

WE PRODUCE
AWARD-WINNING
FILMS BY AND ABOUT
UNDERREPRESENTED
VOICES.



multitudefilms



About Us

Multitude Films is a Peabody-nominated independent production company dedicated to nonfiction storytelling. Our LGBTQ women-led team produces documentaries by and about underrepresented voices and is committed to a representational storytelling model, where the core creative team behind a film has a stake in the communities that will be most impacted by the story.

Multitude tells stories that shape issues and runs productions to shape the industry. We produce, executive produce, and consult on nonfiction features, shorts, and series; and prioritize diversity and equity both on screen and behind the camera. We aim to offer a production pipeline that fills the gap between mentorship and the market.

The majority of our slate is directed by emerging voices – filmmakers within the first three features of their career – because we’re committed to ensuring that this generation of storytellers represents the world we live in, so that stories on screen truly represent the complexity of the lives we live.

We’re one of few production companies that integrates a social change orientation and impact strategy from the earliest stages of our involvement in a project. We have built our slate around core issue areas allowing us to engage partners over time and build impact cumulatively - since individual films are never silver bullet solutions. Our slate concentrates on some of the most pressing issues of our time from racial justice and LGBTQ dignity to Islamophobia, gender-based violence, and immigration. We’re as committed to artistry as we are to impact, and we aim to leverage critical and commercial success toward social and political change. Multitude Films was recognized as a production company finalist in the 2020 Social Impact Media Awards.

Multitude Films was founded in 2016 by Jessica Devaney.

We are pleased to have received support from



PERSPECTIVE
FUND



Principal Producers



Jessica Devaney
FOUNDER & HEAD OF PRODUCTION

Jessica Devaney is a Peabody-nominated producer and the founder of Multitude Films. Her latest feature documentary, *PRAY AWAY*, produced in association with Blumhouse, was slated to premiere in competition at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival and was chosen as a “critics pick” by The Hollywood Reporter. She also produced *ALWAYS IN SEASON* (Independent Lens), which premiered in competition at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival where it won the Special Jury Award for Moral Urgency and was then nominated for an IDA Award. Other recent films include *THE FEELING OF BEING WATCHED* (Tribeca 2018, POV), dubbed “a real-world conspiracy thriller” by Variety; Peabody-nominated *ROLL RED ROLL* (Tribeca 2018, POV), and Critic’s Choice-nominated *SPEED SISTERS* (Hot Docs 2015, NETFLIX), which The New York Times called “subtly rebellious and defiantly optimistic.” Additional credits include *LOVE THE SINNER* (Tribeca 2017, Amazon), *CALL HER GANDA* (Tribeca 2018, POV), and *NAILA & THE UPRISING* (IDFA 2017, PBS). Jessica co-founded the Queer Producers Collective and was a Sundance Edit and Story Lab fellow, Women at Sundance fellow, and Sundance Creative Producing Lab advisor. She received DOC NYC and TOPIC’s inaugural 40 under 40 Award, the 2019 Cinereach Producers Award, and is an AMPAS Documentary Branch member.



Anya Rous
HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS

ANYA ROUS is a Brooklyn-based Producer and Head of Partnerships at Multitude Films. Anya most recently produced *PRAY AWAY*, which was selected to premiere in competition at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival. She co-produced the following critically-acclaimed films: *ALWAYS IN SEASON* (Independent Lens), which premiered in competition at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival and won the Special Jury Award for Moral Urgency, *THE FEELING OF BEING WATCHED* (Tribeca 2018, PBS), and *NAILA AND THE UPRISING* (IDFA 2017, PBS), and co-executive produced *CALL CENTER BLUES* (SXSW 2020) and *CALL HER GANDA* (Tribeca 2018, PBS). Anya brings a combined 10 years of experience in funding strategy and impact campaigns for stories that further movements for racial, economic, and gender justice. She formerly served as the Director of Strategic Relationships at Just Vision, as a grantmaker at the Nathan Cummings Foundation, and the coordinator of a multi-state oral history project at the Bob Bullock State History Museum in Austin, TX. Anya is a Sundance Creative Producing Fellow and was a 2019 Impact Partners Documentary Producing Fellow. She is also on the board of Jews for Racial and Economic Justice.



