

John Zaritsky is an Academy Award winning filmmaker with a reputation for taking on the most impossible of topics and characters and turning them into compelling and entertaining stories. John has won more than 40 awards for his documentary films.



Some of his major honors include an Academy Award® in 1982 for his documentary **Just Another Missing Kid**, a Cable Ace Award for **Rapists: Can They be Stopped**, a Golden Gavel Award from the American Bar Association for **My Husband is Going to Kill Me**, a Robert F. Kennedy Foundation Award for **Born in Africa**, and an Alfred Dupont Award from Columbia University's School of Journalism in 1994 for **Romeo and Juliet in Sarajevo**.

John's films have been broadcast in 35 countries and screened at more than 40 film festivals around the world, including Sundance, Toronto, Vancouver, the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam, Hot Docs and South by Southwest. Zaritsky's films have won awards at the New York Film Festival, the American Film Festival, Hot Docs, Vancouver Film Festival Banff Television Festival, Houston International Film Festival, Columbus Ohio Film Festival, Mill Valley Film Festival and the Sedona Film Festival. Three films, **Broken Promises**, **Born in Africa**, and **Romeo and Juliet in Sarajevo** were nominated for Emmy Awards.

Recent projects: **Leave Them Laughing** (2010) about a woman comedian facing ALS, **A Different Drummer: Celebrating Eccentrics** (2014). **No Limits (2016)** his third in a trilogy of docs on Thalidomide survivors, including; **Broken Promises** (1989), **Extraordinary People** (1999)

In addition, Zaritsky has won seven Geminis, Canada's national television award, and been nominated 15 times. In 1995-96, he was an artist-in-residence at the graduate school of journalism, University of California at Berkeley. From 2002 to 2006, Zaritsky taught documentary film at the University of British Columbia as an adjunct professor. In 2011, he received a lifetime achievement award from the Whistler Film Festival.

Prior to entering the film business, Zaritsky worked as a newspaper reporter for seven years and received a Ford Foundation Fellowship to study at the Washington Journalism Center for six months. He won a National Newspaper Award in 1972 for his investigative reporting for The Globe and Mail.