

THE INQUISITOR

DIRECTED BY ANGELA TUCKER
PRODUCED BY TREVITE WILLIS AND
MOIRA GRIFFIN

"Today I am an Inquisitor. I shall not sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution."

- Barbara Jordan



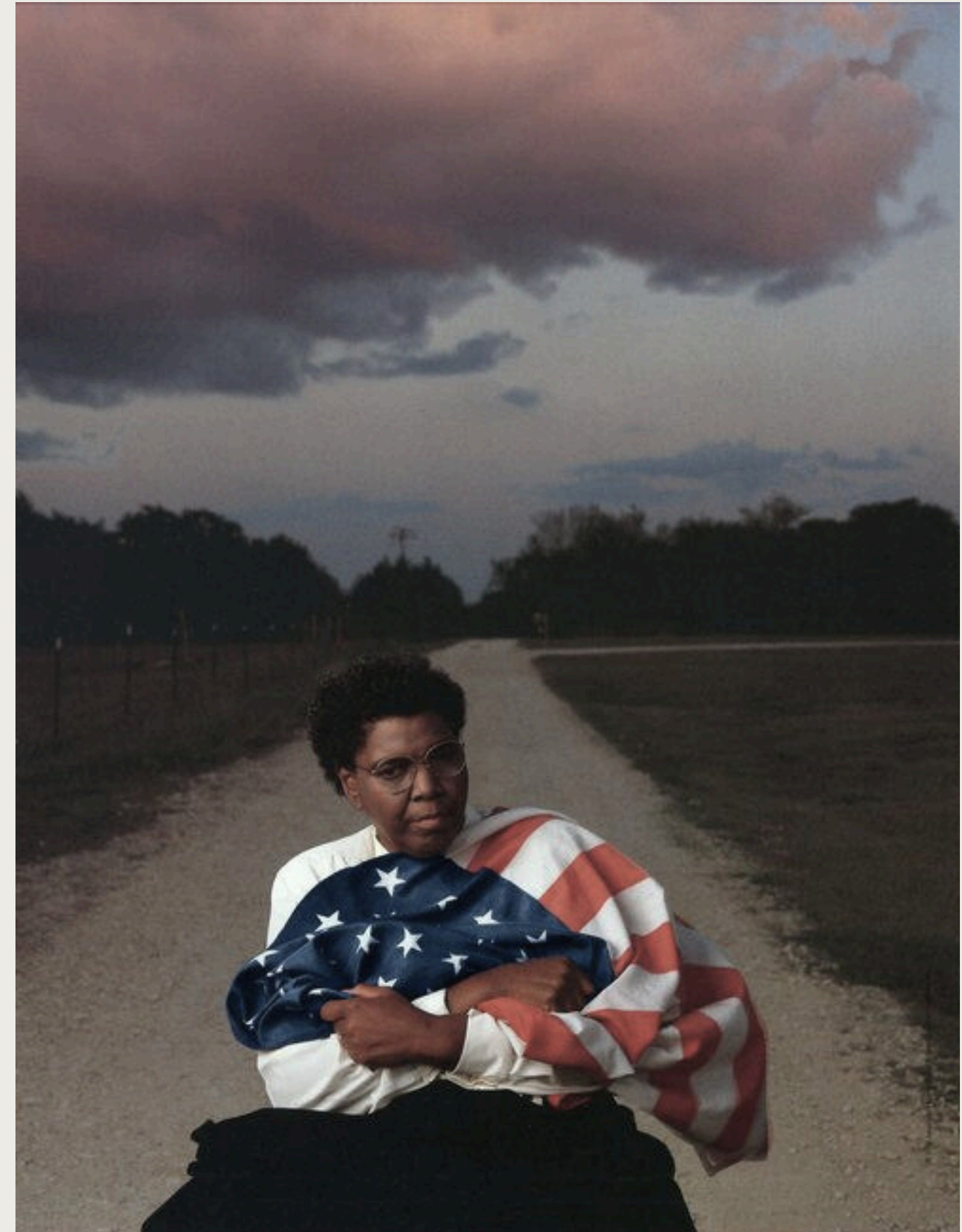


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LOGLINE

Guided by Barbara Jordan's powerful oration and unseen archival footage, *THE INQUISITOR* traces Jordan's journey as a Texas congresswoman, lawyer, and educator. Delving into the intricate layers of race, power, and representation in American society, this feature documentary invites viewers to reconsider democracy and justice.



BACKGROUND

Barbara Jordan lived a life of firsts.

