

CHRISTOPHER MARTINI

TROOPER

"WELCOME HOME"



PRESS KIT



TROOPER

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CAST LIST

Christopher Martini as "Murphy O'Shea"

Gary Swanson as "Bill O'Shea"

Max Martini as "Finn O'Shea"

Robert Walden as "VA Doctor"

Eddie Manley as "John"

Suzanne Didonna as "Jennifer Dimarco"

Kevin Mambo as "Bobby Tramhill"

Giada Dobrzenska as "Lily Kilmer"

Richard Levine as "Brandon Torrence"

Jerry Della Salla as "Keith Duffy"

Sayra Player as "Brooke Banks"

Marisa Vitali as "Lauren Torrence"

Alex Emanuel as "Mike Donovan"

Gregory Lay as "Jeff McKay"



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WRITTEN, DIRECTED
AND PRODUCED BY
Christopher Martini

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Giada Dobrzenska
Richard Levine
Lori D. Renwick
Christopher Martini

PRODUCER
Beth Amy Rosenblatt

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
John Rotan

EDITORS
Rodney Calhoun
Christopher Martini

MUSIC BY
Hershel Yatovitz

RE-RECORDING MIXER &
ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY
Chris Koch

ADDITIONAL MUSIC
Chris Haskett

WITH MUSIC BY
Bruce Springsteen
and
Bob Dylan

VIETNAM
VETERAN

VIETNAM VET

ACCOLADES



SCREENINGS

- DIVERSITY FILM FESTIVAL - TACOMA, WA (PUBLIC SCREENING)
- GARDEN STATE FILM FESTIVAL - ASBURY PARK, NJ (PUBLIC SCREENING)
- GULF WAR VETERANS REUNION - DALLAS, TX (PRIVATE SCREENING)
- PHILADELPHIA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL - PHILADELPHIA, PA (PUBLIC SCREENING)
- PLANET HOLLYWOOD (TIMES SQUARE) - NYC (PRIVATE SCREENING)
- JOHN JAY COLLEGE VETERANS GROUP - NYC (PRIVATE SCREENING)
- 101ST AIRBORNE "SNOWBIRD" REUNION - ORLANDO, FL (PRIVATE SCREENING)
- NYU IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION - NYC (PRIVATE SCREENING)
- THE CELL - NYC (PRIVATE SCREENING)
- MILITARY WRITER'S ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA - ORLANDO, FL (PRIVATE SCREENING)
- THE ACTORS STUDIO - NYC (PRIVATE SCREENING)

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"Trooper" is a new kind of film—it doesn't glorify war, nor does it send any antiwar message. It is instead, about young warriors who are still fighting their own inner battles, when the gunfire is silent and the battlefields are thousands of miles away."

Rev. Bill McDonald, founder of the Military Writer's Society of America and author of *A Spiritual Warrior's Journey*

Vietnam Veteran – awarded various medals including "The Purple Heart", "The Distinguished Flying Cross", "The Bronze Star" and 14 Air Medals



THE FILMMAKERS



CHRISTOPHER MARTINI
Writer/Director/Producer/Star

Christopher's first entry into the industry was as a child actor in the HBO feature, *The Glitterdome*, where he played opposite John Lithgow. In 1996, Christopher graduated from NYU film school, and after working camera and sound in episodic television, he returned to his first love, editing. He has been working as an editor ever since.

Chris' most recent editing credits include National Lampoon's *Dirty Movie*, starring Chris Meloni, Mario Cantone, Robert Klein, Cyndi Lauper, distributed by Lions Gate Entertainment, and *Snatched*, starring Andrew McCarthy, Jonathan Silverman and Academy Award Winner, Ernest Borgnine.

Christopher wrote and directed the multiple award winning short film, *The Stone Child*, which was selected for a total of twenty-one US Film Festivals, and was the winner of Channel 13/WNET's Reel 13 Shorts Contest, airing on Channel 13, the Nation's most watched public television station. *The Stone Child* was based on a feature-length screenplay that Christopher wrote, which was awarded Quarter-Finalist at the Slamdance and Page International Script Competitions, and was an Official Selection at the 28th Annual IFP Market and a Semi-Finalist for the script award.

