

PRESS KIT



Do you know what
the peace symbol *really* means?

A Circle And Three Lines

A DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM

BY JAN SELBY



WWW.ACIRCLEANDTHREELINES.COM

A CIRCLE AND THREE LINES



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Synopses

Short Synopsis

Do you know what the peace symbol *really* means? The peace symbol unifies people around the world - crossing language barriers and inspiring hope A CIRCLE AND THREE LINES follows its history from the 50's through today, challenging us to remember its past and take responsibility for its future.

Medium Synopsis

Do you know what the peace symbol really means? In A CIRCLE AND THREE LINES, Ken Kolsbun, author of *Peace, The Biography of a Symbol*, explains its rarely known history. Following its path from a march in England through the turbulent 1960's to today, Ken explains the numerous meanings of and controversies surrounding this memorable symbol. A CIRCLE AND THREE LINES challenges us to think about how we use the peace symbol, its future and our responsibility to protect it, as well as our planet

Long Synopsis

Do you know what the peace symbol *really* means? The peace symbol turned 50 years old in 2008. It's seen all over the world: on posters, at anti-war protests, and on fashion runways. What does it mean? And where did this universal symbol come from?

In A CIRCLE AND THREE LINES, Ken Kolsbun, author of *Peace, The Biography of a Symbol*, explains its rarely known history. Following its path from a march in England through the turbulent 1960's to today, Ken explains the numerous meanings of and controversies surrounding this memorable symbol. People of all countries, races, and religions have been inspired by the peace symbol, using it to express hope and the desire for change. Now that it is everywhere, how many people know its original meaning? A CIRCLE AND THREE LINES challenges us to think about how we use the peace symbol, its future and our responsibility to protect it, as well as our planet.

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Director's Statement - Jan Selby

To me, the peace symbol has always represented hope and change for the better. It is recognized around the globe, crossing language and cultural barriers. It feels timeless. Yet, most people have no idea where it came from. This intrigued me enough to start researching the origin of this ubiquitous symbol.

Once I started my research, I noticed the peace symbol everywhere. At first, I thought it was just my imagination. Coincidentally, I chose this topic just as the symbol was becoming more popular. It was everywhere; on t-shirts, purses, jewelry, baby clothes, and fashion runways. It appeared more and more as I got deeper and deeper into the project.

When making A CIRCLE AND THREE LINES, I was faced with a common documentary filmmaker's challenge - what would the film end up being about? I wanted the audience to learn and remember the origin of the peace symbol. I wanted them to be thoughtful about its future. Once I completed my research, I aspired to honor two men I got to know in the process of making the film.

First, I wanted to acknowledge the humble contribution of an English artist and designer, Gerald Holtom. Gerald knew that a graphic symbol would crystallize the message of the thousands who marched to a nuclear weapons factory in protest in 1958. He represents the universal story of an unsung hero. A man doing his best to contribute his talents where needed: nothing more and nothing less. This small act changed our world in a very visible way.

Gerald died in 1985. In order to tell his story, I found Ken Kolsbun, author of *Peace: The Biography of a Symbol* (National Geographic, 2008). Once I read his book, published to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the peace symbol, I knew I had to interview Ken. Not only had Ken corresponded with Gerald and his family, he also was a life-long peace activist who had spent his life photographing the peace symbol. After meeting Ken, I knew I had met another quiet hero who has steadfastly stood for what he has believed in.

A CIRCLE AND THREE LINES is my first film. The process of making it has been transformational for me both personally and professionally. I hope it inspires viewers to respect, celebrate, and cherish the peace symbol now, and for generations to come.

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Biography - Jan Selby

Jan has taken a circuitous yet satisfying journey to her directorial debut of A CIRCLE AND THREE LINES. In college, she aspired to being a filmmaker, but as often happens, she ended up pursuing a "more practical" career in marketing. As a marketing strategist and project manager, Jan worked throughout the United States for companies such as Apple Computer and Boston Scientific. But you can only have so much practicality in life. In the middle of a successful career, Jan decided to find her way back to filmmaking, starting as a producer and co-founding Darn Good Documentaries (St. Paul, MN, USA) with award-winning documentary filmmaker Melody Gilbert.

