

# THE LORRAINE

A film by Sam Pollard



*Official Selection of the Tribeca Festival - Documentary Competition*

**Tribeca Screenings:**

Public 1 (Premiere) - Friday, June 5 @ 8:30 PM at SVA Theatre

Press & Industry Screening - Saturday, June 6 @ 3:45pm at AMC

Public 2 Screening - Saturday, June 6 @ 5:00 PM at AMC

Public 3 Screening - Saturday, June 13 @ 11:00 AM at Village East by Angelika

**Press Contact:**

42West | [thelorraine@42west.com](mailto:thelorraine@42west.com)

**Sales Team:**

Submarine Deluxe/Submarine Entertainment

**Run Time:**

84 minutes

[Press Materials](#) | [Tribeca Website](#)

## SYNOPSIS:

In the heart of Memphis, Walter and Loree Bailey's Lorraine Motel was both a thriving hub of Black entrepreneurship and a destination for the greatest musicians of the 20th century - a place where Civil Rights demonstrations were planned, musical hits were written, and Black and white artists created history together. A rare, black-owned establishment, The Lorraine served as a safe haven and sanctuary for Black travelers during the Jim Crow era. Then, on April 4, 1968, the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. outside Room 306 cleaved that history in two, and the world forgot everything else.

Urgent yet deeply joyful, THE LORRAINE is both a reckoning with the Civil Rights Movement's unfinished legacy and a celebration of Black excellence and resilience. Renowned documentarian Sam Pollard uses archival footage and music along with the voices of those who lived it to vividly revive what was lost. The film ultimately becomes a story of reclamation: of people, space, history, and identity. Of transforming trauma into light.

THE LORRAINE reminds us that history is never as neatly resolved as we're taught to believe, and that the fight for justice is still very much evolving.

## KEY PARTICIPANTS:

### *In order of appearance:*

Dr. Noelle Trent  
Former Director of Interpretation  
National Civil Rights Museum

Ryan Jones  
Director of History  
National Civil Rights Museum

Carolyn Bailey Champion  
Daughter of Walter and Loree Bailey

Mary Ellen Norwood Ford  
Employee, 1965-1969  
The Lorraine Motel

Dr. Russell Wigginton  
President, National Civil Rights Museum

James Alexander  
Founding Member and Leader  
The Bar-Kays

Deanie Parker

Stax Records Executive (1963-1975),  
Founding CEO Soulville Foundation

Dr. Carol Loree Champion  
Granddaughter of Walter and Loree Bailey

Art Gilliam  
President, WLOK Radio

Tom Jones  
Senior Advisor to Shelby County Mayor  
1976-2002

Rev. Dr. William Adkins  
Former Radio Announcer, WDIA / WLOK

John Burl Smith  
Co-founder of The Invaders

Carla Thomas  
The Queen of Memphis Soul

Eddie Floyd  
Stax Singer and Songwriter

Carla Thomas  
The Queen of Memphis Soul

Dr. Coby Smith  
Co-founder of The Invaders

Steve Cropper  
Guitarist, Songwriter  
Founding member, Booker T & the MGs

D'Army Bailey  
Circuit Court Judge

Adrienne Bailey  
Wife of D'Army Bailey

Jesse Turner Jr.  
Former CEO, Tri-State Bank

Rep. Justin J. Pearson  
Tennessee House of Representatives  
86th District

*Featuring archival interviews with:*

Walter Lane Bailey  
Owner, The Lorraine Motel

Stokely Carmichael  
Civil Rights Activist & Chairman  
Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee

Ambassador Andrew Young  
Executive Director, SCLC 1964-1968  
US Ambassador to the UN 1977-1979

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

*By Sam Pollard*

April 4, 1968, I had just turned 18 years old two days before on April 2<sup>nd</sup> when sitting in my folk's apartment we learned that Dr Martin Luther King Jr had been assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee on the balcony of a motel called The Lorraine. That was the first time I had heard of the Lorraine and clearly it would be a name of a place that would be etched in my mind forever.

Almost twenty years later for a family reunion in Memphis I along with my extended family of Pollards would visit the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis which was situated in what had been the Lorraine Motel and Hotel. It was a haunting experience visiting the museum and seeing the room where Dr. King spent his last hours and the balcony where he was shot. All these memories informed how important it was for me to be asked to direct a film about The Lorraine when I was approached by Submarine in 2023 and an occasion to understand the history of The Lorraine and the owners Walter and Loree Bailey.