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RICHARD LEVINE

Executive Producer/Co-Producer/Actor



Richard Levine makes his feature film debut in *TROOPER* as both Actor and Executive Producer. He comes to the film world by way of the theatre, where he has worn the hat of actor, director, producer, stage manager, and artistic director. In New York City, he has performed Off- and Off-Off-Broadway at such venues as the Stella Adler Conservatory, Circle in the Square, Snapple Theater Center, Present Company Theatorium, Expanded Arts' Shakespeare in the Park(ing Lot), Grove Street Theatre, Caroline's Comedy Club and New York Comedy Club.

Richard received his BFA in drama from New York University Tisch School of the Arts and studied acting at Circle in the Square Theatre School (including two summers with Jose Quintero) and The School for Film & Television, and privately with Anthony Abeson.

In a parallel universe, Richard does his best *Mad Men* impersonation as a full-time vice president and creative supervisor at a New York advertising agency. On a personal note, in honor of his paternal grandfather who enlisted and served with the British Legion in Palestine during WWI and his father who enlisted and served with the USAF in Germany during the Korean War and subsequently worked on the Eagle of Apollo XI mission fame, Richard is pleased to work on a project that recognizes the service and sacrifice of true heroes. Richard is a Southern California native.

LORI D. RENWICK

Executive Producer/Military Advisor



Major Lori D. Renwick enlisted in the PA National Guard in August 1995, after receiving a scholarship through the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (R.O.T.C.), which she later parlayed into an Active Duty Commission. She completed her officer basic course at Fort Rucker, AL, and earned her aviation wings flying the Apache Helicopter.

In 2005, then-CPT Renwick transitioned from the Active Duty component into the New York Army National Guard where she performed roles as a Military Intelligence Officer in the 53rd Troop Command and completed a tour in Iraq with the 104th Military Police Battalion. Lori was promoted to Major while deployed in Iraq on 28 September 2007.

She has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, 3 oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Aviation Badge, 2 Overseas Ribbons, the Expeditionary Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, NATO ribbon and many others.

She became involved with TROOPER upon return from Iraq and participation in New York University's Veterans' Writing course in order to deliver the important message of invisible pain and damage that is caused by deployments overseas to family members awaiting the return of their loved ones. Her primary goal as one of the Executive Producers is to deliver the message that, "We are not alone, we stand together in understanding and responsibility." To all of my fellow Veterans both from these current wars and those of the past, "Welcome Home."

TADS | +0.48 km

TGT | TYPE: Light



MSL : 8

ROUNDS : 1145

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"I was blown away by Chris Martini's "Trooper." It stirred a myriad of emotions in me that, as a veteran, I haven't felt before. It's a powerful yet sensitive film that hits its mark like a freight train, then provocatively presses further on points about veterans easily overlooked. Viewers will identify with this story; it bridges the gap between two generations of military service. Every veteran — no — every American, should see this film.

LTC Raymond (Ray) Morris U.S. Army Special Forces (ret)

Award-winning author of *The Ether Zone U.S Army Special Forces Detachment B-52, Project Delta*



TROOPER

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*"This movie is neither for the war or against it.
It is 100% for the troops."*

Christopher Neff, Former Lance Corporal,
USMC, Infantry OIF 2003-2005



YOUTUBE RESPONSES TO the official TRAILER

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTE-NG7BBhQ>

jdozone

Wow I am a 70% disabled 100% unemployable ser conn PG Vet (4 tours 90 to 93. My disabled Vietnam vet father in law lives with me, my wife and son, on and off. My own family turned on me (gov says its in ur head), to the point that I still do not talk to my father much.. I lost everything, including credit rating, was homeless etc... This trailer made me cry like a little girl. It so relates with my life... I live in FL now and hope I can see the movie some how.. To all vets I send my love.

vetdame

Trooper will hit the hearts and souls of all veterans who have come back home with illnesses caused by modern warfare. Here's hoping the rest of this movie is as good as the trailer. Chris, thank you for telling the story!

anon

This film tears open the souls of the characters, allowing the viewer to LIVE the story. It isn't a multi-million dollar special effects bonanza. Instead it provides the audience with a brutally honest yet highly emotional experience that helps us better understand the costs of freedom. Every day in America is a day lived in the blessings of peace and prosperity. These blessings are far too often denied to those most deserving.

bvdmorris

Having seen the movie at an early screening, it has a powerful message that resonates, not only to veterans but to all Americans. No need to use ill vets for actors...this is not a documentary nor is it political; Martini has captured reality, a far cry from Vietnam 'Rambo' movies. I can't recommend it enough...our vets deserve a battle cry for action and this is it! This is one you'll want to see and share with others.

