IFP/Chicago Underground Film Festival and was a highlight at Hot Docs, IDFA, Sheffield and many other festivals. It is being released by Typecast Releasing in the US and Mercury Media in the UK. It aired on more than 15 international channels including Al Jazeera, Israeli Yes Docu and RT.

In 2005, Rossier made the acclaimed feature documentary “Aristide and the Endless Revolution” (www.aristidethefilm.com) about the events leading up to the 2004 overthrow of Haiti’s controversial president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The film was one of the best-reviewed documentaries in the US, and was voted by syndicated film critic Kam Williams (www.kamwilliams.com) as one of the 10 best black movies of 2005. It was picked up by First Run Features (www.firstrunfeatures.com) and had a limited theatrical release across the US. Rossier was the first reporter to interview Aristide after the former president was exiled to South Africa.

Another of Rossier’s acclaimed documentaries was “Brothers and Others” (www.imdb.com/title/tt0477583) a primetime television documentary dealing with the impact of the Patriot Act and racial profiling on Arabs and Muslims in America. The film aired 8 times on the Hallmark Channel (www.hallmarkchannel.com), was featured on PBS Video Eye, and on the LINK TV spotlight documentary series (www.linktv.org/programs/spotlight), anchored by investigative Vanity Fair reporter Mark Hertsgaard (www.markhertsgaard.com).

Rossier’s first television documentary “Life is a Dream, A Street Poet in New York” (www.imdb.com/title/tt1514832) about self-taught Jewish street poet Isidore Block (aka poet-o). The film won an audience award at the 2000 New

York Independent Film festival and was featured on TSR, DRS (Switzerland) and Sky TV (UK).

In 2006, Nicolas co-developed and produced a television reality show on Muslim and American reconciliation called "The Bridge" (www.sfcg.org/programmes/cgp/cgp_bridge.html), which aired on the Hallmark channel's Faith and Values show and was filmed by veteran Emmy-Award winning producer and cameraman Jon Alpert (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_Alpert).

Many of Rossier's films have received praises by high-profile filmmakers and personalities such as Mark Achbar, Michael Moore, Albert Maysles (www.mayslesfilms.com), the director of "Salesman" and "Grey Gardens", physician and anthropologist Paul Farmer, as well as scholars and intellectuals such as Chris Hedges, John Esposito and Robert Maguire.

Nicolas has filmed in some of the most volatile places on earth, including Haiti, the West Bank, Lebanon, South Africa and Myanmar, among others. He is currently developing a television series and his first narrative feature.

Awards & Festivals:

Rossier's most recent documentary, *Aristide and the Endless Revolution*, was awarded "Best Documentary" at the prestigious Pan African Film Festival (<http://www.paff.org/>) in Los Angeles and was also selected for the Amnesty International Doen Award at IDFA in Amsterdam. He also received The New York Independent Film Festival Audience Award, and an honorable mention from both the UC Davis and Golden Knight film festivals for his film "Life is a Dream, A Street Poet in New York" about famous Jewish Street Poet Isidore Block aka Poet-O. For his film "American Radical" he was awarded by IFP/ CUFF festival (<http://www.cuff.org/>) the audience choice award for best documentary, the Cinema Politica audience award (<http://www.cinemapolitica.org/blog/ezra/american-radical-wins-cp-audience-choice-award>), the Renoir award for best political film (<http://politicalfilmcritics.blogspot.com/>) and was named by screenjunkies (<http://www.screenjunkies.com/movies/movie-lists/10-best-political-documentaries/>) one of the best 10 best documentaries ever made.

Press & Appearances:

Rossier has appeared as a guest speaker at Stanford University's Media School, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Asia Society, the US Commission on Civil Rights - where he also testified - and numerous radio stations, such as Air America, Columbia University Radio, CBC Radio, and WBLS-NY.

He recently appeared on the show "The Nation on Grit TV" and Russia Today's flagship current affairs show "CrossTalk" to discuss his exclusive interview of former Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Rossier's other works have appeared on many US and foreign television channels, and have been reviewed in the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*,

Jewish Daily Forward, *Variety*, the *Hollywood Reporter*, the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, NPR and many other outlets. His productions have been screened at many of the world's top film festivals and venues, including the Rotterdam International Film Festival, the Jerusalem Cinematheque (www.jer-cin.org.il/JewishFilmFestival/main.aspx), the Film Society of Lincoln Center in New York (www.filmlinc.com/wrt/wrt.html), the International Documentary Film Festival (IDFA) in Amsterdam (www.idfa.nl/industry.aspx), the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (www.mfa.org), the Stanford Film Society, the Kennedy School of Government, the Frontline Club, among many others.

Rossier is also an occasional contributor to the Huffington Post and Eurasia Review.

Interviews :

Rossier has interviewed a number of prestigious personalities, such as Dr. Paul Farmer, former US president Jimmy Carter, renowned trial lawyer Alan Dershowitz, social critic and linguist Noam Chomsky, Nobel Peace Laureate F.W. de Klerk, US Representatives Maxine Waters and Tom Tancredo, among many others. In 2005 he was the first to interview former Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide while in exile in South Africa.

Background :

Nic Rossier is an American citizen of mixed descent who resides in Brooklyn, New York. He was born and raised in Geneva, Switzerland and moved to New York in 1997 when he became a US Citizen. He studied law, economics and political science at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (graduateinstitute.ch) in Geneva. After a few years spent in the financial sector in Paris, Geneva and Zurich, he moved to New York to study acting and directing at the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute (www.strasberg.com/lstfi), as well as film production at the School for Visual Arts (www.schoolofvisualarts.edu) and the New York Film Academy (www.nyfa.edu). Nic lives with his wife and three children in Brooklyn, New York. His hobbies are tennis, skiing, and reading about politics and religion.

Others:

In 2003 Rossier curated and managed the SwissAm film festival as part of the Swisspeaks Festival (www.barakaproductions.com/swissam/index.html).

Rossier is a recipient of the North Star Fund, the New York State Council on the Arts and the Schwab Charitable Fund.

Rossier has served as a judge for many film festivals and awards including the IDA Awards and the Brooklyn Film Festival. In 2006, after his win at the Los Angeles Panafrican Film Festival, he was invited by legendary filmmaker Michael Apted to join the Directors Guild of America. He has written for the Huffington Post, Eurasia Review, Revolve Magazine and Rabble.