



# LITTLE SATCHMO

*Adapted from Little Satchmo, Living in the Shadow of My Father,  
Louis Daniel Armstrong, by Sharon Preston-Folta*

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Director John Alexander

Producers Lea Umberger & JC Guest Music Supervisor Eddie Korvin

Executive Producer Susan Houston

Co Producers Ann Garvey, Emily Bonavia, Muriel Minot & Terrence Beasor

Associate Producers Jennifer Cotter & Tom Cotter

A SOUTHERN DOCUMENTARY FUND PROJECT



# LITTLE SATCHMO

Directed and Written by **JOHN ALEXANDER**

Produced by **LEA UMBERGER** and **JC GUEST**

Executive Producer **SUSAN HOUSTON**

Co Producers **ANN GARVEY**, **EMILY BONAVIDA**, **MURIEL MINOT** & **TERRENCE BEASOR**

Associate Producers **JENNIFER COTTER**, **TOM COTTER**

Music Supervisor **EDDIE KORVIN**

Featuring **SHARON PRESTON-FOLTA**

**A Southern Documentary Fund Project**

**With Support from PBS REEL SOUTH**

**Run Time:** Approx. 60 Minutes

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**Language:** English

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## SYNOPSIS

To the world, Louis Armstrong is iconic — a symbol of musical genius, unparalleled success and unassailable character. To Sharon, he was simply Dad.

There was never a time in Sharon’s childhood that Louis Armstrong wasn’t a part of it, but a mention of this relationship never ventured further than the confines of immediate family. Amid the public fanfare surrounding Ambassador Satch, no one, save for close family and friends, knew Sharon existed. Despite the enduring celebration and study of Armstrong’s life and career, evidence and indications of Sharon’s relationship with her father were ignored and excluded from his historical record. Even in the trumpeter’s death she remained Armstrong’s secret, the product of a two-decade-long affair between the long-married musician, and the Harlem-born vaudeville dancer Lucille “Sweets” Preston. For more than half a century, Sharon continued to keep the family secret, living her life hiding in the shadows of her father’s fame.

While this is a documentary that undeniably involves Louis Armstrong, it is told from his daughter’s perspective, as a child growing into a woman, a voice which had not been granted the freedom to be heard for years, systematically left off record for the protection of her father, and one that resonates far and wide with its themes of searching for belonging, pride, and shame. A voice amid the millions of children who have grown up in fatherless households, hungry for a certain understanding of their own blood, their heritage, and legacy to carry forward.

## DIRECTOR PROFILE

### JOHN ALEXANDER

After interning with Sam Raimi on *Drag Me to Hell* (Cannes 2009), Alexander graduated from Harvard in 2011, where he won the McCord Arts Prize. He edited *One Way to Drown*, executive produced by Brett Ratner, *Running Wild*, starring Alden Ehrenreich, and *Shut Up and Drive* (Tribeca 2015). His directorial feature debut, *Bender* (2016), cult thriller about America’s first serial killing family, won a Golden Strands award for Outstanding Cast, and Alexander directed short thriller *Suspect* (2017) with the American Film Institute. His debut documentary *This Is Love* (2018) has screened at 40 film festivals worldwide and won top prizes in 12, including the Spirit Award at Raindance in London and Best International Documentary in Rome.