She was the first African American person elected to the Texas Senate, the first female representative from Texas, and the first Southern African-American woman elected to the House of Representatives. During her three terms in office, she worked to expand the Voting Rights Act and enforce civil rights legislation. But it was not until June of 1974, during the televised hearings to impeach Richard Nixon over the Watergate scandal, that Jordan, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, stirred the nation with her incisive questioning and impassioned defense of the Constitution. Jordan was a young politician, beloved in Texas, but unknown to the rest of the country. At the age of 38, she ignited a political firestorm and thrust onto a national playing field.

Barbara Jordan knew how to turn an audience on its head. She is often cited as one of the great examples of American political oratory in our nation's history.



THE FILM

THE INQUISITOR tells the story of Barbara Jordan, an American politician, lawyer, educator, and public servant. Jordan's ethical principles and interrogational skill served the United States at pivotal points in history, from the revision of the Voting Rights Act to the 1987 Supreme Court nomination hearings of Robert Bork.

During the impeachment hearings of President Nixon in 1974, Jordan was a 38-year-old junior Texas congresswoman. During a speech recognized for its political oratory, she reminded listeners of the constitutional agreement made for the collective experiment of democracy. With praise from both political parties, she earned the title of 'inquisitor.' Jordan's political purpose became clear then—to compel people to ask hard questions and face the answers.

One week later, Jordan was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. At the height of her career, Jordan left politics but continued in public service as an educator and ethical guide for leaders such as Bill Clinton and Ann Richards.

While Jordan's political legacy is the center of THE INQUISITOR, the film also looks at her personal life. Colleagues and friends, as well as the public, learned of her illness only after her death. **THE INQUISITOR explores Jordan's intersectional identity navigating a landscape of politics and discrimination.**



STYLISTIC ELEMENTS

THE INQUISITOR builds on the work of archival, race-focused documentaries that demonstrate the critical nuance that a filmmaker of color brings to portraits of high-profile African Americans.

Stylistically inspired by sports' films like the THE LAST DANCE and portraits like CITIZEN ASHE,, the film will showcase Barbara Jordan as if she were a professional athlete, giving her life in politics an outlook that is inviting and triumphant. The film will showcase Barbara Jordan's skills as an orator and debater on the main floor.

Additional elements include:

- ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE AND IMAGES - From interviews with Barbara Walters to public speeches to personal photos from Jordan's law school students, you will see and hear Jordan and her voice throughout this film.
- SIT DOWN INTERVIEWS - With a wide array of participants, ranging from high-profile politicians such as Bill Clinton, Eric Holder, and Sheila Jackson Lee — to local Texas culture-bearers, BLM activists. They will watch and respond to footage of Jordan as they reflect on her legacy and comment on how it affects the present. (Pictured is from a recent interview with Elizabeth Hotzman)

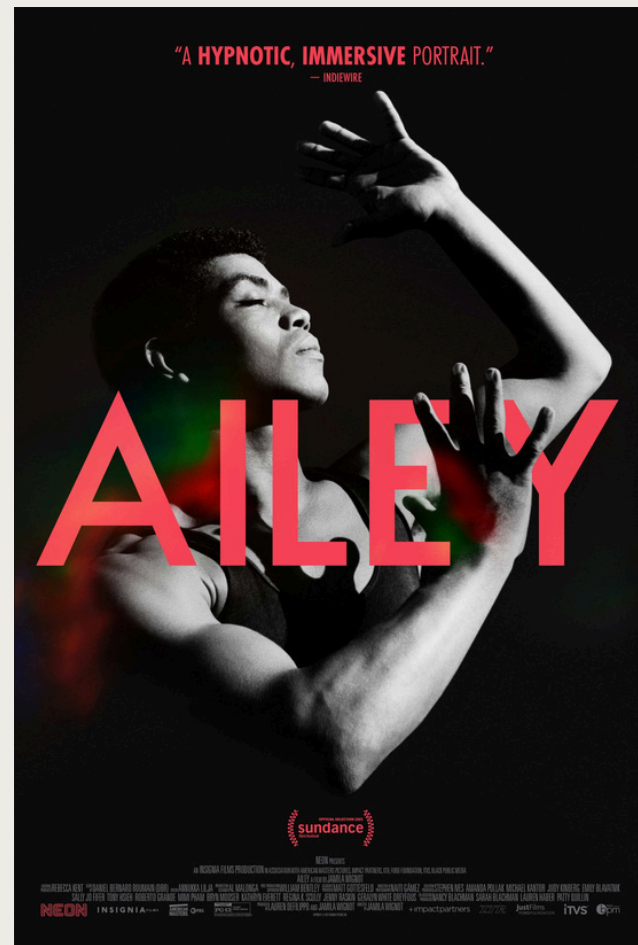


STYLISTIC ELEMENTS

- POP CULTURE REFERENCES - By featuring popular music, images, commercials, movie clips prevalent in society , we will more accurately place Jordan, the woman in the time period being focused on.
- ANIMATION -To bring the audience inside Jordan's point of view and to dramatize moments from her past.
- FACT PACED EDITING - To move along the different time periods and to match to pace and style of Jordan's speaking style

