

LA Coles | Fine Art Films

SOILED DOVE written by Leslie-Ann Coles

LOG LINE

In the Wild West of 1873, God-fearing outlaw BELLE REIGN REDDALL, the leader of a badass all-woman posse, seeks revenge for the death of her daughter.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

BELLE REIGN REDDALL and her all-woman posse liberate women from abuse and give them refuge in the town of SOILED DOVE. From this sanctuary city in the Utah desert, they execute rescue missions throughout the region. Their raids disrupt the status quo, enraging the men who mistakenly think they can take back the power – *but not without a showdown.*

SUPER: FOUR YEARS LATER

EXT. TOWN - SOILED DOVE - UTAH (1873)

The town is a small, dry, dusty bowl. The BUILDINGS are SINGLE STOREY, made of BOARD AND SHINGLE.

A rickety CHURCH, with a HOLE IN THE ROOF and a BELL that HANGS BY A THREAD, sits at the edge of town.

A few feet beyond it are the remnants of what once was the town's official SIGN. Only the FRAME REMAINS.

A diseased-looking BUZZARD with a VENOMOUS SNAKE in its beak is perched above a weathered two-storey saloon. The slanted shutter doors that barely manage to meet in the middle fling open.

BELLE REIGN REDDALL, 40, with two single-action pistols holstered at her hips and a Winchester in her hand, steps outside. Still handsome save for the long scar that runs along the side of her face. Belle settles herself in a rocking chair on the duly weathered and slanted porch.

The snake contorts, hisses, and strikes the bird. The bird SCREECHES as it clamps down on the snake.

Without looking, Belle raises her gun and shoots the bird relieving them both of their misery. The bird topples to the ground with a THUD, snake and all.

She looks out at the town, smiles, pleased as punch.

WOMEN - MEXICAN, INDIAN, LATINA, BLACK, ASIAN AND ANGLO - are preparing food, mending, and tending to small children while they gossip amongst themselves.

EXT. SOILED DOVE - LIVERY STABLE - CONTINUOUS

LIV, a muscular, heavysset woman, hauls a heavy bag of grain off the wagon.

The SIGN behind her reads: HORSESHOEING JOBBING AND CARRIAGE REPAIR.

Belle spots SCRIBE in her office from across the plaza. She's buried armpit deep in paperwork. Scribe manages the telegraphs and is the town's historian. She also happens to draw up birth certificates and all matter of formal documentation, including death certificates.

Calm is broken when we hear the steady gallop of a SINGLE HORSEMAN as he rides into town.

Belle watches him from under the brim of her hat, her steely blue eyes squinted from the sun.

LIV takes a rifle from the wagon and steadies herself.

WOMEN quickly usher their children inside.

Scribe peers out the window.

HAL, the scoundrel who we will come to know as Abigail's husband, scowls and spits as he passes the ethnic women and children.

A small NATIVE CHILD (5) runs into his path.

HAL
(noticing the child,
utters to himself)
Unnatural filthiness.

Hal charges at the wee Indian child.

The MOTHER screams.

POW. Belle fires once into the air.

Hal slows down.

The mother scoops the oblivious child into her arms and runs for safety.

Belle's eyes are fixed on Hal.

Hal proceeds toward her.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN watch, concerned, from a distance.

Hal dismounts and hitches his horse to a post.

WE SEE Belle slip her right hand under the brim of her hat. Quick as lightning she crosses herself.

HAL (CONT'D)
Where's my wife?

BELLE
Good day, Hal.

HAL
I want to see Abigail.

BELLE
Maybe she don't want to see you.

HAL
Why wouldn't she?

BELLE
Maybe it's because you're as ugly
as a burnt boot. Or, maybe it's
because you beat her, again!

HAL
It were an accident.

BELLE
It was an accident when your fist
met her face.
(after a beat)
I suppose it were an accident too
when you broke her arm.

HAL
Belle, I just want to talk to her.

Hal looks up, removes his hat, and waves.

Belle tracks his gaze to the second-storey window.

