

BREAKING THE NEWS

A film by Heather Courtney, Princess A. Hairston and Chelsea Hernandez



KEY IMAGES

99 minutes // English // 2023

Website: breakingthenewsfilm.com | Social: @breakingthenewsfilm

WORLD PREMIERE!



June 8, 5:30pm, Village East by Angelika

Publicity Contacts:

David Magdael
dmagdael@dmagpr.com
213.399.1434

Sales Contact:

Diane Quon
dianemquon@gmail.com

Breaking the News | LOGLINE & SYNOPSIS



LOGLINE

Seeking to buck the white male status quo, a group of women and LGBTQ+ journalists launch a news startup asking who's been omitted from mainstream coverage, and how to include them.

SYNOPSIS

Emily Ramshaw and Amanda Zamora wanted to do something radical about the white men dominating newsrooms. "70% of policy and politics editors are men, almost all of them are white," says Emily. "These are the people deciding which stories are told, who is telling them, and whether they will be on the front page or the back page, if they get there at all."

So, Emily and Amanda along with Editor-at-Large Errin Haines and a scrappy group of fearless women and LGBTQ+ journalists band together to buck the status quo and launch *The 19th**, a digital news start-up. Named after the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote, but with an asterisk to acknowledge the Black women and women of color who were omitted, the 19th's work is guided everyday by the asterisk - asking who is being omitted from the story, and how can they be included.

Errin Haines covers politics and race, including the first national story on the killing of Breonna Taylor. Emerging Latina reporter Chabeli Carrazana is based in Florida and reports on gender and the economy. LA-based Kate Sosin, a nonbinary reporter, covers LGBTQ+ stories, including the large number of anti-trans bills becoming law in states around the country. The film documents the honest discussions at *The 19th** around race and gender equity and inclusion, revealing that change doesn't come easy, and showcasing how one newsroom confronts these challenges both as a workplace and in their journalism. But this film is about more than a newsroom. It's about America in flux, and the voices that are often left out of the American story.

Breaking the News | FILM PARTICIPANTS



Chabeli Carrazana (she/her) is The 19th's economy reporter. Previously, she worked as a business reporter for the Miami Herald, and the Orlando Sentinel, where she covered NASA, the private space industry and labor issues. The 19th* is her first national publication as a journalist.

Errin Haines (she/her) is the editor-at-large at The 19th*. An award-winning journalist with nearly two decades of experience, Errin was previously national writer on race for the Associated Press. She's also worked at the Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post.

Emily Ramshaw (she/her) is the CEO and co-founder of The 19th*. She was previously editor-in-chief of The Texas Tribune, and started her career as an investigative reporter at The Dallas Morning News.

Kate Sosin (they/them) is the 19th's LGBTQ+ reporter, focusing on transgender rights, incarceration, politics and public policy. Kate has conducted deep-dive investigations into transgender prison abuse and homicides for NBC News. They previously worked at Logo TV, INTO and Windy City Times.

Amanda Zamora (she/her) is the co-founder and publisher of The 19th*. She spent nearly two decades as a digital editor, product manager and audience strategist at newsrooms including the Texas Tribune, ProPublica and The Washington Post.

About The 19th* News

The 19th* is an independent, nonprofit newsroom reporting on gender, politics and policy.

<https://19thnews.org/>

Breaking the News | DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

In the spirit of *The 19th**, *BREAKING THE NEWS* is built by a directing team of diverse women filmmakers from across the country, to collectively make the vision of this film a reality. Heather Courtney, Princess A. Hairston, and Chelsea Hernandez all were aspiring journalists in their own right and faced the discrimination and lack of support the news industry inherently perpetuates.

Studying journalism at Northwestern University, Heather had her first internship at a mostly male, all-white newspaper. While she got assigned stories about the Girl Scout who sold the most cookies, the male intern was covering breaking news stories. That experience did not inspire her to pursue journalism after graduation. She wonders sometimes what her impact could have been as a reporter, but she's thankful for the 20 years she has been working in documentary film. Recognizing her privilege as a white woman, Heather's goal when starting this film was building a diverse filmmaking team to mirror what *The 19th** was trying to do.

