

ONE CITY FILMS PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROCK PAPER SCISSORS

A TINY RIPPLE OF HOPE

WORLD PREMIERE
2021 SLAMDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

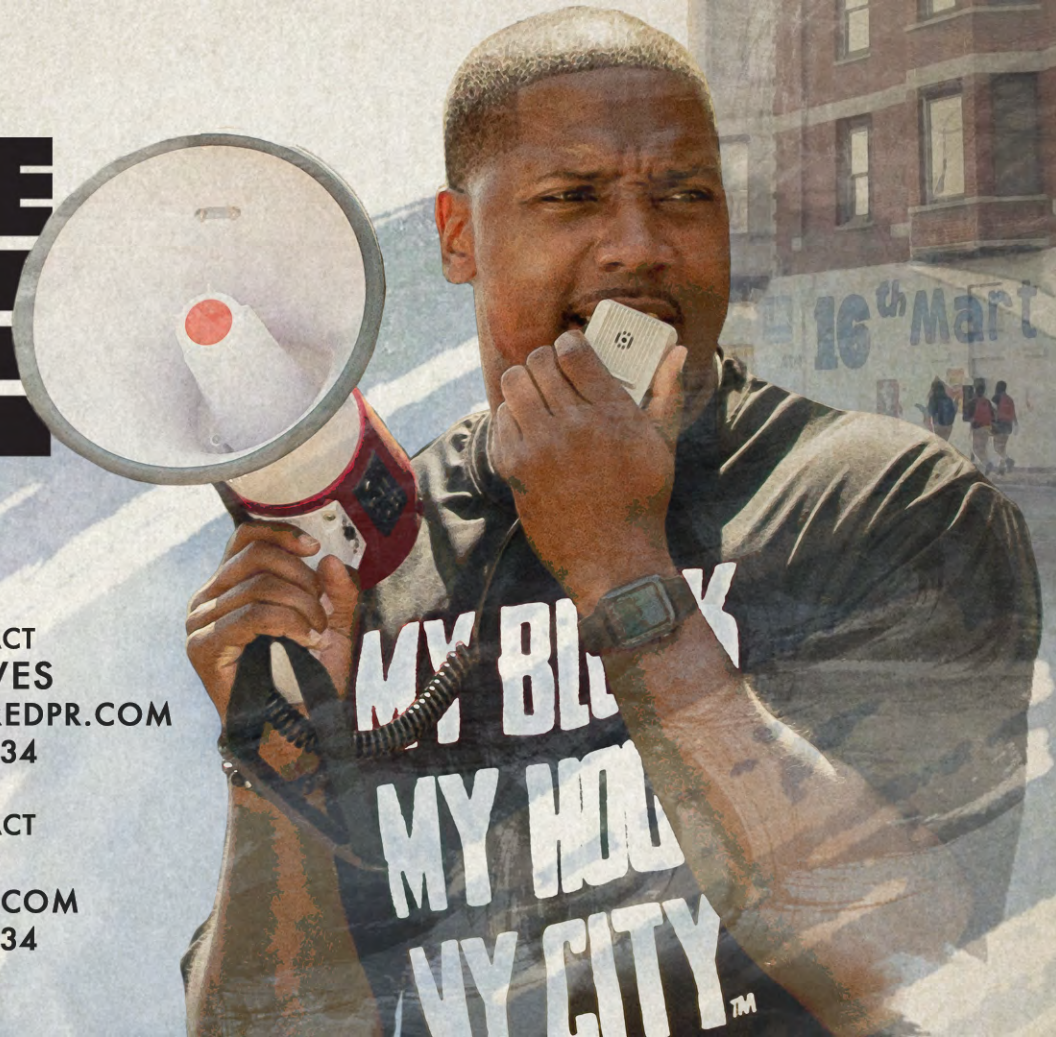
DIRECTOR
JASON POLEVOI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
ADAM PERTOFSKY
ROBERT TEITEL

PRODUCERS
JASON POLEVOI
NICK JENKINS
TEDDY WACHHOLZ

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TECHNICAL DETAILS

RUNTIME
96 MINUTES

GENRE
DOCUMENTARY

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION
U.S.A.

LANGUAGE
ENGLISH

FORMAT
DCP AND DIGITAL UPLOAD

RESOLUTION
1080P HD

ASPECT RATIO
2.4:1

SOUND
DOLBY 5.1 DIGITAL



**A TINY RIPPLE
OF HOPE**

LOGLINE

A charismatic activist works to build a better Chicago for the teens in his neglected community even if it comes at the cost of his home, his family, and his safety.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Jahmal Cole is the confident and charismatic leader of My Block, My Hood, My City: an organization that brings hope and opportunity to teenagers across Chicago's segregated South and West Sides. Away from the spotlight of his important work though, Jahmal is in the fight of his life as he battles to keep his home out of foreclosure, his marriage alive, and himself out of harm's way.

