

BLACK LIFE: UNTOLD STORIES
Press Kit for CBC

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BLACK LIFE: UNTOLD STORIES

Press Kit for CBC

SERIES LOGLINE

Black Life: Untold Stories is an eight-part documentary series that reframes the rich and complex histories of Black experiences in Canada, dispelling commonly accepted myths and celebrating the many contributions of Black Canadians. The series spans more than 400 years with an eye towards contemporary issues, music, policing, Black liberation, immigration, culture, and sports.

[54 words]

SERIES DESCRIPTOR

Black Life: Untold Stories is an eight-part documentary series that reframes the rich and complex histories of Black experiences in Canada, dispelling commonly accepted myths and celebrating the many, and often unrecognized, contributions of Black Canadians who helped to shape the country. Spanning more than 400 years fraught with violence, racism, perseverance, and triumph, the series unveils a nuanced and unvarnished view of the lives of Black Canadians. The horrors of slavery and segregation are explored alongside illustrations of resistance, as well as the wonders and rewards of community, creativity, and resilience. **Black Life: Untold Stories** employs intimate verité, expert testimonies, evocative recreations, rarely seen archival materials, and visually inspired storytelling to contextualize histories of Black Canadians for contemporary audiences, enabling an appreciation of the complexities of Canada's past. Eight Canadian directors bring their unique perspectives to considerations of slavery, Black empowerment, hip-hop, immigration, art and literature, sports, policing, and settlements, in separate episodes.

[150 words]

SERIES CREDIT BLOCK

Black Life: Untold Stories is produced by Studio 112 in association with Northwood Entertainment, and Ugly Duck Productions. The executive producers are the Emmy[®]-award winning Leslie Norville; P.K. Subban, Miranda de Pencier, and Nelson George; Sandy Hudson serves as co-executive producer. Consulting producers are The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Shadrach Kabango, Dr. Rinaldo Walcott, and Ravyn Wngz. For CBC, Sally Catto is General Manager, Entertainment, Factual, & Sports; Jennifer Dettman is Executive Director, Unscripted Content; Sandra Kleinfeld is Senior Director, Documentary; and Michelle McCree is Executive in Charge of Production, CBC Docs and *The Passionate Eye*.

SERIES CREDITS

Executive Producer: Leslie Norville

Executive Producer: Miranda de Pencier

Executive Producer: P.K. Subban

Co-Executive Producer: Sandy Hudson

Historical Consultants: David Austin, Dr. Claudine Bonner, Dr. Afua Cooper, Dr. Annette Henry, Dr. Isaac Saney, Dr. Rinaldo Walcott, Dr. Dorothy Williams

Consulting Producers: The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Shadrach Kabango, Dr. Rinaldo Walcott, Ravyn Wngz

Story Producers: Aïcha Diop, Lina Cino, Sunny Grewal, Ossob Hassan, Shanaise Williams, Del Cowie, Jerome Skeete

Co-Producer: Keavy Lynch (Episode 107 – *Justice Denied* ONLY)

Associate Producers: TK Matunda, Anupa Ministry, Victoria Mochama, Charlotte Odele, Gabi Veras, Amani Bin Shikhan, Huda Hassan

Head Writer: Jael Richardson

Directors: Alicia K. Harris (*Haven, But No Heaven*); Michèle Stephenson (*Revolution Remix*); Will Prosper (*Northern Beats*); Nadia Louis-Desmarchais (*Migrations*); Karen Chapman (*Creation Insists*); Thyron Tommy (*More Than a Game*); Duane Crichton (*Justice Denied*); and Frances-Anne Solomon (*Claiming Space*)

Editors: Ashley Gilmour (*Haven, But No Heaven*); Eamonn O'Connor (*Revolution Remix*); Michael Grootenboer, Caitlin Durlak, Mike Munn, Eamonn O'Connor (*Migrations*); Sophie Farkas Bolla, Holly Benson (*Creation Insists*); Caroline Christie, D. Gillian Truster (*More Than a Game*); Mark Stokes, Ania Smolenskaia (*Justice Denied*); Ashley Gilmour (*Claiming Space*)

Additional Editing: Navin Harrilal (*Northern Beats*)

Music: Murray Lightburn, Nicholas Murray

SERIES BROADCAST ORDER

EPISODE 101 – *Haven, But No Heaven*

EPISODE 102 – *Revolution Remix*

EPISODE 103 – *Northern Beats*

EPISODE 104 – *Migrations*

EPISODE 105 – *Creation Insists*

EPISODE 106 – *More Than a Game*

EPISODE 107 – *Justice Denied*

EPISODE 108 – *Claiming Space*

EPISODE 101 – *Haven, But No Heaven*

EPISODE 101 *Haven, But No Heaven* – CBC LOGLINES

An unflinching examination of the history of slavery in Canada.