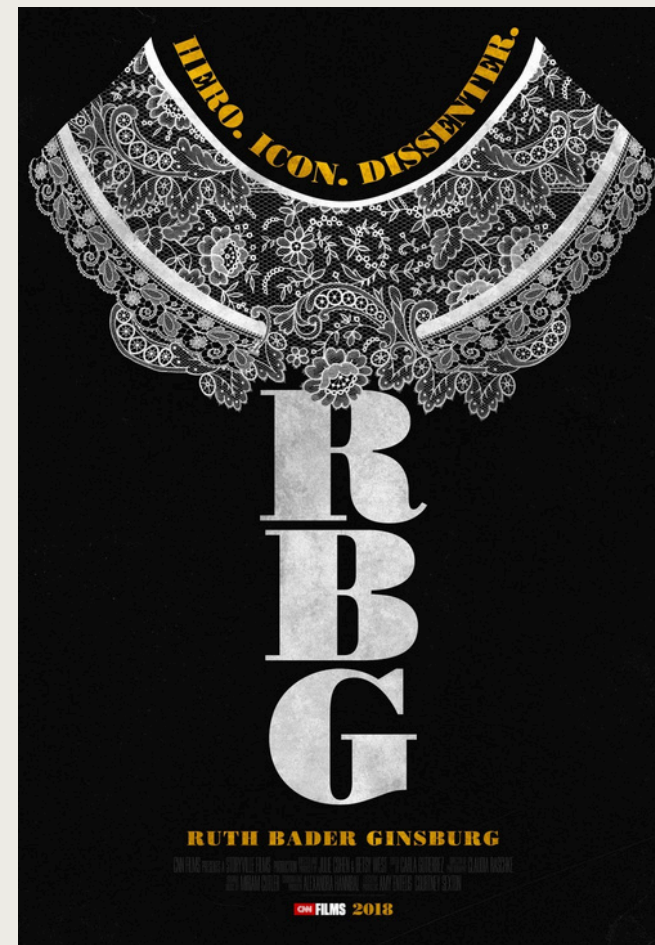


COMPARABLE FILMS



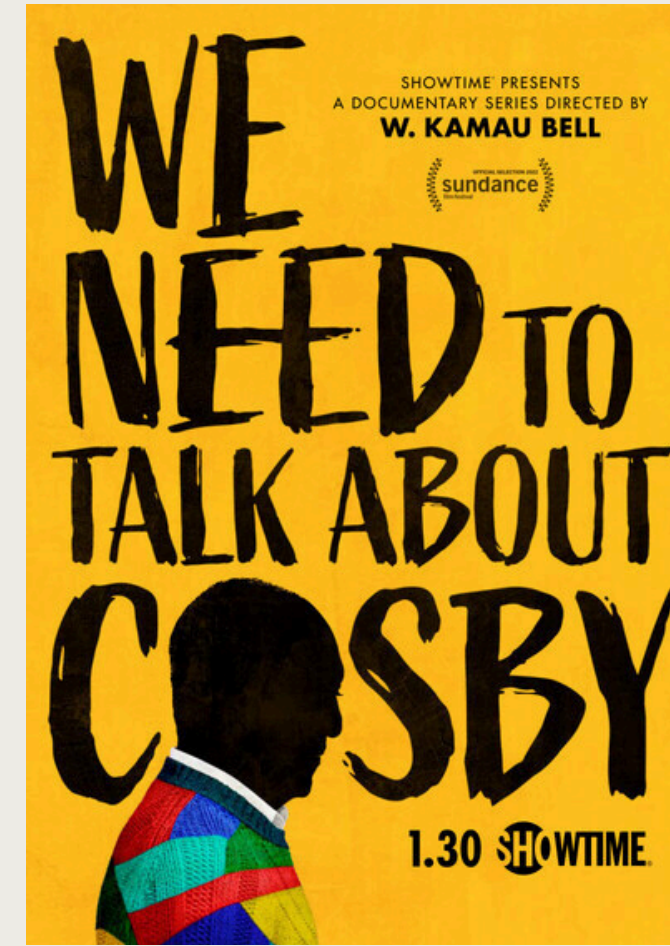
Ailey

Like this award winning documentary, THE INQUISITOR uses a non-linear structure to bring biographical details to a familiar cultural icon.



RBG

Like this Academy Award nominated documentary, THE INQUISITOR weaves the personal journey of a prominent political figure with significant historical events of the past century to tell a compelling narrative that questions the current social, political and cultural landscape.



We Need to Talk About Cosby

Like this documentary series that premiered at Sundance, THE INQUISITOR uses commentary from scholars, historians, and political figures to paint a picture of Barbara Jordan's life and work.