Princess A. Hairston first saw African American journalists steer print and video newsrooms while studying at Virginia State University. It was the first time she believed her vision of working in the newsroom would materialize. Despite experiencing an inclusive environment at an HBCU, it was extremely difficult to land a job in the mostly all-white newsrooms. Princess was captivated by *The 19th** and their mission to create a space for women and non-binary folks to change the landscape of news reporting.

At the age of eight, Chelsea strived to become a news reporter hosting a kids variety show for nine years. But as she entered college to pursue a journalism career, she couldn't picture herself in the news industry - it didn't look or feel like her. Chelsea was drawn to *The 19th** because of their effort to create a platform to uplift and shepherd emerging voices of color in journalism. It's something she wished she had when she pursued a journalism career.

As we collectively bring our diverse lived experiences and perspectives to the story-telling process, we have built an inclusive environment and created a much better film than any one of us could have done alone.

- *Heather, Princess and Chelsea*

Breaking the News | THE FILM TEAM

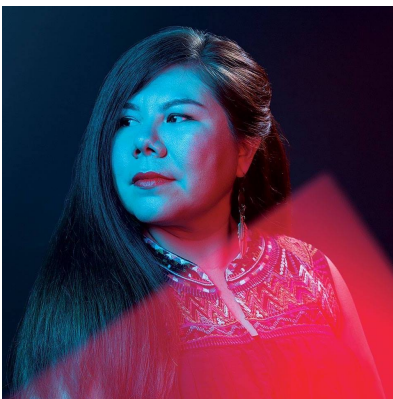


HEATHER COURTNEY (she/her) | DIRECTOR/PRODUCER - Heather is an Emmy-winning filmmaker, and a Guggenheim, Sundance, and Fulbright fellow. Her film *WHERE SOLDIERS COME FROM* won an Emmy, an Independent Spirit Award, and a SXSW Jury Award. Her films have broadcast nationally on PBS, including *POV*, *Independent Lens* and *America ReFramed*, and streamed on Netflix and the Washington Post. Her short documentary *FOR THE RECORD* recently premiered at the Big Sky Documentary Film Fest, and she is currently in post-production on the ITVS, Ford, and IDA-funded feature *BREAKING THE NEWS*. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and her 14-year-old rescue dog Meeps.



Photographer William Miller

PRINCESS A. HAIRSTON (she/her) | DIRECTOR/PRODUCER - Princess is a director, producer and Emmy-nominated editor based in NYC. Princess recently wrapped several doc series to be released in 2023. She edited *THIS WORLD IS NOT MY OWN*, which recently had its World Premiere at SXSW. Her work can be seen on *LULARICH*, *PIER KIDS*, *FRESH DRESSED* and *CAPTURE WITH MARK SELIGER*. She is a recipient of the Pano x Ablecine 2023 Cinematographer's Lab, a 2020 nominee for the Lynn Shelton Of A Certain Age grant, a 2018 Winner of the NYTVF + WEtv Producer Pitch and a 2018 recipient of the Karen Schmeer Editing Fellowship. Princess is on the inclusion and access committee for the Alliance of Documentary Editors; a member of *ACROSS THE CUT*, *BIPOC Doc Editors*; and *Brown Girls Doc Mafia*.



Photographer Bill Sallans

CHELSEA HERNANDEZ (she/her) | DIRECTOR/PRODUCER Chelsea is an Emmy®-nominated Mexican-American Director and Producer based in Texas. Named as DOC NYC's 2021 40 Under 40 Class, her feature documentary *BUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM*, premiered at SXSW 2019 and won a Silver Telly Award for Social Impact. Chelsea's producing work spans over 10 years in television and film including *UNITED TACOS OF AMERICA* (El Rey Network series); and *THAT ANIMAL RESCUE SHOW* (CBS All-Access). She is currently in post-production on her second feature documentary *BREAKING THE NEWS*, a co-production with ITVS. She is a member of the Documentary Producers Alliance and *Brown Girls Doc Mafia*.



