

## BOBBY HOUSTON

*Writer / Director*

Bobby Houston is a California-based filmmaker whose most recent documentary film, ***Mighty Times: The Children's March***, won the 2005 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject. His previous film, ***Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks***, was nominated for an Academy Award in 2002. Both films were produced by HBO and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Bobby's filmmaking career began after graduating from Harvard. He starred in Wes Craven's cult classic ***The Hills Have Eyes***. In the early '90's Bobby wrote and directed two independent films, the raucous teen-comedy ***Bad Manners***, which starred Martin Mull and Karen Black and was released by Disney, and ***Trust Me***, a black comedy about the art world that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

In 1995 Bobby turned away from a series of studio and network assignments to find a stronger outlet in documentary films. His debut doc ***Rock The Boat*** is a rousing verite adventure that follows the efforts of an HIV-positive crew who enter an extreme sailing race across the Pacific. The sailors manage to survive and even place well in spite of a leaky boat and a hurricane, while confronting their lives, loves and losses.

***Rock The Boat*** became an international festival favorite, was short-listed for an Academy Award, and enjoyed a long run on HBO. Several prestigious documentaries soon followed, culminating in the ***Mighty Times*** series, which won the IDA Award for Best Documentary Short in 2004.

Bobby is currently writing a new feature, ***Be A Man***, in part as a response to the election of 2004, and as always, as a means of speaking truth to power. Bobby's motto is still the same: "Debunk, and inspire."