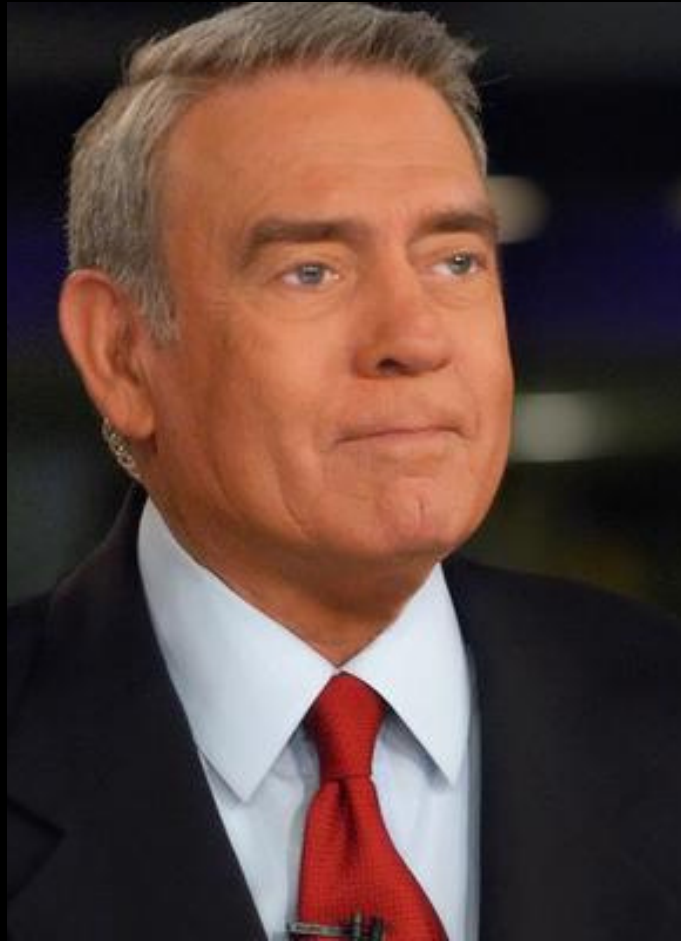
Chisholm '72: Unsought & Unbossed

Like this 2004 politically charged documentary, THE INQUISITOR centers a strong and independent black woman who changes the political landscape in a profound way.



"What the people want is very simple - they want an America as good as its promise." — Barbara Jordan

INTERVIEWS COMPLETED



Dan Rather



Cecil Richards



Rodney Ellis



Ron Kirk

INTERVIEWS COMPLETED



Sefronia Thompson



Sylvia Garcia



Mart Beth Rogers



Annise Parker

POTENTIAL INTERVIEWS



Michelle Obama



Bill Clinton



Stacey Abrams



Viola Davis

WORK SAMPLE

LINK: <https://vimeo.com/690989223/d84a43537f>.
(pw: jordan)

The sample provides a look at the style of the film through archival images and footage with highly stylized music, graphics and animation. This is an overview of the stylistic tone, texture and taste of the film while, allowing a window in Barbara Jordan, the politician and the woman.



*"If one ever had the chance to talk to God,
God would sound like Barbara Jordan"*

- Molly Ivins



AUDIENCE

Barbara Jordan's unique ability to speak across both sides of the aisle is what made her truly unique.

With the eyes of the world following the American political landscape, THE INQUISITOR will have a global audience of individuals interested in political and intellectual discourse.

Our core audience are members of the Black, LGBTQ and disabled community who are hungry to see themselves on screen.

We also anticipate pulling in viewers from the following segments:

- lawyers and activists looking for models for engaging with voting rights and the Constitution
- anyone who feels marginalized by today's political rhetoric
- anyone with a desire for articulate, clear-eyed, principled leadership



DISTRIBUTION

THE INQUISITOR is envisioned as a fun, political pop culture documentary that carries forth the spirit of Barbara Jordan herself. We hope to premiere the film in 2024 at a high profile festival, followed by a robust festival run and awards campaign and a US and international television broadcast. By positioning the film to enter the market in an election year we hope to utilize the swell of political discourse while also leaning into the bi-partisan spirit of Barbara Jordan's messaging.

We will work with distributors such as Onyx/Hulu, Apple +, or MSNBC whose current distribution strategy is understanding and prioritizing the importance of artfully told films that also carry a strong social message.

Our film allows viewers to ask how the past affects the present and if our tools for democracy, such as the Constitution, can work in today's America.



OUTREACH + IMPACT

Jordan believed that one must exercise in a manner that advances the public interest and serves the common good, THE INQUISITOR's engagement campaign will act to survey Jordan's idea of separating government policy from individual policy.

