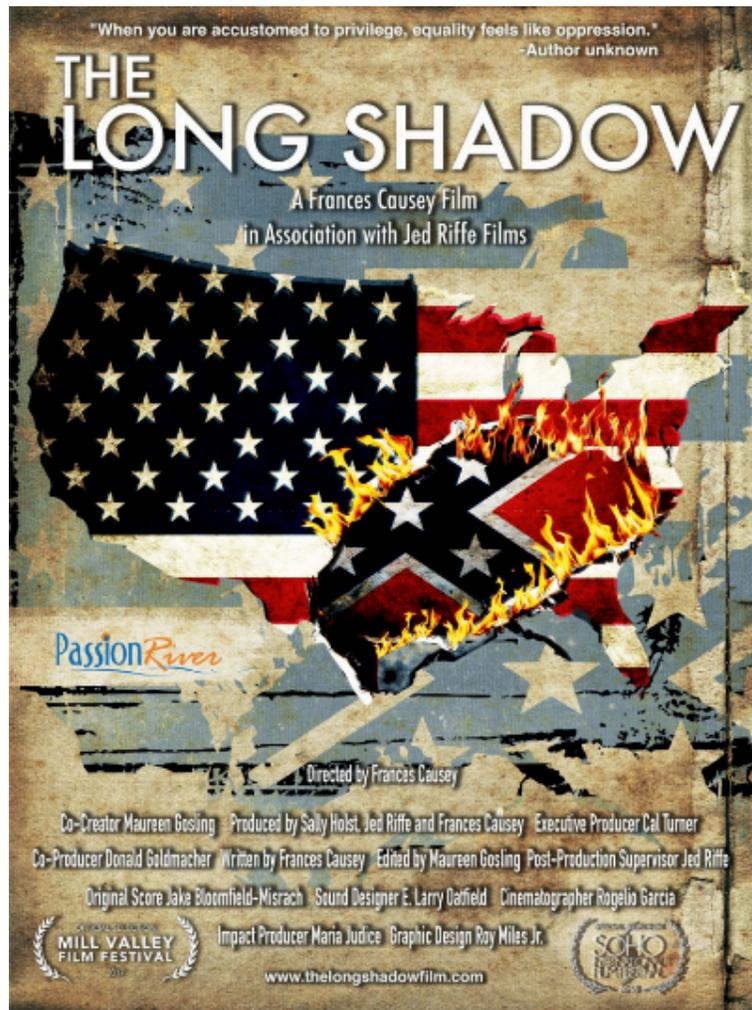




Presents



A film by Frances Causey

USA- 84 Minutes- Color- HD- Stereo and 5.1 Surround Sound

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“When you are accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression.”

~ Author Unknown

LOGLINE

Two white Southern filmmakers trace their families’ slave-owning pasts and America’s history of oppression to show how racism still affects the very soul of our nation.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

From New Orleans to Virginia, Mississippi and Canada, *The Long Shadow* follows two white Southern filmmakers as they travel the roads of oppression and suppression to reveal the connections of slavery and strong-arm Southern politics to the current racial strife in America. The film is a disturbing story about the lingering human cost of ignorance, intolerance and inaction in the US, casting a long shadow over our national identity and imperfect democracy.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Of all the divisions in America, none is as insidious and destructive as racism. The powerful documentary *THE LONG SHADOW* takes a shockingly candid look at America’s original sin – slavery -- and traces the history of slavery from the country’s founding, up through its insidious ties to racism today. We witness from the moment of America’s birth, how slavery was embedded in principal structural elements of society, and yet, even as slavery ended, these systems still operate today in various forms, carrying out their original purpose - to diminish the social role of black people and keep them in a perpetual state of suffering.

Director Frances Causey and Producer Sally Holst, both privileged daughters of the South, were haunted by their families’ slave-owning pasts. They grew up in a time when white superiority was rarely questioned, and challenging this norm was often met with deadly consequences. Rejecting the oft-told romanticized version of early U.S. history, they embarked on a journey of hidden truths and the untold stories of how America - driven by the South's powerful political influence - steadily, deliberately and with great stealth, established white privilege in our institutions, laws, culture and economy. From New Orleans to Virginia, Mississippi and Canada, they traveled the roads of oppression, suppression, and even hope to reveal the direct link from early slavery, Jim Crow and strong-arm Southern politics to the current racial strife and division we face today.

Interlaced with personal stories of Causey and Holst’s privileged childhood, the filmmakers present a startling, unrecognized history that provides much-needed context when considering the major issues that impact black and white relations today. By telling individual stories -- of free blacks in Canada; of a modern, racially motivated shooting -- the filmmakers personalize the lingering cost and the stakes of ignorance, intolerance and inaction, and how that casts a long shadow over our national identity and imperfect democracy. In addition to history, the film examines current social norms that show how oppression lives on in new, devious forms including mass incarceration, health care outcomes and life expectancy, and per-capita income based on race.

"I am a filmmaker and journalist. On my odyssey to investigate racism in America I was stunned to discover that I was the problem. My family codified white supremacy into law.

~ Frances Causey, filmmaker

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Growing up in the South, I knew something was deeply wrong in our world. In the South, the gulf between black and white was vast and deep and not penetrable. Honestly, as a privileged white Southern child, for the most part, I never saw African-Americans outside of the work they did for our family. But even then, I could see the wounds and scars of inequality and indifference, the heartbreaking poverty, lack of education, housing and employment opportunity for African-Americans in the South. I was just a child and saw it, why couldn't others? Why wasn't more being done about it?

