

TWO MEN. BOUND TO AL-QAEDA. DIVIDED BY FATE.



**“ASTONISHING AND ESSENTIAL!**  
Both intimate and epic, mysterious and clear-eyed! Poitras draws a complex, novelistic portrait of two men whose intertwined destinies tell us more about this conflict than most newspaper articles ever could.”

—Scott Macauley, FILMMAKER MAGAZINE

# THE OATH

A FILM BY LAURA POITRAS

From the director of the Oscar®-nominated *My Country, My Country*, *The Oath* is a spectacularly gripping documentary that unspools like a great political thriller. It's the cross-cut tale of two men whose fateful meeting propelled them on divergent courses with Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, 9/11, Guantanamo Bay Prison and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Abu Jandal is a taxi driver in Sana'a, Yemen; his brother-in-law Salim Hamdan is a Guantanamo prisoner and the first man to face the controversial military tribunals. Jandal and Hamdan's intertwined personal trajectories—how they became bin Laden's bodyguard and driver respectively—act as prisms that serve to explore and contextualize a world which has confounded Western media. As Hamdan's trial progresses, his military lawyers challenge fundamental flaws in the court system. The charismatic Jandal dialogues with his young son, Muslim students and journalists, and chillingly unveils the complex evolution of his belief system post-9/11. Winner of Best Documentary Cinematography at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival, *The Oath* offers a rare window into a hidden realm—and the international impact of the U.S. War on Terror.

**“An intimate character study...and a wide-ranging critique of the American war on terror.”** —Dennis Lim, THE NEW YORK TIMES



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE OSCAR® NOMINATED  
“MY COUNTRY, MY COUNTRY”

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PRAXIS FILMS & THE INDEPENDENT TELEVISION SERVICE IN ASSOCIATION WITH AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY | POV PRESENT THE OATH  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SALLY JO FIFER AND DAVID MENSCHEL EDITED BY JONATHAN OPPENHEIM CINEMATOGRAPHY BY KIRSTEN JOHNSON AND LAURA POITRAS  
COMPOSED BY OSVALDO GOLJOV CO-PRODUCED BY JONATHAN OPPENHEIM, NASSER ARRABYEE AND ALIZA KAPLAN PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY LAURA POITRAS A ZEITGEIST FILMS RELEASE



[www.zeitgeistfilms.com/theoath](http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com/theoath)

Watch the trailer at [www.zeitgeistfilms.com/theoath](http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com/theoath)