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The Mathematical Association of America  
presents

# HARD PROBLEMS

## The Road to the World's Toughest Math Contest

A documentary film by  
George Paul Csicsery



The story of the extraordinarily gifted students who represented the United States in 2006 at the International Mathematical Olympiad

*Hard Problems* is the story of the six American high school students who competed with 500 others from 90 countries in Ljubljana, Slovenia, at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO). The film shows the dedication and perseverance of these remarkably talented students, the rigorous preparation they undertake, and the joy they get out of solving challenging problems. It captures the spirit that infuses the mathematical quest at the highest level.

Although American students on the whole rank well behind many countries in mathematics, American math Olympiad teams regularly finish among the top three. While aiming to inspire and entertain, *Hard Problems* provides an insightful and thoughtful look at the process that produces successful teams, and ultimately, the great mathematicians of the future.

Funding for *Hard Problems* was provided by a grant from The Penn Oberlander Family Foundation and Ellington Management Group, L.L.C. The film was produced by The Mathematical Association of America in association with Zala Films and was directed by George Paul Csicsery.

[www.hardproblemsmovie.com](http://www.hardproblemsmovie.com)  
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Produced and directed GEORGE CSICSERY Cinematography SKIP SWEENEY and ANDRÁS TÓTH-SZÖLLÖS  
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