

EXPERIENCE THE UNIFYING POWER OF ART
IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

REVOLUTION OF JOY

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**Orlando Film
Festival**
2023

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**St. Louis
International Film
Festival**
2023

Award Winner
**Berlin Indie Film
Festival**
2023

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**LANE
DOC
FEST**
2023

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**SALK
WALK
DE**
FILM FESTIVAL

A film by McKinnon Maddox
Documentary
22 min
English
Unrated
2023

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Electronic Press Kit



REVOLUTION OF JOY

Logline & Synopsis

Production Info
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Logline

Revolution of Joy is a moving short documentary that delves into Selma's troubled past during the civil rights movement and showcases a new initiative in the black belt to use art to heal and unify communities that have been torn apart by racism and division.

Synopsis

Revolution of Joy is a thought-provoking short documentary that illuminates the struggles of Selma's past during the civil rights movement while also delving into the challenges that persist in the present day. Through a powerful and inspiring exploration of the unifying and healing power of art, the film showcases a new initiative in the black belt community that aims to bring together and empower individuals and communities that have been torn apart by racism and division.

Featuring heartfelt interviews with both the artists and the residents of Selma and the Black Belt, *Revolution of Joy* offers a unique and inspiring perspective on the power of creativity to effect change. The documentary boldly demonstrates that even in the face of adversity and ongoing social challenges, there is still hope for positive change and meaningful progress.

If you're looking to connect with the human spirit and discover the transformative power of art and empathy in bringing communities together, this documentary is a must-watch.



REVOLUTION OF JOY

Location

Selma, Alabama
and the surrounding
Black Belt

Plot

Revolution of Joy is a captivating documentary that delves into the rich tapestry of Selma, Alabama, through the personal narratives of five remarkable individuals. Each character offers a unique perspective on the past, present, and future of this historic city, highlighting its struggles, triumphs, and the transformative power of joy.

Joanne Bland, a charismatic and resilient civil rights foot soldier, takes us on an emotional journey as she recounts her experiences growing up in Selma during the tumultuous era of the civil rights movement. With raw authenticity, she shares the challenges, injustices, and triumphs she witnessed and participated in, providing a firsthand account of the fight for equality.

Phan Robinson, a compassionate former juvenile court liaison and advocate for Selma's youth, educates us on the current challenges faced by the city, particularly among its young residents. Through heartfelt interviews and intimate interactions with the community, Phan reveals the obstacles and systemic issues that continue to hinder progress. Her dedication to empowering the next generation serves as a catalyst for change and inspires viewers to take action.

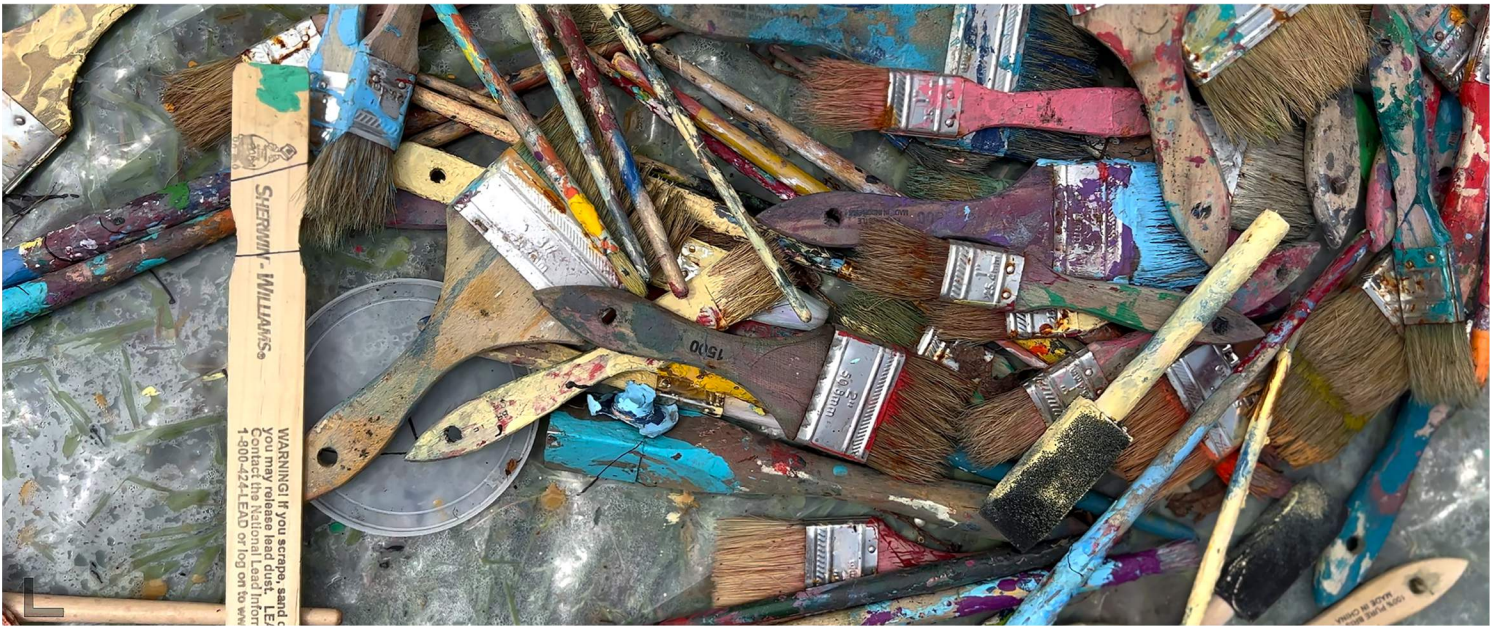
AC Reeves, a vibrant tour guide, business owner, and Airbnb host in Selma, welcomes us with open arms, showcasing the hidden gems and untold stories that make Selma a must-visit destination. Her passion for her city is infectious, as she guides us through its historical landmarks, cultural treasures, and vibrant community, encouraging the world to see Selma through a lens of wonder and appreciation.

