



# Black Beauty



FOREVER FREE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS BLACK BEAUTY  
EDITED BY KAMILLAH AMIRAH BRYANT & PRINCESS A. HAIRSTON  
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY EMIR FILS-AIME & AUSTIN  
PRODUCED BY LAURA TATHAM & LAURA PILTON  
DIRECTED BY ELLE MOXLEY

**US PREMIERE - 2022 CINEMA COLUMBUS**

**DOCUMENTARY SHORT: Public Screenings**  
Drexel Theatre: Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:30PM ET  
Gateway Film Center: Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30PM ET

## **Press Downloads**

[Link to Signature Images](#)

[Link to Director Photo](#)

## **Contacts**

Elle Moxley: [foreverfreeprod@gmail.com](mailto:foreverfreeprod@gmail.com)  
Sales/Distribution Inquiries: [foreverfreeprod@gmail.com](mailto:foreverfreeprod@gmail.com)

**Logline:**

Directed by and featuring activist Elle Moxley, *Black Beauty* is a visual diary that traces Elle's story in her own words—as she reconnects with loved ones from the past, recalls her coming of age experience as a woman from the Midwest, and reflects on her journey as a movement leader and founding strategic partner of the global movement Black Lives Matter.

**Synopsis:**

Directed by and featuring activist and organizer Elle Moxley, *Black Beauty* follows Elle in the midst of 2020. Through slow cinematic moments and meditations, *Black Beauty* quietly observes the storied organizer in and around her hometown of Columbus, Ohio, as she embarks on a personal journey with loved ones from the past to explore concepts of love, belonging, and home.

Through intimate conversations with her mother Lisa, her childhood friend Tonika, and her dear friend Samaria Rice, *Black Beauty* traces Elle's story—from her early experiences as a teen in Columbus, becoming a founding strategic partner of the global movement Black Lives Matter, to her organizing work for Tamir Rice in Cleveland, and beyond. As Elle explores her history, she relays her vision for our collective future—a vision that suddenly feels possible in this rapidly changing world.

*Black Beauty* is a cry out for hope, change, and the importance of self-love. *Black Beauty* is an invitation for us all to return home to ourselves.

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**ELLE MOXLEY: Director/Producer** (*Short Bio @ 56 words*)

Elle Moxley (formerly Elle Hearn) is an artist, director, human rights advocate, and visionary. Moxley is the CEO of Forever Free Productions along with being the founder and executive director of The Marsha P. Johnson Institute (MPJI), an organization committed to advocating for the human rights of Black trans people.

*Black Beauty* marks her directorial debut.

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**ELLE MOXLEY: Director/Producer** (*Full Bio @ 227 words*)

Elle Moxley (formerly Elle Hearn) is an artist, director, human rights advocate, speaker and visionary. Moxley is the CEO of Forever Free Productions along with being the founder and executive director of The Marsha P. Johnson Institute (MPJI), an organization committed to advocating for the human rights of Black trans people.

Prior to founding MPJI, Elle worked for LGBTQ+ organization GetEQUAL and was a founding strategic partner of global movement Black Lives Matter and the Black Lives Matter network.

As a speaker Elle has delivered keynotes and talks at Harvard University, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The Public Theatre, and for The National Lawyers Guild, Columbia University, Stanford University, and NYU. Elle’s writings have been published by The CUNY Law Review and *Ebony* magazine. Her work has also been chronicled and featured by Time, CNN, MTV, *The New York Times*, Altnet, Democracy Now, The Daily Dot, Fusion, Essence Magazine, The Root, Altnet, Telesur TV, and *The Washington Post*. Elle has been honored with the Young Women’s Achievement Award for Advocacy and Organizing by the Women’s Information Network, the Black Feminist Human Rights Defender award by Black Women’s Blueprint, and as a Woke 100 honoree by *Essence* magazine.

Elle calls Columbus, Ohio, home. Elle moonlights as a singer and actress and enjoys spending her time with those she loves. *Black Beauty* marks her directorial debut.

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**LAURA TATHAM: Producer**

Laura is a creative producer committed to telling stories that highlight urgent social justice issues. She is currently producing the feature documentary *What We Carry*, having recently completed the short documentary *Black Beauty* and the feature documentary *Mama Bears* (SXSW ‘22, ITVS). In the past seven years she’s worked on numerous award-winning films—as associate producer on the feature-length documentaries *Chavela* (Berlinale ‘17) and *Dispatches from Cleveland* (CIFF ‘17) and as the NYC production office manager for *America*, a series of silent, narrative shorts (Sundance ‘19). She was a 2020 Film Independent Documentary Lab and WIF/ Sundance Institute Financing Intensive fellow.

