

# SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL

## The Journey of Roméo Dallaire

In 100 days - between April 6 and July 16, 1994 - 800,000 men, women and children were brutally killed in the tiny African country of Rwanda. The victims - many horrifically hacked to death with machetes - were Tutsi, and moderate Hutus who supported them.

One man was tasked by the United Nations with ensuring that peace was maintained in Rwanda - Canadian Lieutenant General Roméo Dallaire. But unsupported by U.N. headquarters and its Security Council far away in New York, Dallaire and his handful of peace-keepers were incapable of stopping the genocide.

After ten years of mental torture, reliving the horrors daily and more than once attempting suicide, Roméo Dallaire poured out his soul in an extraordinary book. *Shake Hands With The Devil* is a cri de coeur. The General pulls no punches in his condemnation of top UN officials, expedient Belgian policy makers and senior members of the Clinton administration who chose to do nothing as Dallaire pleaded for reinforcements and revised rules of engagement.

Dallaire is convinced that, with a few thousand more troops and a mandate to act pre-emptively, he could have stopped the killings. His impotence, at a time of extreme crisis, preys on his conscience still.


Canadian documentary production company, White Pine Pictures, secured the documentary rights to General Dallaire's book and exclusive access to follow him during his first return to Rwanda, in April 2004 - the 10th anniversary of the genocide. We were there as he revisited the killing fields that haunt him still.

*Shake Hands With The Devil* has been called the most powerful film produced about the Rwandan genocide. Unflinching. Gut-wrenching. Challenging. Hard-hitting. This is appointment television for viewers throughout the world who care about human rights and international justice.

Producer / Director - Peter Raymont

Produced by White Pine Pictures

in association with

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation / Société Radio Canada 

With the participation of

The Rogers Documentary Fund

The Canadian Television Fund

Canadian Film or Video Tax Credit



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A DOCUMENTARY FILM

Produced & Directed by Peter Raymont



**BEST DOCUMENTARY  
2007 EMMY AWARDS**

Produced by White Pine Pictures



Tel: 416-703-5580  
www.whitepinepictures.com  
info@whitepinepictures.com



INTERNATIONAL SALES AGENT  
Jan Rofekamp  
Tel: 514-844-3358  
janrofekamp@filmstransit.com



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### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



I'm embarrassed to tell you that, like most of us, I "missed" the Rwandan genocide. I vaguely remember media reports of tribal warfare in an obscure central-African country. But almost every night during those 100 days (April-July, 1994) the OJ Simpson Trial and the Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan incident dominated the news.

After the horrific mass killings in Rwanda ended, we began hearing about General Roméo Dallaire – the Canadian who commanded the UN troops that were charged with keeping the peace in Rwanda – the man who had since attempted suicide, unable to live with the horrific demons that haunt him.

I made another documentary in Rwanda five years after the genocide. On my return from that film shoot I was determined to track down Roméo Dallaire and see if we could make a film together, in Rwanda.

Although part of him wanted to return, General Dallaire wasn't ready to go back. He was struggling to write his extraordinary book, he was undergoing therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder and he had to testify at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania. Part of him wasn't sure if going back made sense. What purpose would it serve? How would it affect him?

General Dallaire decided he was ready and able to return in April, 2004. It was the 10th anniversary of the genocide, the Rwandan government had invited him, and he wanted to show his wife, Elizabeth, the special people and places that had taken over his life.

I was honoured that General Dallaire decided to trust me with his story. With financing in place (CBC, Rogers Documentary Fund, Canadian Television Fund), and a talented crew (cameraman John Westheuser, sound-recorderist Ao Loo, PM Patrick Reed, interpreter Jean-Thierry Nkulikiyumukiza and stills photographer Peter Bregg) we flew to Rwanda for two exhilarating and exhausting weeks.

This film documents that extraordinary emotional journey - back to the killing fields, back to confront the devil, back to break bread with Rwandans who, like Dallaire, had managed to survive the carnage. Our documentary weaves together this return journey with a chronicle of the genocide itself. Back home in Toronto, we augmented this material with several interviews: Dallaire's two Military Assistants in Rwanda, Brent Beardsley and Phil Lancaster; writer Gerald Caplan; UN Special Envoy Stephen Lewis; CBC's Michael Enright; the General's wife Elizabeth Dallaire; and, finally an exhausting four-hour debrief with General Dallaire himself.