[63 characters w/spaces]

An unflinching examination of slavery in Canada that dispels the myth of Canada as a safe haven for Black people.

[113 characters w/spaces]

EPISODE 101 *Haven, But No Heaven* – CBC EPISODE DESCRIPTOR

Haven, But No Heaven is an unflinching examination of the history of slavery that dispels the myth of Canada as a utopia for Black people. Through interviews with historians and descendants of enslaved people, as well as evocative recreations and rare archival materials, the legacy of slavery in Canada is explored. Stories include the brutal trial and execution of Marie-Joseph Angélique, a young enslaved woman rumoured to have started a massive fire in Montreal in 1734. But amidst the tragedies, there are also instances of hope and resilience including the remarkable account of the Blackburns, a couple who escaped enslavement and persecution in the United States and unwittingly put Upper Canada’s new laws regarding slavery to the first-ever legal test. The principle established in their landmark case remains foundational to Canadian extradition law to this day.

[136 words]

EPISODE 101 *Haven, But No Heaven* – INTERVIEWEES

Dr. Afua Cooper

Natasha Henry-Dixon

The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean

Irene Moore Davis

Dr. Charmaine A. Nelson

Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost

Dr. Dorothy W. Williams

EPISODE 101 *Haven, But No Heaven* – DIRECTOR BIO

Alicia K. Harris

Alicia K. Harris is a filmmaker from Scarborough, ON, Canada. She is best known for her short film *Pick*, which won Best Live Action Short at the 2020 Canadian Screen Awards. She directed the inaugural episode of *Black Life: Untold Stories* for CBC, and was the pilot and producing director of the upcoming show *Beyond Black Beauty* for Amazon. Alicia directed the TIFF-selected web series *Lido TV*, hosted by Lido Pimienta, which earned her a Best Direction nomination at the 2023 Canadian Screen Awards. Her latest short film, *only light will touch us*, was commissioned by Netflix and Reel Canada for National Canadian Film Day. Well versed in many mediums, she directed the “Pressure” music video for Grammy-winning artist Koffee and a musical film for Jessie Reyez. Alicia is known for her high concept visual style and is dedicated to celebrating the Black experience in her work, with a focus on authenticity, beauty, and spirituality.

EPISODE 102 – *Revolution Remix*

EPISODE 102 *Revolution Remix* – CBC LOGLINES

An exploration of two era-defining Black empowerment events in 1960s Montreal.

[78 characters w/spaces]

Two era-defining Black empowerment events in 1960s Montreal are explored including the Sir George Williams Affair.

[114 characters w/spaces]

EPISODE 102 *Revolution Remix* – CBC EPISODE DESCRIPTOR

Centred on the years 1968 and 1969 during Montreal's International Congress of Black Writers and the Sir George Williams Affair, *Revolution Remix* explores the civil rights movement in Canada via two era-defining Black empowerment events. The episode looks at the evolution of the movement from fighting indignities in public spaces and the gains in human rights legislation, to a coming out party for the Black Power movement that sought to instill self-determination in every facet of the Black Canadian experience. Pan-African activists from around the world including Stokely Carmichael, C.L.R. James, Miriam Makeba, and Walter Rodney, convened at McGill University to discuss the future of Black liberation under the watchful eye of Canadian authorities. A year later, students clashed with authorities when they occupied a floor of a campus building to protest anti-Black racism in what is now regarded as the largest student protest in Canadian history. Both watershed events represented dramatic shifts in Canadian Black consciousness.

