



## Ben Achtenberg

*Brief Resume – Spring, 2008*

Ben Achtenberg is a film and video producer whose many honors include an Academy Award nomination for the groundbreaking documentary **Code Gray: Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing**, as well as seven CINE Golden Eagles, a first-place “Freddie” award from the National Health and Medical Film Competition, and awards from the San Francisco International Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, and many others. He is the owner of **Fanlight Productions**, a nationally-respected film and video distributor specializing in programs on healthcare, mental health, disabilities, aging, family, gender, and workplace issues.

Achtenberg is also the Director of **The Refuge Media Project**, which is producing a video documentary dealing with the experiences of immigrant torture survivors as they learn to cope with life in the United States and, in particular, with the American medical and social service systems. His most recently completed film, **Everyday Choices**, focuses on the ethical dilemmas faced by homecare nurses dealing with elderly patients. It was the Documentary Video Winner in the Key West IndieFest, and a finalist in the National Health & Medical Film Competition. His prior productions, **Caring at the End of Life**, **Stanley** and **Discussing Advance Directives**, completed a series of four films on the hospital care of dying patients, produced for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. **Caring at the End of Life** has received the CINE Golden Eagle, a Silver Award from the Houston International Film Festival, and honors from the American Academy of Nursing, the American Medical Writers Association, and the Columbus International Film & Video Festival. The first film in the series, **The Support Project: To Improve Care at the End of Life**, received an award in Bioethics at the International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society.

**Not on the Sidelines**, which dealt with the impact of spinal cord injury on four athletes, was a Gold Medal winner in the National Health Information Awards. Achtenberg received his second New England Regional Film/Video Fellowship, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, in support of this project. Among Achtenberg’s other independent works, **Healthcare for the Homeless: You Can Never Give Up**, received a Special Jury Award from the New York Expo of Short Film and Video and honors from the American Medical Writers Association and *American Journal of Nursing* Media Awards. **No Time to Waste** (co-produced with Ann Carol Grossman) received awards from the Health Sciences Communications Association and the American Medical Association’s International Health and Medical Film Competition.

Achtenberg was cited as one of the “Top 100 Producers of 1997” by the magazine *AV Video & Multimedia Producer*. He is a Director of the Carmenta Foundation for Health Education, Inc., a non-profit organization created to produce and sponsor media projects on health issues, and serves as Treasurer and Program Committee member of the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health & Human Rights. He founded and chaired the Boston Independent Film Distributors Group, and was a founder and Executive Committee Member of the Independent Media Distributors Alliance.