Originally released in 2007 as a non-commercial performance work - only later to evolve into an unprecedented internet sensation - Zeitgeist: The Movie is aesthetically driven documentary film divided into three sections - each a commentary on what the director calls angles of “Social Mythology”.

Zeitgeist: The Movie reached critical acclaim after being likely the most watched internet documentary of all time in 2007, long before feature length film releases became commonplace online. Within the first year, the work achieved over 100 Million downloads, sparking large scale reactions from the media and film community.

In late 2007, without submission, the film was pickup up and featured at the Artivist Film Festival in Los Angeles California and given their highest award. In September 2008, it received a Special Acknowledgment Award at Rutger Hauer’s ICFILMS Film Festival in Milan, Italy, also without submission.

As of 2011, it has been screened in over 130 countries and in over 40 languages with no more than a “word or mouth” distribution model.
SYNOPSIS:

Zeitgeist: The Movie (2007) is a treatment on Mythology and Belief in society today, presenting uncommon perspectives of common cultural issues.

Chapter 1, “The Greatest Story Ever Told”, presents historical data relating to the astronomical/astrological origins of the Judeo-Christian theology (which can be extended to Islam as well), along with the understanding that these respective stories, beliefs & traditions are really an adaptation-extension of prior Pagan beliefs.

Chapter 2, “All the World’s a Stage”, presents a controversial view of the events of Sept. 11th 2001. It describes how the event has been transformed into a sacred, near religious act and to challenge the orthodox view, regardless of the quality of the contrary arguments, is considered blasphemy and rejected.

Chapter 3, “Don’t Mind the Men Behind The Curtain “, presents a shotgun tour through the subjects of Central Banking, War Pretexts, Banking Panics, the Military Industrial Complex, Media Culture and ultimately the mental neurosis and deadly addiction known as “Power.” The central theme is how society is often misled when it comes to certain pivotal historical events, what those events serve in function, along with how the overall social conditioning patterns we see today function to create values and perspectives which support and perpetuate the static, established order/power structure, as opposed to fluid social change and productive evolution for the betterment of the society as a whole.

RELEASE:

The original Zeitgeist was actually not a “film”, but a performance piece, which consisted of a vaudevillian style multi-media event using recorded music, live instruments and video. The event was given over a 6-night period in New York City and then, without any interest to professionally release or produce the work, was “tossed” up on the Internet arbitrarily.

The work was never designed as a film or even a documentary in a traditional sense - it was designed as a creative, provoking, emotionally driven expression, full of artistic extremity and heavily stylized gestures. However, once online, an unexpected flood of interest began to generate. Within 6 months over 50 Million views were recorded on Google Video counters. Suddenly “Zeitgeist” the event, became “Zeitgeist: The Movie”.

DIRECTOR:

The director, producer, writer, cinematographer, composer, editor and narrator of the work, Peter Joseph, was inadvertently brought into recognition within the documentary film community with his award winning, controversial, 2007 work “Zeitgeist: The Movie” and has since produce 2 sequels.

Peter continues to focus on media related expressions, including music composition, performance & film production, each with the focus on affecting society for the better. He has also lectured around the world on the topics of social sustainability and filmmaking and has been featured in the New York Times, Russia Today, TedX, CineFuturo and many other outlets. His film series have earned dozen of awards and have been screened in virtually every country and in over 40 languages.

For more about The Zeitgeist Film Series and its history:
www.zeitgeistmovie.com