## NARRATOR PROFILE

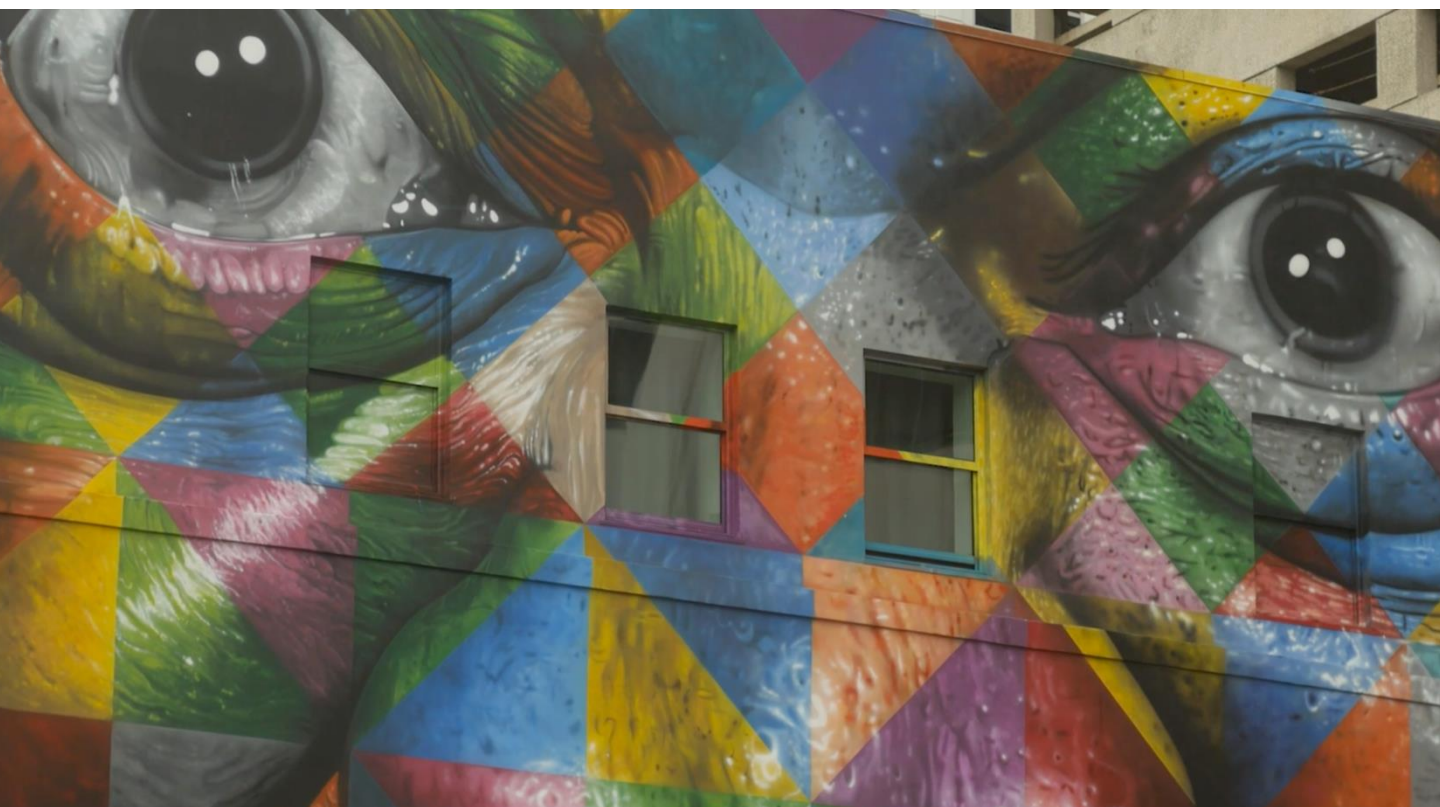
### SHARON PRESTON – FOLTA

Preston-Folta’s memoir was adapted into screenplay form and serves as the backbone of the film, made with her close participation and collaboration. Her story, voice and collection of personal mementos bring authenticity and emotional connection to this very personal journey and reveal the previously unknown history of Satchmo’s life as a family man, and her father.

Sharon Preston-Folta has spent a thirty-plus-year career in advertising sales and marketing, predominantly as an account executive in radio. She’s worked with such companies as Fairchild Publications and WLNY TV in Long Island, and ABC/Disney and CBS Radio and Emmis Communications in New York City. She is currently Sr. Account Executive with WUSF Public Media in Tampa, FL.



# LITTLE SATCHMO : AVAILABLE FILM STILLS



Louis Armstrong Mural in New Orleans. Image Courtesy Little Satchmo Documentary LLC, Copyright 2021



Sharon Preston-Folta overlooks "Family Portrait" collage created by her father, Louis Armstrong . Image Courtesy Little Satchmo Documentary LLC, Copyright 2021

## LITTLE SATCHMO: AVAILABLE FILM STILLS



Sharon's mom, Lucille Sweets Preston, would shop for the nicest dress and shoes for Sharon to wear each time Louis Armstrong Called to say he was coming to visit. Image courtesy of Little Satchmo Documentary LLC, Copyright 2021



Sharon Preston-Folta, at home in Florida. Image Courtesy Little Satchmo Documentary LLC, Copyright 2021



# LITTLE SATCHMO BEHIND THE SCENES PRODUCTION PHOTOS



Behind the Scenes with director John Alexander at the camera and Sharon Preston-Folta, in silhouette.  
Image courtesy of Little Satchmo Documentary LLC, Copyright 2021



Photo by Sierra Umberger  
"Little Satchmo" Documentary – Florida Unit

Behind the Scenes –  
Day 2

Socially Distanced Cast and Crew Shot  
(LtoR) Sharon Preston-Folta, Howard Folta, John  
Alexander, JC Guest, Nacari Kearney, Sierra Umberger, LEA  
Umberger

SEPT  
2020



Photo by Sierra Umberger  
"Little Satchmo" Documentary – Florida Unit

Day 2  
Behind the Scenes –  
Nacari prepping Sharon for first day of shooting

SEPT  
2020

LITTLE SATCHMO  
RECENT PRESS



“Sharon Preston- Folta shares recordings, letters from her father, who was unable to publicly acknowledge her” – Jon Blistein, Rolling Stone

<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/little-satchmo-trailer-louis-armstrong-daughter-1119142/>

## DEADLINE

“Little Satchmo Debut Trailer: Louis Armstrong Doc Features His Secret Daughter”- Tom Grater, Deadline

<http://deadline.com/video/little-satchmo-trailer-louis-armstrong-doc-secret-daughter/>

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Empowering Voices with Renee James Gilmore  
Featuring Little Satchmo director John Alexander, Sharon Preston-Folta and a Clip of Film



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