



# P.O.V.

Discussion Guide

Season **21**

## Campaign

A film by Kazuhiro Soda



[www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov)



## Letter from the Filmmaker

NEW YORK, MAY 15, 2008

### Dear Viewer,

I don't think of *Campaign (Senkyo)* as a political piece, though politics is its subject matter. Rather, it is what I call "an observational film" in which the viewer is expected to perceive and interpret the complex, difficult-to-articulate reality of an election campaign run by the Liberal Democratic Party, the party that has held power in Japan for the last 50 years almost without any interruption.

Most documentary filmmakers conduct extensive research on their subjects and write detailed scripts and treatments before they begin shooting. The scripts are often written to persuade members of the production team — executive producers, staff members, and investors — that the movie is interesting and worth producing, both artistically and financially.

In making *Campaign* I broke with this tradition. I made a conscious decision not to write a word before shooting. I was determined to record whatever took place in front of me and to avoid research and pre-shoot meetings with the subjects. This wasn't because I was lazy. It was because I wanted to be true to my philosophy of documentary filmmaking, that a filmmaker should minimize preconceived ideas and should simply learn from the crude reality captured on camera. This strategy was a luxury made possible by the fact that this was a self-financed one-man operation; I both operated the camera and recorded sound simultaneously. As a result, the shoot was one of the most thrilling ones I've ever had, full of eye-opening experiences.

In the editing room as well I chose the most naturalistic path. I constructed the cinematic reality using only moving pictures and sounds recorded during the shoot. I did not use any narration, super-imposed information, computer graphics, special effects, or music. This is because I wanted the viewers to observe and experience the election campaign as directly as I did while I was shooting it.

*Campaign* asks viewers to observe and think about what they see on screen. In this sense, reality is not painted in black and white. Instead it is gray and complicated, the way we experience it every day. I hope that viewers will leave the theatre with unanswered questions, ones they will continue to think about for days, weeks, even years to come.

**Kazuhiro Soda**, Director, *Campaign*



Director Kazuhiro Soda.  
Photo courtesy of Kazuhiro Soda



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### **Thanks to those who reviewed this guide:**

Kazuhiro Soda  
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## Introduction



**Campaign**, a feature-length (53-minute) film documents democracy - Japanese style. When his friend is plucked from obscurity by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to run for a critical seat on the Kawasaki city council, filmmaker Kazuhiro Soda thinks there might be a story worth filming. Granted unusual access to the process, Soda manages to provide a startling insider's view of Japanese electoral politics. Yamauchi Kazuhiko seems an unlikely choice to run for office. A newcomer to the city, he has zero political experience, no charisma, no supporters, and no time to prepare. According to the candidate, he has never even owned a suit before. What he does have is the institutional power of Japan's modern version of Tammany Hall pushing him forward. Yamauchi allows his life to be turned upside down by party bosses as he pursues the rituals of Japanese electioneering.

Kazuhiro Yamauchi on the phone.  
Photo courtesy of Kazuhiro Soda

**Campaign** is an observational film – it includes no commentary or interviews. The filmmaking style forces viewers to make their own meaning from what they see, which makes the film an effective springboard for interesting conversations and a valuable tool for outreach.



## Background Information



Kazuhiko Yamauchi with his posters.  
Photo courtesy of Kazuhiro Soda

### Japan's Political System

At the end of World War II, Japan was required by the terms of its surrender to build a new political system. With Allied forces occupying and helping to rebuild the country, Japan adopted a democratic government for the first time in 1947. The nation is now governed by the two houses of parliament, known as the Diet, with a prime minister elected by the majority party. The two houses of the Diet are the House of Councillors, or Sangi-in, which has 242 members; and the House of Representatives, or Shugi-in, with 480 members. In the past, Japanese voters

cast their ballots for specific candidates, but since 1982 voters select a party, which then receives proportional representation in the legislature.

Japan's main political parties are the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ). Several smaller parties also maintain a presence in the legislature. The LDP, generally considered the more conservative of the two major parties, held power from 1955 until 1993. Since 1994, the LDP has governed by forming a coalition government.