Lisa Valencia-Svensson
HEAD OF OPERATIONS

LISA VALENCIA-SVENSSON is an Emmy award-winning documentary producer and Head of Operations at Multitude Films. She co-produced *PRAY AWAY* (Tribeca 2020), *CALL CENTER BLUES* (SXSW 2020), and *ALWAYS IN SEASON* (Sundance 2019). She produced PJ Raval’s *CALL HER GANDA* (Tribeca 2018), which The Hollywood Reporter called “heartbreaking and inspirational.” Her first feature documentary, *HERMAN’S HOUSE* (Full Frame 2012, POV) won an Emmy for Outstanding Arts & Culture Programming. Her second feature *MIGRANT DREAMS* (Hot Docs 2016) won the Canadian Hillman Prize and was a Top Ten Audience Favorite at Hot Docs. *HERMAN’S HOUSE* and *MIGRANT DREAMS* were both nominated for the Canadian Screen Award: Donald Brittain Award for Best Social/Political Documentary. Additional credits include *LAILA AT THE BRIDGE* (CPH:DOX 2018) and *THE WORLD BEFORE HER* (Tribeca 2012). Lisa has been a Tribeca All Access and IFP Documentary Lab fellow, a lead mentor for the Hot Docs Diverse Voices mentorship program, and is an AMPAS Documentary Branch member.

*Our
Team*



Colleen Cassingham
PRODUCTION MANAGER



Paulette Marte
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER



Jot Sahi
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Coming Soon





Former leaders of the “pray the gay away” movement contend with the aftermath unleashed by their actions, while a survivor seeks healing and acceptance from more than a decade of trauma.

Pray Away

"GRIPPING"
Hollywood
THE REPORTER

"ESSENTIAL VIEWING...
PRAY AWAY MAY WELL
BREAK YOUR HEART."

Awards
Circuit

"THE MUST-WATCH
MOVIE OF THE YEAR"
THE
PLAYLIST



PRAY AWAY aims to contribute towards ending conversion therapy in the U.S., a practice that perpetuates the denial of LGBTQ rights, safety, and acceptance. Though regularly cited in the media, the extensive reach of conversion therapy is largely overlooked. Approximately 700,000 people in this country have gone through conversion therapy, and the practice continues on nearly every continent. Conversion therapy is still a primary contributing factor to the heartbreaking high suicide rate for LGBTQ youth, with those who participate twice as likely to attempt taking their lives. Its proponents use it to galvanize broad-based mobilization, funding, and support for anti-LGBTQ policies, challenging the Equality Act, advocating anti-trans legislation, and opposing the current movement to ban the practice of conversion therapy by licensed individuals.

PRAY AWAY's impact campaign integrates a political, religious, and community-based strategy along with targeted press and customized educational materials to grow political will for state-by-state efforts to ban the practice, increase awareness of its harms, and reach religious communities otherwise excluded from current legislation, working in partnership with the leading organizations on the issue, including National Center for Lesbian Rights + the Born Perfect Campaign, the Trevor Project, state Equality chapters, among others.



Directed by
Kristine Stolakis





Call Center Blues



**Directed by
Geeta Gandbhir**

Call Center Blues is a lyrical portrait of an unlikely community of US deportees and their loved ones struggling to rebuild their lives in Tijuana, Mexico.

A character-driven, cinematic tale of deportation, migration, displacement, and opportunistic capitalism, CALL CENTER BLUES is a short film that follows four characters as they struggle to make sense of their lives in Tijuana. Each with a vastly different story, they are all linked by their displacement and the sole choice of call center work they have in a country that is so unfamiliar and oftentimes frightening, yet other times a ray of hope. Tijuana becomes their home, a place defined by the border but yet defiant towards it, a no-man's-land where everything and everyone feels transient. These characters paint a picture of love, loss, and longing - for home, for an American Dream deferred, and for justice.



topic

Recent Films





Always in Season

When 17-year-old Lennon Lacy is found hanging from a swing set in rural North Carolina in 2014, his mother's search for justice and reconciliation begins while the trauma of more than a century of lynching African Americans bleeds into the present.

"INFURIATING AND EYE-OPENING"

THE Hollywood REPORTER

"HAUNTING, DIFFICULT, AND NECESSARY"

FILMMAKER

"ENGROSSING"

VARIETY



Following its premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival where it won the Special Jury Award for Moral Urgency, ALWAYS IN SEASON screened at over 50 film festivals internationally, taking home best documentary honors at five. With support from the Sundance Creative Distribution Fellowship, we launched a 17-city theatrical tour which kicked off in New York at the Metrograph, followed by art house and AMC theaters across the country. We held an influencer screening at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice followed by a powerful dialogue with Jackie, film protagonist Claudia Lacy, and activist Bree Newsome Bass about lynching terrorism's ongoing legacy. Chosen for Indie Lens Pop-Up, Independent Lens' flagship impact and engagement series, ALWAYS IN SEASON toured 50+ communities at PBS stations, non-profits, cultural institutions, schools, libraries, and theaters ahead of its PBS broadcast in February 2020.

