

A GLOBAL ORDINARY RADICAL

By Allison Auclair

Jamie Moffett '00, has learned how to use his skills in theatre sound design to make an international impact. While the 32-year-old from Palmyra, NJ, founded a Philadelphia-based company in 2005 called Jamie Moffett Media Design & Production, Inc., he has had global influence through the production of a documentary with **Shane Claiborne '97** (sociology and youth ministry) called *The Ordinary Radicals*. The film, released in September 2008, follows Claiborne in his world-wide tour for his book *Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals* (co-authored with EU alum **Chris Haw '03**, released by Zondervan). The term "Ordinary Radicals" has become the name of the group of individuals in the film as they travel the world to learn how various cultures use the Bible and

other works of history to debate Jesus, His role, and the relationship that history has to today's state of American politics.

"We traveled thousands of miles to meet folks who feel religion is paramount in society," Moffett said. "It is very easy to take a look at American media and see that there are a lot of negative stereotypes attributed to American Christianity, but through working with Shane, it became clear to me that there are people who truly live to serve God."

Moffett's *The Ordinary Radicals* highlights how religion has played a historical role in elections. With a travel bus painted with the words "Jesus for President" running on 100% used vegetable oil, the Ordinary Radicals were spotted camped out at restaurants along the road on their cross-country journey as they waited for more vegetable oil to fuel their bus.

They could also be spotted in Africa and Germany, learning about how God's word has impacted social justice, racial reconciliation, environmental justice and more.

This movement, which transcends political party affiliation and denominational boundaries, is solely due to ordinary people

of faith who are changing society. Take Mark Weaver, for example. Weaver, a college student who read Claiborne's first book *The Irresistible Revolution - Living as an Ordinary Radical* (Zondervan), was asked to go on *The Price is Right* TV show the day after he finished the book. After winning almost \$60,000 in prizes, Weaver decided that his faith was stronger than money, and he flew to Uganda to work with children in an AIDS orphanage. He gave them all of his newfound money.

"This whole project is about the political imagination of what it means to follow after Jesus," Claiborne said. His speeches emphasize Jesus' work, and the embodiment of His presence in today's society. According to Claiborne, caring for the poor, the sick, and the unfortunate should be at the forefront of all political agendas. He is promoting Jesus for president—or if not Jesus himself, for the candidate who can fully support what is at the heart of Jesus—the poor and the peacemakers.

Moffett said, "The amazing people in the film lead remarkable lives. We truly live in an America that is less divided than we think."

"We are all doing the same thing," Moffett said. "Our desires to further God's kingdom are uniform across the world. It's really not about going to heaven; it's about bringing heaven to the world."

It All Began at Eastern

Claiborne and Moffett met as students at Eastern University. Together, they founded a New Monastic community called The Simple Way in Philadelphia, PA, which just celebrated its 10th anniversary. The 501c(3) organization, based in Kensington, is devoted to helping the community through housing, school supplies, prayer and donations.

"While Shane and I were in the lunchroom at Eastern we learned about the homeless in Kensington," Moffett said. "We decided to get into the heart of it, and we bought what turned out to be The Simple Way house in 1995 on my credit card. It's a good thing it worked out," he joked.

"There is no way I could live without my time at Eastern," Moffett said. "I feel privileged to have the opportunity to be able to tell these stories that the regular viewing audience can't get to see. It's that sort of guerilla story that is important to tell, and through my time at Eastern my love of being an artist has also transformed into my love for social justice."

It was on the St. Davids campus that Moffett began to meet students, professors and staff members from Kenya, El Salvador, Korea, Guatemala, and other places around the world. It was this exposure that sparked Moffett's desire to make an impact globally.



Jamie Moffett

"We were all the same at Eastern, no matter where we were from," Moffett said. "Christians of all flavors and types, and those of different backgrounds, were all treated equally and we built relationships from there."

Through Eastern, the doors for Moffett's international travel opened. As an Eastern student, Moffett took classes in Havana, Cuba to learn about different photography and video styling that he wouldn't be able to learn elsewhere. Additionally, Moffett traveled to Fiji, Africa, Israel, Central and South America to learn about music, culture and how various communities function.

What's Ahead?

Sparked by Eastern, Moffett's goal of traveling and telling stories of God has become a reality. In the future, he hopes to continue to tell stories of how God's word has influenced different communities worldwide. Additionally,

Moffett is attempting to dive deeper into helping the Kensington neighborhood.

"The larger the body of home ownership, the lower the crime rate," Moffett said. "I want to give families the opportunity to own and grow personally and socially. By giving these families a helping hand to be homeowners, the doors will open for them in other areas. I want to be an agent of change. That's not too high of a goal, right?"

For a true ordinary radical, someone who has traveled the world, documented how Christ's love has impacted society and has made a tremendous impact on a section of Philadelphia in desperate need, nothing is impossible.

For more information about the *Ordinary Radicals*, or to purchase the DVD, visit www.theordinary-radicals.com. For more information about Claiborne's newest book, *Jesus for President: Politics for Ordinary Radicals*, visit www.JesusforPresident.org.



Jamie Moffett films Shane Claiborne.