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EXHILARATING JOURNEY INSIDE KATRINA AND BEYOND: ZEITGEIST BOWS OSCAR-NOMINATED DOC "TROUBLE THE WATER" ON DVD

New York (June 16, 2009) — **2008 Oscar nominee for Best Documentary Feature**, ***TROUBLE THE WATER*** is the astonishingly powerful documentary that takes you inside Hurricane Katrina in a way never before seen on screen. After winning the **Grand Jury Prize at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival** as well as awards at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Silverdocs Film Festival and Gotham Awards, ***TROUBLE THE WATER*** went on to gross over half a million dollars in upwards of 170 markets. **Zeitgeist's DVD edition arrives on August 25, 2009**, in commemoration of Hurricane Katrina's fourth anniversary.

The film opens the day before the storm makes landfall—just blocks away from the French Quarter but far from the New Orleans that most tourists knew. Kimberly Rivers Roberts, an aspiring rap artist, is turning her new video camera on herself and her 9th Ward neighbors trapped in the city, having no means to leave. As the hurricane begins to rage and the floodwaters fill their world and the screen, Kim and her husband Scott continue to film their harrowing retreat to higher ground and the dramatic rescues of friends and neighbors.

Directors/producers Tia Lessin and Carl Deal (producers, *Fahrenheit 9/11* and *Bowling for Columbine*) weave this insider's view of Katrina with a devastating portrait of the challenges left in the hurricane's wake. With resolute courage, Kimberly and Scott begin to forge a new life, even as the government continues to fail them. ***TROUBLE THE WATER*** is a redemptive tale of self-described street hustlers who become heroes—two unforgettable people who survive the storm and then seize a chance for a new beginning.

Zeitgeist's DVD release of ***TROUBLE THE WATER*** features a 16:9 anamorphic presentation, formatted for widescreen televisions. Supplemental materials include **deleted and extended scenes**; 2009 **Roger Ebert Film Festival cast and crew Q&A**, moderated by film critic Richard Roeper; 2008 **New Orleans premiere cast and crew Q&A**, with executive producer Danny Glover; *Trouble the Water* at the **2008 Democratic National Convention**; the U.S. theatrical trailer; optional English subtitles for the deaf and hearing impaired; and **optional Spanish subtitles**.

TROUBLE THE WATER Film/DVD info: 2008 • 96 minutes • U.S. • Color • In English • 1.78:1 original theatrical aspect ratio • Not Rated • Stereo

Celebrating its 20th Anniversary 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 and the Quay Brothers. Recent releases include Oscar winner ***Nowhere in Africa***; blockbuster doc ***The Corporation***; dance doc hit ***Ballets Russes***; Oscar nominee ***Sophie Scholl—The Final Days***; Oscar nominee ***My Country, My Country***; Sundance winner ***Into Great Silence***; and 2008 Oscar nominee ***Trouble the Water***. Launched in 2001, Zeitgeist Video has released dozens of highly praised DVDs, including the recently-released remastered Two-Disc Edition of Quay Brothers shorts, entitled **PHANTOM MUSEUMS**; a Four-Disc Box Set of Derek Jarman masterworks entitled **GLITTERBOX**, starring Oscar winner Tilda Swinton (*Michael Clayton*); an Essential Edition of Olivier Assayas' cult fave ***Irma Vep*** starring Maggie Cheung; and a brand-new "Repressed and Remastered" Edition of Guy Maddin's 1992 mountain film classic ***Careful***.



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CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR *TROUBLE THE WATER*

"Superb... One of the best American documentaries in recent memory."
—Manohla Dargis, *The New York Times*

"Miraculous! Ineradicably moving." —*New York Magazine*

"★★★★! Enraging and inspiring.... This is a story of champions, not victims."
—Michael Sragow, *Baltimore Sun*

"Never mind Katrina, Kimberly Roberts is the real force of nature.... A spellbinder you do not want to miss." —Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

"Endlessly moving.... These soul survivors radiate a faith that is deep, sustaining and perennially, impossibly hopeful." —Richard Corliss, *Time Magazine*

"★★★★! Extraordinary.... [Kimberly's] eyewitness footage has a desperate urgency that surpasses any other news and doc footage I have seen.... The film is about Katrina, and even more about the human spirit." —Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun-Times*

