

# MAD AS HELL

a film by Andrew Napier



## Press Kit

[www.MadAsHellFilm.com](http://www.MadAsHellFilm.com)



## SYNOPSIS:

The Young Turks, one of the most popular online news shows in the world, has amassed a YouTube network of millions of subscribers and billions of views. But that wasn't always the case.

MAD AS HELL documents the tumultuous, at times hilarious and altogether astonishing trajectory of Cenk Uygur, The Young Turks' main host and founder, as he traverses from unknown Public Access TV host to internet sensation by way of YouTube. When he ventures into national television by landing the 6 PM timeslot on MSNBC, Cenk's uncensored brand of journalism is compromised as he becomes a thorn in the side of traditional news media; his unwavering dedication to speaking the truth puts him at the very nexus of the battle between new and old media.



## LINKS:

[MadAsHellFilm.com](http://MadAsHellFilm.com)

[!\[\]\(de95854c7ee024cfadc48187bbb781b2\_img.jpg\) Facebook Page](#)

[!\[\]\(3211b5d1d968fc1665909b34f9f16010\_img.jpg\) Twitter](#)



## THE MAKING OF MAD AS HELL

I'm originally from Wisconsin and filmmaking has always been my main passion. In 2008, I was attending UW-Madison but wasn't feeling very fulfilled in what I wanted to achieve film-wise. I left school, packed up my car and drove to Los Angeles. Once there, I had to accomplish two things: make a living to be able to stay in LA, and find a way to get back in my parents' good graces after dropping out of college.

My dad and brother were both big fans of an online news show called "The Young Turks" featuring this bombastic host named Cenk Uygur. When I found out the show was based in LA, I sought out an internship with TYT, and was eventually hired full-time. However, I was out in LA to make movies, not necessarily to work at an internet news show. But Cenk was such a compelling and larger than life character that at the end of my first week there I asked him what he would think about me making a documentary on him and TYT. Cenk exclaimed, "I've always wanted a documentary about me!" giving his approval for me to start filming on my own as long as it didn't interfere with my work.

I was filming constantly but did not know how the documentary would be shaped. Some of the people working at TYT thought nothing would ever come of it. First it became a running joke in the office, and then people forgot I was even working on it. For me, things became more compelling as TYT continued to grow on YouTube and gain its large fan base, but it wasn't until Cenk got pulled from the 6pm timeslot at MSNBC that I knew had a film on my hands.

In 2013, a short film I produced called CURFEW won the Academy Award for Best Short Film, Live Action, which was an incredible experience. Inspired, I left my employment with The Young Turks to make filmmaking my full-time job, working on many feature films in various roles. But even after leaving TYT I kept coming back to film MAD AS HELL as the story was still unfolding.

It was important to me to maintain creative of the film after I left the company. I wanted to portray Cenk, TYT, and the story the way I saw and experienced it, no strings attached. Maybe because TYT never thought the film would be finished, or maybe because that is just their style, I received both final cut and business control of the documentary. I was happy that I could make the film my way, but needed support to finish it. After raising financing from both an Indiegogo campaign and private investors, I was able to complete the film in 2014, making it a five year total endeavor. Cenk cringes at some moments in the documentary, but he understands the importance of being able to say what you want, your way; and after all, that is what his story and this film is all about.

*~ Andrew Napier*



## ABOUT THE FILMMAKER:



ANDREW NAPIER

Andrew Napier was born and raised in Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin - Madison. In 2009, after working on Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds" in Berlin, Germany, he moved to Los Angeles. Andrew was a producer of the 2013 Academy Award®-winning short film "Curfew," and later edited its feature adaptation "Before I Disappear" (SXSW 2014 Audience Award Winner). His screenplay for "Dogtooth," a remake of the Academy Award®-nominated Greek foreign film, is currently in development at Mandalay Pictures. Andrew directed the feature documentary "Mad As Hell" (Hot Docs 2014 Conscious Media Award Winner), which follows Cenk Uygur, who's online news show "The Young Turks" has amassed over two billion views on YouTube. He also directed the narrative short "Grandma's Not A Toaster" (Tribeca 2013) and the feature documentary "Mary and Bill" (Wisconsin Film Festival 2011 Best Documentary). Andrew produced and edited the documentaries "The Past is a Grotesque Animal" (2014), about the band "of Montreal," released by Oscilloscope Laboratories, and "Bounce: How the Ball Taught the World to Play." Andrew co-produced the romantic comedy "Lust For Love" (2014), starring Fran Kranz and Dichen Lachman. He served as an executive producer for the documentary "The Culture High," and the dark comedies "The Lord of Catan" starring Amy Acker, and "Limbo" starring H. Jon Benjamin.

