
The Production Team

Stacia Teele, actress, writer, director and “Scorpion,” is directing **Growing Up in Afghanistan** teaming up with **Wolfgang Held** as co-producer and cinematographer. Wolfgang, with his experience and reputation for excellence, is working closely with Stacia as she designs the treatment of the film and interviews the alumni and Afghan Americans. Her own experience as a child who grew up in Afghanistan gives her a unique insight into the lives of her “cast of characters.” She creates a personal and intimate look into their lives as she films the deeply moving experience of the Scorpions and Afghan Americans re-visiting the past.



Stacia Teele and Wolfgang Held

Backing up the creative team are Marnie Gustavson, Dawn Erickson and Anne Michalec Payson who are functioning as the executive producers of this documentary. As part of preparing to support the fundraising, production and distribution effort for this documentary, Marnie, Dawn, Anne and Stacia have started organizing the alumni of AISK. Calling their effort the *Advocates for Afghanistan* (ASA) they have begun a community outreach initiative to the alumni, asking them

to participate in the documentary project by fundraising and networking. A “Scorpions Remember” event is being produced in New York City in April to bring the Scorpions together to support the project. We will be filming the event. One Scorpion alumni has kicked off the fundraising effort by donating \$5,000. ASA plans on developing a solid network of support through the alumni, and the bulk of the fundraising effort will rely this network.

Marnie Gustavson, President and Owner of a training and development company, brings 15 years of non-profit experience, organizational development and fundraising expertise to the project. **Dawn Erickson**, Personnel Director for the city of Wautaga, Texas, is functioning as the project’s operations and finance director, overseeing the logistics, dispersal of money and operational planning. **Anne Michalec Payson**, experienced in fundraising from her very active role on the Board of Directors of The Center for Grieving Children in Portland, Maine, is providing community outreach and heading up the fundraising initiative with the Scorpions.

For all four women, this project is a highly personal expression of their commitment to the future of the country they called “home” and they are bringing their professional talents to the table to insure that the project is produced and distributed. The Scorpion community can be accessed by two websites: www.aisk.org and www.advocatesforafghanistan.com (*Please see attached resumes*).