

**PRESS RELEASE**

**\*\*\*\*For Immediate Release**

**March 14, 2011**

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**DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT FAMOUS MATHEMATICIAN COINCIDES WITH LANDMARK BOOK'S 50 YEAR RE-RELEASE**

**WHERE: Anthology Film Archives**

**32 2nd Avenue@2nd Street, NYC, NY**

**WHEN: April 5, 2011 at 7:15p.m.**

The Princeton University Press celebrates the 2011 release of the seminal 1957 book 'Dynamic Programming' to be added to the canon of Math Books, at the same time the documentary film "The Bellman Equation" chronicles the same mathematician- Richard Bellman. A 13 year odyssey was undertaken by ex-MTV producer and grandson to Bellman, Gabriel Leif Bellman, to solve the many mysteries surrounding Bellman's life and death. From his invention of arguably the most important branch of mathematics in history, to his work on the Manhattan project and his pioneering of artificial intelligence, Bellman was persecuted by McCarthy, named as a spy by the Rosenbergs, and met an untimely fate. He remains an enigmatic figure to all who knew him and his impact on modern life is as impossible to ignore as his family's struggle to solve him.

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**CRITICAL RESPONSE:**

***"The Bellman Equation is an artful illumination into not only one of the greatest mathematical minds of our time; it is an exploration of familial legacy,—the enormous anxiety of influence as Harold Bloom so aptly named it—passed from one generation to the next. Gabriel Bellman's deftly handled documentary becomes a pathway to understanding the grandfather he only dimly knew, an active real time exploration of his father's relationship to his family history, and in the end is about the power of family—of secrets, stories never told and the complex forces that shaped modern American history."***

- ***A.M. Homes***, Guggenheim Award winning writer for the *New Yorker*, *Harper's*, and *McSweeney's*. *Writer/ producer of Showtime's "The L Word"*, *NEA Fellow*, and author of numerous books including *"This Book Will Save Your Life."*

***"A critical and fascinating look at being a world class genius and the devastating family heartbreak it can bring."***

-***Rosadel Varela***, producer of Critics Choice Award Winning documentary *"Control Room,"* producer for *Pangea Day*, *MTV* producer.



<http://www.bellmanequation.com/>

## The Players



**About the Subject:** [Richard Bellman](#)

One of the most influential mathematicians of the 20th century, Mr. Bellman was a pioneer in the field of computer science. Bellman's work changed the perception of the application of mathematics within science. The term 'Bellman Equation' is a type of problem named after its discoverer, in which a problem that would otherwise be not possible to solve is broken into a solution based on the intuitive nature of the solver. Applied in control theory, economics, and medicine, it has become an important tool in using math to solve really difficult problems. A fiercely independent and controversial figure, Mr. Bellman published more than 40 books and 600 papers before his early death of a brain tumor. The inventor of the field of dynamic programming was persecuted by McCarthy, worked on the Manhattan project, and remained as much a mystery as the problems he conquered.



**About the Filmmaker:** [Gabriel Leif Bellman](#)

As a television Producer, Gabriel Bellman helped start the 'True Life' series at MTV, from 1997-2000. Helped produce the Emmy award winning 'Fight for the Rights' series about youth gun violence. He is the cofounder and director of the San Francisco Frozen Film Festival, and was a featured speaker at the 2009 International Film Festival Summit in Las Vegas on the future of narrative film and media. This is Mr. Bellman's second feature documentary. His last feature film "Duffy's Irish Circus" was distributed by Cinequest in 2005. Awarded a Bachelor's from USC's Film School ('95) a Master's from New York University ('99), and a law degree from U. C. Hastings ('05), he has been a high-school teacher; MTV producer; umbrella salesman; restaurant host; dishwasher; lumber feeder; assembly liner; slam poet; warehouse stacker; magazine correspondent; opera composer at Juilliard, groundskeeper; and 'Playboy' assistant. He has worked construction (Mexico); lived abroad (Spain, Ireland); and devoted extensive time to traveling (Europe, North Africa, the United States, Middle East, and Caribbean). He has traveled with the circus in Ireland and worked with female prisoners in California.



**About the Original Music:** [Kenji Bunch](http://www.kenjibunch.com)

Kenji Bunch has emerged as one of the most prominent, prolific, and versatile American composers of his generation, with a unique blend of wit, exuberance, lyricism, unpredictable stylistic infusions, and expert craftsmanship that has brought acclaim from audiences, performers, and critics alike. Mr. Bunch's symphonic music has been performed by over forty orchestras, and his genre-defying chamber works have been performed in premiere venues on six continents. His music is regularly broadcast on radio stations worldwide, and has been recorded on numerous labels, including Sony Classical, EMI, and RCA. Mr. Bunch maintains an active career as a violist, and is widely recognized for performing his own groundbreaking works for viola. A versatile musician with a deep interest in American musical traditions and improvisation, he plays bluegrass fiddle, sings, and is a frequent guest performer, recording artist, and arranger with many prominent rock, jazz, folk, and experimental artists. A native of Portland, Oregon, Mr. Bunch graduated from the Juilliard School with degrees in both viola and composition, and currently lives in Brooklyn, NY. For more information, please visit [www.kenjibunch.com](http://www.kenjibunch.com).