## Background Information

### Prime Minister

Swept into office as the head of the LDP in 2001, Junichiro Koizumi was one of the most popular prime ministers in recent Japanese history. Although public support wavered when he took the highly controversial step of sending Japanese troops to Iraq, he was re-elected in a 2005 election. When Koizumi stepped down in 2006, he was replaced by his former chief cabinet secretary, Shinzo Abe. Abe resigned a year later amid charges of scandal and plummeting popular support for the LDP. He was replaced by the current Prime Minister, Yasuo Fukuda, also an LDP member.

The son of a former prime minister, Fukuda served as chief cabinet secretary to Shinzo Abe and ascended to the prime minister's position in 2007. After the upheaval of Abe's administration, Fukuda represented a return to more traditional government in Japan. He is seen as more dovish than his predecessor, with less interest in expanding the Japanese military. After the tumult of Abe's resignation, Fukuda pledged to help restore the people's trust in government.



Kazuhiko Yamauchi shakes hands with Yoriko Kawaguchi, former foreign minister of Japan.  
Photo courtesy of Kazuhiro Soda

### Politics in Kawasaki

The city of Kawasaki lies sandwiched between Tokyo and Yokohama. Kawasaki is home to about 1.4 million people. The city is governed by a mayor and a council with 63 members. The current mayor, Takao Abe, took office in 2001 and was easily re-elected in 2005 with the support of a broad coalition of parties, including both the LDP and the DPJ. His challenger in 2005, Hajime Okamoto, was supported only by the Japanese Communist Party, which also holds ten seats on the council. Voter turnout in the 2005 election was lower than the previous one, with 36.32 percent of voters making their way to the polls. Kawasaki was home to significant industry and manufacturing during Japan's long economic boom from the 1950s through the

1980s. Manufacturing has been on the decline in recent years, however, with the number of factories in the city shrinking from 3,275 in 1990 to 1,700 in 2006. In the last two decades, research has become the primary source of local economic growth. Like much of Japan, Kawasaki is facing a decline in birth rate and a rapidly aging population, which has led the city to focus on offering services to the aged, and to make plans for more citizen-driven services. Between 1990 and 2007, the number of Kawasaki residents collecting a national pension tripled and the number of annual deaths grew by almost 60 percent, while the number of births remained flat and the number of children in school shrank by about 25 percent.



## Background Information



Yamauchi and his supporters.  
Photo courtesy of Kazuhiro Soda

### Political Campaigns in Japan

Candidates in Japanese elections make use of every available platform, from the Internet to television to street-level campaigning. However, because of campaign reform efforts, candidates are not allowed to create new websites, update existing websites or use electronic media when the official election campaign starts. Individuals running for local or regional office generally receive little support from national party organizations. Instead, candidates organize their own support groups, asking local residents to work on their behalf.

Many of the regulations placed on campaigning tactics were introduced in 1925, when a revision was made to the Lower House Election Law (which originated in the late 1800s), which strictly controlled campaigning tactics. Many of these stipulations are still in place today. Candidates are bound by

rules regarding the number of speeches they can make, the type of canvassing they can do, which written materials can be distributed and displayed and campaign financing. Beginning in the mid-1990s, campaign funding was partially supported by public funds. The government allocated roughly \$300 million in proportion to the number of seats each political party holds in the Diet. Thus, politicians are responsible for much of their own campaign financing.

Given the limitations on campaigning, candidates focus heavily on organizing their support groups and on personal interaction with potential voters.



## Background Information

The face-to-face effort that occurs in local elections differs from the kind of glad-handing that characterizes many campaigns outside Japan, however. Candidates typically extend great rhetorical courtesy to the audience without focusing on any specifics of policy. One technique common in local elections involves candidates and their supporters lining up outside railway stations, bowing repeatedly to commuters and offering pledges of service. Campaign cars with loudspeakers are enlisted to drive through residential districts, intoning the name of the candidate without making a concerted sales pitch.