The campaign will also explore questions around ethics in leadership and notions of patriotism in today's America while engaging voters in a new way

Through partnerships gained from our Perspective Fund funded ALL SKINFOLK, AIN'T KINFOLK engagement campaign, we will continue to work with organizations exploring new models for democracy.





"If you're going to
play the game
properly you'd better
know every rule."
— Barbara Jordan

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Discovering Barbara Jordan again was an accidental encounter. I can vividly remember Barbara's Jordan's name throughout my childhood , but it wasn't until I was introduced to a clip of her Watergate Speech that I was utterly gobsmacked by such a name. The manner of which she spoke, in a room where she was the only one of her kind, yet her conquering voice demanded so much attention; attention black women are hardly ever given. I realized I found a lost gem in history. I was astonished by her ability to be a moral compass even in the most amoral of circumstances. Her tactic? Holding her peers to what they claimed to uphold, the constitution. I showed the clip to my editor, who was similarly gobsmacked, and then the two said, almost in unison, "Someone has to make a film about this woman."

Every American should know about Barbara Jordan. She is a representation of what America's promise is missing. Compromise. At a moment when Americans are at once profoundly divided over and deeply ignorant of their shared history, the story of this powerful Black woman with a complicated private life and an unforgettable public voice is an essential addition to our national public conversation. Path breaking Congresswoman, tireless civil rights activist, voting rights champion, moral beacon during the trauma of Watergate, defender and protector of the United States Constitution and one of the finest orators in American political history, Barbara Jordan's story needs to be told, and remembered.

Hers is a story that resonates deeply with our complicated time.

CREATIVE TEAM

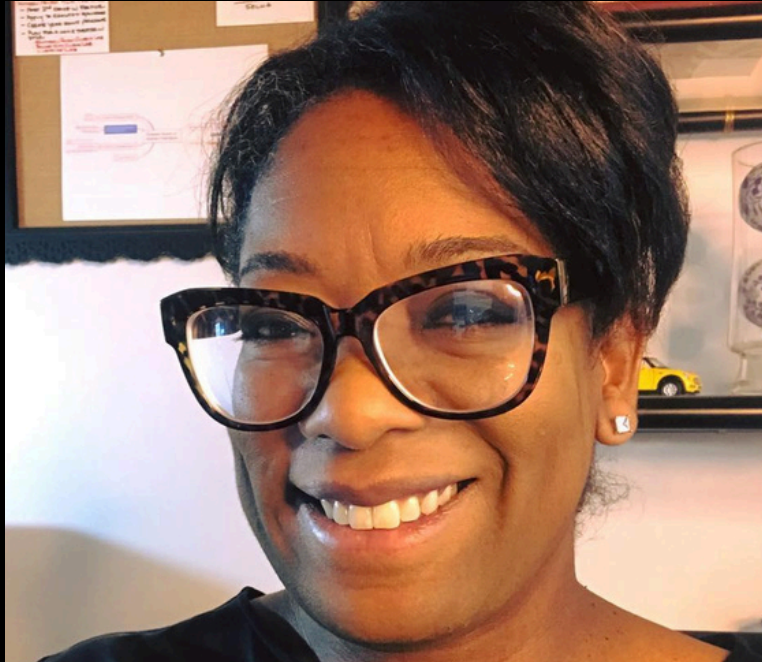


ANGELA TUCKER (director|producer) is an Emmy and Webby winning filmmaker and artist. She is passionate about stories that highlight underrepresented communities in unconventional ways.

Recent work includes "Belly of the Beast" (dir. Erika Cohn) a NY Times Critics Pick, "The Trees Remember", a Webby winning branded series in collaboration with REI Co-Op Studios and "A New Orleans Noel", a Lifetime holiday film starring Patti LaBelle. Past directorial work includes "All Skinfolk, Ain't Kinfolk", a documentary short that aired on PBS' Reel South; "Black Folk Don't", a documentary web series featured in Time Magazine's "10 Ideas That Are Changing Your Life", "All Styles" a feature film on Showtime and "(A)sexual", a feature length documentary about people who experience no sexual attraction that streamed on Netflix and Hulu. Her newest film "The Inquisitor", about political icon Barbara Jordan will be broadcast on PBS.

She is a Sundance Institute Women's Fellow, a recipient of Firelight's William Greaves Fund, an Amplifier Fellow with Film Independent and a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. Founder of TuckerGurl Inc, a boutique production company, Angela received an MFA in Film from Columbia University.