But in the South there was only silence for this injustice as it was certainly not ok to talk about race relations in my family or anywhere else in the South. I lived my life of white privilege, enjoying all of the trappings of that, educated in a whites only segregated academy, a college education that was paid for, and running in a circle of other white privilege people whose connections later would benefit me greatly. My legacy of white privilege meant I could attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My grandfather, father and uncle had all attended which meant I got preferential treatment.

At UNC, I saw for the first time a protest against separation of the races, apartheid in South Africa. The dots connected for me in an instant! The wider world of college catalyzed the sting of Southern injustice. The protest at UNC lit a flame. My white privilege helped land me a job at CNN after college, at that time just a startup. There I could flex my desire to right old wrongs and do some real good. After 14 years, I left CNN so I could make documentaries about extraordinary African-Americans whose stories had been lost to history because of systemic racism. My first effort was a film for *The History Channel* about the heroic efforts of the first African-American stock car racer, Wendell Scott, who, during the 1960's defied death threats, to compete in the whites only NASCAR.

There was so much more that needed to be revealed. Yes, plenty of African-Americans have succeeded and continue to succeed but when looking at the three pillars of the American Dream, housing, employment and education, African-Americans have and continue to be systematically denied opportunity from one generation to the next. No other nation institutionalized slavery as the US did. My research revealed that one of my own ancestors, a lawyer and the first revolutionary governor of Virginia, codified slavery into the new American law.

But it was the abject unfairness of the Ferguson, Missouri municipal court system that was rigged so blatantly against African-Americans that illuminated for me in flashing neon lights how artifacts of slavery were still in our midst. Richard Rothstein's brilliant white paper, "The Making of Ferguson" further galvanized the making of the film.

The past makes the present inevitable. Continuing racism, whether overt, covert or implied still pervades our society. Implied racism is particularly troubling and is defined as an individual's utilization of unconscious biases when making judgments about people from different racial and ethnic groups. This is rampant in our society and must be addressed.

White Americans of European descent have little understanding of the privilege they enjoy, even less understanding that it has come with a heavy price for African-Americans. Why was this so? First I had to understand the scope of the problem and after my research, I knew I had to make a film and educate white people about their privilege by making "The Long Shadow".

My highest hope for "The Long Shadow" is that it widely and *correctly* educates white Americans about the relentless systemic racism against African-Americans. This white person understands the history. I also hope the film helps to start a national conversation. First, we must dismiss outright the ludicrous idea of reverse racism. How have we whites- who are and have been the establishment majority- come to believe that somehow whites have been systemically victimized by African -Americans? This is chicanery of the most hurtful form considering the pain and end-less harm that racism has wrought in the African-American community whose ancestors this country enslaved for 250 years!

Not until we address the injustices of both the past and the present by refurbishing the African-American community we will have truly lived up to our national ideals of freedom and democracy for all.

QUOTES

*“**The Long Shadow** is a moving personal and informative history of anti-Black racism in the US packed with revealing details and analysis and leading us towards understanding, healing, and commitment to work for racial justice. A must see for white people concerned about racial equity and social justice.”*

~ Paul Kivel, Co-founder, Showing Up for Racial Justice

*“**The Long Shadow** is a gripping personalized history lesson, with Causey covering salient points, including how economics drove the despicable trading of humans. Her of-the-moment feature couldn’t be more necessary.”*

~ Randy Myers, Mercury News

“If you want to know the true hidden history of the evil that slavery cast over America, and how it continues to this day, you must watch this movie.”

~ Thom Hartmann, The Thom Hartmann Show

CREDITS

Director

Frances Causey

Co-Creator

Maureen Gosling

Producers

Sally Holst

Jed Riffe

Frances Causey

Executive Producer

Cal Turner IV

Editor

Maureen Gosling

Writer

Frances Causey

Co-Producer

Donald Goldmacher

Cinematographer

Rogelio Garcia

Post-Production Supervisor

Jed Riffe

Graphic Design

Roy Miles, jr.

Composer

Jake Bloomfield-Misrach

Supervising Sound Editor And Rerecording Mixer

E. Larry Oatfield

Web Design

Marcelo Schenberg

On-Screen Experts/Characters

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Director, Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society

Ian Haney-Lopez

Author, "Dog Whistle Politics"

Paul Kivel

Author, "Uprooting Racism"

Jody Allen, PhD

Historian, William and Mary College

Gerald Horne, PhD

Author, The Counter Revolution of 1776

Judy Sims

Descendant of Black Canadian Pioneers

Tom Duckenfield

Nomini Hall Slave Legacy Project

LaTonya Lawson-Jones

Nomini Hall Slave Legacy Project

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Lavira Willis

Daughter of Thomas Willis

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Anne Conkling

Historian, Bruton Parish Church

Mike Church

Sirius Radio Host

John Adams

Canadian Historian

Karen Alexander

Descendant of Black Canadian Pioneers

Lorne Hammond

Canadian Historian

Leon Litwack, PhD

Pulitzer Prize for History
Richard Rothstein
Author, "The Color of Law"

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<http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/>

SPLC-Southern Poverty Law Center

<https://www.splcenter.org/>