As I have been blessed with so many times in my directing career I was afforded the honor of speaking to a wonderful group of people who were able to allow me to interview them about the long and rich history of the Lorraine and the Baileys and the complicated history that African Americans had to deal with during the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century when a hotel/motel like The Lorraine was a necessity in those horrific segregated times. So with a thankful group of contributors, a plethora of archival footage that spoke to the rise and fall of The Lorraine and a catalogue of great music from the 1930's, 40's, 50's and 60's I was able with an able team of collaborators make a film that honors the history and legacy of the Lorraine and the Baileys and the National Civil Rights Museum that still stands today as a testament to Dr King and all those that fought and persevered during the height of the Civil Rights Movement.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

### **Sam Pollard**

Sam Pollard is an accomplished feature film and television editor, and documentary producer/director.

Between 1990 and 2010, Mr. Pollard edited several Spike Lee's films: MO' BETTER BLUES, JUNGLE FEVER, GIRL 6, CLOCKERS, and BAMBOOZLED. Mr. Pollard and Mr. Lee co-produced a few documentary productions for the small and big screen, FOUR LITTLE GIRLS, a feature-length documentary about the 1963 Birmingham church bombings which was nominated for an Academy Award and WHEN THE LEVEES BROKE, a four-part documentary that won numerous awards, including a Peabody and three Emmy Awards. Five years later 2010 he co-produced and supervised the edit on the follow up to Levees IF GOD IS WILLING AND DA CREEK DON'T RISE.

Since 2012 Mr. Pollard has completed as a producer/director **Slavery By Another Name** a 90-minute documentary for PBS that was in competition at the Sundance Festival, AUGUST WILSON: THE GROUND ON WHICH I STAND a 90-minute documentary in 2015 for American Masters, TWO TRAINS RUNNIN' a feature length documentary in 2016 that premiered at the Full Frame Film Festival. SAMMY DAVIS JR., I'VE GOTTA BE ME for American Masters premièred at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival. In 2019 Mr. Pollard co-directed the Six Part Series "Why We Hate" that premiered on The Discovery Channel. In 2020 he was one of the directors on the 2020 HBO Series "Atlanta's Missing and Murdered: The Lost Children." He also completed in 2020 MLK/FBI that premiered at the 2020 Toronto Film Festival and the New York Film Festival. In 2021 HBO premiered two of his films BLACK ART: IN THE ABSENCE OF LIGHT and CITIZEN ASHE.

2022 and 2023 have been very productive years for Pollard. He completed LOWNDES COUNTY AND THE ROAD TO BLACK POWER, a film he co-directed with Academy Award nominated Geeta Gandbhir, the two-part documentary, BILL RUSSELL: LEGEND, about the legendary Boston Celtic and civil rights icon that premiered on Netflix on February 8, 2023. And that same year he premiered MAX ROACH: THE DRUM ALSO WALTZES, a film he co-directed with Ben Shapiro, that had its world premiere at the SXSW Film Festival. And the film SOUTH TO BLACK POWER, inspired by New York Times columnist Charles Blow's book, *The Devil You Know: A Black Power Manifesto*, co-directed by Pollard and Llewellyn Smith premiered on HBO in Fall 2023.

In 2025 he was an Executive Producer on the Netflix Series "Katrina: Come Hell and High Water" and EP on the Oscar nominated THE PERFECT NEIGHBOR.

### **Alvin Hall**

Alvin Hall is a best-selling author, award-winning broadcaster (television, radio, and podcasting), and financial educator. Alvin created, produced (with Macmillan Podcasts), and hosted the ten-episode podcast series *Driving the Green Book*. It received the 2021 Ambie Award for the Best History Podcast and the 2021 New York Festivals Gold Award for Best Narrative Documentary Podcast. His recent book, also called *Driving the Green Book*, received a 2024 Honor Award from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, citing it as a "vital work of national history." It was also featured in a 2025 *New York Times Book Review* article, *18 Great Road Trip Books that Aren't "On the Road."*

Alvin produced (with Mike De Caro and Saro Varjabedian) and hosted his first documentary short film in 2021 called "Driving the Green Book [on Long Island]." This documentary was screened at film festivals across the US, winning Best Short Documentary at both the Arpa International Film Festival and The People's Film Festival (TPFF) in Harlem. He has written and is currently producing a feature-length documentary film about the iconic Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN. A book is in development about Alvin's journey from discovering the untold stories about the Lorraine Motel to the making of the documentary film.