Afriye WeKandodis, a thought-provoking advocate for racial justice, provides profound insights into current race relations and the importance of engaging in uncomfortable conversations. With empathy and intelligence, Afriye challenges viewers to confront their own biases and offers practical strategies for fostering understanding and unity.

Tres Taylor, a visionary professional artist from Selma, introduces us to his awe-inspiring mural project that stretches across the Black Belt region. Through his vivid and thought-provoking artwork, he unites communities, transcending racial and cultural divides. Tres's art becomes a powerful symbol of hope and healing, proving that creativity can bridge gaps and cultivate a shared sense of joy and purpose.

Revolution of Joy weaves together these captivating personal stories, offering a multifaceted exploration of Selma's past, present, and future. As the film unfolds, viewers are inspired to reflect on their own roles in creating a more just and joyful society, realizing that the legacy of Selma's struggle is a call to action for all humanity.

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Festivals and Awards

COMING SOON

Berlin Indie Film Festival - Winner, Best First time Director, Short Film

Sidewalk Film Festival

Lane Doc Fest

Orlando Film Festival

St. Louis International Film Festival

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Director's Statement

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As the director of, *Revolution of Joy*, a documentary film centered around an Alabama community, I couldn't be prouder of the final product. From the beginning, I felt a strong calling to undertake this project, despite not knowing what it would ultimately become. However, as I delved into the lives of the people of Selma, I fell in love with their genuine passion for progress in their city.

What struck me most was the surprising realization that this incredible story of Selma and the mural project was not being widely told. I was amazed by the deep connections I formed with the residents and their heartfelt desire to see their community thrive. It was inspiring to witness their unwavering commitment to creating positive change.

One of the highlights of the journey was the creation of a mural trail throughout the Black Belt region—a unique and innovative approach to bringing people together. Watching individuals paint on these walls brought about a profound sense of healing, joy, and the forging of new relationships. It filled me with hope to see the vibrant pops of color that now grace the Black Belt towns, infusing a renewed sense of optimism.

Spending time with Joanne Bland, a civil rights foot soldier, was an immense honor. Hearing her stories from the past, as well as witnessing her ongoing fight for progress, left a lasting impact on me. Her resilience and dedication are truly awe-inspiring.

It was equally surprising and delightful to discover that Airbnb has recognized Selma as one of the most hospitable cities in America. This added validation reinforced the immense potential and warmth found within this community.

Throughout the filmmaking process, I have been captivated by Selma and its residents. The love and support they have shown me have been overwhelming and humbling. Bringing this hopeful story to the big screen has been a privilege and has ignited a personal revolution of joy within me.

In the end, *Revolution of Joy* is not just a film, but a testament to the resilience, spirit, and unyielding determination of the people of Selma. It is my hope that this documentary will inspire audiences, foster understanding, and spark a revolution of joy in the heart.

Thanks for reading,

McKinnon Maddox

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Credit List

Special thanks to
City of Selma and Dallas County
City of Orville
Can'dAid
Tres Taylor
Helene Taylor
My Wife Anne Elizabeth Maddox

PRODUCED, DIRECTED, FILMED AND EDITED BY MCKINNON MADDOX

FEATURING JOANNE BLAND
PHAN ROBINSON
AC REEVES
AFRIYE WEKANDODIS
TRES TAYLOR
HELENE TAYLOR

MUSIC COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP JOHN BATISTE, ROWE,
AND VERVE RECORDS ANDRAE ALEXANDER
"FREEDOM"

MUSIC COURTESY OF EPIDEMIC SOUND KHARMEA "NATIVITAS"
INFINITY RIPPLE "CHILDHOOD"
LOTUS "BLACK TERN"
ALAN ELLIS "THE SKY CHANGES"
FRANK JOHNSON "THINGS THAT MATTER"
PETER SANDBERG "IF. STEMS MELODY"
THE NEW FOOLS "WAY OUT OF NEW ORLEANS"
THE NEW FOOLS "BLAZIN"
KIKORU "OVERCOMING YOUR PAST"

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