



JAY CRAVEN

Jay Craven is an award-winning director, writer, and producer who directs **Kingdom County Productions** (1991-present), in Peacham, Vermont, where, in addition to producing feature films, he produces and directs the **Queen City Radio Hour**. In 1996, Craven established the **Fledgling Films** program for teen writers and filmmakers. He also leads the film studies program at **Marlboro College** (1998-present) and has served as a writer-in-residence for the **Vermont Young Playwrights** program, an annual writing and performance program.



Craven's narrative films include **High Water** (1989 w/ Greg Germann, Jane MacFie, Dennis Mientka); **Where the Rivers Flow North** (1993, w/ Rip Torn, Tantoo Cardinal, Michael J. Fox, Treat Williams); **A Stranger in the Kingdom** (1997, w/ Ernie Hudson, David Lansbury, Martin Sheen); **In Jest** (1999 w/ Bill Raymond, Rusty DeWees, Tantoo Cardinal); **The Year That Trembled** (2003, w/ Fred Willard, Marin Hinkle, Jonathan Brandis, Martin Mull), and **Disappearances** (2006 w/ Kris Kristofferson, Genevieve Bujold, Gary Farmer, Charlie McDermott, Lothaire Bluteau). Craven also directed, produced, and co-wrote the 2005 Emmy Award-winning public television comedy series, **Windy Acres** (2004 w/ Rusty DeWees, Bill Raymond, Seana Kofoed). His documentaries include **After the Fog: Interviews with Combat Veterans** (2006), **Dawn of the People** (1984), and **Gayleen** (1985).

Craven's films have played 345 U.S. cities and towns; 52 countries; and more than sixty international film festivals, including Sundance, Seattle, South By Southwest, Vienna, Vancouver, Nantucket, Avignon, Cleveland, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Havana, Savannah, and The American Film Institute's AFI Fest. Also, television broadcasts on the Disney Channel, Sundance Channel, Starz, Encore, PBS affiliates in eleven states, and syndication to more than 150 commercial U.S. TV stations. Special screenings include The Smithsonian, Lincoln Center, Anthology Film Archives, the American Film Institute, Art Institute of Chicago, Harvard Film Archives, George Eastman House, and Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, Jerusalem Cinematheque, Cinemateca Nacional de Venezuela, and Beijing Normal University. Also, Columbia University, Dartmouth College, Boston University, Middlebury College, Yale University, Duke University, Webster University, Marquette University, San Francisco State University, University of Vermont, Keene State College, Colby Sawyer College, Amherst College, University of South Carolina, University of Mississippi, and others. Craven's first feature, *Where the Rivers Flow North*, is included in *The Sundance Collection* at the UCLA Film Archives and was selected as one of three U.S. Finalists, from among 120 submissions, to Critics Week at the 1993 Cannes Film Festival.

Awards and recognitions include more than twenty film festival awards; two New England Emmys (for *Windy Acres*); 1995 Producers' Guild of America NOVA award for Most Promising New Motion Picture Producer of the Year (for *Rivers*); 1998 Vermont Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts; a 1991 MacDowell Colony Fellowship; one of Knight Ridder's "Ten Best Films of 1995" (for *Rivers*); two National Endowment for the Arts Regional Film fellowships (for *Gayleen* and *High Water*); and two National Endowment for the Arts Film Production Grants (for *Rivers* and *Disappearances*); two NEA/IFFCON appointments (for *Rivers* and *Stranger* scripts) and two Independent Feature Project/No Borders appointments (for *Disappearances* and *They Don't Dance Much* scripts). *Rivers* and *Disappearances* were selected for the 1994 and 2007 Southern Circuit tours, America's only regional film touring initiative for independent films. Craven and his films have also been selected for the National Endowment for Arts' *American Masterpieces* initiative. While directing Catamount Arts, he was profiled by Ann Beattie in *Esquire's* Best of the New Generation special edition (December 1984).