The curtain moves. ABIGAIL peers out the window. She sports
TWO BLACK EYES AND A SPLIT AND SWOLLEN LIP.

Hal turns his attention back to Belle.

Belle glares at him with disdain and then glances sideways at
the dead bird.

Hal, seeing the dead buzzard, nervously twists the brim of
his hat.

BELLE
Don't worry, I ain't gonna shoot
you.
(under her breath but
loud enough for him to
hear)
Not yet.

Abigail suddenly appears, suitcase in hand. Her eyes
immediately fall to the floor. She's a shell of a woman from
years of being beaten down.

HAL
(eager, to Abigail)
I am sorry.

BELLE

"Sorry" means you don't do it again.

HAL

Shut your gab!

BELLE

(turning to Abigail)

Is this how he talks to you?

HAL

Abigail, I love you.

BELLE

(back to Hal)

She sure don't look like you love her.

Abigail, frightened, slips back inside the saloon and disappears.

HAL

She's my wife, goddammit!

BELLE

Not in this town she ain't.

HAL

There's a lot of men like me --

BELLE

Like you? You're no man. Hell, Hal, you're barely half a man. What kinda man beats his wife?

HAL

We want our kin back.

BELLE

I couldn't protect my own. But I will provide reprieve and respite to the women and children who seek refuge in my town. As God is my witness, I will protect them and the town of Soiled Dove until the day I die.

HAL

That day may come sooner than you think, Belle Reign, 'cause like me, folks want their kin back.

Hal charges up the steps.

One Page Outline

BELLE REIGN REDDALL and her all-woman posse liberate women from abuse and give them refuge in the town of SOILED DOVE. ABIGAIL seeks refuge from domestic violence. Her husband, HAL, storms in demanding her return. This sets up an ongoing rivalry between Belle and Hal. A telegraph announces that SHERIFF JACK CARTER, Belle's childhood sweetheart, is the new sheriff in Kleinberg. MURRAY, unwittingly, ventures into town to sell his finery, and a clandestine affair begins between him and Charlotte. Sheriff Carter pays Belle a visit to warn her that she's making enemies. The posse venture to Kleinberg for supplies and are met with hostility from disgruntled men who've lost their kin to the town of Soiled Dove, Hal among them.

There's a domestic at the Selby homestead, and the posse make plans. Padre Michael ventures into Soiled Dove and becomes the town's priest, and eventually Belle's spiritual guide. Belle catches Charlotte out for a late-night ride. The posse ambush the Selby homestead, killing two farmhands, and rescue six small children and their sister, KATE. En route home, the posse meet LILY-MAY and mistakenly take her for another victim. When Lily-May's plan is foiled by the posse, she becomes their new recruit. Outlaw BLANCHE WESLEY triggers Belle's memory of her daughter's rape and murder. It turns out that Blanche exacted revenge upon six of the seven Cavalry men and rescued Belle. The seventh man, the COLONEL, escaped. Blanche joins the posse. Abigail goes home, is beaten by Hal, and returns to town in the back of a wagon, unconscious. Women and children flock to Soiled Dove. News arrives of the "killing spree," and Mitch Selby demands justice for the death of his brother and nephews. Belle tracks Charlotte to STELLA's saloon/brothel in Dalton, and Charlotte's affair with Murray is confirmed. We meet SEÑOR RICO and a corrupt SHERIFF BOYLE.

The posse execute an ambush on Rico and his gang to save Stella's saloon, and Belle encounters the COLONEL, the man who killed her daughter. The Colonel vanishes. Belle is WANTED. The women and children of Soiled Dove learn to shoot. Hal holds Abigail hostage, eager for Belle's bounty, and Blanche blows his brains out. Charlotte and Belle are on the lam and make for the safe house. Stella reveals Belle's whereabouts to Rico as a negotiation tactic to save her saloon. In Belle's absence, men ambush the town for Belle and the reward money. A fight ensues between Belle and Charlotte when Belle discovers Murray in their hideout. Charlotte abandons Belle, who's captured by Rico. Sheriff Carter comes to the rescue and is shot. Belle tends to him before racing back to Soiled Dove. She encounters the Colonel. During their confrontation, she remembers what really happened. Belle spares the Colonel's life so she can be reunited with her daughter in heaven. Sheriff Carter dies.