### Voter Turnout

Voter turnout in Japan has fluctuated greatly in recent elections, but has been on a downward slide since 1980. In the 2000 general election, about 62 percent of eligible voters turned out, one of the lowest proportions on record. In 2003, only 60 percent of voters went to the polls. Turnout increased in 2005, when 67.5 percent of eligible voters cast votes.

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Kazuhiro Yamauchi.

Photo courtesy of Kazuhiro Soda

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## Background Information

### Selected People Featured in Campaign



**Kazuhiko Yamauchi – (LDP Candidate for Kawasaki City Council)** was born in Tokyo in 1965. His nickname is Yama-san. He briefly attended Meteorological College and Shinshu University before graduating from Tokyo University with a degree in linguistics. He was making his living selling stamps and coins when he was chosen by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to be their official candidate for the Kawasaki City Council seat.



**Sayuri Yamauchi – (Wife of Kazuhiko Yamauchi)** was born in Nagano, Japan. She works for an American corporation in Marunouchi, Tokyo. She met Yama-san on the internet and married him in 2002. Their honeymoon took place on a "Peace Boat" to North Korea.



**Junichiro Koizumi – (Prime Minister of Japan / President of the LDP)** was born in Kanagawa, Japan in 1942. He holds a B.A. in economics from Keio University. He was the 87th, 88th, and 89th Prime Minister of Japan and the 20th president of the LDP. He was elected to the House of Representatives twelve times. His father, Junya Koizumi, and his grandfather, Matajiro Koizumi, were both members of the House of Representatives.



**Fumio Mochida – (Kanagawa Prefectural Assemblyman)** was born in Kawasaki, Japan in 1951. After graduating from Tokyo University of Agriculture, with a degree in Landscape Architecture Science, he started a company that grows garden plants. He was elected as a Kanagawa Prefectural Assemblyman for the first time in 1995 and was serving his 3rd term at the time of shooting.



## Background Information

### Selected People Featured in Campaign



**Daishiro Yamagiwa – (Member of the House of Representatives)** was born in 1968. After graduating from Yamaguchi University, where he studied veterinary medicine, he obtained a veterinary doctor's degree from Tokyo University. He started an animal clinic, but was elected to the House of Representatives in 2003. He was serving his second term at the time of shooting.



**Hirotaka Yazawa – (Kawasaki City Council Chairman)** was born in 1944. He was Chair of the Kawasaki City Council at the time of shooting.



**Fuminao Asano – (Kawasaki City Councilman)** was born in 1971. He graduated from Kokugakuin University with a degree in law. He was elected as a Kawasaki City Council Member for the first time in 1999. He was serving his second term at the time of shooting.



**Yasuhiro Ishida – (Kawasaki City Councilman)** was born in 1970. He graduated from Komazawa University with a degree in geography. He was elected to the Kawasaki City Council for the first time in 1999. He was serving his second term at the time of shooting.



## Background Information

### Selected People Featured in Campaign



**Yoriko Kawaguchi – (Former Foreign Minister /LDP Candidate for the House of Councilors)** was born in 1941. After graduating from Tokyo University with a degree in international relations, she received an M.Phil in economics from Yale University. She became Minister of the Environment in 2000 and Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2002. In 2004 she became Special Advisor to Prime Minister Koizumi, responsible for foreign affairs. She was running for a vacant seat in the House of Councilors at the time of shooting.



**Kenji Ogiwara – (Member of the House of Councilors)** was born in Gunma, Japan in 1969. He graduated from Waseda University. A Nordic skier, he won Olympic gold medals in 1992 and 1994. He was elected to the House of Councilors for the first time in 2004.



## General Discussion Questions

Immediately after the film, you may want to give people a few quiet moments to reflect on what they have seen. If the mood seems tense, you can pose a general question and give people some time to themselves to jot down or think about their answers before opening the discussion.

Unless you think participants are so uncomfortable that they can't engage until they have had a break, don't encourage people to leave the room between the film and the discussion. If you save your break for an appropriate moment during the discussion, you won't lose the feeling of the film as you begin your dialogue.

