

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY *and* MUSEUM

---

4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538 [www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu](http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu) 1 (800) FDR-VISIT

September 8, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Cliff Laube (845) 486-7745

**The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum Presents  
the 2010 Documentary Film "The Shot Felt 'Round the World"  
Exploring the "Untold Stories" of the Development of the Salk Polio Vaccine  
with Film Producer Carl Kurlander and Historians John and Susan Edwards Harvith**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will screen the 2010 film "**The Shot Felt 'Round the World**" -- a documentary about the "untold stories" of the development of the Salk polio vaccine. The film will be screened for the first time in New York State in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 23, 2010. The film's producer, Carl Kurlander of the University of Pittsburgh Film Studies Program, and historians John and Susan Edwards Harvith will introduce the film. Admission is free and seating is first-come, first served.

"In a story that resonates with contemporary relevance, 'The Shot Felt 'Round The World' was made with the intent of reminding us all just what is possible when everyone works together in the spirit of community and focused purpose that Franklin Delano Roosevelt evoked in this battle against the most feared disease of the 20<sup>th</sup> century," says Kurlander.

"**The Shot Felt 'Round the World**" tells the story of the University of Pittsburgh research team and the Pittsburgh community's roles in the creation of the Salk polio vaccine. The documentary, which is 66 minutes long, includes a section on President Franklin D. Roosevelt's own battle with polio and his work establishing the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (now the March of Dimes), which ultimately funded the research that led to the polio vaccine. Renowned medical researcher Jonas Salk's name became synonymous with the vaccine that he initially requested not be named after him. Less widely known is the story of his University of

-more-

Pittsburgh research team, including senior scientist Julius Youngner, now Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus in the Pitt School of Medicine, and the events that took place from the late 1940s to 1955, little more than a handful of years that changed the medical community, the nation, and the world forever.

“With the aim of helping this story inspire a new generation, the film is being used as part of an innovative new educational initiative, ‘Taking a Shot at Changing the World,’ a video viral competition which will encourage students from middle schools and high schools to make their own short films about polio,” Kurlander says. Clips from the film and information on the initiative are at [www.shotsthatchangetheworld.org](http://www.shotsthatchangetheworld.org).

The film was produced by Kurlander and Laura Davis with Steeltown Entertainment Project and WQED Multimedia Pittsburgh, and in association with the University of Pittsburgh and 1905 Productions. It was directed, written, and edited by Tjardus Greidanus; Stephanie Dangel Reiter was its executive producer; and Jodi S. Klebick was the executive for Steeltown Entertainment Project. A team of University of Pittsburgh students also assisted in the film's production.

**Carl Kurlander** is a Pittsburgh, Pa., native and a senior lecturer in film studies at Pitt. He is a Hollywood screenwriter ("St. Elmo's Fire"), a television writer/producer ("Saved by the Bell"), and cofounder of Steeltown Entertainment Project. His critically acclaimed film on Pittsburgh reinventing itself, "My Tale of Two Cities," is currently playing in selected theaters across North America; for clips from and further information on the latter film and on "The Shot Felt 'Round the World," visit [www.steeltown.org](http://www.steeltown.org).

**John Harvith**, senior associate vice chancellor in the University of Pittsburgh Office of Public Affairs, served as historical consultant for "The Shot Felt 'Round the World" and was the editor in chief of "Defeat of an Enemy," the award-winning monograph Pitt issued in 2005 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Salk vaccine being declared "safe, effective, and potent."

**Susan Edwards Harvith**, a faculty member in film history for Oasis in Syracuse, N.Y., was research consultant for “The Defeat of an Enemy.” Together the Harviths have written two books, “Karl Struss: Man with a Camera” and “Edison, Musicians, and the Phonograph.”

Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email [clifford.laube@nara.gov](mailto:clifford.laube@nara.gov) with questions about the film program.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit [www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu](http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu).

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit [www.HistoricHydePark.org](http://www.HistoricHydePark.org).

###