[157 words]

EPISODE 102 *Revolution Remix* – INTERVIEWEES

David Austin

Adeline Magloire Chancy

Dr. Norman Cook

Brenda Dash

Philippe Fils-Aimé

Robert A. Hill

Dr. Rodney John

Dr. Isaac Saney

Dr. Dorothy Wills

EPISODE 102 DIRECTOR BIO – *Revolution Remix*

Director: Michèle Stephenson

Filmmaker, artist, and author, Michèle Stephenson, pulls from her Haitian and Panamanian roots to think radically about storytelling and disrupt the imaginary in non-fiction spaces. She tells emotionally driven personal stories of resistance and identity that center on the lived experiences of communities of color in the Americas and the Black diaspora. Her stories intentionally reimagine and provoke thought about how we engage with and dismantle the internalized impact of systemic oppression. Stephenson draws on fiction, immersive and hybrid forms of storytelling to build her worlds and narratives. Her feature documentary, *Going To Mars* won the 2023 Grand Jury Prize at Sundance, and her earlier feature, *American Promise*, was nominated for three Emmys and won the Special Jury Prize at Sundance. Her feature documentary, *Stateless*, premiered at Tribeca Festival and was nominated for a Canadian Academy Award (CSA) for Best Feature Documentary. Stephenson also collaborated as co-director on

the magical realist virtual reality trilogy series on racial terror, *The Changing Same*, which was nominated for an Emmy in the Outstanding Interactive Media Innovative category and premiered at Sundance Film Festival. It also won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Immersive Narrative at the Tribeca Film Festival. Along with her writing partners, Joe Brewster and Hilary Beard, Stephenson won an NAACP Image Award for Excellence in a Literary Work for their book, "Promises Kept". She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science, a Guggenheim Artist Fellow, and a Creative Capital Artist awardee.

EPISODE 103 – *Northern Beats*

EPISODE 103 *Northern Beats* – CBC LOGLINES

The story of the roots of Canadian hip-hop as told by the pioneers of the genre.

[80 characters w/spaces]

Pioneers of Canadian hip-hop tell the story of the music, featuring interviews with Maestro Fresh Wes and Michie Mee.

[117 characters w/spaces]

EPISODE 103 *Northern Beats* – TIFF LOGLINE

In *Northern Beats*, pioneers of Canadian hip-hop tell the story of the music; featuring interviews with Maestro Fresh Wes, Michie Mee, Master T, and more.

[153 characters w/spaces]

EPISODE 103 *Northern Beats* – CBC EPISODE DESCRIPTOR

Through a mix of interviews with hip-hop experts and first-hand witnesses including Master T, Michie Mee, Maestro Fresh Wes, and Jully Black, archival footage, and behind-the-scenes access, *Northern Beats* offers a compelling and engaging look at the Canadian roots of arguably the most dominant music genre in the world today. The episode begins by looking at the origins of Canadian hip-hop and traces the evolution of the music and of the artists' struggle for commercial support and recognition. Pioneers like Maestro Fresh Wes and Michie Mee, who paved the way for global superstars like Drake and Abel Tesfaye (aka The Weeknd) examine the impact they had on future generations of Black artists in Canada, south of the border, and internationally. With interviews from industry insiders, viewers are introduced to the challenges faced by hip-hop artists, as well as the unique advantages that come from belonging to tight-knit community. Despite being largely unacknowledged, the influence and creativity of this generation's rappers had an undeniable impact on global music trends today.

[166 words]

EPISODE 103 *Northern Beats* – INTERVIEWEES

Jully Black
Dr. Mark Campbell
Shad Kabango
J.Kyll
Michie Mee
Ron Nelson
Rollie Pemberton
Red1
Malik Shaheed
Master T
Maestro Fresh Wes

EPISODE 103 *Northern Beats* DIRECTOR BIO

Will Prosper

Born and raised in the vibrant city of Montreal, Will Prosper graduated from the Quebec School of Film and Television. A former Community Organizer and Police Officer, Prosper has spent the past decade captivating audiences with his poignant exploration of underrepresented communities and Afro-

descendant cultures in Quebec. Notable among his works is "The Lost Tapes du hip-hop au Québec" (2008), "Les derniers pèlerins" (2011), "Républik Basket" (2015), "Aller simple pour Haïti" (2017) and the Award-winning "Kenbe la – Jusqu'à la victoire" (2019). Recently, Prosper delved into Canada's hip-hop scene in "Northern Beats," uncovering a rich history of struggles and triumphant success.