One way to get a discussion going is to pose a general question such as:

- **If you could ask anyone in the film a single question, who would you ask and what would you ask them?**
- **What did you learn from this film? What insights did it provide?**
- **Describe a moment or scene in the film that you found particularly disturbing, interesting, or moving. What was it about that scene that was especially compelling for you?**



## Discussion Prompts



Kazuhiko Yamauchi making a speech on the street.  
Photo courtesy of Kazuhiro Soda

- Did you gain any new insights about the concept of democracy from watching this film? If so, what did you learn?
- From what you see in the film, what do party officials expect from the candidate? In their eyes, what are Yamauchi's strengths and weaknesses as a candidate? In your opinion, what are some of the things political parties in America demand from the candidates they support?
- From what you see in the film, what does the public seem to expect from the candidate? How does this compare to what you would want to see from someone running for city council?
- What do you notice about the differences and similarities in the ways that the democratic process works in the U.S. and Japan? How do cultural norms influence the process? How

might cultural differences affect U.S. efforts to "export" democracy? As you compare what you see in the film with American elections, specifically consider:

- The role of a candidate's spouse
- The degree to which candidates are beholden to their political party
- The sources of campaign funding and how the ability to raise funds or pay one's own way influences who runs
- The length and style of campaigning



## Discussion Prompts



Kazuhiro Yamauchi.

Photo courtesy of Kazuhiro Soda

- Yamauchi says, “I was told that people don’t listen to details. They say I should repeat my name over and over again.” What is your reaction to a campaign that does not lay out specific positions on issues? Does this kind of campaigning strike you as honest, deceptive, or something else? Do you think that staying away from issues relates to party power and structure? If yes, how so?
- Yamauchi calls himself a “parachute” candidate because he moved from Tokyo to Kawasaki in order to run for the open seat. In your view, can a “parachute” candidate properly represent constituents? Is a “parachute” candidate better than no candidate at all? Why or why not?
- Why would party officials want Yamauchi to refer to his wife as “kanai” (housewife) rather than “tsuma” (wife)? What

language issues exist where you live and what do those issues tell you about cultural norms and/or political party values?

- After Yamauchi’s victory, one of the party Sensei says that he has only been given “a learner’s permit” until he proves himself by winning the next election. What do you think Yamauchi will have to do to establish himself as a “fully licensed” politician? How important do you think it is to have an experienced candidate run for office?



## Taking Action



Kazuhiko Yamauchi at a local festival.  
Photo courtesy of Kazuhiro Soda

- Convene or work with an existing civic engagement group dedicated to recruiting people to run for local office. Study how the process works in different countries and adapt strategies from other nations where appropriate.
- During the next political campaign, correspond with a Japanese pen-pal or blogger. Share your take on the campaign(s) that you are following and ask them about campaigns they care about. Compare your experiences and perceptions.
- Convene a panel of scholars and citizens with knowledge of Japanese culture and American culture to compare how the differences and similarities play out in the political systems of each country. Host a single event or series of discussions focused on what the two countries can learn from each other about how to strengthen democracy.

- Using video or a blog, document the experiences of a candidate running for office in your community.



## Resources

### FILM-RELATED WEB SITES

#### Original Online Content on P.O.V. Interactive ([www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov))

##### **P.O.V.'s Campaign**

[www.pbs.org/pov/campaign](http://www.pbs.org/pov/campaign)

The companion website to *Campaign* offers exclusive streaming video clips from the film, a podcast version of the filmmaker interview and a wealth of additional resources, including a Q&A with filmmaker Kazuhiro Soda, ample opportunities for viewers to “talk back” and talk to each other about the film, and the following special features:

##### **THE OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN**

Learn more about the Japanese electoral system in this excerpt from Gerald Curtis' *Election Campaigning, Japanese Style*, Columbia University Press.

##### **PHOTO GALLERY**

View a gallery of photos of Yamauchi, including images from before, during, and after the filming of *Campaign*.

##### **ADDITIONAL VIDEO UPDATE WITH YAMAUCHI**

In November 2006, Yamauchi visited the filmmaker's studio in New York City and answered a few questions about his experience as a city councilman so far.

