

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 a 4-time nominated, 3-time Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, theater director and podcast host. His documentary “Music is My Life, My Politics, My Mistress: The Story of Oscar Brown Jr.” won 11 Best Film or Audience Choice awards, aired nationally on PBS Plus, was featured in IDA Documentary Magazine and is archived in the Black Film Archives at Indiana University. The film also streams on kweli.tv.

betts’ documentary “Dearfield: The Road Less Traveled,” about the historic all-Black Colorado town, was nominated for an Emmy. He received an Emmy Award for his film “My Voice,” profiling hip-hop artist and activist Jeff Campbell, and earned the Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts for his contributions to Colorado’s creative landscape. He was part of the producing team behind the launch of BET’s Starz in Black and has also created content for filmmaker John Sayles.

A founding member of two Denver-based theater companies, City Stage Ensemble and Denver Black Arts Company, betts has directed award-winning stage productions including “The Mountaintop.” His acclaimed audio drama podcast, “Destination Freedom Black Radio Days,” available on the Broadway Podcast Network and all major platforms, has earned multiple industry awards.

As a producer of the feature documentary “The Holly,” examining violence, activism and police corruption in Denver’s Holly neighborhood, betts received both a Heartland Emmy and a national Emmy. He is currently in production on “Resisting,” a documentary exploring the use of force in America by law enforcement and other agencies. betts attended the Yale School of Drama.



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.

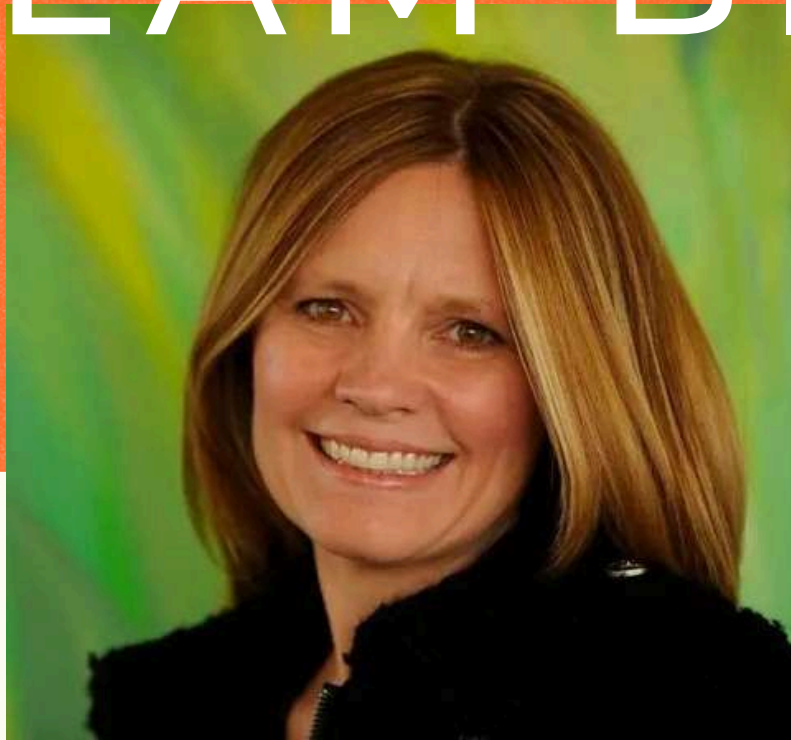
TEAM BIOS



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.



Jai Harris
Producer

Jacquelyn “Jai” Harris is a WGA member, producer, writer, and visionary with nearly two decades in the television and film industry. Known for her raw, impactful storytelling, Jai has worked on over 30 major productions, including Love After Lockup (WE tv), Ghost Brothers (Discovery+), Battle of the Bling (HGTV), and To Catch a Beautician (VH1), with credits across BET, OWN, Bravo, Lifetime, and PBS. She is the creator of Products of the Plan, a web series exploring the systemic impact of drugs and violence, and Have Mercy, a powerful documentary about a man seeking clemency. Jai is also in development on two celebrity-backed true crime docuseries with Big City TV under Pantheon Media Group (WME), and post-producing a docuseries for WE tv’s Head of Development. A native of Denver and lifelong poet, Jai has performed at the Apollo Theater, shared work with Spike Lee, and appeared in Women of Power alongside Danny Glover. Her work preserves history, inspires healing, and amplifies voices that deserve to be heard.

TEAM BIOS



Leslie Gaston-Bird
Re-Recording Mixer

Leslie Gaston-Bird CAS, MPSE is President-Elect of the Audio Engineering Society and founder and director of Immersive and Inclusive Audio, CIC, which provides training in Avid Pro Tools and Dolby Atmos certification for underrepresented groups, an initiative which she created as part of her PhD at the University of Surrey. Leslie is author of the books *Women in Audio* (Routledge) and *Math Fundamentals for Audio* (A-R Editions). She is a Pro Tools | Dolby Professional Avid Certified Instructor and Dante Level 3 Certified audio engineer specializing in re-recording mixing and sound editing. She is a member of the Recording Academy (The Grammys®), Cinema Audio Society, and Motion Picture Sound Editors (MPSE). She has worked for National Public Radio (Washington, D.C.), Colorado Public Radio, the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Post Modern Company, and was a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Denver. In 2023, Leslie began an appointment as Lecturer in Sound Recording & Music Production at City, University of London.



Javon Anthony Jackson
Composer

Javon Anthony Jackson is an American jazz tenor saxophonist, bandleader and educator. He first gained national attention as a member of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers from 1987 until Blakey's death in 1990, and went on to release 22 recordings as a bandleader while touring and performing on more than 150 albums with jazz greats including Elvin Jones, Freddie Hubbard, Charlie Haden, Betty Carter, Cedar Walton, Ron Carter and Dr. Lonnie Smith.

In his solo career, Jackson's music blends jazz traditions with soul, funk and hard-bop influences. His versatility and distinctive sound led producers Lea Reis and Bryant "Moe Doe" Johnson to invite him to perform on Tupac Shakur's remix of "Keep Ya Head Up" in 1993. In 1992, Jackson portrayed saxophonist Illinois Jacquet in Spike Lee's film *Malcolm X*, performing the Lionel Hampton and Benny Goodman standard "Flying Home." In 2009, he composed and performed the full-length score for Alfred Hitchcock's silent film *The Lodger*.



Isabella Boden
Editor

One more is Isabella Boden Editor. With both narrative and documentary work under her belt, Isabella's passion is to lift up the voices and stories of those around her through the mediums of cinematography and editing. Stories of family and community are especially inspiring to her, and are a theme in the work she puts out.

She works in a variety of filmscapes, from commercials to narrative, to diversify and refine her skills. She is a recent graduate of University of Colorado College Denver of Arts and Media. Isabella aspires to become a Director of Photography in the narrative space.



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 SPONSORSHIP

DONATION LINK:
<https://www.denverfilm.org/Resisting>



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RESISTING

Confronting the Brutality, Demanding Justice



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*Thank
you!*