He currently is Chair of the Advisory Council of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. Alvin is Trustee Emeritus of Bowdoin College (his alma mater), from which he received the 2019 Alumni Service Award. Alvin is Chair Emeritus of the Black Arts Council at the Museum of Modern Art, and a former member of the Acquisitions Committee at the Studio Museum in Harlem. He is also a board member of the New York City AIDS Memorial and The Conversation US. Alvin lives and works in New York City and considers London his second home.

### **Dan Braun**

Dan Braun is an Emmy and IDA Award winning producer and the co-founder and co-president of New York based sales and distribution company Submarine Entertainment, and co-president of production company Submarine Deluxe.

Mr Braun most recently executive produced The Rise of the Red Hot Chili Peppers: Our Brother Hillel. Braun was the producer of the Sundance Competition documentary AUM: The Cult at the End of the World, and The Jewel Thief (a Hulu Original documentary), as well as Kusama-Infinity, Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict, Gamestop: The Rise of the Players; Diana Kennedy: Nothing Fancy and free jazz doc Fire Music. Mr. Braun has executive produced documentary series Evil Genius, The Keepers, Pick of the Litter, The Devil Next Door, The 12<sup>th</sup> Victim (a Showtime Original doc series), The Sons of Sam: Descent into Darkness and Wild Wild Country for which he won the Primetime Emmy for Best Documentary Series;

Braun has Executive Produced many feature documentaries including Brian Jones and The Stones, I Need You: 53 Years of the Band America, Immediate Family, Angelheaded Hipster, ENO, Lost Angel: The Genius of Judee Sill, Tom Petty Somewhere you Feel Free, Echo in the Canyon, Bill Wyman: The Quiet One and Joan Jett: Bad Reputation. Mr. Braun co-produced the Netflix series A Man on the Inside, Todd Haynes The Velvet Underground and Bombshell: The Hedy LaMarr Story and his second Emmy nomination as co-executive producer was for the Netflix series The Andy Warhol Diaries for which he also won an HMMA songwriting award for Best Song in Documentary Series for "So Afraid to Lose You". Braun was also nominated for Best Original Song at the HMMA's in 2023 for "Dream Your Little Dream" from The Jewel Thief. He composed the music for AUM: The Cult at the End of the World.

### **Joseph Wemple**

Joseph Wemple graduated from NYU Film School then worked as an editor for a TV commercial production house. His first short film, "Addio Leonardo" aired on channel 13 as a series for promising young filmmakers. He was then hired to direct a New Years Special for PBS " Thoughts of the Artist." A fan of the theater, Wemple founded the venue Theatre Exchange in San Francisco and has directed plays at Lincoln Center with the Juilliard Company.

Wemple's additional credits include the short films "This Is It" with Allen Watts and Frits Pearles and "Pink Pony" and the feature documentaries JUST CRAZY ABOUT HORSES, NOBODY WAS HERE, and FIRE MUSIC. He is currently producing the feature documentary THE EARTH MOVES about the production of the Philip Glass / Robert Wilson opera "Einstein on the Beach" and just wrapped production on the short "Thelonious Monk / John Coltrane at The 5 Spot" which he produced with Sam Pollard.