DIANE QUON (she/her) | PRODUCER - An Academy Award-nominated producer, Diane worked as a marketing executive at NBC and Paramount Pictures in LA before moving back to her hometown of Chicago. Diane has produced the documentaries: the Oscar nominated and Peabody award-winning film, MINDING THE GAP (Hulu, POV); 2022 Oscar-shortlisted BAD AXE (IFCFilms); THE DILEMMA OF DESIRE (Showtime); Emmy-nominated FINDING YINGYING (MTVDocs); FOR THE LEFT HAND (PBS); WUHAN WUHAN (POV) and SURF NATION (Mountainfilm Telluride 2022).

Upcoming documentaries include AKA MR. CHOW (HBO), the UNTITLED SAM AND OMAR PROJECT and THE FUTURISTS. Diane is an AMPAS member, a Sundance Creative Producing Fellow, a Cinereach Producer Awardee and the proud mother of four.

JAMIE BOYLE (she/her) | EDITOR/WRITER - Jamie is a two-time Emmy award-winning documentary filmmaker. Her most recent film, ANONYMOUS SISTER, premiered at DOC NYC in 2021 with support from Sundance, IDA, Fork Films, and others. She was the editor, producer, and cinematographer on JACKSON (Showtime), winner of the 2018 News & Documentary Emmy. She was the editor of the 2019 Emmy-winner for Outstanding Short Documentary, TRANS IN AMERICA: TEXAS STRONG. She was the associate editor and production manager on E-TEAM (Netflix), winner of the Sundance Cinematography Award. She directed the short documentary, TAKE A VOTE, that premiered at DOC NYC in 2020.

KRISTINA MOTWANI (she/her) | EDITOR - Kristina is an editor, writer, producer and story consultant living and working in San Francisco. She is the 2021 Sundance Jonathan Oppenheim Edit Award recipient, a 2019 DOCNYC 40 under 40 honoree, a 2018 SFFilm FilmHouse Resident and was a 2017 BAVC National MediaMaker Fellow. Her work has screened at the Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca, SXSW, SFFilm festival and more, and has been seen on PBS, Netflix and the World Channel. She has been nominated for a regional Emmy award and received awards from the SF Press Club, the Tellys and the Society for Professional Journalism.

KEITH MAITLAND (he/him) and SARAH WILSON (she/her) | EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS - Keith is the PGA/Peabody-nominated Director/Producer of 2016's TOWER. His latest film DEAR MR. BRODY premiered at Telluride Film Festival in 2020. Keith is the co-founder of Austin-based production company Go-Valley, with Director of Photography Sarah Wilson. Sarah freelances as a cinematographer and photographer for The New York Times Magazine, The Atlantic, Texas Monthly, and others. Her public art series ESSENTIALS: Portraits of Austin's Essential Women Workers is currently on display through the streets of Austin.

JACKIE OLIVE (she/her) | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - Jacqueline is an independent filmmaker with nearly twenty years of experience in journalism and film. Her award-winning debut documentary film, ALWAYS IN SEASON, has received numerous honors including winner of the 2019 Sundance Festival Special Jury Prize for Moral Urgency and nominations for 2019 Best

Writing from IDA Documentary Awards and Cinema Eye Honors. Broadcast on Independent Lens on PBS in 2020, it was the highest rated film of the season. In addition to creating the 2022 Peabody Award-winning VR project, ALWAYS IN SEASON ISLAND—Jackie directed, produced, and wrote the documentary film, DEATH IS OUR BUSINESS, which broadcast on FRONTLINE/PBS and the WORLD Channel in February 2021 and executive produced and directed LINCOLN’S DILEMMA, a 4-part 2022 Apple TV series.

NICO OPPER (they/them) | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - Nico (they/them) is an Emmy-nominated filmmaker who has been featured in Filmmaker Magazine’s annual “25 New Faces of Independent Film”, Indiewire Magazine’s “25 LGBT Filmmakers on the Rise”, and DOC NYC’s “40 Under 40”. Films as director/producer include OFF AND RUNNING, THE F WORD, TRY HARDER!, WHEN I WRITE IT and VISITOR’S DAY. They also executive produced WHAT YOU’LL REMEMBER and line produced THE KILLER WITHIN.

