

“Carves out a fascinating profile.” Pacific Sun

“...a savvy inside player, and one driven by humanistic ideals....documentary is well made.” Variety

“An inspiring story of a man who has fought for the underdog.” Robert McNamara

“The most powerful man you’ve never heard of,...Stanley Sheinbaum.” California Film Institute



62 minutes DVD.

“Citizen Stan” documents the life of Stanley Sheinbaum, a man who rose from humble beginnings to influence politics on a world stage. In exploring the life of his octogenarian friend, journalist and story-teller Robert Scheer treats us to a veritable history lesson as Mr. Sheinbaum keeps rushing to the center of the action.

“CITIZEN STAN” profiles Stanley Sheinbaum, who has shaped foreign policy with Prime Ministers, Presidents and Kings. Mr. Sheinbaum has used his negotiating skills in league with gang leaders and student activists. His life story holds lessons of character, and demonstrates the conviction it takes to change our world.

Growing up in New York's rag trade, the teen-aged Sheinbaum joined the US army effort in WW2, photo-screening maps onto silk for aviators to use. A kid who had done poorly in high school, he used the GI bill to work for a doctorate in economics at Stanford.

In 1954, Sheinbaum landed a teaching job at Michigan State University. He became co-director of the Vietnam Project at MSU. Under the auspices of the University, the project hired men to go to South Vietnam and set up a police force. Stanley Sheinbaum was the man doing the hiring. On a trip to Saigon to check on his work, Sheinbaum realized he was doing the work of the CIA. Further, men Sheinbaum had hired were using torture to interrogate Vietcong prisoners.



Ten years later, journalist Robert Scheer confronted Sheinbaum about his role in the Vietnam Project. Much to his surprise, Sheinbaum was a cooperative witness. He and Scheer joined ranks, traveling to Vietnam in 1966 to investigate the war. The two men rode a puddle jumper through Cambodia, looking for the Ho Chi Minh trail. Fully at odds with Lyndon Johnson's "the best and the brightest", they were trying to head off the bombing of neutral Cambodia. In Saigon, Sheinbaum locked horns with his younger brother Gil, who had become the advisor to the American ambassador, Ellsworth Bunker.

In 1967, when a coup in Greece imprisoned Andres Papandreou, whose father was running for prime minister, Sheinbaum smuggled documents out of Greece which proved the young Papandreou was being framed by the junta, saving his life. Andres Papandreou later returned to Greece to serve three terms as Prime Minister.

Stanley Sheinbaum ran for congress in Santa Barbara, California on an anti-war platform in 1966 and again in 1968. During the Pentagon Papers trial, he organized the defense of Daniel Ellsberg and landed on Nixon's enemies list.



Challenging Jewish conservatism in 1987, Sheinbaum and a group of five American Jews met with Yassir Arafat. They persuaded Arafat to deliver a speech to the United Nations, denouncing terrorism, and recognizing the state of Israel.

In Los Angeles, during the bitter days of the Rodney King uprising, Sheinbaum was appointed President of the Police Commission. As such he sparred with Police Chief Daryl Gates, and worked to remove Gates from office when the city charter failed to provide a method.

President Clinton enlisted Sheinbaum as a diplomatic back-channel to Syria. Sheinbaum traveled to Damascus to set up a summit between President Clinton and President Assad. His involvement in the Middle East, seeking a way toward peace, continues to this day.



CREDITS: Director/Producer: Patty Sharaf Co-producers: John Sharaf, Robert Scheer
Writer: John Joseph Editor: Iain Kennedy Post engineer: Gabe Sharaf, Chris Komives
Director of Photography: John Sharaf
Additional video photography: Uri Buzlow, Charles Pinkney, Chris Komives, Henry Zinman,
Joe Mealey Additional footage: Los Angeles street scenes by Randy J. Holland, also the Center
Against Police Abuse. Historical footage courtesy Digital Ranch, also the National Archive.
Some Vietnam footage courtesy Glen Silber "The War At Home" 1979. Some Greek footage
courtesy Nicholas Papandreou.

Audio: Patty Sharaf

Composer: Syn-g / Syngram Productions Mix: Art Wright/Thunder Sculpture: Jilda Schwartz
Narrator: Richard Dreyfuss Story Consultant: Steven Salzburg
Stills from collections of: Stanley K. Sheinbaum, Daniel Ellsberg, Paul Schrade, Gil Sheinbaum,
Corbis, Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, Los Angeles Public Library
Herald Examiner collection, UC Santa Barbara Library, LBJ Library, Reagan Library, Nixon
Library, National Archives Maryland, Getty Images.

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BIOGRAPHIES



Producer/Director Patty Sharaf works as a sound engineer for network news, sports and entertainment. Her latest film, “Murder? Spies & Voting Lies” is due out soon.

Journalist Robert Scheer is a contributing editor to the San Francisco Chronicle and The Nation, and author of numerous books. His weekly column also appears on his internet news magazine Truthdig.com. He was editor of Ramparts Magazine, and interviewed Presidents Nixon, Carter and Reagan for Playboy. He teaches at USC and also makes a weekly radio appearance on KCRW’s “Left Right and Center”.

Co-producer/Cameraman John Sharaf works as a videographer/cinematographer and has an extensive rap sheet of shooting credits in network news and entertainment.