CREATIVE TEAM



TREVITE WILLIS (producer) is an independent producer and a film festival founder committed to courageous storytelling. Ms. Willis is a Co-Executive Producer on the Sundance 2023 film, TO LIVE AND DIE AND LIVE, and was an executive producer on the Sundance 2020 award-winning film, FORTY YEAR OLD VERSION. She is currently in production on THE INQUISITOR: THE BARBARA JORDAN DOCUMENTARY. She has produced 7 feature films, including CARGO, BLOOD BOUND, MAYA AND HER LOVER, and CHILDREN OF GOD which had theatrical releases in the US, UK and The Netherlands, won 17 awards, and sold in 24 territories.



MOIRA GRIFFIN (producer) is a producer and strategist based in Los Angeles for New Bumper and Paint Productions in partnership with writer/director Marshall Tyler, a production company working to develop diverse creators across all platforms, championing thought-provoking stories showcasing the frailty and humanity of all people. Her recent award-winning projects include SLOW PULSE (CBS/BET), CAP (HBO), NIGHT SHIFT (Sundance) Exec Produced by Viola Davis & Julius Tennon (Juvee Productions), and LANDLINE (HULU). She was the former Executive Director of Production & Creative Labs for 21st Century Fox and the head of Diversity Initiatives at the Sundance Institute.



DUANE PREFUME (cinematographer & co-producer) began his career in the Promotions Department of WWL-TV in New Orleans where he won multiple Addy awards and an Emmy Award. After co-founding Digital Bayou HD Productions, he directed and shot the Emmy award-winning documentary Treasures of the Tchefuncte. Before earning his MFA at the University of New Orleans, Prefume worked in the visual effects departments of Dawn of the Planet of the Apes and The Fantastic Four. Most recently he was a DP on the feature, Ted Caldwell and the Monster Kid and a Producer of The Trees Remember, a Webby award-winning series of shorts for REI.



ANNUKKA LILJA (editor) is a Finnish-born, New York-based film editor whose award-winning documentary and narrative films have appeared on HBO and at major film festivals worldwide - including Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW and IDFA. Her recent documentary editing work includes Stax: Soulsville USA (HBO, 2024 premiere), Ailey, (Sundance, 2021), Mr. SOUL! (2020 Critics Choice Award winner, Tribeca, 2021), We Are As Gods (SXSW 2021), Bill Nye: Science Guy (SXSW 2017). Annuikka won the Best Editing Award at the International Documentary Festival for How to Let Go of the World (Sundance premiere, 2016).

CREATIVE TEAM



DR. TYRONE D. DIXON (Executive Producer) is an award-winning filmmaker and professor. With an MFA from AFI, he worked as a development executive for Def Pictures under producers Preston Holmes and Stan Lathan and produced and directed episodes of the Emmy-nominated show "Cool Women" with Debbie Allen. He also served as the line producer and second unit director for the Oscar-nominated documentary, "Tupac Resurrection." Tyrone's feature documentary, "8 Wheels and Some Soul Brotha Music," inspired the Fox feature film "Roll Bounce." He continues to contribute to the industry through producing and directing and teaching in prestigious institutions such as New York Film Academy and Texas Southern University, School of Communication.