Jackie and impact producer Monifa Bandele are now coordinating an engagement campaign that will feature deep-dive, cross-racial and intra-racial discussions that explore strategies for repair, present tools for healing trauma, and link audiences with partner organizations doing racial justice work. This approach creates space for justice and resilience locally, building towards a national movement for justice and reconciliation.

ALWAYS IN SEASON was nominated for the IDA Award for Best Writing and the Cinema Eye Honors Spotlight Award.



Directed by Jacqueline Olive





The Feeling of Being Watched

When a filmmaker investigates rumors of surveillance in her Arab-American neighborhood in Chicago, she uncovers one of the largest FBI terrorism probes conducted before 9/11 and reveals its enduring impact on the community.

“RIVETING”
the village VOICE

“A REAL WORLD CONSPIRACY THRILLER”
VARIETY

“SCINTILLATING”
The New York Times



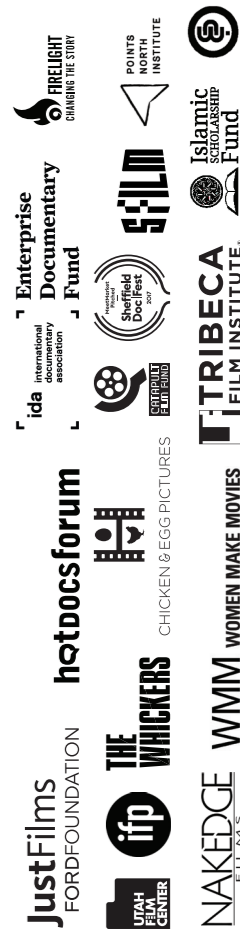
Between 30+ film festivals, a seven-city theatrical run, and two dozen community screenings, we’ve seen the critical importance of using THE FEELING OF BEING WATCHED to create space for collective healing and empowerment in communities that have been traumatized by decades of government profiling and surveillance. In fall 2019, the film was broadcast across the U.S. on PBS’s POV (and was one of their top streaming films of its season) and then internationally on Al Jazeera’s Witness.

Assia worked alongside impact producer Ahlam Said to build relationships with American-Muslim organizers, young leaders, and coalitions doing anti-surveillance work in their own neighborhoods, which resulted in 23 community screenings in cities and campuses across the country, from Tallahassee to San Diego. We also created a Community Screening Healing Guide in partnership with the Muslim Wellness Foundation and a FOIA toolkit in partnership with the Center for Constitutional Rights.

Meanwhile, the Boundaoui vs FBI federal court case continues. Three years into our legal battle for transparency, the judge made an unprecedented ruling and ordered FBI agents to appear in court in January 2020 to answer questions about their decades-long investigation of the Bridgeview Muslim community. The FBI also acknowledged an additional 45,000 documents about Operation Vulgar Betrayal extending beyond 9/11. This is an incredible legal milestone in the ongoing struggle for transparency.



Directed by Assia Boundaoui





Call Her Ganda

When Jennifer Laude, a Filipina trans woman, is brutally murdered by a U.S. Marine, three women intimately invested in the case – an activist attorney, a transgender journalist and Jennifer’s mother – galvanize a political uprising, pursuing justice and taking on hardened histories of US imperialism.

“HEARTBREAKING AND INSPIRATIONAL”

Holly^{THE}
wood
REPORTER

“THOUGHT-PROVOKING”

FILMMAKER

“UNFLINCHING AND EYE-OPENING”

NOW



Since premiering at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival, CALL HER GANDA screened at 60 film festivals internationally, winning 12 awards, and the team brought Jennifer’s story to theatrical audiences in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Chicago, and Denver. In July 2019, the film was broadcast across the US on PBS’s POV. It’s now streaming on-demand on the major streaming platforms including iTunes and Amazon.

Communities across the US and the Philippines screened CALL HER GANDA in commemoration of the anniversary of Jennifer’s murder, joining the efforts of the Justice for Jennifer Laude movement during the Filipino American History & LGBT History months in 2018. CALL HER GANDA was also part of the debut season of Ava DuVernay’s new Amanda Theater in the fall of 2019 and screened with the NY Times staff for a conversation with Director PJ Raval and NY Times TV critic Mike Hale. Additionally, in an effort to encourage legislative and policy change – in partnership with the Tribeca Film Institute, the Oath Foundation, Gucci, and Picture Motion – the team also screened the film on Capitol Hill for the US State Department and legislators. CALL HER GANDA was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award for Best Documentary.