A TINY RIPPLE OF HOPE follows a formative year for Jahmal as he struggles with everything he must sacrifice so that the people and the city he loves can prosper.



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LONG SYNOPSIS

A Tiny Ripple of Hope captures a year-in-the-life of Chicago community activist Jahmal Cole and his nonprofit organization My Block, My Hood, My City (M3). M3 provides teenagers from the under-resourced South and West sides of Chicago with an awareness of the world and opportunities beyond their neighborhood - awakening the potential within these student "Explorers" by guiding them on cultural and educational field trips in and around Chicago.

Jahmal believes travel and exposure are key to overcoming the poverty and isolation the students face, boosting their educational attainment, and opening them up to opportunities that make a real difference in their lives. But M3 doesn't stop after the Explorers are dropped off at home- Jahmal is a father-figure to many of the kids in his care and works to build a more interconnected community around them by coordinating events like snow shoveling for local seniors, reinvigorating Chicago's famous block clubs, and even offering financial support for things like winter jackets and cell phone bills.

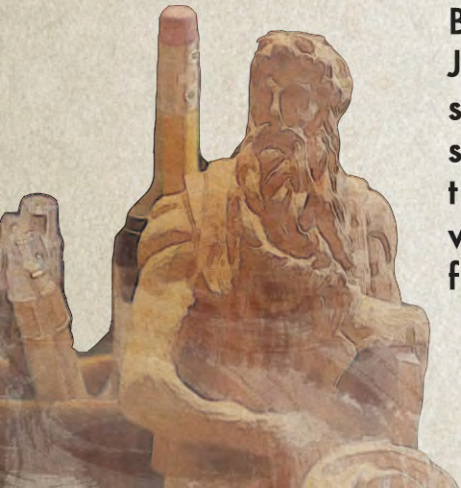
Our story picks up in year three of M3 and while the program has grown to service more than 150 students in the Chicago Public Schools system, Jahmal has found himself in financial trouble. He spent the early years of the program neglecting his personal mortgage payment in favor of funding M3. He owes the bank over \$60,000 and foreclosure feels imminent.

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LONG SYNOPSIS CONT'D

The decision has also impacted Jahmal's marriage. His wife, Tiffany (who after an initial interview declined to participate further in the film), stands dutifully by his side at awards banquets and glitzy city events but is privately unhappy with Jahmal's priorities.

As if the stress of losing his home and the dissolution of his marriage wasn't enough, Jahmal must also contend with a changing nonprofit landscape. As M3 grows, Jahmal feels increasingly handcuffed by his board of directors. He's no longer allowed to pay the personal bills of the students in his program. Whereas once Jahmal could take teens to get hair cuts and rent tuxedos for Prom, he must now follow the strict accounting guidelines of a registered 501c3.



But his home, his family, and his finances are truly put into perspective when Jahmal finds himself the target of a drive-by shooting outside a school he services. It's this event that catalyzes his mission: to build a better city for the students in his program, he must make clear the simple, everyday injustices that their communities have come to regard as normal. But Jahmal must also weigh whether his actions, in service of that mission, are truly worth the failures of his personal life.

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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

It was 70 degrees in Chicago when filming began on February 19, 2017. Records showed it was the warmest February 19th in the city's history and good thing it was. Jahmal Cole had planned to give a speech inside the Dusable Museum of African American History in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood that day, but when hundreds of people showed up the event had to be moved to the front steps. That shoot was the first sign that our original intention, to make a feature about several of the teens in Jahmal's after-school Explorer's program, may have been focused on the wrong subject. While we did follow three West Side teens through their senior year of high school, Jahmal's rise in popularity and influence set against the backdrop of his troubled childhood, the foreclosure of his home, and the failures of his marriage proved to be a far more compelling story.

While we continued to film on-and-off through early 2020, principal photography ended on March 13, 2019 in a hotel room in Chicago's Streeterville neighborhood. We didn't know when we began but the year leading up to that shoot would be one of the most tumultuous of Jahmal's life. He was there because he had separated from his wife- an end to one chapter and the beginning of the next.



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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION CONT'D

Post-production began in 2019 at Rock Paper Scissors in Santa Monica, California thanks in large part to Executive Producer Adam Pertofsky. Adam was kind enough to invest his resources in making sure the film's edit was treated with as much enthusiasm and care as its production.

Editor Derrick Monks spent the better part of six months digging through 150 hours of footage and eventually delivered a rough cut of the film in July, 2019.

Veteran narrative producer and seminal Chicagoan, Robert Teitel, signed on to the production in an advisory role in August of 2019 and helped guide the film to picture lock in August, 2020.

SOCIAL AND WEB LINKS



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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

During speeches, Jahmal Cole is fond of asking, "What's something simple I can do that will have a positive impact on my block?" The goal of this film began as a way to amplify that question. I believe that block level, neighbor-to-neighbor relationship-building holds the key to real, positive change in Chicago. Instead of looking to state-wide or national lawmakers to enact policy that would have a positive impact on our communities- we should take that responsibility into our own hands. That sentiment is at the heart of Jahmal's activism.