PPAGE 22



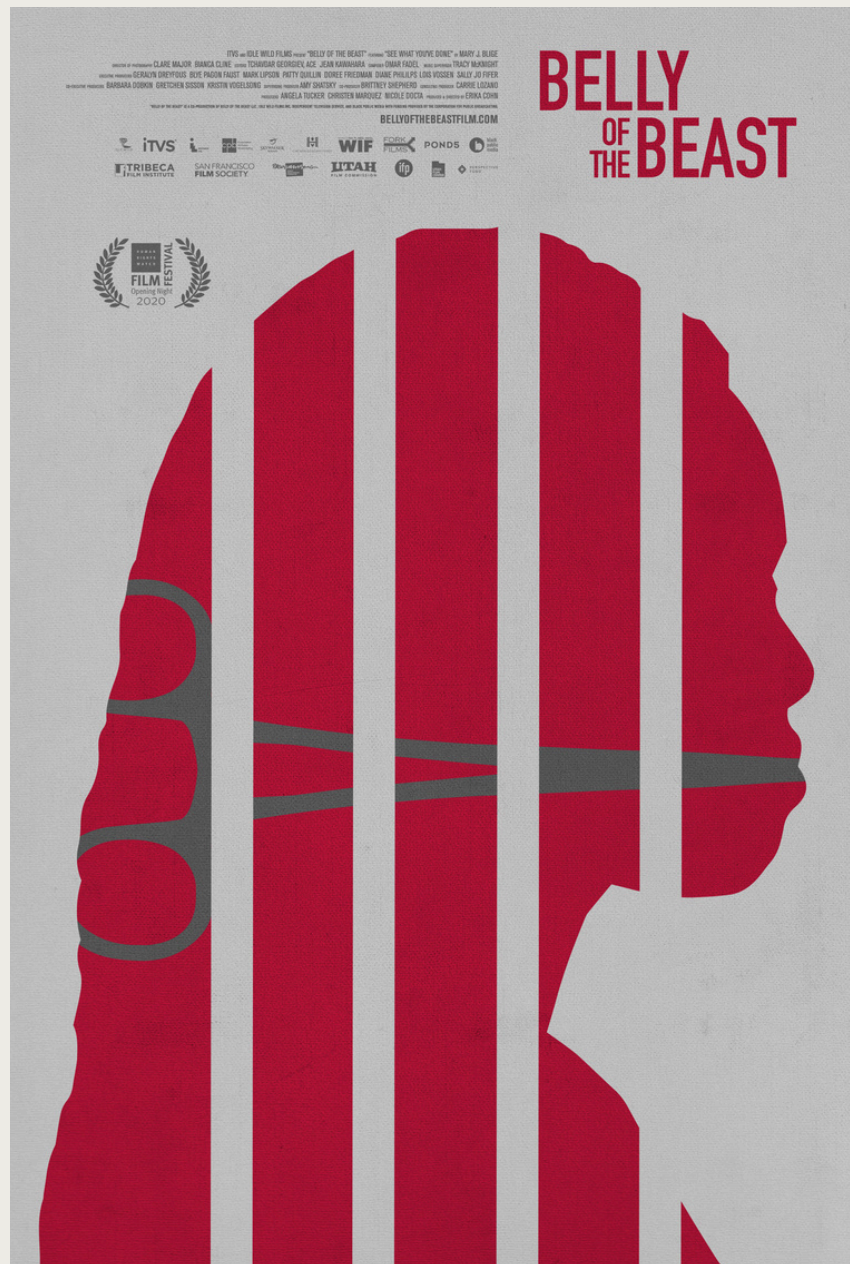
BRENDA ROBINSON (executive producer) is an entertainment attorney and producer with extensive experience in the film, television and music industries. Brenda was most recently a financier on the Academy Award-winning documentary Icarus, as well as Won't You Be My Neighbor and Step. She is an executive producer on numerous projects including the BAFTA-nominated Passing, directed by Rebecca Hall and produced by Nina Yang Bongiovi and Forest Whitaker; the Emmy-nominated United Skates, alongside executive producer John Legend; Jump Shot: The Kenny Sailors Story, alongside executive producer Steph Curry; and Uncharted, alongside executive producer Alicia Keys. Brenda is a member of The Recording Academy, BAFTA and the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).



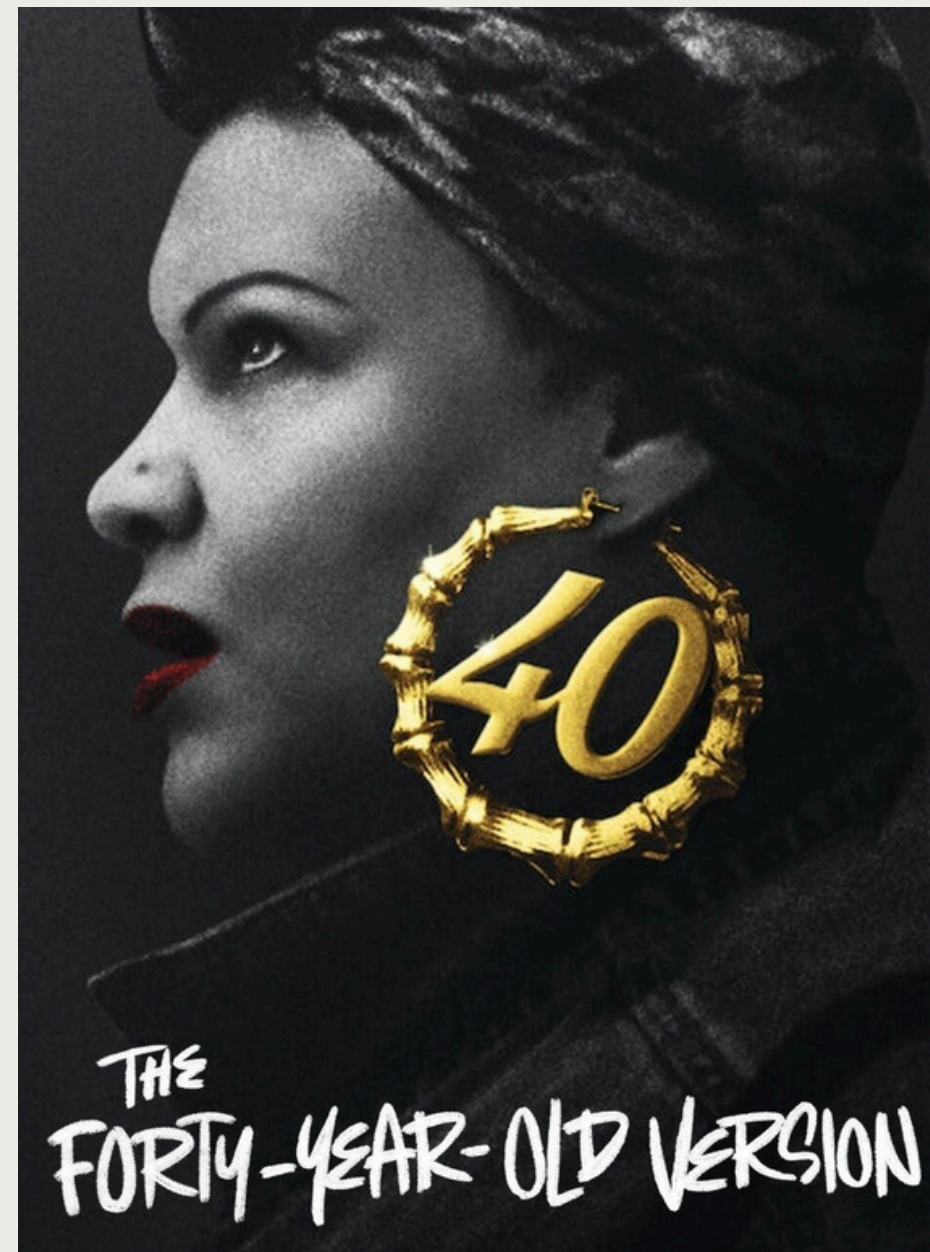
KATY DRAKE BETTNER (executive producer) (she/her) is a Creative Producer, Executive Producer and Consulting Producer. She is a member of the Women at Sundance Leadership Council, has been an advisor for the Sundance Creative Producing Lab/Summit, WIF financing strategy intensive, and the Documentary Producers Alliance. She is a sober alcoholic in long term recovery and blocked on Twitter by Texas AG, Ken Paxton and might be equally proud of both. (SHOUTING DOWN MIDNIGHT, THE INFILTRATORS, RAISE HELL: THE LIFE & TIMES OF MOLLY IVINS, SWALLOW, DOUG OUT)