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TheArcticFox

As a Marine Veteran of the Iraq war, just from what I've seen in the trailer, this movie looks to be the definitive narrative of this conflict. It seems to have it all. The Danger, The Pride, People not understanding, and the mental and physical recovery. I truly hope this sees wide release and am recommending it to all my friends, military or not.

mpandozy

Chris Martini, you wanted us to think seriously about war's serious consequences. No movie has any life value unless it is "contemporary", which means the artist must portray the world as it is experienced today, i.e., teach us about life by making us share the experience of those who suffer the loss of their dear ones and that count their last life moments in the line of fire. Thank you for taking on the responsibility to do your part to build a better world. I can't wait to see more...

Huey576

I screened this entire movie in Florida at "The Military Writer's Society of America's" conference - it was seen by a room full of real veterans and war heroes - trust me - this film will not offend today's warriors. It does present a fairly realistic picture of what is happening now. There is very little that would offend movie goers. Having real veterans to play the roles does not make for a better movie. You need and want professional actors. Rev. Bill McDonald Vietnam veteran & author.

camplemonadestand

Excellent movie -- recommended to all those have fought on the battlefield, coming home to fight the VA system of denials that anything bad happened to us. Between the sarin gas, pesticides, oil well fires, and questionable injections -- is it any wonder that some of us are still live. Great MOVIE to open the eyes of the nation.

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PRODUCTION PHOTOS



TROOPER

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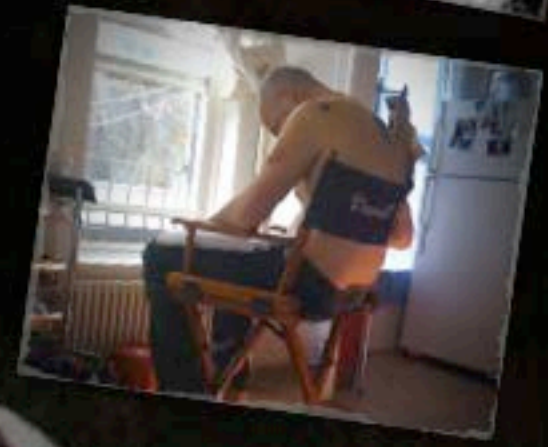
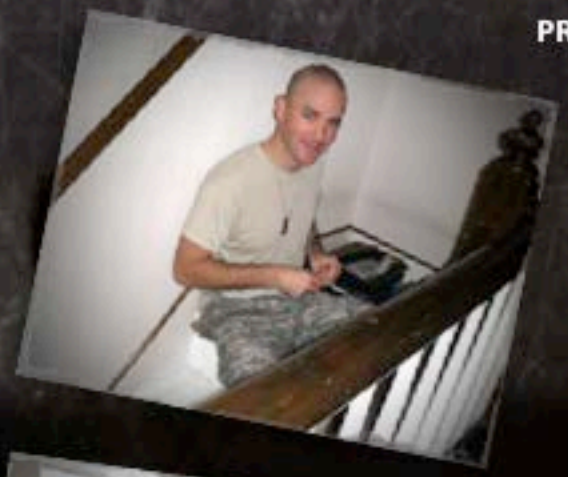
TROOPER

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TROOPER

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TROOPER

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"Someone once said that 'War is Hell' referring to the actual combat situation. Many times the hell begins after the tour of combat is over. Chris has done a great job portraying that in TROOPER....In watching the film the combat veteran realizes that he is not alone in his struggle and those around him understand a little better why he is as he is. Now let the healing begin."

Ed Beesley, USMC, Vietnam Veteran and author of
Lucky Enough



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MEDIA COVERAGE

VeteransToday.com

MOVIE REVIEW: TROOPER

December 3, 2009

posted by John Allen of Veterans Today

FILMAKER CHRIS MARTINI SOLDIERS ON

Written by Becca Bryan

"Finally, a film producer that gets it right! *TROOPER* may serve well to educate an unaware public about the epidemic level of emotional trauma that today's yMcDonald oung warriors are living with. It is a dark journey and this film captures its pain—and also gives us a glimmer of hope." Rev. Bill Founder The Military Writer's Society of America.

