



TROUBLESOME CREEK

A M I D W E S T E R N

1995

84 min.

Color: 16 or 35 mm, all video formats

English

**A film by Jeanne Jordan and
Steve Ascher
(West City Films)**

**Festivals & Awards
Academy Award, 1996**

Nominee – Best Feature Documentary

**Sundance Film Festival, 1996
Grand Jury Prize & Audience Award**

**San Francisco International Film
Festival, 1996
Audience Award**

**Sydney International Film
Festival, 1996
Audience Award**

**Prix Italia for Television, 1996
Special Prize, Documentary**

The film uses Jordan's own family as a microcosm to reveal what is happening today to family farms around the world. As well as being an intimate portrait of a warm, funny and courageous group of people, Troublesome Creek exposes the dilemmas encountered every day by farmers desperately trying to hang onto their way of life and their heritage in the face of obstacles not unlike those faced by the pioneers of the Old West.

Says Jordan, "I was raised on Westerns. Red River, High Noon, Gunsmoke – where the bad guys sometimes won, but never prevailed. Our film is a Midwestern. It's the story of my family's farm in Iowa, settled by my great-grandfather in a covered wagon in 1867. From his fighting off the Crooked Creek Gang in the 1880's to my father fighting off foreclosure by the bank in the 1990's. It looks like the bad guys are winning, but will they prevail? Troublesome Creek speaks to the universal problem of the fate of rural communities. It's a cliffhanger about history, loss and the humour and deep character that settled America, and now presides at its unsettling."

Produced in association with BBC "Fine Cut" and PBS "The American Experience"

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