

**TRIAGE: DR. JAMES ORBINSKI'S
HUMANITARIAN DILEMMA ★★★★★**

Directed by Patrick Reed. (STC) 88 min.
Release date moved to Nov 7. See full
review online at eyeweekly.com/film.

A first-hand witness to some of the worst horrors in recent human history, Dr. James Orbinski admits that he feels “nearly uncontrollable rage” at the people who allowed it all to happen, whether the perpetrators were Somalian warlords, Hutu hate-mongers or indifferent politicians in the west. The question, as he puts it at the onset of this NFB documentary portrait, is what do you do with that feeling?

Patrick Reed’s thoughtful film about Orbinski — the Toronto-based former president of Médecins Sans Frontières and a veteran of the group’s interventions in Africa and the Balkans in the ’90s — is defined as much by its anger as its sadness. Seen here on return visits to Somalia and Rwanda as he rekindles painful memories in preparation of a forthcoming memoir, Orbinski is unfailingly articulate on the needs and demands of humanitarianism. As painful a viewing experience as *Triage* may often be, the viewer is left feeling thankful that Orbinski was fuelled by that rage and not consumed by it. JA