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p 212.274.1989 • f 212.274.1644 • <http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com/DVDpressroom>  
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## **THE MOST POTENT POLITICAL DOC OF THE YEAR: “THE OATH” COMES TO DVD SEPTEMBER 28TH**

New York (August 4, 2010) — From the director of the Oscar-nominated *My Country, My Country* comes one of the most powerful and critically acclaimed political films of the year— *The Oath*. Prior to its acclaimed U.S. theatrical release, this provocative documentary was a massive favorite at festivals all over the world—garnering top awards from Sundance, Hot Docs, True/False, Full Frame, Sarasota and Edinburgh, among many others.

**In conjunction with its broadcast television premiere on PBS’s prestigious POV series this fall, *The Oath* comes to DVD on September 28, 2010.**

A spectacularly gripping documentary that unfolds like a great political thriller, *The Oath* is the crosscut tale of two men whose fateful meeting propelled them on divergent courses with Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, 9/11, Guantanamo and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Abu Jandal is a taxi driver in Sana’a, Yemen; his brother-in-law Salim Hamdan is a Guantanamo prisoner and the first man to face the controversial military tribunals. Jandal and Hamdan’s intertwined personal trajectories—how they became bin Laden’s bodyguard and driver respectively—act as prisms that serve to explore a world that has confounded Western media. As Hamdan’s trial progresses, his military lawyers challenge fundamental flaws in the court system; the charismatic Jandal dialogues with his young son, Muslim students and journalists, and chillingly unveils the complex evolution of his belief system post-9/11. *The Oath* offers a rare window into a hidden realm—and into the international impact of the U.S. War on Terror.

Zeitgeist’s DVD release of *The Oath* features a new anamorphic transfer, created from hi-def elements. Extras include **a chilling, extended interview with Abu Jandal, former bodyguard of Osama bin Laden**; as well additional footage, theatrical trailers and a director’s statement.

***The Oath* Film/DVD info: 2010 • 96 minutes • USA • Color • In English and Arabic with English subtitles • 1.85:1 theatrical aspect ratio • Stereo • Not Rated • Cat. No. Z1130 • UPC 795975113038 • SRP \$29.99**

***Note: Zeitgeist’s DVD release of The Oath is available in the U.S. only.***

Celebrating more than 20 years as one of America’s preeminent independent distributors, New York-based **Zeitgeist Films** has built an impressively diverse catalogue of foreign, documentary and arthouse titles by such renowned directors as Todd Haynes, Jan Svankmajer, Peter Greenaway, Abbas Kiarostami, Guy Maddin, Kirby Dick, Atom Egoyan, Agnès Varda, François Ozon, Derek Jarman, Yvonne Rainer, Olivier Assayas, Philippe Garrel, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Carlos Saura and the Quay Brothers. Current and upcoming releases: Italian crowd-pleaser *Mid-August Lunch* (from the creators of *Gomorra*); and *Vision – From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen*, directed by New German Cinema legend Margarethe von Trotta and starring Barbara Sukowa (*Zentropa, Berlin Alexanderplatz*). In August 2010, Zeitgeist also became the exclusive home media distributor of KimStim, an eclectic and adventurous Brooklyn, New York-based arthouse label with a library of 50+ films from groundbreaking directors including Alain Resnais, Raul Ruiz, André Techiné, Chantal Akerman, François Ozon, Laurent Cantet, Seijun Suzuki, Jafar Panahi, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Abbas Kiarostami and Otar Iosseliani.



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## CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR “THE OATH”

**“THE MOST REVELATORY AND ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTARY OF 2010!”**

—David Edelstein, *New York* magazine

“An **INTIMATE** character study (of a Yemeni cab driver who once worked as Osama bin Laden’s bodyguard) and a wide-ranging critique of the American war on terror.” —Dennis Lim, *The New York Times*

**“FASCINATING!** Poitras’s movie digs deep; it hints at the violently conflicting drives that an intelligent human being may be liable to.” —David Denby, *The New Yorker*

“Just how deep inside Jandal’s world Poitras goes is all the more **STRIKING** given the inherent cultural barriers and danger she faced as a female filmmaker shooting a former Al-Qaeda operative in Yemen.”

—Betsy Sharkey, *Los Angeles Times*

“Grade A! **COMPELLING!** Has the propulsive air of a **COURTROOM THRILLER.**”

—Stephen Schaefer, *Boston Herald*

**“FOUR STARS! COMPELLING!** An illuminating...portrait of the War on Terror’s lasting effects.”

—Keith Uhlich, *Time Out New York* (Critic’s Pick)

**“OUTSTANDING!** *The Oath* is a film about a man who is an enigma—and about the confusion, not the clarity, that is the aftermath of 9/11. Poitras is a patient observer of the telling details that deepen the contradictions of her subject, and disciplined enough not to ram home their significance.” —Ella Taylor, *The Village Voice*

**“COMPELLING BOTH AS DRAMA AND AS AN INDICTMENT** of the eight years of folly known as the War on Terror.” —Peter Keough, *Boston Phoenix*

**“ASTONISHING AND ESSENTIAL!** Both intimate and epic, mysterious and clear-eyed.... Poitras draws a complex, novelistic portrait of two men whose intertwined destinies tell us more about this conflict than most newspaper articles ever could.” —Scott Macaulay, *Filmmaker Magazine*

*The Oath* paints a portrait that’s **GENUINELY, PERSUASIVELY, AND INTELLIGENTLY AMBIGUOUS.**”

—Nicolas Rapold, *The Village Voice*

**“A GRIPPING STORY** free of simplicity and forced conclusions, a fascinating journey into the lives of two former Jihadist warriors. —Stewart Nusbaumer, *The Huffington Post*

**“COMPELLING, EMOTIONALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY COMPLEX... AN IMPORTANT FILM!”**

—Irina Leimbacher, *Film Comment*

**“IT OFFERS A GLIMPSE INTO THE INNER WORKINGS OF AL QAEDA** and the legal arms of the U.S. military, and it scrambles all our assumptions about the post-9/11 world by asking us to judge men not by their beliefs but by their actions, or by their refusal to act.” —Ty Burr, *The Boston Globe*