THE INQUISITOR

PAST WORK



Belly of the Beast (2020)
 PBS' *Independent Lens*
 Produced by Angela Tucker
 Emmy Award Winner for Best Outstanding
 Current Affairs Documentary



The Forty-Year -Old Version (2020)
 Executive Produced by Trevite Willis
 Director Radha Blank



All Skinfolk Ain't Kinfolk (2019)
 PBS' *Reel South*
 Directed and Produced by Angela Tucker



TIMELINE

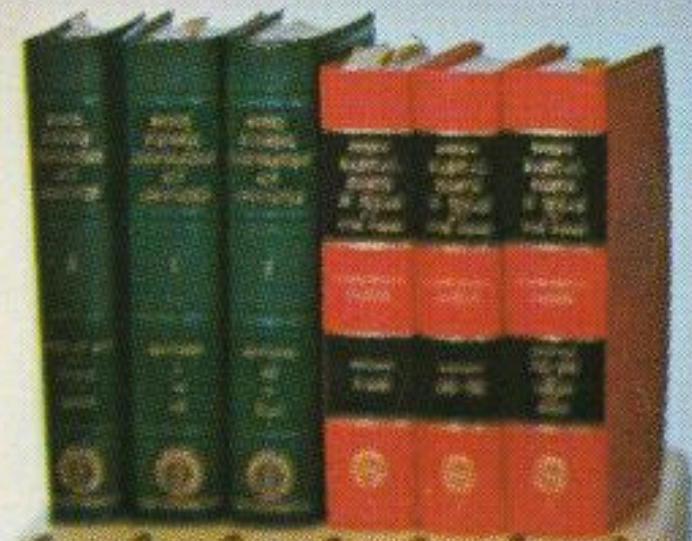


FINANCIALS

TOTAL BUDGET	\$1,485,851
TOTAL SECURED	\$ 764,851
CURRENT BUDGET GAP	\$ 820,000

SECURED AMOUNT:

- Private Donors - \$265,000
- Jonathan Logan Family Fund - \$50,000
- 2023 Chicken and Egg Award - \$25,000
- Firelight/William Greaves Fund - \$25,000
- Chicken and Egg Doc Nest Award - \$5,000
- Tulane University Monroe Fellows Grant - \$5,000
- Film Independent Amplifier Grant - \$5,000
- Independent Television Service - \$375,000



BARBARA JORDAN : *Pay your Poll Tax*

Angela Tucker

angela@tuckergurl.com

917-803-9149

Trevite Willis

twillis@sffilmworks.com

917-455-0589

Moira Griffin

moira@newbumperandpaint.com

917-561-7410

TUCKER GURL



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