

## MOVIE PREMIERE

# UNRAVELED—An Ambitious Man, an Immoral Plan

Director Statement by Marc H. Simon

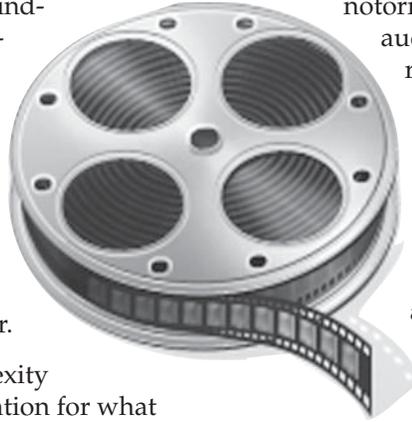
When I was a young associate working at the law firm of Dreier LLP, my boss Marc Dreier would rib me, “Simon, you’ll never be me, you’ll never be me!” At the time, I thought Dreier was referencing only his grandiose life as the jet-setting owner of the seemingly super-successful law firm he had founded. But, interviewing him as the subject of my feature documentary *UNRAVELED*, just three days before he faced sentencing for swindling over 740 million dollars, I asked whether his recurring jab was meant to convey a deeper message. Dreier said he had indeed intended the subtle forewarning, but I was unconvinced by his answer.

This uncertainty, and the complexity of the man at its center, is the foundation for what I hope makes *UNRAVELED* a uniquely compelling film. While verité scenes, archival footage, and graphic animation provide both factual and dramatic support, this is Marc Dreier’s story told in his own words and through his own actions. Yet, Dreier’s circumstances must brand him an unreliable narrator. He is a mega-fraudster—narcissistic and brilliant—who has chosen to cooperate in creating his own documentary portrait.

The challenge of telling a documentary through the voice of only one character—without the crutch of other talking heads—is significant. Dreier’s isolation is both a practical and artistic choice. As a practical matter, his victims and former colleagues recognize only harm in further sharing Marc’s spotlight. As an artistic choice, I want Marc’s physical and emotional separation to resonate throughout the film. Thus, *UNRAVELED* intentionally presents this fascinating man through his own transparencies and masks. The audience shall draw its own conclusions and connections. I do not expect uniformity of emotion or opinion.

When these massive financial crimes are uncovered, I think the public is deeply curious about how the perpetrators, often highly intelligent and well respected

individuals in their communities, are capable of risking everything good in their lives for material or other superficial gain. I had this very unique opportunity, in spending two months with my former boss and mentor, to delve into the complexities of one of the most notorious white collar criminals in history, and audiences have been fascinated by Dreier’s revelations.



The tragic irony of filming the downfall of my former mentor was never lost on me. During one of our interviews, Dreier questioned the role of the documentary filmmaker and the value that this film could serve. He proffered that the film could be analogous to the proverbial car crash—a tragedy that observers gain nothing from witnessing, yet view due to its fascinating spectacle. I hope that *UNRAVELED* persuasively refutes this characterization, as

a film that prompts reflection and dialogue about ethics, values, and decision-making in the current societal landscape. I am also hopeful that it serves as a cautionary tale of the tragic consequences that result when greed and entitlement supplant moral responsibility.

**Marc H. Simon is an award winning filmmaker. Mr. Simon created, wrote and produced “After Innocence,” which won the special jury award at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, before going on to receive other numerous recognitions, including its selection as a semi-finalist for Best Feature Documentary at the 78th Academy Awards. “Nursery University” marked Simon’s feature directorial debut. The film, which premiered at Toronto Hot Doc Film Festival, was the top-grossing independent film during its opening theatrical weekend, and has been broadcast throughout the world. “UNRAVELED” is Simon’s second straight directing effort and third as a producer. Simon is also a leading independent film attorney (this past year he has served as lead counsel for films such as “Winter’s Bone,” “The Kids Are All Right,” and Werner Herzog’s “Cave of Forgotten Dreams”).**

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