

NO CREDITS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# RESISTING

*A documentary film by donnie l. betts*

A grandfather to three Black boys, haunted by the generations lost to police violence, embarks on a gripping exploration of policing in America—starting with the Aurora, Colorado Police Department and expanding to Atlanta, Dallas, Oakland, and other cities—to uncover the systemic roots of brutality, the policies that enable it, and the communities left in its wake.

**Resisting** is a powerful documentary that demands justice and accountability in the fight for Black lives.



# OVERVIEW



"UNTIL THE KILLING OF BLACK MEN, BLACK MOTHERS' SONS, BECOMES AS IMPORTANT TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY AS THE KILLING OF A WHITE MOTHER'S SONS, WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM CANNOT REST UNTIL THIS HAPPENS"  
— ELLA BAKER

Every 1 in 1,000 Black men in America will be killed by a police officer. It's more than a statistic—it's a generational crisis.

Award-winning director donnie l. betts brings a deeply personal and urgent lens to this issue in ***Resisting***, a gripping documentary that dissects the realities of police violence in America. As a grandfather to three young Black boys, donnie sees the faces of the countless lives stolen—men and boys who will never sit at a family dinner again, never grow to raise children of their own.

With a sharp focus on the Aurora, Colorado Police Department, ***Resisting*** expands its investigation to Denver, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, and other cities where communities have been forever altered by police brutality. The film pulls back the curtain on the policies and policing practices that have fueled this crisis, exposing systemic failures in law enforcement, city governments, and the justice system.

Through powerful storytelling, firsthand accounts, and investigative reporting, ***Resisting*** centers the lives impacted, the communities demanding justice, and the growing movement for accountability.

More than a documentary, ***Resisting*** is a call to action—an urgent and necessary conversation about the future of policing and justice in America. Now is the time to tell this story.



# donnie l. betts

PRODUCER/ DIRECTOR

---

donnie l. betts is an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, theater director, and podcast host. His documentary *Music Is My Life, Politics My Mistress: The Story of Oscar Brown Jr.* won eleven Best Film or Audience Choice awards and aired on PBS Plus stations nationwide. This film was featured in IDA Doc Magazine and is part of the Black Film Archives at Indiana University, now streaming on kweliTV. His film *Dearfield: The Road Less Traveled*, about the all-Black Colorado town, was nominated for an Emmy. He won an Emmy for his film *My Voice*, focusing on hip-hop artist and activist Jeff Campbell. betts was the youngest recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. He was part of the producing team for the launch of BET's Starz in Black. betts has created content for John Sayles and has written and directed multiple theater plays, including *The Mountaintop*, which received a Henry Award for Best Director.

He is a founding member of two theater companies in Denver: City Stage Ensemble and Denver Black Arts Company. His audio drama podcast series, *Destination Freedom: Black Radio Days The untold stories of Black people yesterday, today and tomorrow*, available on the Broadway Podcast Network and all platforms, has won numerous awards. betts is a producer on the award-winning film *The Holly*, which examines police corruption. His production company, No Credits Productions, LLC, is currently working on ***Resisting***, a film exploring the use of force in America by law enforcement and others. He attended Yale School of Drama.

In addition to his extensive work in theater and film, betts has performed on Broadway in *The Gospel at Colonus* and in numerous regional theater productions, including *Spunk, Driving Miss Daisy, Home, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*. He has directed over 25 productions across the country and has been recognized as Denver's 2002 Radio Journalist of the Year. His production company also produces the award-winning radio drama series *Destination Freedom: Black Radio Days The untold stories of Black people yesterday, today and tomorrow*, which tells the untold stories of Black heroes and heroes before the 1960s movement.





# STRUCTURE



The documentary ***Resisting*** will be structured to cover key aspects of police brutality, systemic injustice, and reform efforts. It will start with the pre-written apology and examine critical issues such as the use of ketamine, police unions, and the personal stories of families affected by police violence, including the Michael Marshall, Alexis Mendez Perez, Alexander Landau, Montye Benjamin, and Anita Wills families, as well as Indigenous families.

To support these narratives, the film will feature interviews with impacted families, activists, and key figures in law enforcement, including retired officers, district attorney attorney generals, and police chiefs.

The documentary will highlight how victims of police violence have become activists, forming nonprofits and pushing for reform. It will also feature discussions on systemic criminalization from an early age, insights from scholars, and innovative policing alternatives like the STAR program in Denver and CAHOOTS in Eugene.

A blend of media—courtroom footage, protest clips, body cam and cell phone recordings, historical footage, animation, and audio drama—will be used to bring these stories to life.

Ultimately, ***Resisting*** aims to connect cases across different cities, examine patterns of police violence, and present solutions for the future of policing in America.



# TEAM BIOS



## Tamara Banks

### Consulting Producer

Tamara Banks is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, producer, and documentary filmmaker dedicated to social justice. Tamara Banks lives by her motto: “One Person Can Make a Difference.” She is a freelance TV news correspondent, producer, talk show host, and documentary filmmaker, focusing on social justice and dedicated to creating transformative social change through excellence in journalism. Her work shines a light on global human rights issues, from Darfur and South Sudan to police brutality in the U.S. She has reported for PBS, CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, and NPR, covering major events like the Haiti earthquake and the Columbine shooting.

As the host of *From Moment to Movement*, Banks amplifies Black voices and drives conversations on systemic change. She is also the executive producer of *Runnin’ with My Girls*, spotlighting women of color in politics. Currently based in Atlanta, Banks continues to be on the frontlines of critical stories worldwide.



## Britta Erickson

### Producer

Britta Erickson is a producing partner at Denver-based Listen Productions, dedicated to connecting storytellers with audiences. She founded the Acoma Center and its resident theater company, Curious Theatre, in 1996. Over two decades in leadership at Denver Film, she expanded the annual film festival and the Film on the Rocks program. Her producing credits include *Convention* (2009), *Rolling Papers* (2015), *Actor Martinez* (2016), and *The Holly* (2022), all of which premiered at major film festivals and secured distribution. Erickson has served as a juror and panelist at numerous film festivals, including SXSW. She studied Broadcast Journalism at Southern Methodist University, followed by graduate studies in Art History. Currently, she serves as a Trustee of SeriesFest, a groundbreaking television pilot festival.





## TIMELINE

PRE-PRODUCTION AND RESEARCH: 2021-2025

PRODUCTION: LATE 2025

POST PRODUCTION: 2025-2026

## BUDGET

GROSS BUDGET- \$394,700

BUDGET GAP TO DATE-\$324,700

## CONTACT INFO

donnie.betts@gmail.com

## FISCAL SPONSORHIP

DONATION LINK:

[HTTPS://WWW.DENVERFILM.ORG/RESISTING/](https://www.denverfilm.org/resisting/)



**SCAN HERE**

# RESISTING

*Confronting the Brutality, Demanding Justice*



Denver Film

*Thank you!*