GIL TALMI (he/him) | COMPOSER - Gil is an Emmy-nominated film composer, sonic activist and recording artist with a passion for socially conscious films. Some of Gil's most recent work includes original music for HARRY & MEGHAN (Netflix/Story Syndicate), BATTLEGROUND (Safe Space Pictures), LEAD ME HOME (Netflix/Actual Films), JACINTA (Hulu/Endeavor Pictures), WHITE NOISE (The Atlantic), ALL IN: The Fight For Democracy (Amazon Studios/Story Syndicate), THE GREAT HACK (Netflix/A Noujaim Films-Othrs Production) and CHAVELA (Aubin Pictures). Gil's score for CHAVELA was nominated for Best Original Film Score by the Music & Sound Awards and his music for TALES OF THE WARIA (PBS Global Voices) won Best Documentary Score.

MEREDITH EZINMA (she/her) | COMPOSER - Meredith, professionally known as Ezinma [Eh-zeen-mah], is a violinist, film composer, and educational activist. As a performer, Ramsay has worked with renowned artists including Beyonce, Rihanna, Stevie Wonder, Kendrick Lamar, Khalid, Joshua Bell, Yo Yo Ma and Clean Bandit, to name a few. As a composer, Ramsay has scored for both film and TV including the Oscar-nominated documentary-short, STRANGER AT THE GATE (2022). In addition, Ramsay is an advocate for music education. In 2021, she launched Strings By Heart— a youth development program in NYC for children K-5 committed to bringing quality music instruction, workshops, and outreach to children from underserved communities.

Breaking the News | CREDITS



in association with
Ford Foundation | JustFilms
Impact Partners
Go-Valley

directed and produced by
HEATHER COURTNEY, PRINCESS A. HAIRSTON and CHELSEA HERNANDEZ

produced by
DIANE QUON

edited by
JAMIE BOYLE
KRISTINA MOTWANI

executive producers
KEITH MAITLAND
SARAH WILSON

executive producers
BILL AND RUTH ANN HARNISCH
MELONY AND ADAM LEWIS

executive producers
JACKIE OLIVE
NICO OPPER

executive producers

SALLY JO FIFER
LOIS VOSSEN

written by
JAMIE BOYLE

music by
GIL TALMI
MEREDITH EZINMA

cinematography by
HEATHER COURTNEY, CHELSEA HERNANDEZ, and PRINCESS A. HAIRSTON

post-production supervisors
ANNA RAMIREZ
ANITA H. M. YU

Consulting Editor CARLA GUTIERREZ

Assistant Editors ANNA RAMIREZ
SUSIE SMITH

2nd Assistant Editor ESMERALDA HERNANDEZ

Motion Graphics RHOPRO - ANTHONY RHOADS

Archival Producers ALEXANDRA MARGOLIN
AUSTIN WILKIN
MARIAH YAMAMOTO

Archival Research ANNA LOUIE
SARAH J. VILLERREAL

Additional Camera JESSICA BENNETT
JOSEPH BOYD
ANTONIA COLODRO
RAY COMBS
HELKI FRANTZEN
DAVID HARTSTEIN
BENJAMIN LOWREY
ALEXANDER MILAN
ANDREW MILLER
AZARIAH OLDACRE
GABRIELA GARCIA-PARDO
BEX RODRIGUEZ

ALEJANDRA ROMERO
SOSENA SOLOMON
RAY WHITEHOUSE
SARAH WILSON

Additional Sound ROWENA CLUCK
JUSTIN HENNARD
JON HICKS
CHANAYE JACKSON
HAYDEN JACKSON
V LOPEZ
CAITLYN MASON

Production Assistants WIJDANE BALBIYAR
CIARA FRANKLIN
SARAH QUON
SOPHIA RHEE
BRANDI STEVENS

Post Production Services by Final Frame

DI Colorist ESME ROGERS SMITH
DI Online Editor BEN KIVIAT
DI Producer WENDI LITTERAL
DI Manager BEN KIVIAT
DI Additional Online Editor SOHEIL KHOSHAB
DI Technical Supervisor SANDY PATCH
DI Executive Producers WILL COX & JESSICA HINDS

Post Sound Services by Final Frame

Supervising Sound Editor & ANNIE MEDLIN
Re-Recording Mixer

Sound Effect Editor JOE DiCOSOLA

DCP STUCK ON ON, AUSTIN, TX

Strings performed by MEREDITH EZINMA RAMSAY
Piano performed by GIL TALMI
Vocals by MADDY ROSE WEISMAN & MEREDITH
EZINMA RAMSAY

