

Woke Up Alive – Filmmaker Bios

Mark Blacknell (*Co-Director and Executive Producer*) has been involved in the nature conservation movement for over ten years. A former Park Ranger in Pennsylvania, he later became an Environmental Policy Analyst for Governor Ed Rendell, spending three years behind the scenes researching and helping to formulate the Governor's major *Pennsylvania Wilds* sustainable tourism and education initiative. From 2005 to 2008, after filming the documentary feature *Woke Up Alive*, Blacknell stayed in Israel to develop several innovative projects emphasizing nature to promote healing, diversity, and peace in the region. Mark Blacknell also served honorably as an infantryman in the US Marines from 1990 to 1993 and earned a masters degree in Public Administration from Widener University in 2001. He currently lives and works at Haleakala National Park on the island of Maui.

Michael Poggenburg (*Co-Director and Editor*) began working in film in 2005. His previous experience in audio production inspired his leap into the medium, beginning with the creation of several music videos between 2005 and 2007. In *Woke Up Alive*, his first feature-length film, Poggenburg draws on his previous experience in music to integrate the beauty of Israel with the sounds and characters of the film in a style that is uniquely his own. He currently resides in Seattle, Washington.

Jesse Goldberg (*Director of Photography*) was born in Fall River, MA in 1983. Raised in nearby Rhode Island, he completed a BA in film and Television Production at Boston University in 2005. He has filmed and provided lighting for a growing and diverse portfolio of short films and music videos. After filming the documentary feature *Woke Up Alive*, Jesse spent the next three years as a lighting technician on numerous films and television series in the New England region.

Eyal Bartov (*Producer and Wildlife Cinematography*) has been one of Israel's premier nature photographers and filmmakers for decades. He has created twenty feature films and one hundred and sixty shorts on a variety of subjects in Israel, Africa, and elsewhere across the globe. His work has been aired internationally on the National Geographic channel and is a fixture on Israeli TV. Bartov has published several books of his photographs and featured work at countless exhibitions worldwide. More than anything, Eyal Bartov is a tireless advocate for the natural world, dedicating his time and expertise to conserve and promote a sustainable environment.

Jason Waldron (*Audio Editor and Sound Design*) graduated from The Conservatory of Arts and Sciences, Tempe, AZ in 2008 and has been recording and editing audio since 2005. His professional work spans from music and radio commercials to his role as audio editor on the documentary film *Woke Up Alive*. Jason has spent a considerable amount of time moving around the country and it is no coincidence that one of the trademarks of his work is his ability to distinguish and highlight the diversity of sound. He currently resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico running a project studio and working in radio.