But rah-rah public rallies and heartwarming displays of community service are not what makes Jahmal's life a compelling narrative. It's the struggle that deserves the spotlight, because as Jahmal also likes to say, "If it were easy, everyone would be doing it." And so, with this film, I hope to paint a more complete picture of what it takes to bring a message of interconnectivity to a city fractured by decades of segregation and disinvestment. It's not as simple as rolling out of bed and picking up a megaphone. In order to reach disaffected youth, you have to be a constant presence in their lives and that often means sacrificing time with your own kids. In order to make our communities safer, you have to be a force for good inside them and that puts your own safety at risk. In order to run a nonprofit that makes an actual change you have to invest your time, money, and personal resources.

I hope that the portrayal of Jahmal's struggles empowers and inspires the audience to lift some of the responsibility from the capital "A" activists and take the future of their communities into their own hands.

**A TINY RIPPLE
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SELECTED CREDITS

One City Films Presents
In Association with Rock Paper Scissors

A TINY RIPPLE OF HOPE

Starring
JAHMAL COLE

Co-Starring
DIMETRIANA CHAMBERS
DOMINETRIUS CHAMBERS
DEONTAE LEWIS

Featuring Interviews with
LENA WAITHE
RAHM EMANUEL
CHE "RHYMEFEST" KWEKU
AND MANY MORE

Producer and Director
JASON POLEVOI

Executive Producers
ADAM PERTOFSKY
ROBERT TEITEL

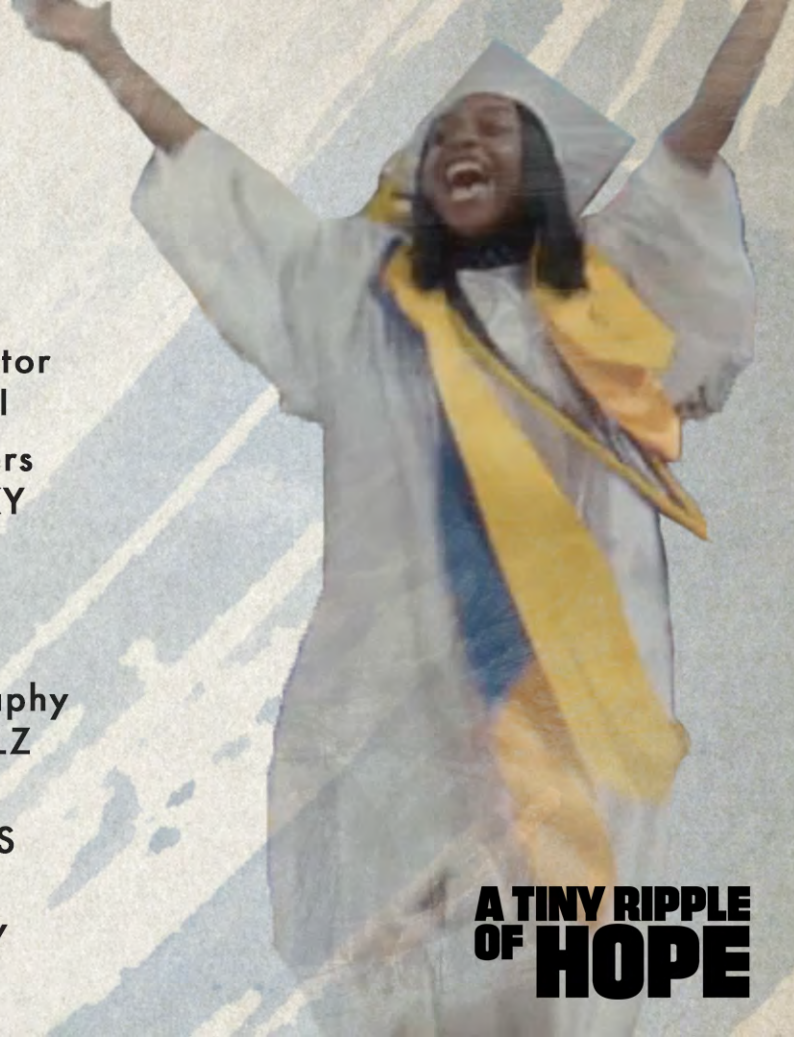
Producer
NICK JENKINS

Director of Photography
TEDDY WACHHOLZ

Editor
DERRICK MONKS

Composer
DEVIN DELANEY

**A TINY RIPPLE
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FILMMAKER BIOS

JASON POLEVOI

PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR

Jason Polevoi is a founding partner of the Chicago-based production company One City Films and the first-time feature Producer and Director of the Slamdance Film Festival-premiering documentary **A TINY RIPPLE OF HOPE**. Jason's previous credits include the Chicago/Midwest Emmy-winning documentary **F*** YOUR HAIR**, the Independent Lens series **THE CALLING**, and **A REGIONAL TASTE**, a first-of-its-kind docuseries for the James Beard Foundation.