Drums/Percussion performed by ERIC HART
Session Prep PAUL PARKER
JORDAN HART

Music Editor MADDY ROSE WEISMAN

Additional Music Courtesy of KONSONANT MUSIC AND
BULLETPROOF BEAR

Development Producer for Go-Valley DANA REILLY
Translation JULIAN COPADO
Transcriptions KASEY QUON
LIAA R. CRUZ

For Impact Partners
Executive Director JENNY RASKIN
COO AMY AUGUSTINO
VP of Production LAUREN HABER
Head of Development KELSEY KOENIG
Operations Associate SKYE WARD
Development Associate CHELSEA WILLIAMS

Key Art INDIKA ENTERTAINMENT MARKETING
Website Design JULIA MARTIN
Demo Reel Editor ALDO VELASCO
Impact Consultant DARCY MCKINNON
Legal Counsel HOLLAND & KNIGHT
Fair Use Consultants PETER JASZI AND BRANDON BUTLER,
JASZI BUTLER PLLC
Bookkeeping TRACY KELLER - CUPPA JOE
Accounting Services LUTZ & CARR
Assistant to Chelsea Hernandez ESMERALDA HERNANDEZ
Fiscal Sponsorship AUSTIN FILM SOCIETY
UTAH FILM CENTER
Film Festival Distribution JEFFREY WINTER AND KATHY SUSCA,
FILM COLLABORATIVE
Publicist DAVID MAGDAEL & ASSOCIATES
DAVID MAGDAEL
WILL ZANG
JENNIFER HAST
TOMMY TANG
KIM DIXON

FUNDING PROVIDED BY
Alba Collis
Austin Film Society
Chicken & Egg Pictures
Doclands Docpitch/California Institute
Goradia Foundation
Bill and Ruth Ann Harnisch/ The Harnisch Foundation
IDA Enterprise Development Fund
IDA Logan Elevate Fund
Impact Partners
JustFilms | Ford Foundation
Meadow Fund
Melony and Adam Lewis
Nika Media

Perspective Fund
Points North American Stories Documentary Fund sponsored by CNN Films
Swell Foundation

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY
Sundance Institute / Women in Film
Athena Film Festival - Works in Progress
Big Sky Pitch
The Gotham Film & Media Institute
Hot Docs Dealmakers
Ji.hlava New Visions Forum
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Stuck On On

Breaking theNews | TECH SPECS

Frame size: UHD 3840 x 2160
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Frame Rate: Apple ProRes 422 HQ file will be 23.98 fps or DCP will be 24 fps
Sound: Stereo or 5.1 audio

Breaking theNews | IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS

Cover Page

Still image: A smiling African American woman with brown complexion wears glasses and a pink sweater with the word Represent on the front. and stands in a long line outside a voting venue in order to vote. There is the image of a laurel that reads: Tribeca Festival 2023 Official Selection.

Page 2

Still image: A group of women and LGBTQ+ journalists are sitting around a table in the newsroom with laptops open.

Page 3

Still image: A Latina woman with long brown hair wearing a 19th* mask and a plaid shirt writes on her notepad as she interviews two women in a red truck.

Page 5

Heather Courtney headshot: A black and white photo of a woman with shoulder length brown hair wearing an unbuttoned western shirt and a black tank underneath holding a Big Hug mug.

Princess A. Hairston headshot: An African American woman with a round face and a black medium-length afro hairstyle and pink lipstick. She is wearing a black shirt with silver hoop earrings against a brick background.

Chelsea Hernandez headshot: Profile of a fair-skinned Latina woman with long brown hair wearing red lipstick and a black blouse with colored lines around the collar. A blue light shines on her round face and red glass reflection covers the bottom of the photo.

Page 6

Diane Quon headshot: An Asian American woman with medium-length brown hair wears glasses and a brown sweater. Her background is a dark gray color and she is smiling.

Page 8

Still image: A woman with shoulder length blonde hair wearing a pink sweater with the word Represent on the front and a woman with long dark brown hair in a braid and short sleeve shirt holding a coffee cup are smiling as they face a laptop with a 19th sticker on it.