

FIXING AMERICA

A FILM BY STEVE LAFFEY

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Content for IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LOGLINE

“Is the American people’s wisdom, and love for their country, still a core interest to our political elite?”

SYNOPSIS

What if regular Americans were asked for their ideas on how to fix America’s problems?

That’s not the plot for a fictional movie, it is what *Fixing America*, an emotional and inspiring grassroots documentary shows, laying bare what everyday Americans realize; the political elites of both parties have destroyed the country financially.

Fixing America takes the viewer on an extraordinary journey across the byways of America where seemingly ordinary, yet truly exceptional folks bare all and offer solutions to fix this great country.

In a time of unprecedented global financial disaster, the “ordinary” American People are most suited to disentangle problems and crucial issues. In fact, they are the ones who deal with complexity everyday, struggling to make ends meet and put their children through college.

In this documentary they offer simple ideas, but it is not the need for simplicity that they are conveying. Their insight is grounded to the principles that are the make-up of the Nation. They refer to the forefathers, the Constitution, to the historical revolutionary acts that have propelled the country forward during tough times. It is not simple, we learn, it is a matter of having a vision.

Steve Laffey, two-term former mayor of Cranston, Rhode Island, financial expert, and producer Stephen Skoly are promoters of this uncommon human affair and social adventure. Laffey improvises himself as a journalist with the support of renowned scholars, such as professors Lawrence Kotlikoff, John Friar, and Khalil Habib; passionate journalists such as Dylan Ratigan and Louis Free and keen advocates such as Lew Ward, Grover Norquist, Steve Forbes, Robert Scott, Ned Ryun, and Scott Paul, and they intertwine with the TRUE protagonists of the documentary... the American people! They ultimately bring a sense of hope and cooperation with these interactions, and let Americans appreciate “they are not alone” in this colossal struggle.

FIXING AMERICA

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY
STEVE LAFFEY

PRODUCED BY
STEPHEN T. SKOLY JR.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
JEFF HOFFMAN

EDITED BY
FRED TINDALL

MUSIC BY
MAURO COLANGELO

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
STEVE LAFFEY
STEPHEN T. SKOLY JR.

STEPHEN P. LAFFEY

Creator, Writer, Producer Steve Laffey is a dynamic communicator and accomplished father, executive, mayor, teacher and author with proven ability to engage audiences at all levels.

He played a key role in growing a \$100M+ revenue financial firm, Morgan Keegan, into a \$500M firm with over 2000 employees. As President and COO, he initiated and teamed with top management to negotiate, structure and execute the sale of the firm at/near the peak of the market in 2000/2001. More importantly, Laffey headed a 20 member transition team that **RETAINED ALL EMPLOYEES** and benefited shareholders, customers and employees, including access to more capital and a 36% increase in stock price.

As a two term Mayor of his home town, Cranston, Rhode Island, Laffey helped turn a city on the verge of bankruptcy (with America's lowest bond rating and Rhode Island's largest cumulative deficit in history) around, achieving an investment grade bond rating, the state's largest cumulative surplus, and redeemed the bankrupt city pension (assets up 500%) over his four years in office. While Mayor, Laffey also taught the top finance course at the University of Rhode Island.

An engaging public speaker, radio show host, guest lecturer, and keynote speaker Laffey has been featured on national broadcast media such as Fox News Special Report, This Week with George Stephanopoulos, The O'Reilly Factor (FOX News), MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews, CNN's Situation Room with Bill Schneider, Lou Dobbs Tonight (FOX Business), CNN Morning News, and C-SPAN.

His Book, *Primary Mistake* (Penguin Books, 2007), is a grassroots work, showing what happens when a political party gets so obsessed with holding on to power that it abandons its core principles.

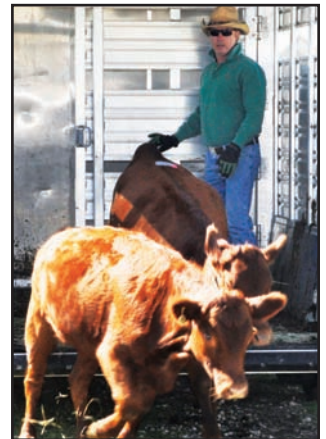
PERSONAL

Stephen Laffey was born in 1962, one of five children of toolmaker John and Mary Laffey. He grew up in the Edgewood section of Cranston, excelling both academically and athletically in the Cranston public school system. After graduation in 1980, he attended Bowdoin College graduating magna cum laude, with a BA in Economics in 1984, the only member of his family to receive a college degree. He received his MBA in General Management in 1986 from the Harvard Business School, one of the youngest members of his graduating class.

Steve is now a rancher in Fort Collins, Colorado (www.laffeyirishanimals.com). Steve has been married to his wife Kelly for 17 years and he has six children: Peter 22, Samuel 16, Sarah Grace 14, Audrey Elizabeth 8, Jessica 6, and little Stephen Jr. 3. His family attends Mountain View Church in Fort Collins.



FRONT: (l to r) Sarah Grace, Peter, Sam
BACK: (l to r) Jesse, Kelly, Audrey, Steve,
and Stephen Jr.



STEPHEN T. SKOLY JR.

PRODUCER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



Stephen T. Skoly Jr., born in 1956, is the oldest child of the late Stephen Skoly Sr., a World War II Veteran and Angeline Phillips Skoly.

He grew up in Rockville, Connecticut where he was a 3-sport athlete and a National Honor Society member. He graduated from Assumption College in 1978 and went on to receive his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from The University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine in Farmington, Connecticut. While at UConn he received the Quintessence Award for Academic Achievement from the Quintessence Publishing Company.