In the caring hands of skilled editor Michèle Hozer, a tale of horror, deceit, duplicity and ultimately heroism emerged. I found myself having to confront the nature of evil. What is it in human nature that drives people to pick up a machete, go next door, and hack their neighbour to death? What is it that turns otherwise decent men and women at the United Nations or the White House into passive bystanders as 800,000 innocent men women and children are slaughtered? Despite their denials, these people knew what was happening in Rwanda. Almost daily, General Dallaire sent urgent faxes and made desperate phone calls, pleading for reinforcements that never came and an expanded mandate that was never given.

This is the story of one man who cared, who believes we are our brother's keeper, who put his life on the line to save tens of thousands of others, who understands the value of a human life in Rwanda is equal to a human life anywhere in the world. We are proud to share this extraordinary journey with you.

**Peter Rayment**



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### REVIEWS

*"Outstanding documentary...The most powerful and moving film so far on the subject... Certainly the best new film of the week... Gripping"*  
Peter Bradshaw, THE GUARDIAN

*"If "Hotel Rwanda" and "Sometimes in April" have already put a tragic human face on a catastrophe that the American mass media barely acknowledged while it was happening, "Shake Hands with the Devil" ratifies their horrifying visions. General Dallaire's descriptions of the sights, sounds and smells of the human butchery are grimmer than anything seen in those films. An unsettling portrait of a thoughtful, resolute but profoundly shaken man."*

Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES

*"Wrenching. A solidly absorbing documentary. The film is part therapeutic personal exorcism and part passionate humanitarian indictment. Rayment's documentary uses the lingering trauma of one man as a way of opening on larger questions of global indifference and responsibility"*

Geoff Pevere, THE TORONTO STAR

*"Peter Rayment's docu "Shake Hands With the Devil" emerges as one of strongest films at the Toronto International Film Festival, returning in graphic, painstaking detail to the scene of the carnage in the company of the man who had been charged with preventing it. It is almost possible to smell the stench of rotting flesh in the country's streets"*

Scott Foundas, VARIETY



**Michèle Hozer**  
EDITOR

**John Westheuser**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

**Ao Loo**  
SOUND RECORDING

**Mark Korven**  
ORIGINAL MUSIC

**Patrick Reed**  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER  
RESEARCHER

**PETER RAYMONT**  
Filmmaker

Documentary Filmmaker, journalist and writer PETER RAYMONT has produced and directed over 100 documentary films during a 34-year career. His films have taken him to Ethiopia, Nicaragua, India, Rwanda, the High Arctic and throughout North America and Europe. He is the recipient of 35 international awards including the Canadian Genie for Best Documentary for *The World Is Watching*, (1988) a critical examination of the role and responsibility of the international media reporting from Nicaragua, and Gemini Awards for his 6-hour fly-on-the-wall series on the business of hockey, *The New Ice Age* (1998); *Arctic Dreamer: The Lonely Quest of Vilhjalmur Stefansson* (2003) and *The World Stopped Watching* (2004).

Raymont's films are often provocative investigations of "hidden worlds" in politics, the media and big business, as well as Native, social and human rights issues. His films are broadcast on numerous TV networks worldwide.

His career began at age 21 at the National Film Board of Canada in Montreal where he worked as an editor, director and produced from 1971-78. While at the NFB, Raymont also taught film and video production in the Canadian Arctic. In 1979, Raymont moved to Toronto and established his independent film and television production company, Investigative Productions now operating as White Pine Pictures. He co-partnered the company for many years with his late wife, award-winning filmmaker and author, Lindalee Tracey.

Raymont's upcoming films include *Triage: Dr. James Orbinski's Humanitarian Dilemma*, an exploration of the ambiguity of humanitarianism as experienced by Dr. James Orbinski, who volunteered as an emergency doctor in many of the world's crisis zones and was the international president of Médecins Sans Frontières; and *A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman*; an exploration of exile, memory, longing and democracy, seen through the experiences of the best-selling American-Argentinean writer and playwright. Raymont is also the Executive Producer of a new 13 episode, 1 hour, dramatic series, *The Border*, for CBC television.