## FULL CREDITS

**Directed By**  
Sam Pollard

**Produced By**  
Dan Braun

**Produced By**  
Joe Wemple

**Produced By**  
Ben Braun

**Conceived and Written By**  
Alvin Hall

**Writer**  
Joe Wemple

**Director of Photography**  
Henry Adebajo

**Co-Producer**  
Masaya Hirose

**Editors**  
R.A. Fedde  
Masaya Hirose

**Original Score**  
Christopher North

**Executive Producer**  
Alvin Hall

**Executive Producer**

Joe Wemple

**Executive Producers**

Robert Gordon  
Rick Brookwell

**Executive Producers**

Peter Kenney  
Josh Braun

**Executive Producers**

Julekya Lantigua  
Thomas Campbell Jackson  
Penny B. Jackson

**Writer**

Juleyka Lantigua

**Executive Producer**

Sheldon Stone

**Special Thanks For the Gift of**

Jamie L. Watson

**In Memory Of**

Emmett Watson

**Post Production Producer**

Andrew Murray

**Original Song**

“Tell Me Where You’re Going”  
By Dan Braun

Written by Dan Braun and Alvin Hall

**Music Supervisor**

Margaret Saadi Kramer

### Featuring in Order of Appearance

Dr. Noelle Trent	Rev. Dr. William Adkins
Ryan Jones	John Burl Smith
Carolyn Bailey Champion	Carla Thomas
Mary Ellen Norwood Ford	Eddie Floyd
Dr. Russell Wigginton	Dr. Coby Smith
James Alexander	Steve Cropper
Deanie Parker	Ambassador Andrew Young
Dr. Carol Loree Champion	Adrienne Bailey
Art Gilliam	Jesse Turner Jr.
Tom Jones	Rep. Justin Pearson

### Memphis Unit

Josh Beckemeyer	1st AC
Masaya Hirose	2nd AC
Christian Hawkins	Gaffers
Dave Duren	
Chris Crowther	Key Grips
Walker Crain	
Michael Hunkele	Sound
Moran Stratton	
Brandon Robertson	
Jordan Danelz	B Roll Camera Operator
Tiffany René Styles	Make Up Artist
Masaya Hirose	DIT
Cennedy Perkins	Production Assistants
Orya Larie	
Santi Naidoo	Production Coordinators
Olivia Cook	

### Atlanta Unit

Nicholas Rey	1st AC
Arnol Spaniol	Gaffer
Damian Gomez	Key Grip
Nathaniel Price	Sound Mixer
Alex Lucas	Make Up Artist
Rosemary Rotondi	Archival Producer
Judy Aley	Archival Producer (Pre-Production)
D.W. Olivas	Assistant Music Supervisor
Bret Paddock	Music Clearance Assistant
Jo Barnett	Production Accountant

### Post Production Sound Services by Smart Post Sound

Aaron Levy	
Mark Friedgen	Re-Recording Mixer

Erich Gann

Supervising Sound Editor

Sound Effects Editor

**Digital Intermediate by Different By Design**

Luke Cahill	Digital Intermediate Colorist
Misha Aranyshv	Digital Intermediate Editor
Greg Lanesev	Digital Intermediate Producers
Matt Radecki	
Joe Bogdanovic	Archival Conversions
Mike Werner	DI Assistant

**Graphics by Ace & Son Moving Picture Company**

Richard O'Connor	Creative Director
Natalie Greene	
Taisiya Zaretskaya	Animation Artists
Ruyin Tsai	

**Restoration and Colorization** by Composite Films

Samuel Francois-Steininger  
Nils Grunwald  
Nolwenn Guellec  
Bruno Scotti  
Camille Chavanne  
Alexandre Mory

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Jacqueline Swett, Esq.  
Donaldson Callif Perez, LLP

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Submarine Entertainment Sales  
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Dan Braun  
Ben Braun  
Matt Burke  
Ben Schwartz  
Joe Tufano  
Charlie Braun  
Christie du Plessis

**Festival Publicity**

42West  
Sylvia Desrochers  
Jacki St. Thomas

**Score Composed, Arranged and Produced by**

Christopher North

**Score Mixed by**  
Erdem Helvacioğlu

**Featuring the Lorraine Quintet**

Brian Landrus	Alto, Tenor and Baritone Saxophone
Chris Bergson	Electric Guitar
Brian Charette	Hammond Organ, Rhodes, Piano
Lonnie Plaxico	Acoustic and Electric Bass
Rudy Royston	Drums, Percussion

**Recorded at the Bunker Studio, Brooklyn NY**

Todd Corder	Engineer
Andy Plovnik	Studio Manager
Bianca D'Auria	Studio Interns
Madelyn Lee	

Landon Knoblock	Additional Score Production
Brian Landrus	Music Contractor
Christopher North	Music Preparation
Christopher North	Music Editing
Christopher North	Additional Mixing
Christian Bruni	Drum Chart Preparation