## ABOUT THE YOUNG TURKS:



CENK UYGUR

Cenk Uygur is the host and founder of "The Young Turks," an online news show covering politics, pop culture and lifestyle that has become one of the top YouTube partners with more than 75 million views per month. Cenk is a former host of "The Young Turks on Current TV" and "MSNBC Live" and has appeared numerous times on CNN, CNN Headline News, E! Entertainment Channel, Al Jazeera, ABC News, Voice of America, NPR and Fox News Channel. He is one of the most popular bloggers on The Huffington Post, and also a contributor to Daily Kos and Politico. Uygur is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business and Columbia University Law School. He worked as a lawyer, television writer and television host before founding "The Young Turks."





## CREDITS:

**Directed & Produced by:** Andrew Napier  
**Producers:** Eric Ekman, Hal Duncan  
**Editors:** Andrew Napier, Eric Ekman  
**Cinematography:** Andrew Napier, Daniel Katz  
**Original Music:** Ronen Landa  
**Post-Production Supervisor & Colorist:** Chris Ramey  
**Sound Designer:** Gene Park  
**Executive Producers:** Jerome Thelia, Vijay Vaidyanathan, Shawn Christensen, Sanjeev Dhanda, Stephen Garcia, Petr Kral, Bryan Newton  
**Co-Executive Producers:** Joe Patane, Bora Shaman  
**Co-Producers:** Brenden "Bear" Hubbard, Tom Kleewein, Preston Parish  
**Associate Producers:** Janick Bernet, Sandra P. Thompson, Jock Thompson, Ken Hayes, Jeffery Jones  
**Consulting Producers:** Anton King, Chris McCoy  
**Additional Cinematography:** Rachel Morrison, Eric Ekman, Jason Miller  
**Visual Effects:** Eric Ekman  
**Graphic Design & Photo Retouching:** Amanda Tannen  
**Editorial Consultant:** Alex Jablonski  
**Post-Production Assistants:** Brittany Ross, Edwin Umana  
**Assistant Sound Editor:** Senem Pirlar  
**Music Consultants:** Michael Jurin, Amanda Tannen  
**Music Supervisor:** Brienne Rose  
**Clearance Counsel:** Lisa A. Callif, Donaldson + Callif, LLP  
**Additional Legal Services:** Sandra P. Thompson, Attorney at Law  
**Research Assistant:** Brittany Ross

## Featuring: (in alphabetical order)

Wes Clark Jr.  
Jesus Godoy  
Al Gore  
Tom Hanc  
Jayar Jackson  
Ana Kasparian  
Dave Koller  
Wendy Lang  
Lawrence Lewitinn  
Ben Mankiewicz  
Steve Oh  
Jill Pike  
Sedef Piker  
Dylan Ratigan  
Mark Register  
Michael Shure  
Greg Swaluk  
Kenan Turnacioglu  
Brian Unger  
Prometheus Maximus Uygur  
Cenk Uygur  
Dogan Uygur



## CONTACTS:

### For Press Inquiries:

Liz Lagno - Digital Release  
Oscilloscope Laboratories  
212-219-4029 ext. 41  
[liz@oscilloscope.net](mailto:liz@oscilloscope.net)

Amy Grey - LA Theatrical  
Dish Communications  
818-508-1000  
[amyg@dishcommunications.com](mailto:amyg@dishcommunications.com)

Kory Mello - NY Theatrical  
Obscured Pictures  
212-620-0727  
[kory@obscuredpictures.com](mailto:kory@obscuredpictures.com)

### Print Source & Film Festivals:

Brenden Hubbard  
215-681-3007  
[brenden@curfewfilm.com](mailto:brenden@curfewfilm.com)

### Director's Representation:

THE GOTHAM GROUP  
Ellen Goldsmith Vein  
Lindsay Williams  
Nate Matteson  
310-285-0001  
[nate@gotham-group.com](mailto:nate@gotham-group.com)

### Screening Info, Requests & All Other Inquiries:

[madashellfilm@gmail.com](mailto:madashellfilm@gmail.com)