EPISODE 104 – *Migrations*

EPISODE 104 *Migrations* – CBC LOGLINES

Intimate portraits of Black migrants in Canada.

[47 characters w/spaces]

Black migrants share intimate and personal stories of trying to create a home in Canada.

[89 characters w/spaces]

EPISODE 104 *Migrations* – CBC EPISODE DESCRIPTOR

Told through a series of powerful cinematic vérité, vignettes, expert analysis, and engrossing archival footage, *Migrations* paints an intimate and poignant portrait of Black migration to Canada. This episode examines the arrival of thousands of Caribbean people beginning in the 1950s, through temporary work programs like the Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program and the West Indian Domestic Scheme, and explores the challenges facing the more recent waves of Somali and Haitian migrants. *Migrations* unearths the heartbreaking roadblocks Black migrants have faced, and continue to face on Canadian soil, as well as the extraordinary gains migrants have made in search of a better life and a place to call home.

[108 words]

EPISODE 104 *Migrations* – INTERVIEWEES

Gabriel Allahdua

Abdi Duale

Mahir Duale

Dr. Karen Flynn

Georgia Graham

Dr. Habiba Mohamud

Adaoma Patterson

Lois Patterson

Chris Ramsaroop

Alain Saint-Victor

Dr. Christopher Stuart Taylor

Marjorie Villefranche

Pierre Wagner

EPISODE 104 *Migrations* – DIRECTOR BIO

Director: Nadia Louis-Desmarchais

Nadia Louis-Desmarchais is an Afro-feminist director who aspires to give a voice to those we too often refuse to hear. She directed the short documentaries *Tell me all about my body*, *Urban* and the controversial *Rated X*, official selection of the Regard Festival, the Rendez-Vous Québec Cinéma and the Filministes Festival. Her first fiction short “Dors-tu?” has been honoured at the Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, the VGIK International Film Festival in Moscow and the Cinema on the Bayou. Her most recent fiction short *Birdnest* received the special mention of the jury at the FICFA for the best Canadian short film and the Andre Melançon Prize at the International Carrousel film festival. Nadia is developing her first fiction webseries *Les Météorites* in collaboration with TOU.TV. Her first feature documentary “Black and White” benefits from the support of SODEC is currently in production. Director of one of the

episodes of the anthology series *Black Life: A Canadian History* soon to be broadcast on CBC, Nadia puts forward a deep and very personal sensitivity in her artistic approach. It is by writing and directing intimate scenarios that cinema becomes, for her, universal.

EPISODE 105 – *Creation Insists*

EPISODE 105 *Creation Insists* – CBC LOGLINES

A look at the work of six Black Canadian artists.

[49 characters w/spaces]

A look at the work of six Black Canadian artists including Austin Clarke and Sylvia Hamilton.

[93 characters w/spaces]

EPISODE 105 *Creation Insists* – CBC EPISODE DESCRIPTOR

Creation Insists spotlights the work of six Black Canadian artists, some famous and some lesser-known, and celebrates their enduring creativity, skill, accomplishments, and subject matter. East coast painters Edward Mitchell Bannister and Edith MacDonald-Brown are profiled alongside writers m. nourbeSe philip and Giller Prize-winner Austin Clarke, and filmmakers Sylvia Hamilton and Clement Virgo. This episode showcases the inspiring journeys, struggles, and triumphs of these monumental artists and the contributions they have made to the cultural landscape in Canada and beyond. *Creation Insists* also looks at the controversial African art exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), 'Into the Heart of Africa' with its decidedly colonial perspective, and the ensuing protests in Toronto.

[112 words]

EPISODE 105 *Creation Insists* – INTERVIEWEES

Cameron Bailey
Dr. David Chariandy
Dr. George Elliott Clarke
Dr. Afua Cooper
Esi Edugyan
Kelly Fyffe-Marshall
Sylvia D. Hamilton
Adrienne R. Johnson
Dr. Kenneth Montague
Dr. Charmaine A. Nelson
Shawn Parker
m. nourbeSe philip
Dr. Hyacinth Simpson
Gaëtane Verna
Clement Virgo
Dr. Rinaldo Walcott
David Woods