### What's Your P.O.V.?

*P.O.V.'s online Talking Back Tapestry is a colorful, interactive representation of your feelings about Campaign.*

*Listen to other P.O.V. viewers talk about the film and add your thoughts by calling 1-800-688-4768. [www.pbs.org/pov/talkingback.html](http://www.pbs.org/pov/talkingback.html)*

### Film Related Links

#### **FILMMAKER'S WEBSITE: LABORATORY X**

<http://laboratoryx.us/campaign>

Kazuhiro Soda's website provides additional information about *Campaign*, including more images from the film, information on his past and current projects and a link to his blog, which is written in both Japanese and English. (<http://documentary-campaign.blogspot.com/>)

#### **WHY DEMOCRACY: CAMPAIGN: THE KAWASAKI CANDIDATE**

[www.whymocracy.net/film/5](http://www.whymocracy.net/film/5)

In October 2007, more than 40 international broadcasters aired 10 one-hour films made by independent award-winning filmmakers from different countries as part of the "Why Democracy" project. The site provides an international context for *Campaign* and offers a discussion board and blog on democracy in the global arena.

#### **MIDNIGHT EYE INTERVIEW: KAZUHIRO SODA**

[www.midnighteye.com/interviews/kazuhiro\\_soda.shtml](http://www.midnighteye.com/interviews/kazuhiro_soda.shtml)

In this interview with Midnight Eye, a website devoted to Japanese cinema, Kazuhiro Soda explains the making of the film and his long-running friendship with the candidate, Kazuhiko Yamauchi. (July 1, 2007)



## Resources

### Japan and Japanese Politics

#### **BBC NEWS: COUNTY PROFILE: JAPAN**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country\\_profiles/1258586.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1258586.stm)

The British Broadcasting Corporation offers a profile of the nation with the world's second largest economy, including facts about politics and government.

#### **ELECTIONS IN JAPAN - A COMPARISON WITH THE UNITED STATES**

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/japan/japanworkbook/govpol/elections.html>

This website, from Columbia University's East Asian Studies Department, explains some of the differences between the American and Japanese political system, explaining aspects that may be strange to viewers, such as the Kōenkai (personal support groups).

#### **JAPANESE POLITICS OVERVIEW FROM MIZUHO SECURITIES**

[www.mizuho-sc.com/english/ebond/politics.html](http://www.mizuho-sc.com/english/ebond/politics.html)

This website, hosted by Mizuho Securities, a Japanese bank, offers a comprehensive source of links and resources on Japan's system of government, constitution, major political parties and politicians in English.

#### **NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY:**

#### **BIRTH OF THE CONSTITUTION OF JAPAN**

[www.ndl.go.jp/constitution/e/index.html](http://www.ndl.go.jp/constitution/e/index.html)

This online exhibit from the Japanese National Diet Library presents an outline of major events of Japanese history and many of the important documents involved in the framing and enactment of Japan's Constitution.

#### **LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

[www.jimin.jp/jimin/english/index.html](http://www.jimin.jp/jimin/english/index.html)

The official website of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party provides an organizational chart of who's who in the party, as well as an historical overview of the party.

#### **TIME MAGAZINE: JUNICHIRO KOIZUMI**

[www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1187224,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1187224,00.html)

In May 2006, Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan from 2001-2006, was named one of *Time Magazine's* "100 People Who Shape Our World" for his maverick style and his efforts to bring reform to Japanese politics. (April 30, 2006)

#### **THE JAPAN TIMES ONLINE: POLITICS AT THE GRASS ROOTS**

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/fl20061210x1.html>

In *Campaign*, Yamauchi's wife Sayuri learns first-hand the difficulties of being a politician's wife, a role also held by the American subject of this article, which also explains aspects of Japanese politics that Americans might find strange. (December 10, 2006)

#### **NEW YORK TIMES: VETERAN LAWMAKER CHOSEN AS JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER**

[www.nytimes.com/2007/09/24/world/asia/24japan.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/24/world/asia/24japan.html)

Junichiro Koizumi, the Prime Minister seen in *Campaign*, has already been replaced - twice. This New York Times article heralding the newest Prime Minister explores Japanese politics post-*Campaign*. (September 24, 2007)