Directed by
PJ Raval





Love the Sinner

In the wake of the mass shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Evangelical Christians grapple with their relationship to the LGBTQ community. Love the Sinner probes our responsibility to face bias in our communities and push for dignity and equality for all.

"CHALLENGES WHAT IT MEANS TO REALLY LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF"



"SUCCEEDS IN EFFECTING CHANGE"

ADVOCATE

"A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE BROADER CULTURAL CONVERSATION"



After premiering at Tribeca Film Festival in 2017, LOVE THE SINNER screened at over two dozen film festivals including Provincetown, Palm Springs ShortsFest, and Outfest and won several awards including the American Psychological Association's Best Short. We partnered with Upworthy to release an excerpt on National Coming Out Day, viewed by over 300K people.

Ahead of the first anniversary of the Pulse shooting, we launched a church engagement initiative, in partnership with The Reformation Project (a Christian grassroots organization that promotes LGBTQ inclusion). We hosted a screening and dialogue at Northland Church a 20,000-member Evangelical megachurch in Orlando, where Love the Sinner protagonist Dr. Joel Hunter was head pastor.

For Pride 2018, we made the film and discussion guide available for free to GLSEN's network of over 60,000 students and 12,000 educators across the country and PFLAG shared the film with 35,000 members from over 400 chapters nationwide. We published a curriculum and discussion guide that meets common core standards for grades 7-12 language arts, written by a non-binary trans educator. We launched the curriculum this fall in partnership with Teach for America, who screened LOVE THE SINNER at their national conferences in Jacksonville, Fort Worth, Dallas, and Milwaukee. Thanks to Bertha Foundation and The Fledgling Fund for making this impact possible!

Directed by



Geeta Gandbhir



Jessica Devaney





PEABODY
NOMINEE

Roll Red Roll



Directed by
Nancy Schwartzman

Go behind the headlines of notorious high school sexual assault to witness the social media-fueled “boys will be boys” culture that let it happen.

ROLL RED ROLL received a wide festival release, was broadcast in the U.S. on PBS's POV, in the U.K. on BBC Storyville, and is available to stream on Netflix.



In Production



Directed by
Alexandria Bombach

Indigo Girls

An intimate look into the lives of one of the most iconic folk-rock bands in America: the Indigo Girls. With never-before-seen archival and intimate vérité, the film dives into the songwriting and storytelling of the music that transformed a generation.



+ impactpartners



Directed by
Geeta Gandbhir

Fake News

A few months after the armed standoff in the Nevada desert between the Bureau of Land Management and rancher Cliven Bundy, documentary director Charles Johnson started interviewing the Bundy family and their supporters. But Charles wasn't a filmmaker - he was an undercover FBI agent trying to build a criminal case against the Bundys. Johnson and his team of FBI agents spent eight months filming interviews with nearly two dozen people. FAKE NEWS tells the story of the undercover investigation of the Bundys and explores the implications of this FBI overreach for the work of real journalists.



Untitled Dwarfism Project



**Directed by
Julie Wyman**



**Produced by
Shaleece Haas**

There's a new drug on the horizon that promises to make little people taller—and it's threatening to destroy the very community it claims to serve. As little people grapple with their uncertain future, director Julie Wyman confronts her own complicated diagnosis of dwarfism. At the heart of the film lies the question: if you could give up the qualities that make you different, would you? And at what cost? **Executive Produced by Multitude Films.**



Milisuthando




**Directed by
Milisuthando Bongela**



**Produced by
Marion Isaacs**

Milisuthando is a coming-of-age personal essay film on South Africa's Model C generation – the first generation of kids to desegregate “whites only” schools at the end of apartheid. Explored through the memories of Milisuthando, who grew up during apartheid but didn't know it was happening until it was over, the story is a meditation on power, intimacy, difference, and the weight of loving and fearing your enemy in a time of decolonisation. **Executive Produced by Multitude Films.**





MULTITUDE FILMS
OPERATES ON A HYBRID
MODEL, BLENDING
TRADITIONAL PRODUCTION
COMPANY OPERATIONS
WITH PHILANTHROPIC
CONTRIBUTIONS
TO SUPPORT OUR
COMMITMENT TO EQUITY
AND REPRESENTATION IN
THE INDUSTRY.

To learn more about how to support our work or to make an equity investment in or tax-deductible contribution to one of our films, contact Jessica Devaney at jessica@multitudefilms.com.

Multitude Films is fiscally-sponsored by Women Make Movies. To make a tax-deductible donation to one of our films or the broader work of our team, please send a check to the address below and note the film name or "Multitude Films" in the memo line.

Checks should be mailed to:
Barbara Ghammashi
Women Make Movies
115 West 29th Street, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10001

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