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nm4203732



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FILMMAKER BIOS

ADAM PERTOFSKY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



@biggbones



@apertofsky



nm0675700

ROBERT TEITEL EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



@bobteitel



nm0854052

NICK JENKINS PRODUCER



@onecityfilms



@nfjenkins



nm10215377

Adam Pertofsky is a filmmaker and Editor/Partner at Rock, Paper, Scissors where he has earned numerous commercial editing awards including Gold, Silver and Bronze Clio's, as well as multiple AICE and AICP awards. Adam earned Academy Award® and Emmy Nominations for his documentary THE WITNESS: FROM THE BALCONY OF ROOM 306.

Robert Teitel is a co-founder of State Street Pictures and Producer of narrative features including MEN OF HONOR, the BARBERSHOP franchise, SOUTHSIDE WITH YOU, and THE HATE U GIVE which premiered to critical acclaim at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival.

Nick Jenkins is a Chicago-based Producer and Co-Founder of One City Films. Nick previously produced the Chicago/Midwest Emmy-winning documentary F*** YOUR HAIR as well as THROW A BILLION DOLLARS FROM THE HELICOPTER, a feature-length documentary about stadium financing that premiered at the 2019 St. Louis Film Festival.

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FILMMAKER BIOS

TEDDY WACHHOLZ DIR. OF PHOTOGRAPHY



@teddywaffles



@onecityfilms



nm4772556

DERRICK MONKS EDITOR



@derrickmonks



nm12111306

DEVIN DELANEY COMPOSER



@devindelaney



@devin_delaney



nm3744932

Teddy “Waffles” Wachholz is a Cinematographer/Editor and partner at One City Films, based in Chicago. He earned his first regional Emmy Nomination for cinematography in 2015 and his first win in 2019 for F* ** YOUR HAIR. Before getting into the documentary space, Teddy worked in television and radio producing and editing commercials.

Derrick Monks grew up in the mountains of Colorado where he attended the University of Colorado Film Program with a focus on documentary. Derrick now lives in Los Angeles and works at Rock Paper Scissors on a variety of projects.

Devin Delaney, a graduate of Berklee College of Music, is the head composer at NoiseFloor LTD in Chicago. Devin has scored films such as WARRIORS TO LOURDES, F* ** YOUR HAIR, and THE LAW OF MOISES and created interactive soundtracks for games such as AVENGERS INITIATIVE and TMNT: MUTANT MADNESS.

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SUBJECT BIO

JAHMAL COLE

A champion of social justice, Jahmal Cole's mission is to build a more interconnected Chicago on the pillars of service and education. As the founder and CEO of the city's fastest-growing social impact organization, My Block • My Hood • My City, Jahmal is the creator of an exposure-based education program for teens and a network of volunteer initiatives that serve Chicago communities year-round.

In 2018, Jahmal was named a Chicagoan of the Year by Chicago Magazine, in 2019, he was named to Crain's 40 under 40, and in 2020 he was awarded the American Red Cross Community Impact Hero Award.



