

A Journey of Hope and Transformation

FROM SHOCK TO AWE

a documentary by Luc CÔTÉ & Janine SAGERT

PRESS KIT

FromShockToAwe.com

TECH SPECS

TITLE	FROM SHOCK TO AWE
RELEASE	FALL 2018
TRT	85 MINUTES
ASPECT RATIO	16X9
DIRECTOR/ EDITOR	LUC CÔTÉ
PRODUCERS	LUC CÔTÉ, JANINE SAGERT, KEVIN KRAUS, MAXI COHEN, MITCH SCHULTZ
CAST	MIKE COOLEY, MATT KAHL, BROOKE COOLEY, AIMEE KAHL



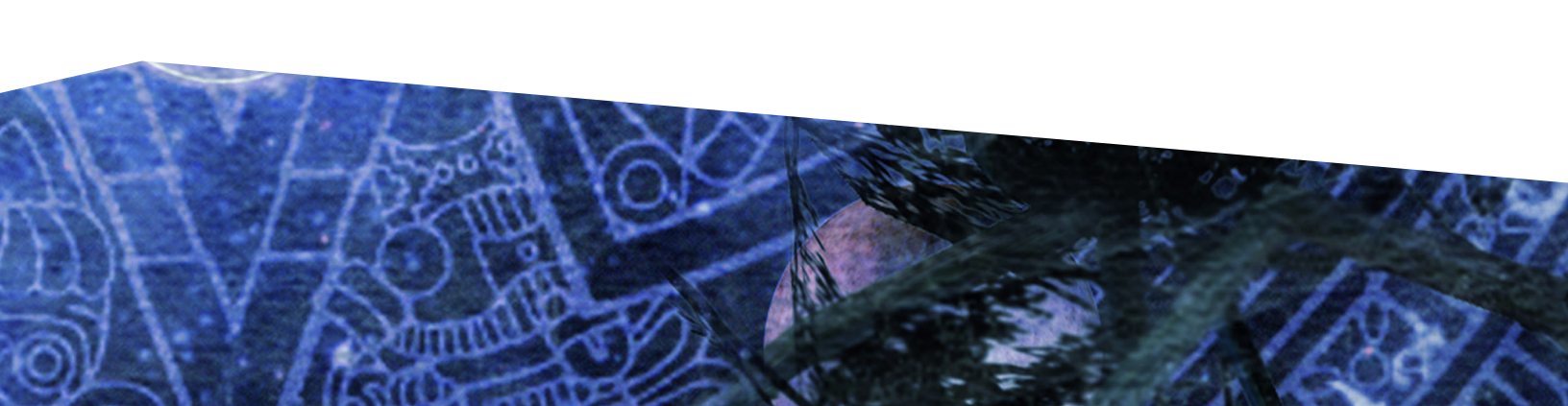
ABOUT


[TAGLINE] A journey of hope and transformation.

[LOGLINE] ***From Shock to Awe*** asks ‘how do we heal our deepest wounds?’ An intimate and raw look at the transformational journey of two combat veterans suffering from severe trauma as they abandon pharmaceuticals to seek relief through the mind-expanding world of psychedelics.

[SYNOPSIS] From ***From Shock to Awe*** asks, ‘how do we heal our deepest wounds?’ An intimate and raw look at the transformational journey of two combat veterans suffering from severe trauma as they abandon pharmaceuticals to seek relief through the mind-expanding world of psychedelics. Recent scientific research coupled with a psychedelic renaissance reveals that these substances can be used to heal PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) for individuals and their families. Beyond the personal stories, ***From Shock to Awe*** also raises fundamental questions about war, the pharmaceutical industry, and the US legal system.

The documentary centers on veterans, Matt Kahl and Mike Cooley, and their challenging post-war lives, lives shattered by the trauma






of war. The vets personally struggle with anxiety, fear, depression, anger, and an overall inability to find an equilibrium in society and with their families. In order to deal with their erratic emotions and haunted state-of-mind, doctors prescribe intense pharmaceuticals with various side effects that bring them face-to-face with death. In response to the negative impact of traditional Western medicine, both vets begin to use cannabis as an alternative. Although beneficial on many levels, our heroes yearn for deeper healing.

Mike and Matt decide to take ayahuasca, an Amazonian brew traditionally used for healing and spiritual insights. These warriors attend a weekend ceremony filled with hope...and fear of the unknown. Rattles shake, bells ring, flutes play, and a campfire crackles...a ceremony is underway. As images of battle consume their minds, the vets reverently drink the bitter brew several times over a weekend, bringing about profound revelations for our weary soldiers.

Upon returning to home, they quickly learn that their families are not prepared for the rapid change. Aimee, Matt's wife, is overwhelmed by his exuberance and feels threatened that he might leave her. Brooke, Mike's wife, sees the healing but finds her own demons rising to the surface. Mike feels the 'reset', and describes the experience like a roller coaster and the challenges associated with integrating the life-changing experiences. Unexpected twists and turns, and a desire to understand their husbands' journeys, Aimee and Brooke embark on their own psychedelic healing journey with ayahuasca and MDMA respectively.





FILMMAKERS

Luc Côté

Luc Côté has been directing and producing films since the age of 14, traveling extensively around the world to make social documentaries that capture the human spirit. In the early 80s, he founded his first production company in New York, On Track Video. In 1986, he moved back to Montreal and, with Robbie Hart, launched Adobe Productions. Together they produced and directed more than 30 films including two award-winning documentary series: Turning 16 and Rainmakers.

Janine Sagert

Dr. Janine Sagert's life has uniquely equipped her to help tell the story of combat veterans suffering from PTSD and their transformative healing journeys with psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy and medical marijuana. She brings to the role of Content Producer an uncommon blend of formal education, professional achievement, and personal experience that is infused with her indomitable spirit. "It broke my heart to learn that so many of our veterans are experiencing PTSD and that most of them are not getting relief from their suffering," she says.

Kevin Kraus

Kevin Kraus has been a businessman and investor for the past thirty-five years. Recently he started a new career as a producer. His first and most recent production, You Don't Like the Truth: 4 days inside Guantanamo, was shown in more than 70 festivals around the world and won several international awards. As an active participant in events such as Burning Man, and a practitioner of yoga and meditation, he brings a heightened awareness of new currents in the cultural zeitgeist.

Maxi Cohen

Maxi's first media for social change experiment – a weekly TV series in Cape May, N.J. – helped reverse the town's demise, becoming one of four landmarked towns in the country, changing its social, cultural and economic future. The theatrically released Joe and Maxi about her relationship with her father was noted for pushing the envelope of the genre. Maxi directed Anger for the feature Seven Women - Seven Sins in which seven directors re-interpret the seven deadly sins.

Mitch Schultz

From an early age, Mitch's curiosity of the unknown universe forged his path in storytelling and research. His professional experience as a transmedia producer, experience designer, and educator explores the inherent connections among consciousness, nature, culture, and the evolving human mythology. In the early '90s the confluence of art, information, and technology became the perfect storm for the germination of ideas that continue to inspire his work.



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