**[ (the) BELLMAN equation ]**

Mathematical formulas and graphs are visible in the top right corner of the poster.

Film release date Spring 2011

Written, Produced, and Directed by Gabriel Leif Bellman

Edited by Wesley Cabral

Music by Kenji Bunch

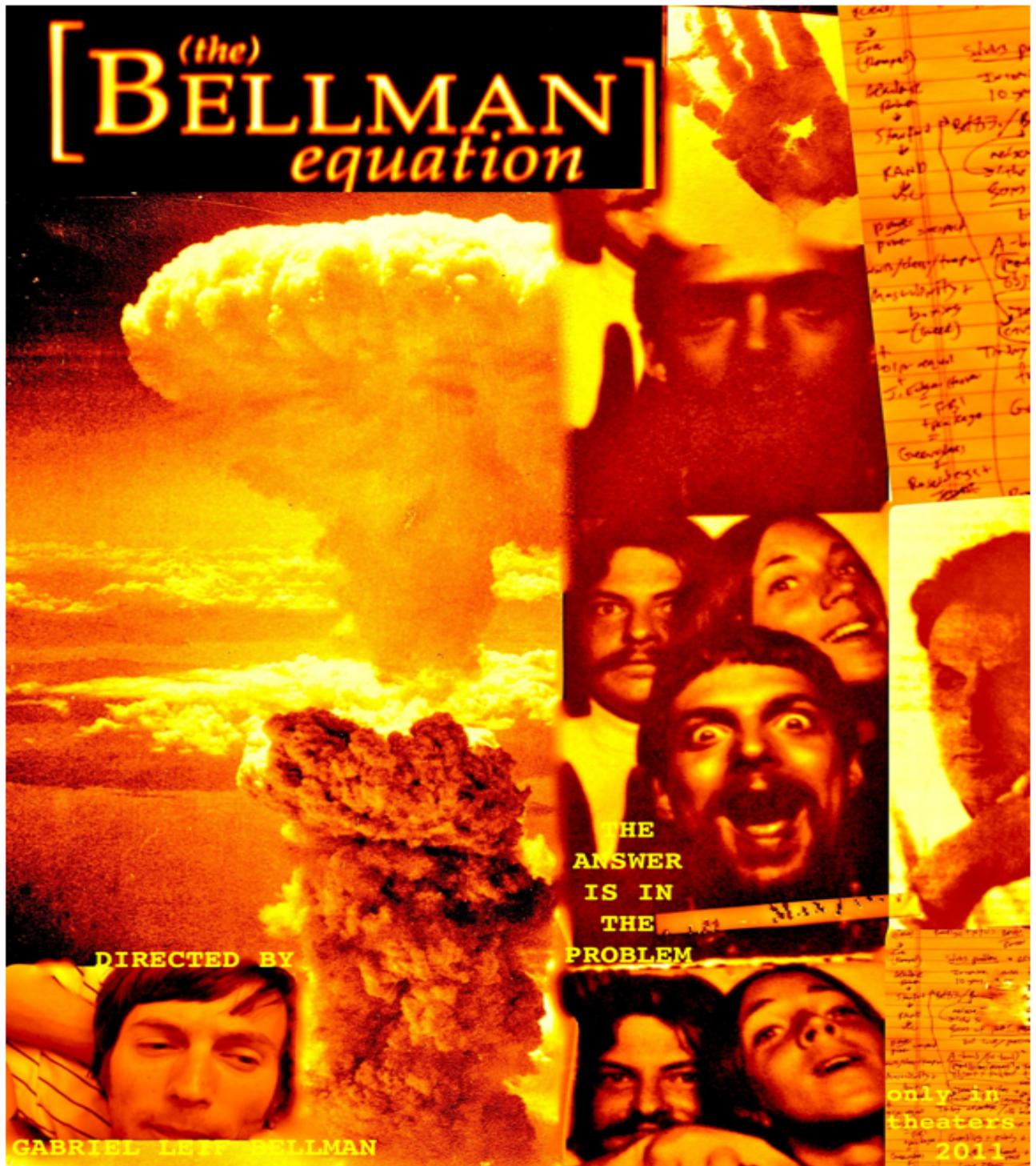
Title Graphics by by Joe Macken

**Featuring:**

- John Nash
- Eric Bellman
- Kirstie Bellman
- Gabriel Bellman
- Molly Bellman
- Pat McCombs
- Teddy McCombs
- Charles Goldstein
- Thelma Estrin
- Betty-Jo Ballard
- Nina Day
- Stuart Dreyfuss
- Chris Landauer
- Joan Spangler
- Ed Angel

The poster also includes a collage of images on the left and a 'CLEARANCE CANCELLED' stamp on the right.

Poster



"The Bellman Equation"  
[www.bellmanequation.com](http://www.bellmanequation.com)  
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