@myblockmyhoodmycity

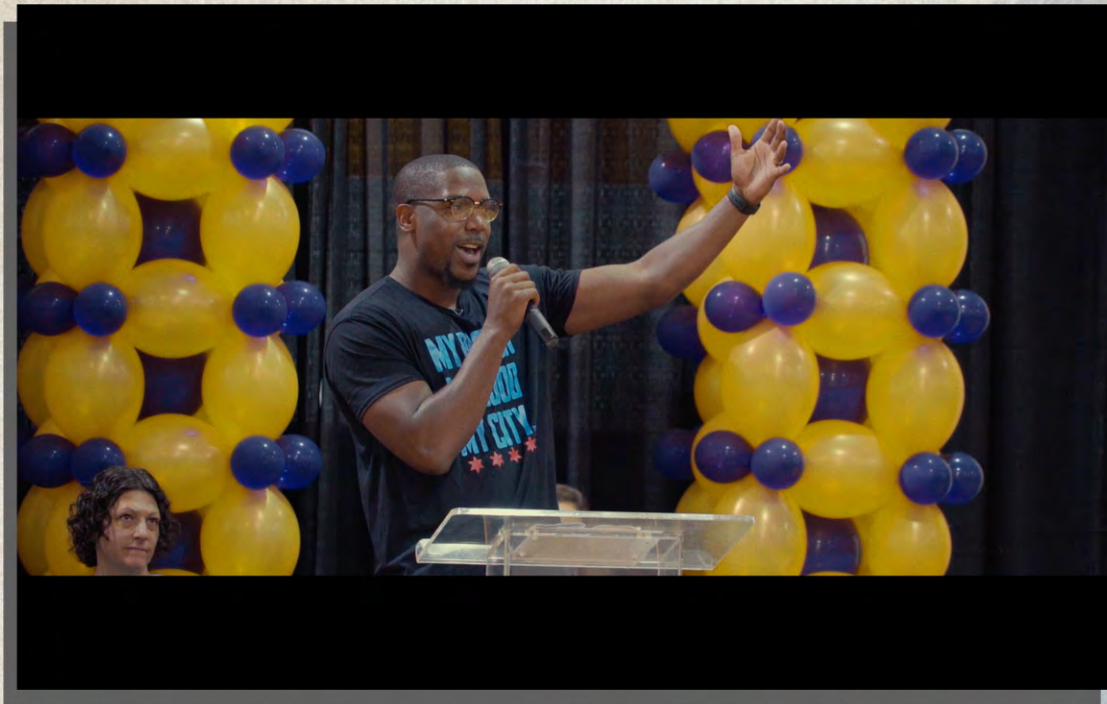


@mbmhmc



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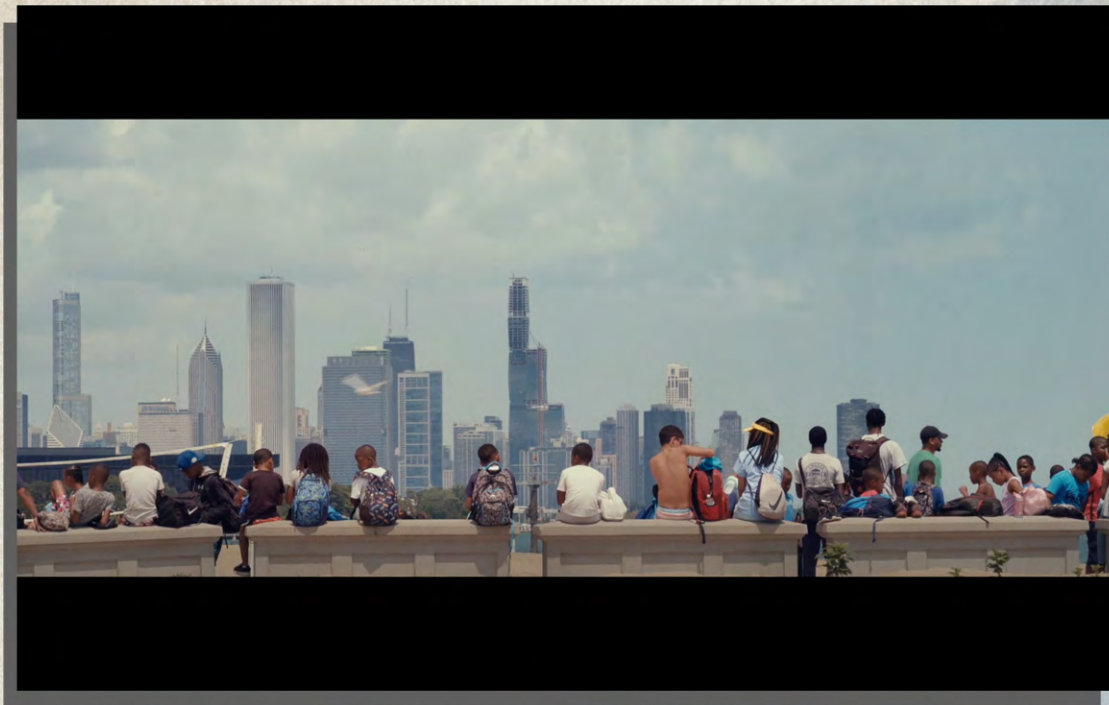
FILM STILLS



