

PROFILED



Directed by Kathleen Foster

"Foster's superb documentary is part anthropology, part history and completely on message for here and NOW. The film's topic is extraordinarily relevant as racial profiling has certainly become the center of explosive controversy in media and society. A must see!"

- Ricky Bernstein, Series Coordinator
Berkshire Human Rights Speaker Series on BLACK LIVES MATTER



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RELEASE DATE: January 2016

Languages: English, Spanish subtitles to come.

Running Time: 52 minutes

DISTRIBUTION

Women Make Movies, a multiracial, non-profit media arts organization.
TUGG, a theatrical platform that promotes screenings around the country.

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LOGLINE

Profiled knits the stories of mothers of Black and Latin youth murdered by the NYPD into a powerful indictment of racial profiling and police brutality, and places them within a historical context of the roots of racism within the U.S.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

PROFILED knits the stories of mothers of black and Latin youth murdered by the NYPD into a powerful indictment of racial profiling and police brutality, and places them within a historical context of the roots of racism in the U.S. Some of the victims—Eric Garner, Michael Brown—are now familiar the world over. Others, like Shantel Davis and Kimani Gray, are remembered mostly by family and friends in their New York neighborhoods. Ranging from the routine harassment of minority students in an affluent Brooklyn neighborhood, to the killings and protests in Staten Island and Ferguson, Missouri, PROFILED bears witness to the racist violence that remains an everyday reality for black and Latin people in this country and gives us a window into one of the burning issues of our time.

LONG SYNOPSIS

PROFILED knits the stories of mothers of black and Latin youth murdered by the NYPD into a powerful indictment of racial profiling and police brutality, and places them within a historical context of the roots of racism in the U.S. Some of the victims—Eric Garner, Michael Brown—are now familiar the world over. Others, like Shantel Davis and Kimani Gray, are remembered mostly by family and friends in their New York neighborhoods.

We experience the grief families suffer in the face of such tragedies, the struggles women confront raising children in segregated neighborhoods that present few options for the young, and their anger and frustration at a justice system that often seems pitted against them. The women organize vigils and rallies to keep the memory of their loved ones alive and seek indictments of the officers responsible for the deaths. As their demands for justice are ignored, they transition from grieving parents to activists who join the growing grassroots movement against police brutality and racial profiling that since the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, is now spreading across the country.

Moving interviews with victims' family members are juxtaposed with sharply etched analyses by evolutionary biologist, Joseph L. Graves, Jr. (*The Race Myth*) and civil rights lawyer, Chauniqua D. Young, (Center for Constitutional Rights, Stop and Frisk lawsuit).

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT FROM KATHLEEN FOSTER

In June 2012 a police officer killed Shantel Davis, a young African-American woman, through the open window of her car. It happened in Flatbush, a Brooklyn neighborhood near where I live. Distraught and angry residents described hearing the fatal shots and watching officers drag Davis' bleeding body onto the street, where they left her to die.

As I listened, I remembered similar emotional responses of women whose innocent family members perished in NATO attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where I made my last two films: *Afghan Women: A History of Struggle*, and *10 Years On: Afghanistan & Pakistan*. Flatbush, New York seemed like another war zone and I decided it was time to make a documentary about the systemic racism that was fueling what was going on here. Only recently has the film's topic become the center of explosive controversy in media and society.

In *PROFILED* racial profiling and police brutality are explored through the stories of black and Latin mothers of unarmed victims of fatal police shootings. Just a short time ago their ordeal was little known outside their communities. Today, with the widely circulated video of Eric Garner killed on Staten Island in a police officer's chokehold - followed just days later by the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, the issues and demands for justice raised by the women resonate across the nation. Demonstrations against police brutality that previously attracted only hundreds of protesters have now swelled to thousands.

We learn from these women who are at the forefront of a growing national movement for racial equality and justice. Their testimony—until now rarely, if ever, heard—becomes integral to the film's overarching narrative which seeks to reveal how this country's racist history connects with present-day issues of life and death for people of color. The women's stories effectively debunk the myth of a "post-racial" United States.

Since the much-publicized death of Amadou Diallo in 1999, more than 300 Black and Latin youths have died in shootings by the NYPD. Today communities nationwide are demanding accountability for the rampant casualties and continuing racial inequalities. The time to face these systemic inequities as a society is now.