The raid is in full swing, and Belle is shot by an innocent child. Charlotte pays her respects before Belle dies, and Belle bequeaths the town to Charlotte. Belle's legacy lives on.

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LESLIE-ANN COLES

BIO & FILMOGRAPHY

Coles is an award-winning filmmaker and screenwriter. She works with scripted and unscripted material. When working with scripted material, she understands actors' artistic processes intuitively, having trained and worked as an actor. She gravitates to realism and nuanced characters and enjoys stories with compelling, character-driven dialogue and action. In the documentary landscape, she excels at conducting and directing interviews. Coles has an extensive background in dance and choreography, and recently discovered - while in the process of writing a genre film - that she writes action well because she's used to tracking movement. Her female-driven western screenplay, "Soiled Dove" is on The Red List having garnered numerous accolades, and awards in international script competitions. Telefilm Canada recently awarded Coles two script-development grants: for the screenplays "Soiled Dove," winner of 12 finalist international screenwriting awards, and "Love in Vein." She also recently received a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts for her short film "The Curtain," which she wrote and will direct in winter 2022.

Her debut, multi-award-winning feature documentary "Melody Makers" – and companion interactive digital media (IDM) – was released in 2019 with the support of Telefilm Canada. Coles is an alumna of the Women in the Director's Chair program and is the founder and executive director of The Female Eye Film Festival (FeFF).

FILM & Video

2022 The Curtain, a short drama. Pre-production. Supported by the Canada Council for the Arts
2020 My Life, My Community, My Ontario. Mentor/Lead Artist/Director. Supported by OAC and Canada Council for the Arts (Community Collaboration)
2019 Melody Makers. Writer/Director/Producer. 205321 Ontario Inc. LA Coles Fine Art Films; CBC, Documentary Channel; NFB FAP Grant. Released 2019
2007 Death And The Housewife, BravoFact! Producer/Actress. Barking Frog Productions
2006 Tea with Mother, Short Drama. Co director/Producer/Actor.
2003 Alice Smithee, Portrait of an Independent Filmmaker (2003): Short Independent Mocumentary: Writer/ Director
2001 In The Refrigerator, Debut Short Film (16 mm, 40 min, 2000). Writer/Director/Actor
2002 Damzels In This Dress, Director/DOP/Producer - Fashion Video

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2000 MUD, Dance Extremes (2003). Dance Video. Producer/Director/DOP/Editor

2006 - 2018 Female Eye Young Filmmaker Development Workshop, Forty-six (46) Short Super 8 Films.
Mentor/ Producer.

Film Awards: "MELODY MAKERS" (HD, 95 min.)

Best Documentary, MeFF Festival (Siracusa, Italy 2018)

Best Director, Borderscene Film Festival (Las Cruces, Mexico 2018)

Best Documentary, Spotlight Documentary Film Awards (Atlanta Georgia, USA 2018)

Best International Documentary, Meraki Film Festival (Berlino Berlin, Germany 2017)

Best Documentary, Colortape Film Festival, (Brisbane, Australia, 2018)

Audience Choice Award, Director Hot Springs Arts & Film Institute (Phoenix, Arizona, 2018)

Best International Documentary, 16th Garden State Int. Film Festival (New Jersey, USA, 2017)

Best Music Documentary Feature, 18th Bare Bones Int. Music and Film Festival (Oklahoma, USA 2017)

Black Sea Film Festival (Vama Vech, Constanta 2018)

Nice International Film Festival, Best Documentary 2018 (France 2018)

Best Music Documentary, Colortape (Brisbane, QLD, 2018)

Best Documentary, 8th Forte Myers Film Festival (Forte Myers, Florida, 2017)

Best Music Documentary Feature, 18th Bare Bones Int. Music and Film Festival (Oklahoma, USA 2017)