#### **ASIA SENTINEL: JAPAN'S DEMOCRACY COMES OF AGE**

[www.asiasentinel.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=623&Itemid=31](http://www.asiasentinel.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=623&Itemid=31)

The last few years have been very exciting in Japanese politics, as the Liberal Democrats (who ran Yamauchi's campaign in *Campaign*) have taken the first blows to their authority in half a century. Find out more in this article from the Asia Sentinel. (August 8, 2007)



## Resources

### PBS and NPR

#### PBS

**NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT: WHO CAN FOLLOW KOIZUMI?  
([www.pbs.org/nbr/site/onair/transcripts/060706d/](http://www.pbs.org/nbr/site/onair/transcripts/060706d/))**

As Junichiro Koizumi prepared to step down as Japan's prime minister in the summer of 2006, the *Nightly Business Report* gathered a roundtable of experts to discuss Koizumi's legacy and to speculate on the future of Japanese politics and economy in his wake.

(July 6, 2006)

**NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT: JAPANESE WOMEN ON THE WEB  
[www.pbs.org/nbr/site/research/educators/060106\\_04c/](http://www.pbs.org/nbr/site/research/educators/060106_04c/)**

This lesson plan from the *Nightly Business Report* provides an overview of traditional gender roles and how they are shifting in the world's second largest economy. (January 9, 2006)

#### NPR

**MORNING EDITION: JAPAN'S NEW LEADER SEEKS  
TO REVIVE PUBLIC TRUST  
[www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=14715257](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=14715257)**

Japan's newly confirmed Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda has quickly made it clear that his ruling Liberal Democratic Party is facing a crisis of public trust unprecedented in more than a half century in power. (September 26, 2007)

**NPR.ORG: ELECTION DEFEAT DERAILS JAPAN'S  
RULING PARTY AGENDA  
[www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=12344440](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=12344440)**

In the years since *Campaign* was filmed, Yamauchi's party, the Liberal Democrats, have fallen on harder times after the tenure of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. This NPR article gives a short background of what had happened through July 2007. (July 30, 2007)



## How to Buy the Film

To order *Campaign*, go to [www.laboratoryx.us/campaign](http://www.laboratoryx.us/campaign) or email [info@laboratoryx.us](mailto:info@laboratoryx.us).



Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and entering its 21st season on PBS, the award-winning P.O.V. series is the longest-running series on television to feature the work of America's best contemporary-issue independent filmmakers. Airing Tuesdays at 10 p.m., June through October, with primetime specials during the year, P.O.V. has brought more than 250 award-winning documentaries to millions nationwide and now has a Webby Award-winning online series, P.O.V.'s Borders. Since 1988, P.O.V. has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation around today's most pressing social issues. More information about P.O.V. is available online at [www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov).

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### P.O.V. Community Engagement and Education

P.O.V. provides Discussion Guides for all films as well as curriculum-based P.O.V. Lesson Plans for select films to promote the use of independent media among varied constituencies. Available free online, these originally produced materials ensure the ongoing use of P.O.V.'s documentaries with educators, community workers, opinion leaders, and general audiences nationally. P.O.V. also works closely with local public-television stations to partner with local museums, libraries, schools, and community-based organizations to raise awareness of the issues in P.O.V.'s films.

### P.O.V. Interactive

[www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov)

P.O.V.'s award-winning Web department produces a Web-only showcase for interactive storytelling, P.O.V.'s Borders. It also produces a website for every P.O.V. presentation, extending the life of P.O.V. films through community-based and educational applications, focusing on involving viewers in activities, information and feedback on the issues. In addition, [www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov) houses our unique Talking Back feature, filmmaker interviews, viewer resources and information on the P.O.V. archives as well as myriad special sites for previous P.O.V. broadcasts.

### American Documentary, Inc.

[www.americandocumentary.org](http://www.americandocumentary.org)

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream-media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic-engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation.

Front cover: Kazuhiko Yamauchi screams.

Photo courtesy of Kazuhiro Soda