Cultural Diplomacy

Craven's film *Disappearances* was selected in 2006 by the American Film Institute (AFI) to be one of 8 U.S. and 11 international films for its first-ever AFI : Project 20/20—a year-long global cultural exchange to U.S. and international venues, sponsored by the AFI, The National Endowment for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Humanities, The President's Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the U.S. State Department. For this project and others, Craven has also served as Cultural Envoy for the U.S. State Department, for screenings in South Africa, Kazakhstan, Israel, Venezuela, Turkmenistan, France, Lithuania, Kuwait, Peru, and China.

Other Arts Work

Craven also founded and directed **Catamount Arts** (1975-91) in St. Johnsbury and directed its wide-ranging, multi-disciplinary film and performing arts producing, presenting, and educational program. Catamount began in 1975 as a four-night-a-week traveling 16mm film series to small rural towns. By 1984, its program included nightly 35mm film screenings and 60 annual world-class music, theatre and dance events. Artists presented included Merce Cunningham Dance Theater, San Francisco Mime Troupe, Miriam Makeba, Guthrie Theater, Miles Davis, Spalding Gray, Flying Karamozovs, Kodo Drummers, Bob Dylan, Ray Charles, Johnny Cash, Stephane Grappelli, Wynton Marsalis, Arlo Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Mummenschanz, Momix, Pilobolus, Nikolais Dance Theater, Mabou Mines, American Repertory Theater, and many others. At Catamount, Craven supported a program for older indigenous visual artists (**the GRACE project**) and renovated St. Johnsbury's former Post Office into **The Catamount Arts Center** (offices, workshop space, gallery, and 120-seat 35mm theater). At Catamount, Craven also co-founded the **Circus Smirkus**, a professional circus arts training and performance program for kids aged 10-18.

In July 2008, Craven was appointed by the City of Burlington to produce the 2009 **Samuel de Champlain Quadricentennial**, a multi-faceted regional festival of history, media, the arts, and natural sciences. Included in Craven's work was the launch of the **Queen City Radio Hour**, a 90-minute original radio variety show of music, sketch comedy, spoken word performance, and radio drama—performed before a live audience. The first program was recorded on December 31, 2008 at the Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center in Burlington—and it was broadcast over Vermont Public Radio on February 28th. Future shows are planned (see Queen City Radio Hour).

Consulting work

Craven has consulted extensively on arts management issues for The New York State Council on the Arts, Burlington City Arts and more than thirty non-profit arts organizations. He has served as a panelist for The National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Bush Foundation, The Vermont Council on the Arts and others. He also serves as a humanities scholar for the Vermont Humanities Council's book and film discussion programs.

Journalism

Craven is a regular commentator for Vermont Public Radio and writes arts and media columns for the Burlington Free Press and St. Johnsbury's Caledonian Record.



Activist Work

Prior to Craven's 1974 move to Vermont, he worked as a journalist, documentary filmmaker, and activist. He traveled to Vietnam as a college student body president (Boston University) to forge a "peace treaty" with Vietnamese counterparts; spoke extensively on U.S. campuses and helped lead the 1971 May Day demonstrations that resulted in the largest non-violent civil disobedience action in U.S. history (14,500 arrested). Craven also testified on proposed solutions to the Vietnam war before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee; served on the research team for the Pentagon Papers trial; and worked as one of four activists on the planned 1972 John Lennon peace concert tour that was thwarted by the Nixon White House (the subject of the 2006 documentary film, "U.S. vs. John Lennon") after one concert in Ann Arbor.

Teaching

Craven taught at the groundbreaking arts-based alternative high school, the **Peacham School** (1975-80) and is a tenured professor of film studies at **Marlboro College** (1998-present). He has also taught classes or led workshops and dozens of high schools and colleges around the country.

Education

Jay Craven graduated from the Hill School and attended Boston University's School of Liberal Arts (student body president-1971-72), The School of Visual Arts, and Goddard College, from which he holds an MA (1978). He was awarded an honorary B.A. from Sterling College (2006).