EPISODE 105 *Creation Insists* – DIRECTOR BIO

Karen Chapman

Born to Guyanese parents, award-winning filmmaker Karen Chapman is committed to honing her craft as a storyteller. She is an alumnus of Emily Carr University, the Banff Centre, Women in the Director Chair, the CaribbeanTales Incubator, the HotDocs Accelerator and TIFF Talent Lab and the TIFF 2020 Accelerator. Chapman's CBC Short Doc, *Walk Good*, won WIFT – Toronto's 2017 Audience Choice Award at their annual Showcase and her short, *Lesson Injustice* won the Best Screenplay Award the year after. In 2018, she completed the Cineplex Film Program – Directors' Lab at the Canadian Film Centre and was named one of the "5 Filmmakers to Watch" by Playback Magazine. Chapman's love story, *Essequibo Rapture*, won the Caribbean Film Academy's International Screenplay Competition and it received funding from Bell Media's, Harold Greenberg, Shorts to Feature Fund. Her VR experience, *They Should be Flowers*, premiered at HotDocs and was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award for Best Immersive Non-Fiction. And her short, *Measure*, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2019, where it won the International Hollywood Foreign Press Award and Residency at the 2020, Golden Globe Awards. Chapman is currently preparing to shoot her first feature film, *Village Keeper* through Telefilm Canada's Talent Program.

EPISODE 106 – *More Than a Game*

EPISODE 106 *More Than A Game* – CBC LOGLINES

The lives of several Black Canadian athletes are chronicled including P.K. Subban.

[82 characters w/spaces]

A chronicle of the lives of Black Canadian athletes that delves into their rise and the challenges they faced.

[110 characters w/spaces]

EPISODE 106 *More Than A Game* – CBC EPISODE DESCRIPTOR

Considerations of Canadian professional athletes are so often seen exclusively through the lens of hockey. But from the NHL to the NBA and the Olympics, Black Canadian athletes not only compete at the highest levels, they have left indelible marks on their respective sports worldwide. This episode delves into the complicated histories of Black high-performance athletes in Canada, across boxing, baseball, track and field, hockey, and more. Through vignettes and compelling interviews with some of Canada's finest athletes, *More Than a Game* paints a global picture of the climate for Black Canadian athletes, traces the evolution of racism in sport, and explores what the future holds.

[106 words]

EPISODE 106 *More Than A Game* – INTERVIEWEES

Paul Allen

Earl Chase

Horace Chase

Dr. George Elliot Clarke

Crystal Emmanuel

L. Blake Harding

David Hunnings

Dr. Heidi Jacobs

Valerie Jerome

Germaine Langford

Clay Moyle

Dr. Ornella Nzindukiyimana

Jacob Sampson

P.K. Subban

Donald Tabron Jr.

EPISODE 106 *More Than a Game* – DIRECTOR BIO

Thyrone Tommy

Thyrone Tommy is an award-winning filmmaker and alumnus of the Canadian Film Centre's Directors Lab and TIFF Talent Lab. Thyrone's films have been celebrated internationally at over 30 festivals, including his short *Mariner*, which premiered at the 2016 Toronto International Film Festival, won the Lindalee Tracey Award, and was named one of TIFF Canada's Top Ten shorts of the year, before premiering online as a Vimeo Staff Pick. *Learn To Swim*, his debut feature, premiered at TIFF 2021 and was chosen as one of Canada's Top Ten Films of the year. The film is distributed by Mongrel Media in Canada, and was released on Netflix by Ava Duvernay's ARRAY Releasing. On the TV side, he has directed episodes of *Revenge of The Black Best Friend* (CBC) and *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC).

EPISODE 107 – *Justice Denied*

EPISODE 107 *Justice Denied* – CBC LOGLINES

Scholars and activists analyze the historic criminalization of Black Canadians.

[79 characters w/spaces]

Scholars and activists analyze historic criminalization of Black Canadians and the effect on policing.

[103 characters w/spaces]

EPISODE 107 *Justice Denied* – TIFF LOGLINE

Scholars and activists analyze the historic criminalization of Black Canadians and the effects this has on policing from the 1700s through to the present.