Independent films are often the underdogs of the film world. They can be made for very little money. Their stories are often true and if not, are based on true accounts. Their makers pour everything they have into the film so the story can be told. Then they fight the uphill battle to get it funded and distributed. This is the case with the indie filmmaker Christopher Martini, who wrote, directed and stars in his newest flick *TROOPER*.

TROOPER is a story about father and son veterans trying to help each other cope with the adverse effects of combat after returning home. It's an honest, stunning and raw film about one soldier's struggle to cope with the after effects of combat while the rest of his life falls apart. *TROOPER* was the Finalist in Screenplays at the 2008 Rome Independent Film Festival and placed in the Top 15% of scripts at the Nicholl Fellowship.

When asked what compelled him to make *TROOPER*, Martini, a non-Veteran, said, "*TROOPER* grew from the enormous amount of love and respect that I have for our fighting men and women, both overseas and the veterans here at home. I wanted specifically to make a film that deals with health care issues and veterans because I believe that our country has let our soldiers down enormously when it comes to these issues."

He tells this story which compelled him forward on *TROOPER*. "One day I was walking through Grand Central Station and I saw a returning soldier, his face and neck still red from the desert. Nobody would look at him. In fact many looked down or away, because I think what he represented was something more powerful than their day-to-day concerns. He represented truth, light and purpose. Something that might be very foreign to someone living in the city and trying to further their own gain or career. I stopped, thanked him for his service and observed as he tried to suppress tears, as I did. It was a defining moment for me."

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Martini was recently invited to screen it for the Military Writers Society of America 2009 conference attendees. These combat Veterans could have been harsh in their critique but instead embraced the film. Ed Beesley, a Marine Vietnam Vet and author of *Lucky Enough*, said: "Someone once said that 'War is Hell' referring to the actual combat situation. Many times the hell begins after the tour of combat is over. Chris has done a great job portraying that in *TROOPER*. In watching the film, the combat veteran realizes that he is not alone in his struggle and those around him understand a little better why he is as he is. Now let the healing begin."

Another distinguished Veteran, Bill McDonald, founder of the MWSA commented, "*TROOPER* is the one film that has honestly captured the essence of what PTSD is like and how it is tearing this new generation of warriors apart. It's about young warriors who are still fighting their own inner battles, when the gunfire is silent and the battlefields are thousands of miles away. This film has got it right!"

Martini is the son of two artists who saw entertainers in their house regularly. These artistic types rubbed off on him and his brother, an actor and sister, a costumer. It's easy to see where his talent originates. The entire family is rooted in the business.

Other very notable films by Martini include *The Stone Child*, about a Lakota boy coming of age, which was selected for a total of over 20 US Film Festivals, was Nominated Best Native-American Film at the 2008 Trail Dance Film Festival. It won the Bronze Remi at the 2008 WorldFest Houston International Film Festival and was the winner of Channel 13's Reel Shorts competition, airing on Channel 13 in NYC. Making films to open peoples' minds is what he loves to do most. *TROOPER* will not only open your mind but will urge you to take action.

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Online Review – posted to Trooper Facebook Page. December 7th, 2009

MOVIE REVIEW: TROOPER

December 7, 2009

Iraq Vet's Review of "Trooper"

By Chris Neff

Trooper is a Film that conveys to the audience an unfortunately oft unheard struggle in America, Veterans returning with Combat related illness and the very little that is being done to help them. And it nails it right on the head.

Chris plays Murphy O'Shea, a returning Iraq Vet suffering from not only Post Traumatic Stress and a nearly life ending shrapnel wound, but a mysterious illness that is robbing him of a normal life. Murphy comes to believe it is Depleted Uranium that is the source of his sickness but also wrestles with the thought that if could all be in his head, a result of the PTSD.

Gary Swanson deserves special recognition as Murphy's Vietnam Vet Father Bill, dying from cancer implied to be the result of Agent Orange exposure. Bill injects much needed humor into this otherwise dark film, while at the same time using his experience as one who has "Been there, Done that" to help his son's transition. Supporting Eddie Manley as John, Murphy's friend and another wounded soldier, who tries to fight the government in order for their ignored illness to be brought to the like and to receive the treatment they need. Manley portrays the frustration of those attempting to fight very well. Max Martini has a bit of a cameo as Finn, Murphy's brother, also in the Army, and seemly a bit of a local legend. Finn's attitude is that Murphy did his time, and should not attempt to rock the bow by making a stink. These Characters work very well in showcasing the extremes of the emotions Murphy see-saws through the film. Shut up and take it or stand up and fight and get help. Non-military viewers may have difficulty understanding Murphy's lack of desire to fight the Government, having not been part of the "system".