JAHMAL COLE ADDRESSES THE 2018 GRADUATING
CLASS OF COLLINS ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

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FILM STILLS



A VIEW OF THE CHICAGO SKYLINE FROM THE
SOUTHSIDE'S MARGARETT. BURROUGHS BEACH

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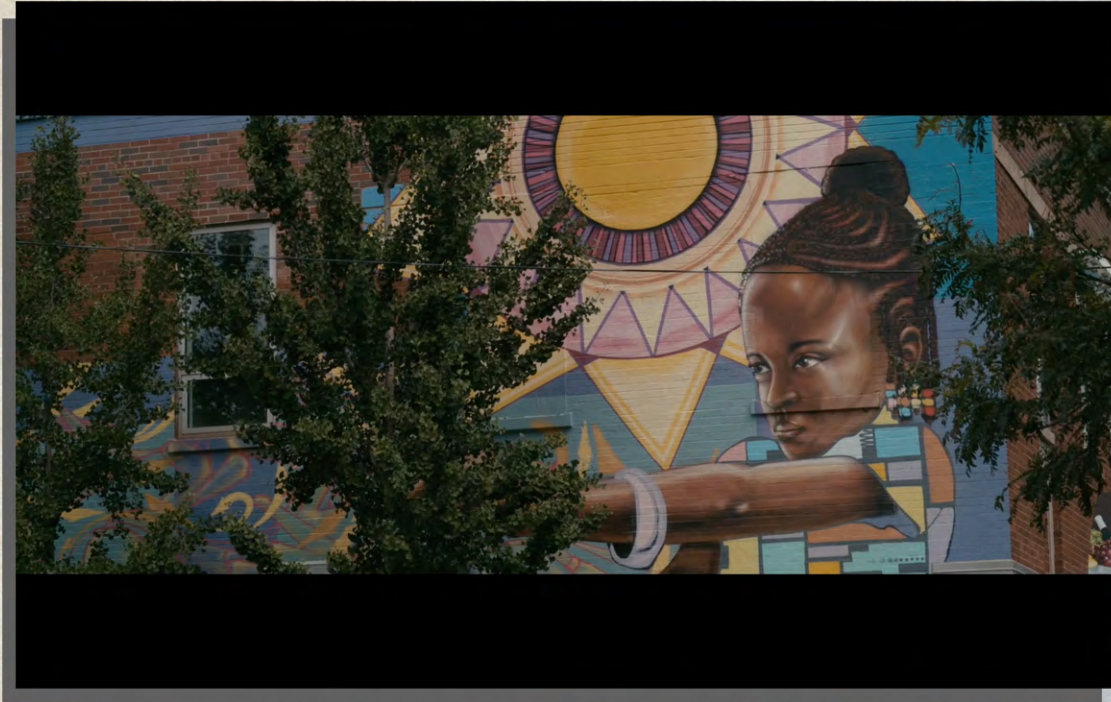
FILM STILLS



DIMETRIANA AND DOMINETRIUS CHAMBERS OPEN
COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE LETTERS IN THEIR HOME

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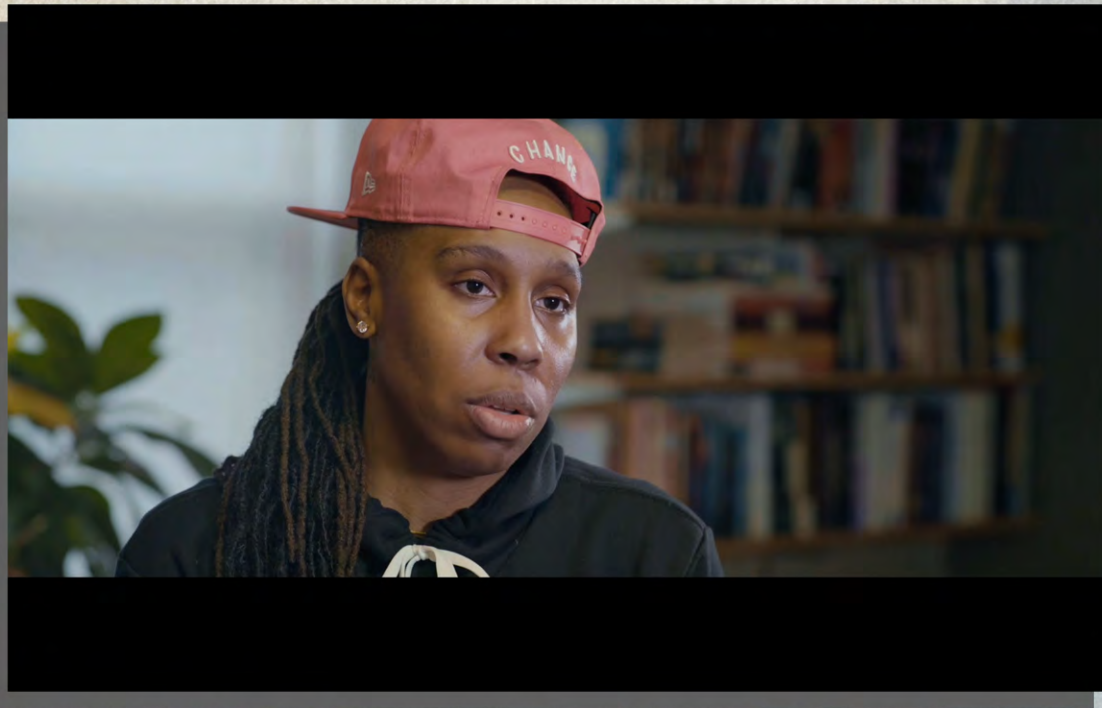
FILM STILLS



A MURAL DEPICTING AN AFRICAN AMERICAN GIRL IN CHICAGO'S
HYDE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD PAINTED BY GRAFFITI ARTIST STATIK

