

ABOUT THE FILM

Co-directed by Greg Jacobs and Jon Siskel, **LOUDER THAN A BOMB** is a film about passion, competition, teamwork and trust. It's about the joy of being young, and the pain of growing up. It's about speaking out, making noise and finding your voice.

It also just happens to be about poetry.

Every year, more than 600 teenagers from over sixty Chicago area schools gather for the world's largest youth poetry slam, a competition known as "Louder Than a Bomb." Founded in 2001, Louder Than a Bomb is the only event of its kind in the country—a youth poetry slam built from the beginning around teams. Rather than emphasize individual poets and performances, the structure of Louder Than a Bomb demands that kids work collaboratively with their peers, presenting, critiquing, and rewriting their pieces. To succeed, teams have to create an environment of mutual trust and support. For many kids, being a part of such an environment—in an academic context—is life-changing.

LOUDER THAN A BOMB chronicles the stereotype-confounding stories of four teams as they prepare for and compete in the 2008 event. By turns hopeful and heartbreaking, the film captures the tempestuous lives of these unforgettable kids, exploring the ways writing shapes their world, and vice versa.

This is not "high school poetry" as we often think of it. This is language as a joyful release, irrepressibly talented teenagers obsessed with making words dance. How and why they do it—and the community they create along the way—is the story at the heart of this inspiring film.



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ABOUT GREG JACOBS

GREG JACOBS is the former VP/Chief Creative Officer at Towers Productions, where he oversaw the content of more than 200 documentaries on five different networks, including award-winning shows and series for A&E, History, Discovery, The Weather Channel, and CNN. A graduate of Yale, Greg has a master's in history from Ohio State, and is the author of "Getting Around Brown: Desegregation, Development, and the Columbus Public Schools."



In 2005, Greg and fellow director/producer Jon Siskel co-founded SISKEL/JACOBS PRODUCTIONS (SJP), a Chicago-based television and documentary production company. Prior to LOUDER THAN A BOMB, SJP produced the Emmy-winning History Channel program "102 Minutes That Changed America," which reconstructs—in real time—the events of 9/11 in New York City, using only sound and video from that morning. More than five million viewers tuned in to the premiere, making it the second most-watched telecast in the network's history (the program has now been seen by over twenty million viewers worldwide). One of the most acclaimed documentaries of recent years, "102 Minutes" won three Primetime Emmys, including Outstanding Nonfiction Special, as well as the Most Innovative Program Award at the 2009 History Makers International Summit, a CINE Masters Series Award, a Silver Telly, and a FOCAL International Award. Named the Best Nonfiction TV Episode of 2008 by iTunes, the "102 Minutes" has become standard viewing in high school and college classrooms across the country, a way for teachers to introduce their students to the emotional and historical impact of 9/11.

SJP is currently in production on additional episodes of its groundbreaking "Witness" series for the National Geographic Channel. In March 2009, SJP was named to Realscreen Magazine's "Global 100"—its annual list of the world's most influential factual production companies.

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