PROFILED has inspired its audiences to engage in intense discussions on the urgent problems of police brutality and systemic racism—and what might be done to change things. The PROFILED team wants to bring this important discussion to communities across the country and serve as an organizing tool for change

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FEATURED CHARACTERS

Margarita Rosario

Margarita's son, Anthony Rosario, as well as her nephew, Hilton Vega, were killed in 1995

Natasha Duncan

Natasha's sister Shantel Davis was killed in 2012

Carol Gray

Carol's son Kimani Gray, killed in 2013

Joseph L. Graves, Jr

Evolutionary biologist

Author of *The Race Myth*

Chauniqua D. Young

Civil rights lawyer

Center for Constitutional Rights, Stop and Frisk lawsuit

Stephanie Foard,

Teacher-activist, eye-witness to the militarization of Ferguson.

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REVIEWS

"The film is a powerful presentation of the pain and disappointment felt by families that have been touched by police violence . . . and is another link in a chain that might be used to pull us from the abyss of inhumanity (represented by police violence) that we've been grappling with for sooooo long."

**Dr. Delores Jones-Brown, Professor, Department of Law,
Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration,
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York.**

"My favorite aspect of the film is that it centers the narrative around the families of those who have been murdered by police. It's the perspective that gets lost within all the media tirades."

Joel Diaz, Education Associate, Schomburg Center

"Set in current day, following the deaths of Shantel Davis, Eric Garner, and numerous individuals dying in interactions with police, this thought-provoking film shows the continued stark disparities in our racial justice system, particularly against African Americans and Latinos. The documentary shows that the issue is not a new one; rather it aims to keep our attention trained on it so that we may create solutions."

**Helen Yuen,
Director of Marketing
Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, Baltimore**

"Profiled is a powerful documentary and a crucial contribution to the discussion of race and racism in America – both in terms of its economic and ideological impact."

**Pat Keeton
Professor of Communication Arts**

"Excellent! A very real film showing statistics and accurate data of how our families were brutalized then, during our ancestors' time and now! This has to stop! We are more than hashtags and body bags!"

Tawanda Jones, community activist, Baltimore. Sister of Tyrone West who died in police custody 2013.

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**Ricky Bernstein -Series coordinator
Berkshire Human Rights Speaker Series 2016 – BLACK LIVES MATTER**

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CREATIVE TEAM BIOS



Kathleen Foster is the director and producer of PROFILED. She is the British-born, New York-based independent producer and director of cutting-edge films about social justice. Her films have been screened at a variety of national and international venues, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Asia Society, the Anthology Film Archives, the World Performing Arts Festival (Lahore, Pakistan), the Rubin Museum, New York, Columbia, UCLA, Howard, and Princeton Universities, among many others. Her current project, PROFILED, continues her commitment to films about social justice.



William Lehman, Editor, is a filmmaker and editor who lived and worked in New York City for ten years. Currently based in Oregon, his recent work includes editing the narrative feature "Come Down Molly," and contributing to the documentary films "The Yes Men Are Revolting" and "Meru," winner of the 2015 Sundance Audience Award for Best Documentary.



Makia Harper, Associate Producer, is a Brooklyn based documentary filmmaker, and film/media instructor. Her work explores the social, emotional, and political issues that plague today's society. "God Speaks: Philadelphia Voices Against Violence" (2008), her first feature length documentary, was screened in festivals across the country. Her most recent film "Our Space, Our Food, Our Bedstuy" examines the lack of healthy foods available in Brooklyn and is currently being screened in local film festivals.

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CREDITS

Kathleen Foster

Director, Producer

William Lehman

Editor

Makia Harper

Associate Producer

Adam Goebler

Production Assistant

Aviva Skye Tilson

Production Assistant

Don Mount

Camera

Dominique Spooner

Production Assistant

Fivel Rothenberg

Camera

Harold Batista

Sound

Jesus Villalba

Camera, Editing Assistant

Julia Brown

Production Assistant

Kelly Spivey

Editing Associate

Kjerstin Rossi

Camera

Marcelle Bonaparte

Camera

Messiah Rhodes

Camera, Editing Assistant

Samantha Riddell

Camera, Editing Assistant

Shanika Powell

Camera