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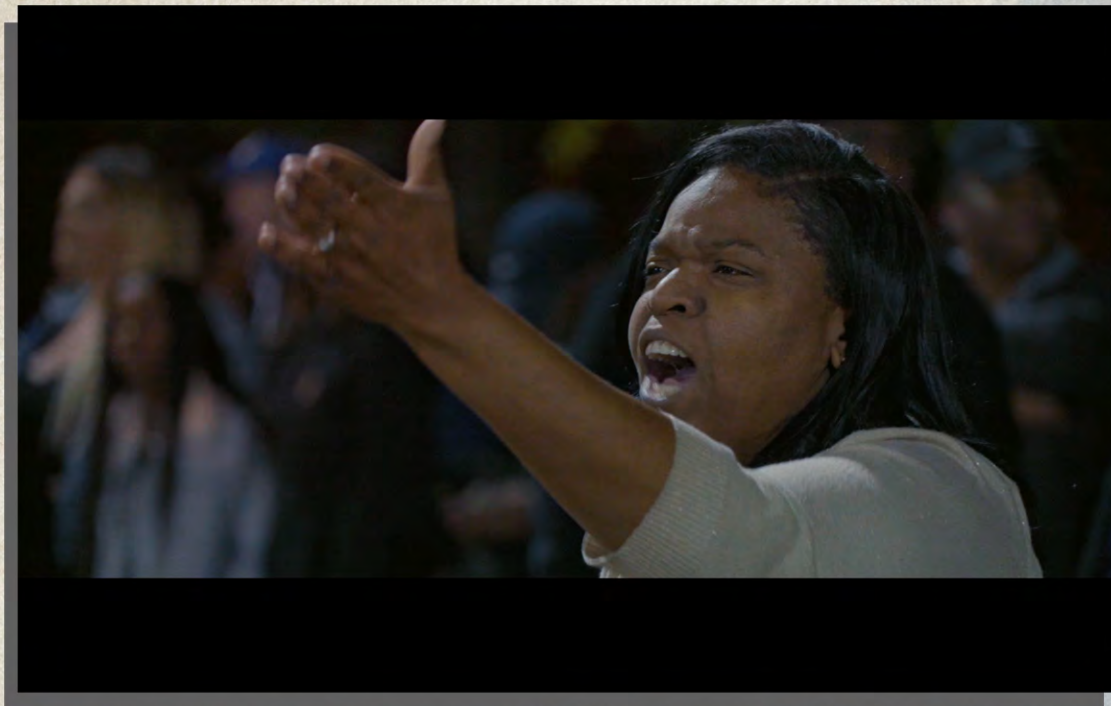
FILM STILLS



EMMY-WINNING CHICAGOAN LENA WAITHE DISCUSSES
THE MEDIA REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN

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FILM STILLS



COLLINS ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, LAKENYA SHARPE,
ROOTS ON HER STUDENTS AT A FOOTBALL GAME

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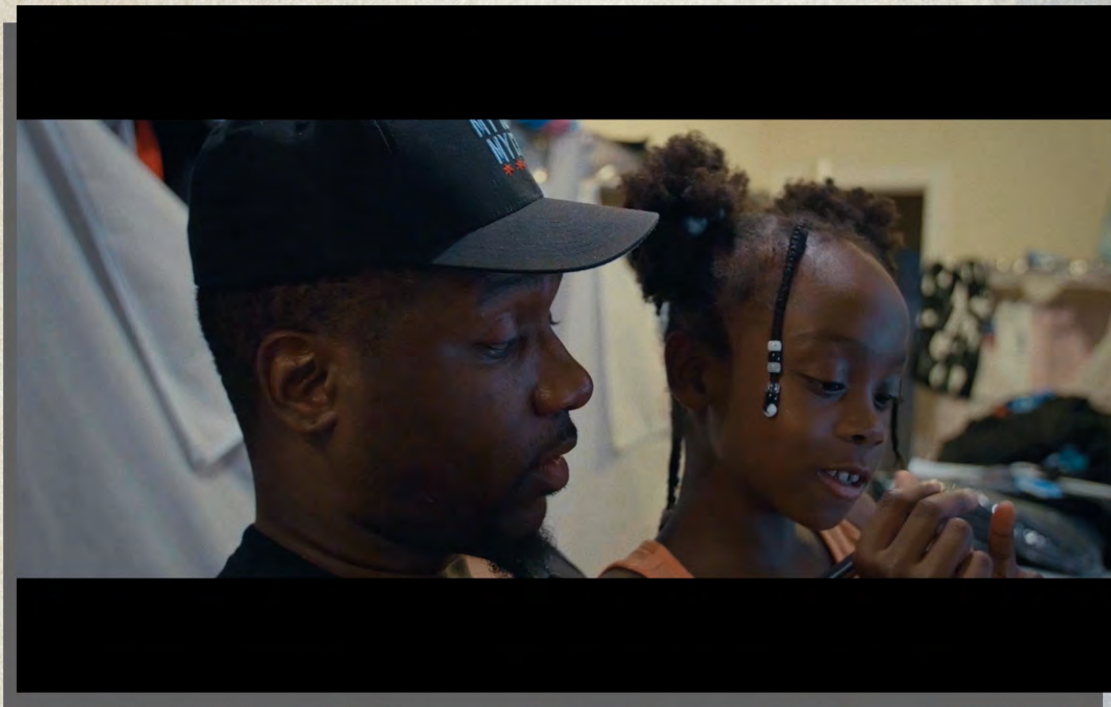
FILM STILLS