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**LAURA PILLONI: Producer**

Laura Piloni is a filmmaker who works towards the representation of marginalized stories. She was the associate producer for the women and human rights documentary *Home Truth*, which

premiered at the 2017 Human Rights Watch Film Festival and was broadcast on PBS the following year. She went on to associate produce *Chavela* (Berlinale, Hot Docs '17) and *Dispatches from Cleveland* (CIFF '17 and FSTV broadcast). Keeping in line with her work on these impactful films, she was a producer on Elle Moxley's short documentary *Black Beauty* (Inside Out '22), and an associate producer on the feature documentary *Lift*. She is currently a producer for *What We Carry*, an upcoming feature documentary about a Honduran family seeking asylum in the U.S.

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**Emir Fils-Aime: Director of Photography**

Emir is an artist and a cinematographer, from Queens, New York. Informed by a diverse set of past experiences—from working in an ER to teaching middle schoolers how to debate—he weaves a sensitive and intuitive approach into the image making process. Recent contributions include serving as the director of photography on a series of installation visuals for the 20th anniversary tour of Jill Scott's "Who is Jill Scott?" album and serving as an additional director of photography on the feature documentary *Two Gods* (Hot Docs '20, Blackstar Film Festival '20).

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**Kamillah Amirah Bryant: Editor**

Kamillah is a Philadelphia native with a powerful vision and a refreshingly unique point of view. As a child, she relished being transported to other dimensions through the vehicles of music, television, and film. After being introduced to the art of video editing, she finally felt equipped with a language and tools to produce her very own compelling body of work. Toting over a decade of experience in the production sector, she began her career as a Production Manager at Viacom and moved on to freelance producing /editing for companies like The Wing, AfroPunk, CNN, Refinery 29, Complex & YouTube to name a few. In 2016, she tackled her directorial aspirations, spearheading her very own documentary, "*black yogi*," which she currently continues to develop.

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**Princess Hairston: Editor**

Princess is a creative director, producer, and Emmy-nominated editor based in New York City. Princess was supervising editor for *Pier Kids* which premiered at DOCNYC 2019. She was an editor on *Fresh Dressed*, an official 2015 Sundance Film Festival selection, and edited the first two episodes of the Emmy-nominated series *Capture with Mark Seliger*. She was lead editor on *Masterpiece of Love*, a five-part 81-minute documentary series. She is a 2018 recipient of the Karen Schmeer Editing Fellowship and a 2018 Winner of the NYTVF + WETV Producer Pitch. Her work has been recognized with nominations and awards from the Emmys, the Webby's, and many film festivals.

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**Director's Meditation:**

What have we learned from what we've been through?

There's so much attention on death, no one else questions whether Black Trans women even

lived. Did they have a full life? Did they dance? Did they sing?

What happens if I tell my own story—will it finally be enough?

Our stories have always been ready for the world. When will the world be ready to hear them?

After this film, will you still ignore me? Or will you recognize that we all have dreams?

When will reality reflect our dreams?

So many lack the space for their voices to be heard.

How do we exist within our greatness while trying to simply survive?

Generational

Trauma,  
Knowledge,  
Joy

Who guides humanity?

Who guides Black trans people?

I learned about the world's contradictions living in Ohio. And I learned never to compromise. Never to go against our generational knowledge—the collective trauma that lives through us.

Just as recognizing our trauma is essential, our joy is equally important.

There is a beauty in who are now, and where we could be.

*the celebration of us is essential to our liberation*

Movement as life; even if we stumble, we still move beautifully.

Being here makes me hopeful.

Everything that made us is divine.

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**Main Credits:**

**Directed & Produced by**

Elle Moxley

**Produced by**

Laura Tatham  
Laura Pilloni

**Edited by**  
Kamillah Amirah Bryant  
Princess A. Hairston

**Director of Photography**  
Emir Fils-Aime

**Additional Cinematography**  
Caleb Crossen

**Associate Producer**  
Yanett Ramirez

**Original Music by**  
Jason Yang

**Featuring (in order of appearance)**  
Elle Moxley  
Harper Moxley  
Lisa Hearn  
Samaria Rice  
Tonika Mason  
Nia Doyle