

# Documentary filmed partially in Fairfield to play Sunday

By **ANDY HALLMAN**  
Ledger news editor

A documentary that was filmed partially in Fairfield will make its Iowa debut at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Steven Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts.

The film, "Rooted in Peace," is a product of Greg Reitman, founder of Blue Water Entertainment, Inc. In a press release, Reitman said the film challenges viewers to examine their values as Americans and human beings.

"Today we are at war within ourselves, with our environment, and with the world," reads the press release. "Director and award-winning filmmaker Greg Reitman invites viewers on a film journey to take notice of the world we live in, proactively seek ways to find personal and ecological peace, and stop the cycle of violence."

Reitman interviewed numerous celebrities for the film such as author Deepak Chopra, film director David Lynch, musicians Donovan, Mike Love and Pete Seeger, media mogul Ted Turner, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and more.

He also interviewed Fred Travis, professor of Maharishi Vedic

Science at Maharishi University of Management.

The press release states that Reitman learned kernels of wisdom from all those he interviewed.

"Reitman's journey is an example of transformation — how one person can learn to make the necessary changes to enjoy a better life — and in so doing inspire others to want to improve their own lives, and society as a whole," reads the press release.

Reitman said he became interested in documentaries while studying abroad in Florence, Italy, where he took a class on Italian cinema. He would go on to produce the 2008 SUNDANCE Audience Award-winning feature documentary "FUEL."

After that, he started thinking about doing a film about all the violence in the world. An experience at JFK Airport in New York City opened his eyes to a whole new world.

"I almost got arrested for not giving up a bottle of water," he said. "I was seeing racial profiling going on. It made me start thinking about our rights, and about what fear can do. It mirrored a world that I had lived in at age 19, when I was living in Israel during the first Gulf War."

Reitman got in touch with Ken Chawkin, who was then the public relations officer at MUM. Chawkin encouraged him to visit Fairfield, and mentioned that the Beach Boys were going to be in town for a concert. Reitman's wife is from Iowa, so the two decided to attend the concert.

Reitman came back a second time with Donovan for the David Lynch Film Weekend. During his second trip to Fairfield, he interviewed Donovan, David Lynch and Bob Roth.

After the film, Reitman will hold a question-and-answer session with the audience.

One of the common questions Reitman has received in his other Q and As is, "Why did the film take so long to make?" The film took five years in all, which Reitman said is not too far out of the ordinary for documentaries.

"The reason it took me so long was that I had to find peace first," he said. "When I talked to Ken, he said, 'Greg, you're not going to understand peace until you come to Fairfield.'"

Reitman said he greatly enjoyed

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG REITMAN

During his visit to Fairfield, film producer Greg Reitman planted a tree with MUM students outside the university's library. Reitman is the man in the center with the necklace. The man to the right is the singer Donovan, whom Reitman interviewed for his film "Rooted in Peace," which will be shown at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Steven Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts.



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his time in Fairfield. It reminded him of another small town he filmed in, Carbondale, Colorado, with a population of just over 6,000. Part of the film is autobiographical, where Reitman shares his person story of living in Israel and vis-

iting Hiroshima, Japan. That said, he feels it's more an inspirational film than a dry, descriptive documentary. "It's one man's quest to seek inner peace and coming upon the roadblocks that lead him to enlight-

enment," he said. "It's about him having to unlock each of those pearls of wisdom, to understand the concept of a healthy heart and a healthy body. Then you can understand what a healthy world looks like."

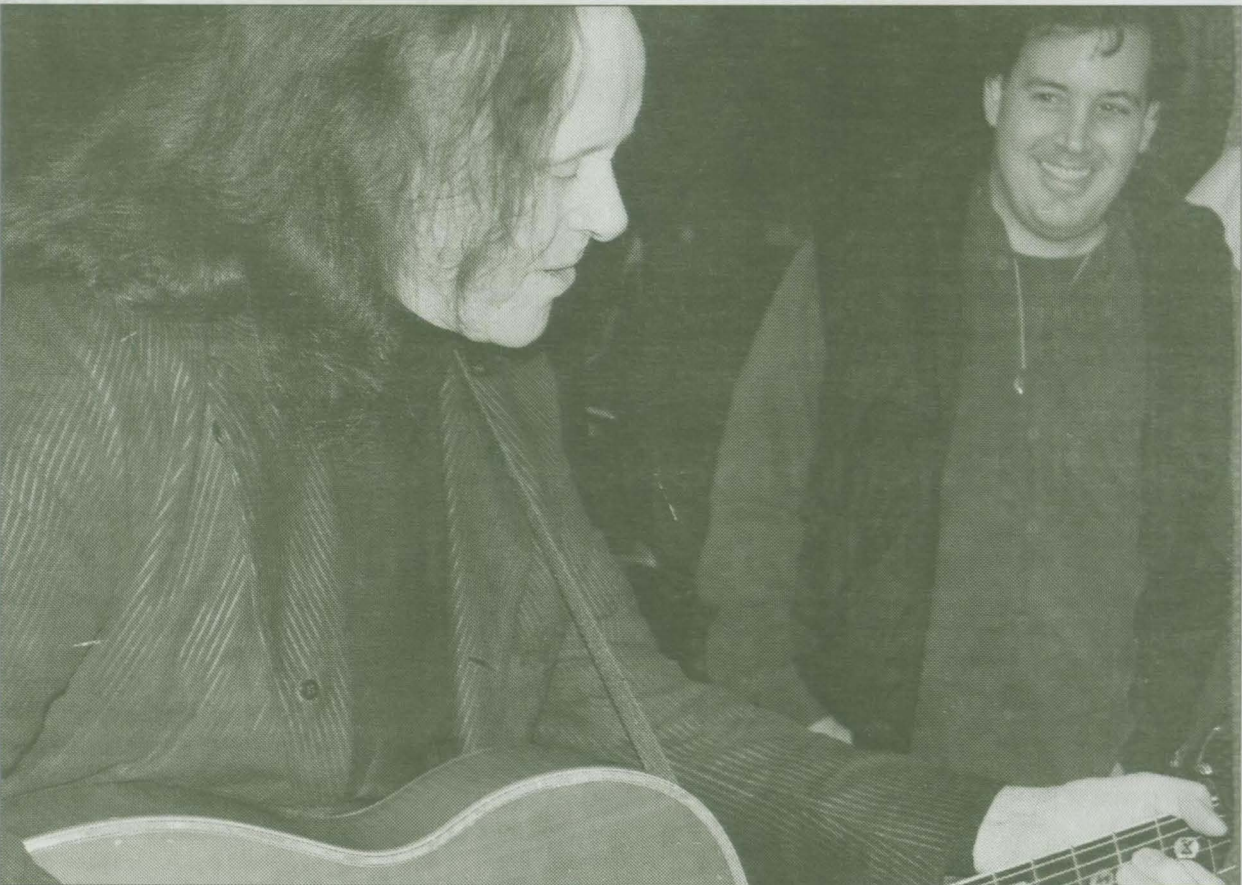


PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG REITMAN

Donovan plays a tune on his guitar while Greg Reitman listens.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG REITMAN

Mike Love of The Beach Boys performs in Fairfield in 2009. Greg Reitman interviewed Mike Love for his documentary "Rooted in Peace," which will be shown at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center.