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photo credit: Michael Kay

Freedom & Unity: The Vermont Movie

is a six-part collaborative documentary produced by several dozen Vermont-based filmmakers. Using cinema vérité, personal stories, rare footage, compelling interviews and original re-enactments, we've created a living testament that explores the history and contemporary culture of the Green Mountain State. Vermonters past and present – from Abenakis and early settlers, runaway slaves, farmers, historians, politicians, activists, to newcomers moving “back to the land” – tell how one small state has made a very big difference. Please visit our website to view our trailer and read about our filmmakers and advisors.

“...Bold and very interesting.”

Michael Sherman — Author,
Freedom and Unity: A History of Vermont

“...Our understanding of Vermont
history will be forever transformed...”

Phil Pochoda — Publisher,
Transmedia Scholar



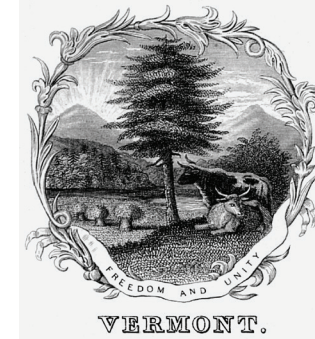
“...Thanks so much for giving Vermont a story that it can be
proud of for generations to come...”

Kevin Dann — Geographer

TheVermontMovie.com

Our Generous Donors

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Pen and Barbara Reed
Elisabeth Russell



Daniel Winthrop
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Katharine Winthrop
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Nina Winthrop
Robert Winthrop II
Serita Winthrop
Nancy Wood
John MacArthur
...and many, many more.



THE
Vermont
Community Foundation



The Grace Jones Richardson Trust

FREEDOM & UNITY:



One state. Many visions.

“*The Vermont Movie* filmmakers have done more than produce a film about Vermont. They have fashioned an important event in the history of the state. The movie has become history in itself.”

Frank Bryan — Author, Political Scientist

“*Freedom & Unity, The Vermont Movie* is an amazing tapestry of historical films, photographs, and documents woven together with contemporary footage. The movie's themes and perspectives should engender discussion and debate for years to come.”

Gregory Sanford — Vermont State Archivist, 1982-2012

Part One – A Very New Idea

Part One explores the roots from which the future state of Vermont grew. We look at early settlement, native peoples’ resistance, the little-known history of African American settlers and Vermont’s radical constitution—the first to outlaw slavery. Vermont’s heroic role in the Civil War is a reminder of the state’s motto, “Freedom & Unity”.

Part Two – Under the Surface

We uncover unions and quarry work, Barre’s Socialist Labor Party Hall, Eugenics, George Aiken and the “Rural Republicans.” Vermont begins to attract “back-to-the-landers” like Helen and Scott Nearing and Nicholas Jacobson, who came to Vermont in search of an alternative, rural lifestyle.

Part Three – Refuge, Reinvention and Revolution

In the mid-20th century, political pioneers like Governor Phil Hoff, set the stage for historic change. Innovation was a part of life: in the work of early “talented tinkers” like Snowflake Bentley and Thaddeus Fairbanks, in the rise of IBM, and the arrival of the Interstate. We witness the heartbreak of “eminent domain”, the arrival of activists and hippies. Revolution was in the air and Vermont was changing.

Part Four – Doers and Shapers

We explore the people and institutions that push boundaries. From education innovator John Dewey to Goddard College and the Putney School, we see the connection between education and democracy.

DISC ONE
Part One – A Very New Idea (85 min.)
Part Two – Under the Surface (86 min.)
DISC TWO
Part Three – Refuge, Reinvention and Revolution (78 min.)
Part Four – Doers and Shapers (78 min.)
DISC THREE
Part Five – Ceres’ Children (82 min.)
Part Six – People’s Power (85 min.)

We examine environmental innovation: Vermont’s famous Billboard law, Act 250, and the cultural contributions of Bread and Puppet Theater. Finally we chart the history of gay rights from Ronni Squires to Civil Unions to gay marriage.



Part Five – Ceres’ Children

Vermont’s cherished tradition of town meeting and community involvement leads to the ideas of George Perkins Marsh, one of America’s first environmentalists. We capture current debates over natural resources, and show how these concerns originate in the ethics of farmers, dependent on the natural world for their survival. The disappearance of dairy farms has raised a tough question: how big is too big? Can Vermont be a model for a local and self-sufficient living?

Part Six – People’s Power

Part Six tackles contemporary tensions over energy: the struggle to close Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, the battle over windmills on Lowell Mountain, and thorny questions about economics, sovereignty and climate change. Finally, the devastating impacts of Hurricane Irene reveal the power not only of nature, but of people and community.

Project Director and Editor: Nora Jacobson

Executive Producer: Nat Winthrop

Project Composer and Music Supervisor: Tyler Gibbons

Post-Production and Outreach Coordinator: Emma Mullen

Web and Promotional Media Design: Louise Michaels

Producers Committee

Dorothy Tod	Eleanor Lanahan
Louise Michaels	John Douglas
Art Bell	Jill Vickers
Deb Ellis	

Filmmakers

Art Bell	Rob Koier	Sue Rees
Susan Bettmann	Michael Kusmit	Andy Reichsman
Matt Bucy	Eleanor Lanahan	Larry Robins
Dan Butler	Jesse Larocque	Michael Sacca
Patrick Cody	Linda Leehman	Ben Silberfarb
Kate Cone	Robin Lloyd	Holly Stadtler
Michael Couture	Anne Macksoud	Bill Stetson
Jay Craven	Sam Mayfield	Dorothy Tod
Alan Dater	Lisa Merton	Jill Vickers
John Douglas	Louise Michaels	Richard Waterhouse
Jean Luc Dushime	Gary Miller	Katherine Wheatley
Deb Ellis	Rick Moulton	Nat Winthrop
Jeff Farber	Emma Mullen	George Woodard
Michael Hanish	Mira Niagolova	Orly Yadin
Dan Higgins	Frederic Noyes	
Nora Jacobson	Meghan O’Rourke	
Olivia Jampol	Roz Payne	
Dina Janis	Kenneth Peck	
Peter Kent	Kate Purdie	

Musicians

A2VT
Anais Mitchell
Bayley Hazen Singers
Beaudoin Family
Charles Dodge
Dan DeWalt
David Rovics
David Ferm
Dawnland Singers
Fred Wilber
George Woodard
Indigo Ruth-Davis
Jason Cooley
Jeremiah McLane
Jesse Bruchac
Kevin MacNeil Brown
Margaret MacArthur
Mark Greenberg
Michael Chorney
Michael Clifford
Patty Carpenter
Steph Pappas
Steve Hoffman
Suzanne Long
The Eames Brothers
Trey Anastasio
Tyler Gibbons
The MacArthur Family Band
Patty Carpenter
Verandah Porche
Orange Mothers/Ethan Azarian
Robin MacArthur/
Red Heart the Ticker
The Vermont Youth Orchestra

Thanks to Our Advisors

Alan Berolzheimer
Cynthia Bittinger
Marilyn Blackwell, Ph.D.
Joe Bookchin
Dona Brown
Frank Bryan
Deborah Clifford (in memoriam)
Howard Coffin
Kevin Dann
Nancy Gallagher
Greg Guma
Samuel Hand (in memoriam)
Madeleine Kunin
John Moody
Donna Roberts Moody
Bruce Post
Gregory Sanford
John Scagliotti
Michael Sherman
Peg Tassey
Rick Winston

