

Whether you're guilty or innocent, when that shutter clicks, you're in trouble.



MUGSHOT: PRESSKIT

MUGSHOT

1X52 Feature Documentary | Arts & Culture and the Humanities

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SPECIAL NOTE: TVO messaging for Hot Docs publicity and press release(s)

MUGSHOT is commissioned by TVO

MUGSHOT will make its world broadcast premiere on TVO in fall 2014

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MUGSHOT: SUMMARY

One Line Summary #1

MUGSHOT investigates the cultural significance of the mug shot.

One Line Summary #2

MUGSHOT is a feature documentary investigating the cultural significance of the mug shot.

SUMMARY

Originally a law enforcement tool, the mug shot has deviated from its fundamental purpose as a source of criminal identification. It has been sensationalized through celebritydom, exploited by the leniency of freedom of information, and has captivated the attention of the art world. **MUGSHOT** explores the personal stories of those whose lives have been transformed by these iconic photographs.



MUGSHOT: SYNOPSIS

We're all guilty of romanticizing mug shots but they fascinate us for very different reasons. Some may take pleasure in the base feeling of laughing at others' misfortunes, some look upon them as cautionary emblems, reminders of how tenuous freedom can be, while others see them as a vehicle for writing an alternate history of the 20th Century.

MUGSHOT gathers a motley crew of writers, artists and collectors whose lives have been transformed by the strange power of the mug shot. Once disregarded as photographic evidence of a crime, these little moments of history are now highly valued by many.



OVERVIEW

Meet New York street-artist and collector Mark Michaelson, who has amassed over twenty thousand mug shots in his tiny SoHo apartment. Follow the charismatic Scottish writer, artist and collector Diarmid Mogg as he travels to New Castle, Pennsylvania to unite his collection of mug shots with their families. Look inside The Slammer (a Southern US newspaper that solely publishes modern day mug shots for entertainment) as we are introduced to its charming founder, Isaac Cornetti. At the Ontario Provincial Police archives, see how historian, Jeanie Tummon painstakingly restores and archives precious Canadian history. Through this journey, we will come to see mug shots as more than just portraits taken under duress, and realize we needn't feel so guilty, after all, for being so fascinated by them.

MUGSHOT: QUOTES



Mug shots are the most important police innovation next to the night stick, flashlight and the gun.

- Lieutenant James Kindel (Retired) New Castle Police Department



I recognize in thieves, traitors and murderers, the ruthless and the cunning, a deep beauty – a sunken beauty.

Jean Genet



Art is what you can get away with.

- Andy Warhol



MUGSHOT has the quiet authority, the crisp but deliberate pace, the exquisitely blended music and pictures and words, of the best Ric and Ken Burns documentaries.

- James McManus, Professor Master of Fine Arts program for writers at the Art Institute of Chicago

MUGSHOT: CREATIVE TEAM



Producer-Director, Dennis Mohr has over 20 years of development and production experience in film, television and new media. He has been employed as a Special Consultant for the Miramax- Dimension Films and Ten Thirteen Productions feature film *The World of Ted Serios*, the true story of a hard living ex-bellhop from Chicago, who claimed to be able to project his thoughts onto Polaroid film.

Dennis has produced the acclaimed feature documentary, *Remembering Arthur* about Canadian filmmaker, Arthur Lipsett, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2006, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 2007. Dennis also produced, *Disfarmer: A Portrait of America*, about the life and work of eccentric American portrait photographer, Mike Disfarmer, for TVO in 2011. **MUGSHOT** is his first documentary directing credit.



Rob Ruzic Writer-Editor has editing been documentaries and TV series for over ten years. Recent documentary credits include Ice, Sweat & Tears and The Real Sherlock Holmes, both of which have been nominated for the 2014 Canadian Screen Awards. His previous collaborations with Dennis Mohr include Disfarmer: А Portrait of America. Remembering Arthur and Reflections On А

'Thoughtographic' Mind. Television credits include Donut Showdown, Disaster Decks and Fanboy Confessional, his work on which earned him a nomination from The Canadian Cinema Editors Awards. **MUGSHOT** is his first documentary writing credit.



Executive Producer-Producer, Charlotte Engel is a documentary producer based in Toronto. She is currently producing "Puffin Patrol" for CBC's THE NATURE OF THINGS as well as Executive Producing "Fractured Land" for *documentary* and Knowledge Network. In 2013, "she co-produced Mugshot" for TVO and Knowledge Network and produced "Carpe Diem: A Fishy Tale"

for CBC's THE NATURE OF THINGS.

In 2011, she started Rock Yenta Productions Inc. Prior to this, she worked as a Production Executive for CHUM Television, CTV and Bell Media for 10 years.

Specializing in arts programming, Charlotte oversaw successful series for Bravo! such as "Star Portraits", "Bathroom Divas", "Ballet Girls" and "Stripsearch". Many of the one off documentaries she commissioned went on to win awards. Two documentaries for Bravo! were short listed for the Academy Awards.

Engel sits on three Boards. imagineNATIVE, DOC Toronto and Hot Docs.

What excited me about this project is that mug shots are morality tales and act as windows into dark and seedy worlds. Everyone's worst day is captured on film, and then is collected and traded as a commodity. We are all drawn to them and yet are repulsed.



Mark Michaelson, Special Consultant lives in New York City. In a 30-year career, he has served as art director for numerous publications such as Newsweek, Allure, New York, Entertainment Weekly, High Times, and recently the short-lived Radar magazine. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Mark studied with design legends Bea

Feitler and Milton Glaser at the School of Visual Arts in New York. With the poet John Giorno, he produced the Best of William Burroughs CD boxed set which was nominated for a Grammy Award in the category of album-cover design. Mark has been passionately collecting mugshots for 15 years. His Least Wanted collection will be prominently featured in the film.

"Hookers, stooges, grifters and goons. Punks, sneaks, mooks and miscreants. These are the Least Wanted. Men and women. Young and old. Rich and poor. Mostly poor. These photographs are part of a collection of over 10,000 American criminal mugshots ranging from the 1880s to the 1970s that I gathered over the

last 15 years. Least Wanted is a poetic encyclopedia of discarded portraits set free from the steel file drawers of police departments and prisons. Created as utilitarian instruments, they survive as extraordinary visual artifacts. Bored, sheepish, proud, and coy. Tough, defiant,



bounced, and bruised. Innocent-until-proven-guilty faces that stare back at the camera with unmistakable individuality. This is central casting for the Late Late Show of an unvarnished reality. Small-timers. Fallen through the cracks. These documents, meant to be destroyed when obsolete, are remnants of a bygone era of hard-copy originals. They are physical photographs, often accompanied by municipal ephemera, attached to cards and documents. Typewritten and rubber stamped. Measured and fingerprinted. Documented and classified. A century of American social history, filed and forgotten - until now."