

an independent film production company

1 DAY. 5 CITIES. 100 YEARS IN THE MAKING.



WOMEN & THE VOTE

CONNECTING NEW YORK'S SUFFRAGIST LEGACY AND CONTEMPORARY VOTERS



SYNOPSIS



A quiet election-day tradition at Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, NY, became international news during the 2016 presidential election. More than 10,000 people came to place their "I Voted" stickers on Susan B. Anthony's headstone to honor her tireless devotion to woman's suffrage. That day, social and news media coverage spurred voters in communities around the country to locate their hometown suffragists and do the same. Inspired by these events, *WOMEN AND THE VOTE* features contemporary voters across the state as they reflect on New York's historic suffrage movement and its significance in their lives today.

On November 3, 2020, local filmmakers at cemeteries in Rochester, The Bronx, Auburn, Buffalo, and Sleepy Hollow interviewed visitors about why they chose to honor the suffragists buried there, their reasons for voting, and their vision for the country. Their perspectives capture the excitement, hope, anger, and fear present during yet another historic and contentious election year and spotlight the need for respectful civil discourse to unite a divided nation.

Cinéma vérité moments throughout the day provide the backdrop for countless conversations about voting's importance. Families with children play as they wait for their turn to lay down flowers and notes. Millennials and Generation Z members snap and post selfies and record videos next to headstones while neighbors congregate after months in quarantine to place "I Voted" stickers on markers or sandwich boards.

Archival footage and images of early suffragist marches and pickets combined with contemporary recordings of their speeches and sentiments bridge the past with the present. Seven of these suffragists are featured: Harriet Tubman, Narcissa Cox Vanderlip, Alva Belmont, Mary Talbert, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Shirley Chisholm. Their words and images reveal that the themes and issues, such as equal pay for women and voting rights protections that they fought for then are the same ones voters speak of today because the work of creating an equitable society never ends.

LOGLINE

Filed on Election Day 2020 in five cemeteries across New York State, WOMEN AND THE VOTE is a mosaic-style documentary on the past 100 years of women's political equality, the present moment, and the possibilities for the future. Interviews and Verité footage of visitors in The Bronx, Sleepy Hollow, Auburn, Rochester, and Buffalo intertwine with rich historical elements to generate connections between New York's rich suffragist legacy and contemporary voters.

RUNNING TIME: 57 MINUTES



MEDIA

Please direct all questions, media inquiries, and screening requests to Linda@lowtotheground.com

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CREATIVE TEAM

LINDA MORONEY | Producer & Director

Linda Moroney is an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, programmer, and educator. She produced and directed ELECTION DAY 2016, a short documentary shown at the Inaugural Meet the Press Film Festival with the American Film Institute in 2017 and licensed by NBC. Her Emmy Award-winning film TURN THE PAGE (2019) explores the fractured relationship between incarcerated parents and their children through the lens of a literacy program called Storybook aired nationally across public television. Linda served as a producer on THE LAST DALAI LAMA? (2017) and associate producer of RAM DASS FIERCE GRACE, which Newsweek named one of the five best non-fiction films of 2002 and aired nationally on PBS.

Currently, Linda serves as a producer of The Faith Journal Project, an art installation by Emily Hubley that combines self-portraits, animated clips, artwork, and quotes from journal entries created between 1978 and 2001 by her mother, Academy Award-winning animator Faith Hubley. Linda spent her early career working for Faith Hubley on her last six animated films and on Emily Hubley's films, including SET SET SPIKE (Sundance 2001).

DON CASPER | Co-Producer & Editor

An award-winning filmmaker/editor and owner of EPIC10, Don has directed and edited hundreds of corporate videos, TV commercials and has worked on multiple independent films throughout his career. His work has been broadcast internationally, been featured in the New York Times, and has received multiple awards from independent film festivals. He edited the feature documentary THE LAST DALAI LAMA? released theatrically in 2017 the film is an intimate portrait of what His Holiness hopes to accomplish in his current incarnation. He produced and directed the feature documentary, SIGNS OF THE TIME, an investigation into the origin of baseball hand signals and their links to Deaf Culture released throughout the US and Japan, which earned multiple awards including the 2013 New York Emmy® Award for Best Documentary.

MICHELLE RICHARDS | Composer

Michelle is a cinematic and commercial composer and producer for film and media based in Portland, OR. She roots her music to serve the overarching vision of each project while creating specific soundscapes, from a bold cinematic score, an emotional cue, or a big catchy pop track. Her current work includes scoring the upcoming feature film NIHT, NIGHT directed by Niki Koss. Universal Production Music selected one of Michelle's tracks from 1260 worldwide submissions for inclusion on the 2021 100% HER album. Over 100 TV episodes include her music including MAKING IT, BELOW DECK, and more.