In 1984 Stephen completed a Postdoctoral General Practice Residency at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois and then received his Postdoctoral Certificate in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Stephen returned to New England in 1988 to the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery in Cranston, Rhode Island, and remains on the staff of St. Joseph's Hospital in Providence, and Kent County Hospital in Warwick, Rhode Island.

An active participant in health care policy, an international U.S. representative in healthcare, a consultant for multiple agencies both public and private, he founded JawDoc Productions in 2007 to bring health care policy debates to the public and private sector. In addition to producing films, commercials, and industrial videos, he has worked with Giant Studios and Big Sky Motion Pictures and is currently in post production on Healthonomics, a documentary which will explore the economics of health care policy in Rhode Island and the nation.

Stephen lives in East Greenwich, Rhode Island with his family and continues to be a leader in organized dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery. His passions now include documentary filmmaking.

JEFF HOFFMAN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

VIDEOGRAPHER



Award-winning Producer/Cinematographer with extensive film, television, documentary and commercial work. He earned international expertise from projects shot worldwide from Easter Island to Antarctica, Japan to Europe. His clients range from Canadian and German television to all three US networks, Disney and Lexus. With his adventurous wife and daughter, he has lived in LA, New Orleans and Vancouver, and has settled in his hometown, Marblehead. Jeff is Squashhousemedia's CEO and main creative force.

(l to r) Steve Laffey and Jeff Hoffman on the road filming *Fixing America*

MAURO COLANGELO

ORIGINAL MUSIC



Mauro Colangelo has mastered music composition in a career spanning over two decades. He graduated from the Conservatory of Music (1990) in Milan, Italy. He went on to produce and score for Films and Documentaries, TV, Radio and Multimedia, building an excellent reputation in any number of music genres.

In 1992, he launched his own studio Bread and Music moving from analog tape to the latest digital technology. He mastered software such as Protools, Logic Audio, Performer, Reason, Cubase 4 among others. He has since achieved recognition for his “packaging” and outstanding sound quality. In fact, Mauro is considered a pioneer for the Protools software as he was first in Italy to use its Digidesign suite.

He produced music for Radio and TV commercials for several renowned accounts such as Sprite. The song “Get Up” produced for the Sprite commercial received outstanding reviews. Sugar Records (the label of Andrea Bocelli) picked it up and went on to produce a very successful record. Other major accounts include: Coke, Vigorsol, Olidata, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, San Carlo Chips, Mattel, Kinder Nutella, Siemens, Reebok, Textron, and many more. Mauro scored for the Documentary Series “Overland” a prime time series broadcast on Italian National Public Television (RAI) and globally. He also composed the original score for the documentary commemorating Siemens 100th anniversary.

In 2005, Mauro established his residency in Rhode Island where he launched Mauro Colangelo Music Factory Inc. and scored – with original music – several commercials, one of which, produced for Cox Communications, in 2008 earned him the prestigious Telly Award for “Best Use of Music” in a commercial. Mauro’s music style has a readily identifiable European flavour. Among his recent works, the TV Docu-drama “3 Degrees” broadcasted by Cox TV, produced by Cox Communications; the Documentary “In Pursuit of the Truth” produced by Meanstreet Film; the Indie Film “The Curse of Micah Rood” with Ron Palillo (Horshack in “Welcome Back Kotter”), produced by Firesite Films.

Mauro is also an accomplished session drummer and performer. In addition to playing with his own band “Billow”, among others, he performed for Alex Baroni, Juanes, Lene (Aqua), and Ricky Martin. His classical musical background is only parallel to his jazz-contemporary music studies: harmony, arrangement, composition and orchestration.

FRED TINDALL

EDITOR



Born in 1974, Fred Tindall, a Providence, Rhode Island native, graduated Cum Laude from Rhode Island College with a BFA in studio arts, and then went on to graduate from the New York Film Academy. Besides being lead editor on the documentary Fixing America, Fred has edited multiple short films including All the Colors Gray, Bianca, Don't Eat Me, On a Good Note and The Unproductive. He is currently preparing to edit several feature films in 2012.

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PHOTO GALLERY



Carl Anderson
Kit Carson, CO



Andrew and Courtney Beck
Jamestown, RI



James Brown
Hugo, CO

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PHOTO GALLERY



Lurch Campfield
Narrowsburg, NY



Dana and Brigid Donnelly
Youngstown, OH



David Fletcher
American Fork, UT (visiting Washington, DC)

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PHOTO GALLERY



Louie Free
Youngstown, OH



Richard Fuka
Point Judith, RI



Faye Harding
Hugo, CO

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PHOTO GALLERY



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Gettysburg, PA



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Morgantown, WV



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Gambier, OH

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PHOTO GALLERY



Bill Lewis
Cleveland, OK



Charles McCreary
Cincinnati, OH



Grover Norquist
Washington, DC

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Stephen Patterson
Forestville, MD



Scott Paul
Washington, DC



Dylan Ratigan
New York, NY

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Jeff Ruble
Frankfurt, KY



Frank Rulli
Boardman, OH



Kelly Russell
Frederick, MD

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PHOTO GALLERY



Alyssa Snyder
Frederick, MD



Joe Strange
Aurora, CO



Paul Tate
Johnsons Corner, CO

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Larry "Sugar Boy" Walker
Poplar Grove, AR



Viola Wright
Moscow, TN



Stuttgart, AR

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