My absolute favorite thing is that there is zero whining in the movie. No "Why me, Why me". The movie focuses on how the characters deal with the problem presented to them, not sit around and complain about it. Additionally, this movie is neither for the war or against it. It is 100% for the Troops. In closing, this movie is important. It should be seen by every American, both Veteran and Civilian, and in my humble opinion, every member of Congress. If you have any way to see this film, do so. You will not regret it.

Christopher Neff Former Lance Corporal, USMC, Infantry
Iraq, March-June 2003, July 2004 - February 2005

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AMERICAN FREE PRESS Issue #34

MOVIE REVIEW: TROOPER

August 23rd 2010

New Film Brings Focus on Plight of Returning Veterans

By Mark Anderson

Young filmmaker Christopher Martini has done Music Television projects and film projects involving a number of celebrities. But he really shines as the writer, producer and main actor in his first-ever Feature Film—a moving “docu-drama” entitled Trooper—in which he plays soldier Murphy O’Shea, who comes home to New York City after a tour of duty in the current Iraq occupation.

His bleak existence shows the sheer stress of combat on the fragile fabric of civilized life. Martini’s new film debuted Aug. 6 during the four-day Health and Educational Fair sponsored by the National Gulf War Resource Center in Dallas, Texas. The annual event, covered this year by AFP, helps veterans address their serious health problems and navigate the Veterans Administration’s mountainous red tape, stemming from service in the first gulf war in Iraq and Kuwait, and from the current Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Martini says his movie is neither anti-war nor pro-war. His character—highly troubled by chronic fatigue, vomiting, emotional problems and a hard time readjusting to regular life at home with his lonesome Vietnam-veteran father—decides to research depleted uranium (DU), the radioactive weapons component used as an incredibly effective penetrator for hardened targets and also as armor against enemy fire.

DU, when fragmented or converted to an aerosol, enters open wounds, is ingested on food or is inhaled. It has been linked to cancers and birth defects, affecting soldiers from both sides and civilians without bias over wide geographic areas. In the film, O’Shea confronts his VA doctor about DU. The doctor minimizes DU’s significance, even after Murphy tells him that the pills the doctor is providing are not helping him handle his strange ailments. (cont.) The chronically-ill, emotionally conflicted soldier is not sure whether to follow a TROOPER trusted friend’s advice and fight “the system,” or to remain passive and accept reality—a reality defined by restless nights seared by disturbing recollections of brutal battle scenes.

His days mainly involve spending precious time with Bill, his aging, quirky father whose Vietnam service depleted his health. The father-son scenes are particularly touching as they show the unique bond of father and son, which only real fathers and sons can truly understand—in the challenging context of both Bill and Murphy having served in the military while sacrificing their best years to do so. The movie follows young O’Shea through the dark corridors of his life as he revisits friends, including lady friends, and tries to make civilian life work again.

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The viewer is struck by the film's somber conclusion in its irony and in the way O'Shea makes the issues of depleted uranium and Gulf War Illness real and not mere clinical abstractions. The film may be neutral, but in its own way it can help us decide whether constant warfare accompanying our interventionist foreign policy is really the way to go, since that policy guarantees nonstop casualties and fatalities with never-ending medical bills.



TROOPER

JOIN US ON THE WEB:



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visit the TROOPER Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/.../TROOPER...Christopher-Morini/218894448297

WATCH The Official Trailer on YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTE-NG7BBhQ>

OUR SUPPORTERS

Military Writer's Society of America
<http://www.militarywriters.com>

National Gulf War Resource Center
<http://www.ngwrc.org>

Soldier's Angels
<http://www.soldiersangels.org>

Veterans Radio
<http://www.veteransradio.net>

Veterans Today
<http://www.veteranstoday.com>

Work Vessels for Veterans
<http://www.workvesselsforvets.org>



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TROOPER

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VALID LOCK

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TGT. TYPE: light



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