Christopher North

Electric and Acoustic Guitars, Rubber Bridge and Slide Guitar(s), Acoustic and Electric Basses, Synths (including Roli, Organ, Piano, Rhodes, Clavichord, Glass Harmonica), Synth and Sample Programming, Drums and Drum Programming, Percussion, Body Percussion and Beat Boxing, Percussion on Acoustic Bass. Sound Design of Sweet Georgia Brown

**Recorded at Studio-1A, Brooklyn NY**

Christopher North	Engineer
Erdem Helvacioğlu	Additional Music Editing
Francis Erzen	New York Arts Program Interns
Will Judd	
Carter Williams	Feirstein School, Student Assistant

© 2026 the Lorraine Original Score, Christopher North / Boy From Texas Tunes BMI

**"Tell Me Where You're Going"**

Murgburg Music ASCAP

Produced by	Paul Eagleston and Dan Braun
Additional Arrangement by	Charlie Braun
Recording Engineer, Mixer, Mastering	Aaron Edson

Featuring

Yahosh Bonner	Lead Vocal
Daysha	Vocals
Taryn Davis	Vocals
Dan Braun	Electric Guitar
Paul Eagleston	Organ
Aaron Edson	Electric Bass and Piano
T. Nevyn Brown	Tenor Saxophone
Henry Eagleston	Alto Saxophone
Bryce Eagleston	Drums

Recorded at Counterpoint Studios, Salt Lake City

## Music Courtesy of

"Knock on Wood"  
Performed by Eddie Floyd  
Courtesy of Atlantic Recording Corporation  
By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film &  
TV Licensing

"Born Under a Bad Sign"  
Written by Booker T Jones and William Bell  
Performed by Albert King  
Courtesy of Craft Recordings, a Concord Label  
Group Release

"Green Onions"  
Performed by Booker T. & The MG's  
Courtesy of Atlantic Recording Corporation  
By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film &  
TV Licensing

"Hold On, I'm Coming"  
Performed by Sam & Dave  
Courtesy of Atlantic Recording Corp.  
By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film &  
TV Licensing

"Sweet Lorraine"  
Performed by Nat King Cole  
Courtesy of Historic Films under license from  
Universal Music Enterprises

"Golden (The Wait)"  
Performed by Don Lifted feat. Madam Frankie  
Courtesy of Fat Possum Records

"Take My Hand, Precious Lord"  
Written by Thomas A. Dorsey  
Performed by Mahalia Jackson  
Courtesy of Sony Music

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"  
Performed by Ben Branch & The Operation Breadbasket Orchestra & Choir  
Courtesy of Geffen Records under license from Universal Music Enterprises

"Last Night"  
Performed by The Mar-Keys  
Courtesy of Atlantic Recording Corp.  
By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film &  
TV Licensing

"Soul Finger"  
Performed by The Bar-Kays  
Courtesy of Atlantic Recording Corp.  
By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film &  
TV Licensing

"Tramp"  
Performed by Carla Thomas; Otis Redding  
Courtesy of Atlantic Recording Corp.  
By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film &  
TV Licensing

"Gee Whiz, Look at His Eyes"  
Performed by Carla Thomas  
Courtesy of Atlantic Recording Corp.  
By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film &  
TV Licensing

"Sweet Georgia Brown"  
Written by Kenneth Casey, Ben Bernie and Maceo  
Pinkard  
Courtesy of Associated Production Music

"How Do I Get There?"  
Performed by Don Bryant  
Courtesy of Fat Possum Records

"Night Long"  
Performed by B.B. King  
Courtesy of Capitol Records/P-Vine/ Ace Records  
under license from Universal Music Enterprises

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Concord Stax API Photo Collection  
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Courtesy of Craft Recordings, a Division of Concord

Deanie Parker and Bettye Crutcher at 1969 Sales Meeting photo courtesy of Stax Museum of American Soul Music and Soulsville Foundation

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Esther Gordon	Joseph Weizenecker
Merritt Bailey	Vincent Mounier
Craig Tollis	Tim Davis
Helen Butcher	Fabiola Franco
Charlie Braun	Tow Truck Driver on Route 69
Connor Scanlon	Sody Sisco
Michelle Duerr	Dee Dee Braun
Mary Salter	Vanessa Gould

Steve Cropper (1941-2025)  
Guitarist, Songwriter  
Founding Member, Booker T & the MGs

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