Voted Top Ten Films of Whistler Film Festival 2016 (Whistler, BC)

Nominated Best Documentary, Women Film Journalists

Honorable Mention, 36th New Jersey Int. Film Festival (NJ, NYC)

Special Screenings: "MELODY MAKERS" (2017-2019)

Theatrical Premiere, English Canada. The Royal Cinema, June 1st and 2nd, 2019

Theatrical Premiere, French Canada. Cinematheque Quebecois, August 2018

View from Underground film series, The Regent Street Cinema (UK)

The Phoenix Cinema (Leicester, UK)

OPENING NIGHT GALA, Forte Myers Film Festival (Forte Myers, Florida)

CLOSING NIGHT GALA, Meraki Int'l Film Festival (Madrid)

Bermondsey Project Space, Film and Photographic Retrospective (UK)

Film & Photographic Retrospective, Isle of Wright (UK)

Film Awards: "IN THE REFRIGERATOR" (2001, 16 mm, 40 min.)

Filmmaker In an Acting Role, the Grand Jury Award - Barebones International Film Festival 2001

Best Film - Sharpshooter Film Festival, Pigeon Forge, TN 2001

Best Picture, Women's Category - Zoie Film Festival, Atlanta Georgia, USA 2001

Best Short Film Dealing with Mental Illness - Cinevue International Film & Video Festival 2001

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Award of Excellence for Best Short Film - Valleyfest Film Festival, Knoxville, TN 2001
Best Director - Kissimmee Film Festival Florida USA 2000
Best Actress - Kissimmee Film Festival, Florida, USA 2000
Best Actress - Cinevue International Film & Video Festival, Florida, USA 2001
Best Avant - Garde - Cinevue International Film & Video Festival, Florida, USA 2001
Certificate of Merit, Prix Leonardo, Italy 2001
Certificate of Merit International Film Festival of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, India 2001

INDUSTRY AWARDS & GRANTS

2021 Telefilm Canada: Script Development Grants "Soiled Dove" and "LIV."
2020 Canada Council for the Arts, Creation Grant "The Curtain."
2020 The Red List "Soiled Dove". Top 1% of over 40,000 scripts (Coverfly).
2020 Sundance Institute, 2021 Development Track, advanced to the Second Round, "Soiled Dove".
Finalists announced Dec. 15, 2020.
2020 WeScreen Shorts, Screenwriter Competition, Quarter Finalist, "The Curtain".
2019 Cinestory Finalist, Screenwriters Retreat, Idylwild, CA Fall
2018 Marketing & Promotions Grant, Feature Film Distribution, Telefilm Canada.
2016 Lois J. Webber Legacy Award, Barebones Film Festival
2009 FAP Completion Grant, National Film Board of Canada (NFB) 2007
Women In The Director's Chair (WIDC) Banff Fellowship. Banff World TV Festival, Banff
2006 WIDC @Wallace Studio Award, writer comedy series: Variety Store Toronto, ON.
2006 ACTRA Pitch The Networks Competition, Wicked People. Producer/Actor. Toronto, ON
2006 Passing of Souls, Aboriginal Feature, Industry Reading In Competition, Mary Pickford Studio,
Warner Brothers Lot. Los Angeles, CA 2005 -
2006 Women In The Director's Chair (WIDC), CTV Banff Fellowship - Passing of Souls. Banff, Alberta.
2003 CTV Banff Fellowship. Banff World TV Festival, Banff

Performance Film & TV CV available upon request

Memberships & Affiliations: Writer's Guild of Canada (WGC); Directors Guild of Canada (DGC); Member of The Method Masterclass(ongoing) Founding & Executive Director, The Female Eye Film Festival(FeFF); ACTRA Member; President CUPE Local 4332; Founder/Executive Director, The Female Eye Film Festival (FeFF); Liaison of Independent Filmmaker (LIFT Member); Women In Film & Television (WIFT-T Member). Talent Representation, Jessica Martins, Hero Artists.

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