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DOCUMENTARY EXPLORES THE CREATION OF THE SHADOW LINES MEMORIAL AT MARTYRS PARK

[DALLAS, TX] – [September 4, 2024] – A groundbreaking new documentary, *On Hallowed Ground: The Story of Martyrs Park*, delves into the painful history of racial terror lynchings in Texas, exploring its profound impact on individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole. Through powerful storytelling, evocative imagery, and insightful interviews, the film examines not only the historical context and devastating consequences of how Martyrs Park came to exist but also its emerging legacy for healing in contemporary society.

Commissioned by the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, "*On Hallowed Ground: The Story of Martyrs Park*" features compelling interviews with luminaries such as Rev. Dr. Sheron Patterson, a respected United Methodist Church leader and advocate for social justice; Norman Lee, a renowned artist whose work explores themes of memory, trauma, and resilience; and Ed Gray, an Executive Board member with Remembering Black Dallas and founder of the Dallas Justice Initiative, whose deep knowledge of Dallas's complex past provides crucial historical context.

Martyrs Park, located just yards from the infamous 'grassy knoll' in downtown Dallas, has a harrowing history. The space, now beautiful and tranquil, was once the site of numerous atrocities committed against Black residents, including documented

lynchings. Among the known victims was Jane Elkins, the first woman executed in Texas, and countless others who were guilty of no crime. Their stories, and the stories of the places where men and women were unjustly killed, underscore the profound need for remembrance, reconciliation, and justice.

"On Hallowed Ground" takes viewers on a journey revealing the hidden stories and enduring scars embedded in the very soil. By focusing on the power of place and the importance of memorialization, particularly through the creation of the Shadow Lines Memorial at Martyrs Park, the film offers a unique and profound perspective on the ongoing struggle for healing and reconciliation.

"This film is a vital exploration of a dark chapter in American history," said Lindell Singleton, the filmmaker behind On Hallowed Ground. "In this complex world in which we live, there is a need for spaces where we can heal, reflect and heighten our humanity. As Norman Lee said, Shadow Lines is about reclaiming the space where atrocities occurred and moving us all toward understanding – and a commitment to a more equitable future through reconciliation."

"There is a convergence of history that occurs in Martyrs Park. I'm proud of how the city and the community collaborated to bring Shadow Lines into being. And, we must never forget the legacy and vision of the late Dr. George Keaton who brought both the vision and energy that sustained us all," said Lynn Rushton.

"On Hallowed Ground: The Story of Martyrs Park" will be available this fall.

[About the Filmmakers](#)

Lynn Rushton oversees public art in the City and committed to power of storytellingLindell Singleton is the director of Rising: The Hall of Negro Life, which presents the story of the 1936 Texas Centennial and how it sparked the Civil Rights movement.