DEONTAE LEWIS AND HIS DATE ON THEIR WAY TO THE
2018 COLLINS ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PROM

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FILM STILLS



JAHMAL COLE SPENDS A RARE QUIET MOMENT
WITH HIS DAUGHTER KHAMMUR

**A TINY RIPPLE
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END CREDITS

Producer and Director
Executive Producer
Executive Producer
Producer
Director of Photography
Editor
Original Music

Jason Polevoi
Adam Pertfosky
Robert Teitel
Nick Jenkins
Teddy Wachholz
Derrick Monks
Devin Delaney

Starring
Co-Starring

Jahmal Cole
Dimetrian Chambers
Dominetirus Chambers
Deontae Lewis

Appearances by

Connie Chambers
Kennedy Cole
Leonard "Pops" Cole
Jennifer Dixon
Ramon "Mony Mone" Forte
Tiffany Jones
LaKenya Sharpe
Danyel Smith
Josephine "Mother" Wade
Theresa West

LaPassion Chambers
Khammur Cole
John Coleman
Richard Gray
Will Hobert
Kendell Macon
Art "Chat Daddy" Sims
Codi Tranel
Marquell Washington

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END CREDITS

Featuring Interviews with

Asiaha Butler
Liz Dozier
Bridget Gainer
Karen GJ Lewis
Ameya Pawar
Shari Runner
Lena Waithe

Kevin Coval
Rahm Emanuel
Che "Rhymefest" Kweku
Marisa Novara
Michelle Rashad
Dr. Nneka Jones Tapia

Additional Interviews with

Tom Dart
Michael Frerichs

Evelyn Diaz
Rev. Dr. Michael Pfleger

Additional Cinematography

Samuel J. Rong

Additional Camera

Nick Jenkins
Jason Polevoi

Post-Production Supervisor

Janae Abraham

Additional Editing

Samuel J. Rong
Mimi Wilcox

Music Supervision

Devin Delaney
Jason Polevoi

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END CREDITS

Archive Materials Courtesy of

Jahmal Cole
John H. White
The National Archives

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WGN-TV
WMAQ-TV

WBBM-TV
WFLD
WLS-TV
WTTW

Color Services Provided by Primary
Primary Executive Producer
Producer
Colorist
Color Assistants

Thatcher Peterson
Jenny Bright
Daniel de Vue
Dylan Bursick
Corey Martinez

Music and Sound Services Provided by NoiseFloor
Post-Production Sound Supervisors

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Cory Coken, MPSE
Katie Waters, MPSE
Jamie Vanadia, MPSE
Victoria Salazar
Jeff Ryan
Katie Waters, MPSE

Post Sound Producer
Re-Recording Mixer
Dialogue Editor
Backgrounds Editor
Foley Artist

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END CREDITS

Graphic Services Provided by Elastic

Motion Graphics

Brad Cowan

End Titles

Endcrawl

Impact Producer

Sydney Bauer

Legal Counsel

Travis W. Life
Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP

For Rock Paper Scissors
Managing Director
Executive Producer
Head of Production

Eve Kornblum
Shada Shariatzadeh
Dre Krichevsky

Special Thanks to

The Cole Family
The Chambers Family
The Lewis Family
My Block, My Hood, My City
The Staff and Faculty of Collins Academy High School

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END CREDITS

Thanks to

Cynthia Alfaro
Mike Asem
Robert Bloch
Abbie Brewer
Tony Como
Ryan P. Duke
Jacob Fox
Ram Hadroj
Katie Hickey
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Amy Jenkins-Sutton
Laura Lourenço Jenkins
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Kathryn Scott
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Matt Rico
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Cai Thomas
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Susan Decker
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Mitchell Polevoi
Samuel Randall
Risé Sanders-Weir
Miguel Silveira
Helene Sperling
Neal Sugarman
Barb Wachholz

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END CREDITS

"Good To Be Back Home"

**Written by Victor Axelrod, Charles Bradley,
Thomas Brenneck, David Guy, Leon Michels,
Homer Steinweiss**

**Performed by Charles Bradley
Courtesy of Daptone Records**

"Nobody Knows"

**Written by Thomas Lee Barrett
Performed by Pastor T.L. Barrett & The Youth For Christ Choir
Courtesy of The Numero Group**

"Something Real"

**Written by Robert Brandon Commodore
Performed by #MPLS (ft. Felix)
Courtesy of Little Purple Room Productions**

"Buddha"

**Written by Macy Gray and Jens Carlsson
Performed by Macy Gray (ft. Gary Clark Jr.)
Under exclusive license from Mack Avenue Records II, LLC**

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OF HOPE**

END CREDITS

Dedicated to the memories of
Joan Seiner Lasday and Catherine Hickson
George Jenkins Jr. and Truman Rendina
Rob Reynolds, Marilyn Passeri, and Robert "Beaver" Passeri Sr.

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**A TINY RIPPLE
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PRODUCTION COMPANY LOGOS



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