

THE LAST HOUSE STANDING

A MOVE THE WORLD FILMS DOCUMENTARY



HOPE IS NOT A STRATEGY



Runtime 77 minutes

Move the World Films - J.E.L. Productions Production

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Synopsis

Hope is not a survival strategy. Every year millions of people suffer the wrath of Mother Nature, as infrastructure is demolished, houses are flooded and swept away, and lives are lost. *The Last House Standing* is a documentary film that explores why we continue to place cost over safety while the technology exists to build homes capable of withstanding hurricanes, fires, and tornadoes. What does it take to build the last house standing?

Filmmaker's Statement

As a former weatherman and reporter, I've covered countless stories about people who lost everything in disasters. Every year people lose their homes and many rebuild the exact same way. Most people have no idea if their insurance will actually get them whole again after a major disaster. If they have to evacuate, and their house is destroyed, many of the things that were lost can never be replaced. We roll the dice on where we live with no true sense of what the hazards really are. When you watch *The Last House Standing* you'll meet people who are living the nightmare, and it doesn't have to be this way. This film is a wake-up call to everyone that we need to take control of our destiny and do whatever we can to protect our homes and lives. We live in a world where everyone races to be first, but when it comes to your home, you want to be the last house standing.

George Siegal

Festivals





About George Siegal

George began his career in front of the camera as a newscaster, sportscaster, and weathercaster. He worked in markets from Los Angeles to San Francisco, Seattle, Detroit, and San Antonio. In addition to work in front of the camera, George was a feature reporter and producer.

In 2001, George formed J.E.L. Productions, a video production company that produces documentary films, commercials, and television programs. The company also created its own original programming, which included a Texas travel program and a building and remodeling show.

George is most proud of his latest venture, forming the documentary film company Move the World Films, Inc. He wrote, directed and produced the award-winning documentary films *License to Parent* and *The Last House Standing*.

George, his wife Nancy and their children live in Tampa, Florida.

Production Pictures



The actual last house standing in Mexico Beach, one of the few structures to survive Hurricane Michael along the panhandle of Florida. This house was one of the inspirations for our film.



Some of the total destruction we witnessed in Mexico Beach, Florida.



This pizza oven imported from Italy is the only thing left standing on Chris and Caroline Carradine's Malibu property. Everything else was destroyed by fire.



Our interview with FEMA Director Brock Long is a thread throughout the film showing FEMA's role after a disaster strikes. FEMA's long term goal is to help people realize that doing more work to prevent damage actually saves lives and billions of dollars.



Water Ambassador Henk Ovink talks about what communities need to do to prepare for a major disaster.



Moore, Oklahoma, has been hit with four major tornadoes since 1999 and is the first city in the country to change its building code with tornado survival in mind.

The Team

George Siegal is our Director/Producer. In 2001, George formed J.E.L. Productions, a film and video production company that produces documentaries, commercials, and television programs. The company also created original programming which included a Texas travel program and a building and remodeling show, and most recently the award winning documentary film *License to Parent*. George formed Move the World Films in 2018.

Michael Lukaszewskyj is our Director of Photography/Producer. Michael is a native of Chicago and now makes San Antonio, Texas, his home. He graduated from Southern Illinois University with a degree in radio and television, and has worked for NBC, ABC, and CBS. With over 30 years in the film and television industry, he has won numerous awards including seven Emmys.

Andy Smith is a 25-year veteran of news and documentary production. He is an award winning videographer, sound technician, editor, field engineer and producer. The Southwest and Midwest chapters of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences have recognized him. Andy serves as the Audio Visual Production Specialist for Minnetonka Public Schools in Minnesota and has received Excellence awards from the National School Public Relations Association for his work.

Kate Diaz composed our original score. Kate writes and produces music for commercials, podcasts, films, and TV. She is currently co-scoring an upcoming animated TV series, as well as a new docu-series. A multi-instrumentalist, Kate self-produces her scores and songs, playing all instruments and recording/mixing all tracks.

Film Credits

Directed by
George Siegal

Director of Photography
Michael Lukaszewskyj

Produced by
George Siegal

Editor
Andy Smith

Executive Producers
Jill Chalsty
John Chalsty
Chris Marino

Written by
George Siegal

Original Score by
Kate Diaz

Animated Graphics
Michael Hennley

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