LAURA CHEKOW | Associate Producer

Laura is a film educator, justice seeker, animal advocate, and community project coordinator. With a master's degree in documentary storytelling and non-profit management, she helps to steer the Rochester Documentary Filmmakers Group. Throughout all her efforts, Laura strives to empower women, foster community, and promote the arts.

LORRAINE WOERNER | Associate Producer

An award-winning storyteller for more than 35 years, Lorraine creates digital content for TV, print, radio, and the Web. She led the creative development of WomenAndTheVoteNYS.com to showcase suffragists buried in New York State and created integrated marketing tools to promote Suffragist Search Parties and Vote & Visit to drive voters to cemeteries across the state in preparation for the filming of WOMEN AND THE VOTE. Lorraine's documentary credits include the short film ELECTION DAY 2016 produced in collaboration with the Rochester Documentary Filmmakers Group, shown at the Inaugural Meet the Press Film Festival with the American Film Institute in 2017 and a host of other festivals.



CREDITS

Producer & Director: Linda Moroney

Co-Producer & Editor: Don Casper

Executive Producer: Mickey Lemle

Music: Michelle Richards

Associate Producers: Laura Chekow, Lorraine Woerner

Field Producers

Robin Buonomo
Laura Chekow
Christine Lubrano Dyer
Jennifer Maler
Trish Phelan
Carol White Llewellyn
Lorraine Woerner

Cinematographers

Doug Buckley
David Castellano
Holly Fischer
Jim Gribbins
Martin Hawk
Karen Rodriguez
Tracy Stopa Moran

Title Designer

Tim Lingard

Assistant Editor

Brianne Merkel

**Additional
Cinematography**

Linda Moroney
Lorraine Woerner

With Appearances by

John Kucko
Patricia Corcoran
Dennis Carr
Kim Harding
Eva Hassett
Barbara Mobley
Patricia Matthew
Linda DeGraff
Chelsea Heath

Jeanne Dickeson
Demetra Vounas
Emily Jones
Melina Carnicelli
Lauren McArthur
Andrew Zimbelman
Erica Bryant
Rajesh Barnabas
Samra G. Brouk
Brian Lewis
Erin Fitzgerald
Samantha Faella
Gretchen Stahlman
Violet Wingard
Alex Wingard
Melissa Walker
Alencia & Willoe Dozier
Anna Maria Olsen
Maya Pleau
Deborah Hughes
Resonanz
Barbara Blaisdell
Stephanie Alhanese
Isobel Goldman
Vicky Ramos
Jacqueline Ramos
Lieutenant Governor
Kathy Hochul
Christine Gibson
Stephen Gibson
Floris Lent
Noelle Mirabal-Evans
Joan Johnson
Kevin Doyle
Alex Kowalczyk
Toni Borkowski
Katie Trepanier
Carlos Merriweather
Juliet Mills

Voice-Over Actors

Denise Bartalo
Davida Bloom
Diane Chevron
Mona Isler
David Shakes

Re-recording Mixer

West Rush Media, LLC
Dave Sluberski

Boom Operator

Gordon Meyers

**Voice-Over Sound
Recordist**

Andrew Croucher

Archival Researchers

Linda Moroney
Laura Chekow
Lorraine Woerner
Mary Ellen Capineri
Nikita Shepard

Research Fellow

Emily Passmore

Film Colorist

Brian N. Hewitt

Graphic Designer

Jon Haliniak

CREDITS

Song Performance

"Upward, Onward Go"

Sung by Rochester Oratorio Society

Music by Mollie Fines

Arranged by Jeannie Guerrero

Additional Vocals

Kimberly Anne

Legal Counsel

Paul Rapp, Esq.

Still Photography

Julie Gelfand

Jackie McGriff

Steve Piper

Filmed on Location at

Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY

Fort Hill Cemetery, Auburn, NY

Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, NY

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Sleepy Hollow, NY

Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, NY

Archival Materials Provided by

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The National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House

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Rochester/Finger Lakes Film Commission
St. John Fisher College
WXXI

All the Suffragist Search Party participants!



Visit our companion website at **WomenAndTheVoteNYS.com** featuring hundreds of suffragist grave sites throughout the state, along with resources and outlets for modern-day suffragists.