Jan learned a lot as managing producer of "Fritz: The Walter Mondale Story," a feature-length documentary about his stand for civil rights and journey to becoming Vice President of the United States. "Fritz" has been broadcast on public television and incorporated in university curricula.

In early 2009, Jan decided to direct and produce a short film. She was drawn to the peace symbol, yet she had no idea about its meaning. While researching, she came across Ken Kolsbun, author of *Peace, The Biography of a Symbol* and asked him to tell the story. Six months later, she completed A CIRCLE AND THREE LINES with the help of her talented and hard-working crew.

At Darn Good Documentaries (<http://www.darngooddocs.com>), Jan currently produces documentary videos for corporate clients (Best Buy, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN) and non-profit organizations (Hamline University, Cabrini Partnership).



Jan Selby, Director/Producer, A CIRCLE AND THREE LINES

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Crew

Director/Producer: Jan Selby
(biography on page 3)

Videographer: Brandon Hamilton
Brandon is an independent filmmaker and freelance videographer\editor in the San Francisco Bay Area (Ken's shoot was in Sebastopol, California).

Co-Editor: Ben Gottlieb
Ben is a film student at Minneapolis Community and Technical College (Minnesota).

Original Music: Rodney Tahija
Rodney is a Twin Cities' musician and composer.

Colorist: Oscar Oboza
Oscar is known as the best colorist in the Midwest. He works at Pixel Farm in Minneapolis

Re-recording Mixer: Jesse Marks
Jesse works his mixing magic at Pixel Farm in Minneapolis.

Technical Advisor: Kevin McKeever
Kevin is a freelance cinematographer, editor and still photographer. His website is www.image-generation.com.

Production Assistant: Sam Sobieck
Sam is a recent graduate from St. Catherine's University in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and now works at Sage Communications.

Marketing Assistant: Amira Cohen
Amira recently graduated from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. She is currently interning at Darn Good Documentaries.

Documentary Muse: Melody Gilbert
Award-winning documentary filmmaker (and Darn Good Documentaries co-founder) Melody Gilbert offered inspiration plus technical and moral support.

I held several rough-cut screenings for fellow filmmakers, family, and friends. Their input and support made this a better film.

Special thanks to Pixel Farm (www.pixelfarm.com), Channel Z (www.chzfilms.com), and The ADS Group (www.theadsgrouppifference.com) for their support.



Film Specifications

Completed in September, 2009.

Running time (with credits): 10:05

Equipment used: Panasonic HVX200a, Canon VIXIA HV30 HD Camcorder, Final Cut Pro, and MacBook Pro

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Photos

Available at www.acircleandthreelines.com.



The peace symbol was first used in a march from London to Aldermaston, April 4th to 7th, 1958. (Photo in public domain.)



Vietnam-era soldier with grenade-pin peace symbol.
(Photo courtesy Ken Kolsbun.)

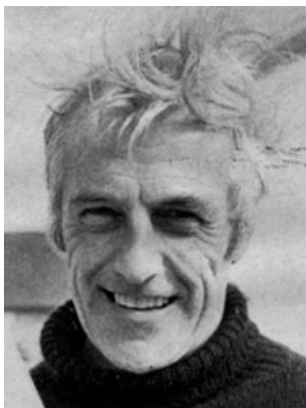
A more detailed description from Ken Kolsbun: In the early 1970s, I took this photo of a soldier at a U.S. Army Reserve Center in Southern California. In Vietnam, Army and Marine soldiers would collect hand grenade cotter pins and rings and bend them into a perfect olive drab peace symbols. Each peace symbol required one grenade ring and two cotter pins. One Vietnam "lifer" reported, "I saw lots of young marines wearing dozens of these grenade pins on a single strand at a time".



The “welcome committee” at the Minnesota State Fair Peace Pavilion.
(Photo courtesy Jan Selby.)



Ken Kolsbun, peace activist and author of *Peace: The Biography of a Symbol* (National Geographic, 2008). For more information about Ken, visit www.peacesymbol.com. (Photo courtesy Ken Kolsbun.)



Gerald Holtom, designer of the peace symbol.
(Photo courtesy Ken Kolsbun.)