[155 characters w/spaces]

EPISODE 107 *Justice Denied* – CBC EPISODE DESCRIPTOR

The United States isn't the only country in need of widespread police reform. From the early days of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to the present-day Black Lives Matter movement, *Justice Denied* traces Black Canadians' centuries-long struggle against systemic racism and police brutality. In *Justice Denied*, media depictions of policing throughout the ages are used to highlight the unjust portrayal of Black Canadians and illustrate how mainstream media has contributed to the normalization of violence against Black people across the country. This episode also traces the influence of historic injustices on contemporary cases of racial profiling, police violence, and discrimination against those on the margins. Through interviews with experts and activists across the nation, *Justice Denied* offers a critical examination of the history of policing in Canada, and ultimately shatters the myth of a kinder, gentler Canada.

[138 words]

EPISODE 107 *Justice Denied* – INTERVIEWEES

Ricky Atkinson

David Austin

Walter Borden

Heather Campbell

Sandy Hudson

Nyalinglat Latjor

Robyn Maynard

Dr. Isaac Saney

Dr. Rinaldo Walcott

Dr. Barrington Walker

EPISODE 107 *Justice Denied* – DIRECTOR BIO

Duane Crichton

Duane Crichton was born in St. Lucia, moving to Toronto the age of four. He is a graduate of TMU (Ryerson) Radio & Television program. He started his career directing music videos which eventually led to winning two MuchMusic Video Awards. Commercial directing work followed soon after. He won the Shots Best Young Director Award at the Cannes Commercial Festival in 2005 which kick started his commercial directing career. Duane has directed three short films and one feature, *Saving God*, starring

Ving Rhames. His most recent short film, *Swimmer*, was included in the program for New York Shorts Film Festival last year.

EPISODE 108 – *Claiming Space*

EPISODE 108 *Claiming Space* – CBC LOGLINES

A look at the growth of Black communities and their resistance to systemic displacement.

[88 characters w/spaces]

A lyrical journey through the growth of Black communities and their resistance to systemic displacement.

[104 characters w/spaces]

EPISODE 108 *Claiming Space* – CBC EPISODE DESCRIPTOR

Claiming Space is a lyrical journey through the growth of Black communities, the government policies that destroyed these once thriving settlements, and the residents' resistance to systemic displacement. Delving into the histories of Black settlements across Canada and the often-overlooked stories of Maidenville, Saskatchewan; Africville, Nova Scotia; and Little Burgundy, Montreal, *Claiming Space* looks at the communities razed to make way for highways, parks, and new urban infrastructure. But amidst the devastation, there are also transcendent and beautiful stories of resilience and the relationships that endured. Descendants of displaced residents speak about the lasting spirit and culture that they carry with them in a poignant and powerful reminder of the ongoing fight for social justice.

[118 words]

EPISODE 108 *Claiming Space* – INTERVIEWEES

Stephanie Allen

Bernice Byers-Arsenault

Irvine Carvery

Andrea Este

Cheryl Foggo

Dr. Cecil Foster

Paula Grant-Smith

Crystal Mayes

Murray Mayes

Lesa Mayes-Stringer

Juanita Peters

Anne Rockhead

Dr. Karina Vernon

Beatrice J. Wilkins (Née West)

Dr. Dorothy W. Williams

EPISODE 108 *Claiming Space* – DIRECTOR BIO

Frances-Anne Solomon

A trailblazer in the film and television industry, Frances-Anne Solomon is an award-winning writer, producer, director, curator and distributor in film, television digital media and radio. She started her professional life at the BBC in England where she was a successful television drama producer and executive producer in Single Drama and Films. She then moved to Canada where since 2001, she is the founder and CEO of the CaribbeanTales Media Group – that produces, exhibits and distributes compelling and culturally diverse film and television content. Her work as a director includes the feature films *What My Mother Told Me*, *Peggy Su!* and *A Winter Tale*, and the series *Lord Have Mercy*, and *HeartBeat*. Her most recent film *Hero: Inspired by the Extraordinary Life & Times of Mr Ulric Cross* has won a slew of international awards and is currently available on Showtime and Prime in the US and the UK. She is a Director member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), the British Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Directors Guild of Canada. Currently, she is in pre-production on the upcoming feature *In the Black* and is in post-production on the web series *Garvey's Ghost*.