"[Grade] A! Essential, unique viewing: a stunning experience of the hurricane and its aftermath, rooted in immediate personal response and emotions that encapsulate the full national catastrophe."
—Lisa Schwarzbaum, *Entertainment Weekly*

"One of the most eloquent records we have of a tragedy that brought out some of the most impressively alive men and women in New Orleans." —David Denby, *The New Yorker*

"Near-perfect.... *Trouble the Water* is a model of what documentaries should be and what they are, by definition, meant to reveal... One of the great documentaries of all time."
—Howard Feinstein, *Filmmaker Magazine*

"Extraordinary.... A deeply moving story of resilience and redemption."
—Joanne Kaufman, *The Wall Street Journal*

"Lessin and Deal skillfully employ Kimberly's stunning footage as a kind of thematic thread while fashioning a nonfiction narrative charged with alternating currents of outrage and regeneration, tragedy and transcendence." —Joe Leydon, *Houston Chronicle*

"A remarkable story of community resilience in the face of government indifference."
—Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times*

"Benefits from a uniquely personal approach to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.... Deal and Lessin achieve an emotional, impressionistic truth." —John Hartl, *Seattle Times*

"This journey through the Ninth Ward's obliteration inspires a sense of hope about the community's resilience. Katrina left it devastated, not defeated." —*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"A crucial film, one of the best of the decade." —Joe Williams, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*



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"Shrewdly navigates the problem of how to reconcile the outsider perspectives with the experiences of those who lived through the hurricane." —Dennis Lim, *The New York Times*

"The resilience of the movie's subjects—survivors of street crime and drugs and HIV—irradiates *Trouble the Water* like sunshine. Kimberly's explosive rap provides the kind of balm that the blues gave to the untold thousands of Southern blacks displaced in the 1920s: This, too, is the story of a diaspora."
—Jim Ridley, *The Village Voice*

"A tale of natural and civic catastrophe, *Trouble the Water* is also a frank yet inspired saga about poverty, survival and what lies beyond." —*Denver Post*

"★★★★★! As harrowing for what Mother Nature can do as for what the U.S. government can't. Or won't."
—John Anderson, *Newsday*

"A devastating account of institutional failure and personal triumph, anchored by the extraordinary figure of Kim Rivers." —Sam Adams, *Philadelphia City Paper*

"An intimate, necessary take on Katrina." —Jesse Jarnow, *Paste Magazine*

"Roberts' movie-within-a-movie is even more amazing than it sounds. She captures a tale of courage, heroism and tragedy more thrilling than any Hollywood spectacle." —Andrew O'Hehir, *Salon*

"*Trouble the Water's* greatest of its many values is its incisive record of how a massive catastrophe is really a story of multiple individuals, families, blocks and neighborhoods." —*Los Angeles Daily News*

"★★★★★! Riveting and engaging.... Even if you think you know that story, you need to see it through [Kim's] eyes." —Hank Sartin, *Time Out Chicago*

"It's a damning indictment of a national disgrace, but it also reveals the incredible faith and resilience of people who have nothing to rely on but themselves." —J.R. Jones, *Chicago Reader* (Critics' Choice!)

"A unique, ground-level perspective on Hurricane Katrina that's been sorely missing from previous accounts of the disaster." —Justin Lowe, *The Hollywood Reporter*

"Terrific... Kimberly, with her raps, take-charge dynamism and driving positive attitude despite longtime hardship, is one of the most inspiring documentary figures you'll ever see."
—Anita Katz, *San Francisco Examiner*

"So much more than a mere record of the catastrophic event: The Roberts are unforgettable figures, and their insiders' perspective and ultimate survival and rebirth provide an exhilarating example of how wondrous things can emerge from the flood." —Marjorie Baumgarten, *The Austin Chronicle*

"Some documentaries change how you see the world. Some change how you see yourself. *Trouble the Water*...astonishingly, does both." —MaryAnn Johanson, *Salt Lake City Weekly*

"★★★★★! Terrific, engrossing.... Seldom has a film done so much to humanize a large-scale tragedy."
—*Independent Weekly*, Durham