

# New documentary hunts for Osama, sort of

**D**ocumentary maker Morgan Spurlock chowed down on McDonald's hamburgers for "Supersize Me," his hilariously gross exposé of fast-food chains, and turned to cable TV for his regular FX series "30 Days" (which begins its third season June 3). Now, with "Where in the World Is Osama Bin Laden?" opening Friday, Spurlock uses his amiable, regular-guy perspective to take a look at the most wanted man in the world.

Nominally done to make the world safer for the unborn child his wife, Alex, was carrying, the film has Spurlock traveling to hot zones throughout the region — Afghanistan, Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia — talking to people about their lives, their hopes for the future, what they think of America and, oh, yeah, do they know where Osama Bin Laden is?

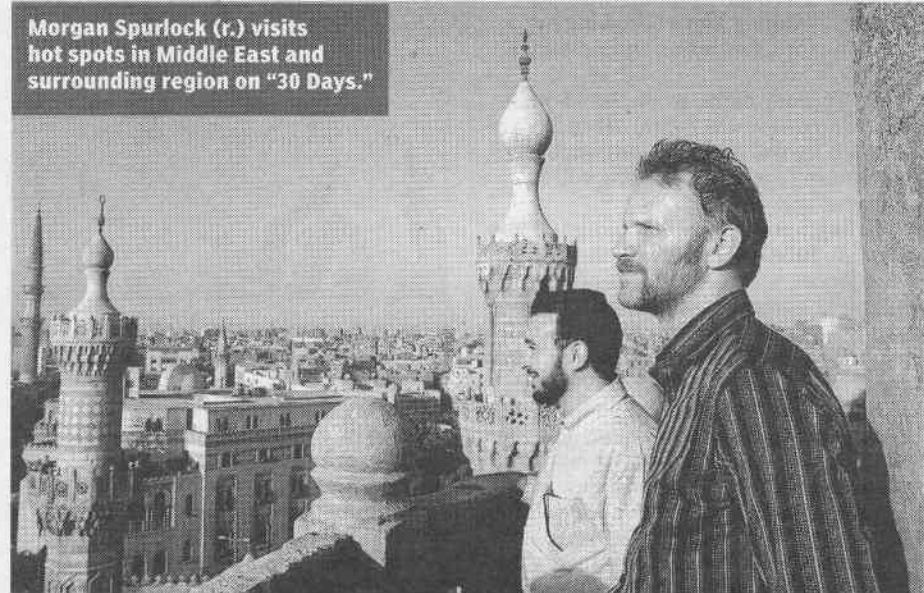
**Despite some cold stares, most people giggled or laughed when you asked them where Osama Bin Laden was. And, of course, the film is framed as a video-game showdown with you hunting him down, calling out "Osama" when you're in Tora Bora at a cave near his last known location, and even showing a cartoon version of Bin Laden dancing to MC Hammer.**

If you can make somebody laugh, then you can make somebody listen. It opens the door to a dialogue. You don't feel like you're being beat over the head or being told what to do.

**Where were you most scared? In Afghanistan, when the soldiers guarding you suddenly said, "Let's go!" and hustled you out of there? Or in Israel, when the Orthodox Jews starting yelling at you and calling you filth?**

Afghanistan. [The encounter in Israel] just took us by surprise more than anything else. It was not nearly as frightening as when we were in Afghanistan. Here you are out with the military. These guys are protecting us and making sure that we were safe, but at the same time these guys are targets.

Morgan Spurlock (r.) visits hot spots in Middle East and surrounding region on "30 Days."



**I suppose the most basic goal of the movie is to make people laugh and say, "Oh, I didn't realize they don't all hate us."**

There was a kid who saw the film who was about 19 or 20 years old, who came up to me and said, "I've been thinking about going overseas

and traveling abroad, and now after seeing this movie, I'm going to get a passport as soon as I get home." For me, if it makes somebody say, "I'm going to go find out for myself and see what's out there," great.

Michael Giltz