SERIES EP BIOS

Executive Producer: Leslie Norville

Leslie Norville is a showrunner and Emmy® Award-winning independent documentary producer. Born in Toronto, Canada, her work is spurred by a passion to tell un(der)told and multifaceted stories of women and people of colour. Her work has screened at film festivals around the world including SXSW, Tribeca, Hot Docs, Doc NYC and IDFA and for broadcast on CBC, Hulu, Sundance Channel and VH1. Her recent documentary projects include ***The First Wave*** for Neon/National Geographic, directed by Academy Award®-nominated and Emmy Award®-winning filmmaker Matthew Heineman, and the forthcoming eight-part series for CBC, ***Black Life: Untold Stories***. Her other credits include the feature documentary ***A Ballerina's Tale*** about Misty Copeland, the first African American principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre; ***Brooklyn Boheme***; ***Disdain The Mundane***, part of ESPN's Emmy Award®-winning "30 for 30" shorts series; ***Finding The Funk***, co-executive produced by GRAMMY Award®-winner Questlove; and ***Any Given Day***, which premiered at Hot Docs 2021. She is an alumnus of the Sundance Documentary Creative Producing Fellowship.

Executive Producer: Miranda de Pencier

Miranda de Pencier is an award-winning producer, director, and the founder of Northwood Entertainment. Her credits include: **ANNE WITH AN E** (winner of the 2019 and 2018 Canadian Screen Award for Best Drama Series) currently streaming in 191 countries on Netflix; **THANKS FOR SHARING** starring Mark Ruffalo, Gwyneth Paltrow and the international pop star Pink; **BEGINNERS** starring Ewan McGregor and Christopher Plummer (2012 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor); **ADAM** starring Hugh Dancy and Rose Byrne; and **PU-239** for HBO. de Pencier made her feature film directorial debut with **THE GRIZZLIES**, which premiered at TIFF and for which she was awarded the Director's Guild of Canada Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in a Feature Film.

Executive Producer: P.K. Subban

One of the most dynamic athletes and personalities in sports, the former All-Star NHL defenseman for the New Jersey Devils and Olympic gold medal winner is a philanthropist, entrepreneur, producer, and global brand ambassador for sports and lifestyle brands including Adidas, Bridgestone and Red Bull. Most recently, Subban teamed up with NBC to produce original digital docuseries, **THE P.K. PROJECT**, and is a broadcast analyst on ESPN.

Co-Executive Producer: Sandy Hudson

Bestselling author, award-winning political activist, and co-founder of **Black Lives Matter Canada**, Hudson also co-founded the **Black Legal Action Centre**, a specialty legal aid clinic for Ontario's Black communities. Hudson co-hosts the popular podcast **Sandy and Nora Talk Politics** and her work has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Huffington Post and BuzzFeed.

Production Company Boilerplates

Studio 112

STUDIO 112 is a dynamic film and television production company dedicated to working with female and BIPOC voices both in front of and behind the camera. Founder Leslie Norville's credits as a producer include the feature documentary ***A Ballerina's Tale*** (African American Film Critics Association Award for Best Documentary); ***Brooklyn Boheme***, starring Spike Lee, Chris Rock, Branford Marsalis, and Rosie Perez; ***Disdain The Mundane (30 for 30)*** short for ESPN); ***Finding The Funk***, co-executive produced by Grammy-Award winner Questlove; ***Minustah Vole Kabrit*** (IDFA); and ***Any Given Day***, which had its world premiere at Hot Docs in 2021. She is an alumna of the prestigious Sundance Documentary Creative Producing Fellowship. Her most recent documentary film ***The First Wave***, directed by Academy Award®-nominated filmmaker Matthew Heineman, recently won an Emmy® Award for Best Documentary.

Northwood Entertainment

An independent film and television production company with a mission to create a thriving home for creators with singular voices to reach the global marketplace. With decades of experience in international markets, Northwood has produced the DGA award-winning and critically acclaimed ***Anne with an E*** (currently streaming in 191 countries on Netflix), Academy Award-winning ***Beginners***, and the Palm Springs Audience Award winning ***The Grizzlies***.

Ugly Duck Productions

Launched in January 2019 by **P.K. Subban**, **Ugly Duck** is changing the game in the creative content space, focused on producing digital series, documentaries, feature films and animated originals. A collective of content pioneers, authentic storytellers, and digital disruptors on a mission to develop content that speaks to a wide audience of individuals, from sports fanatics to aspiring young children.