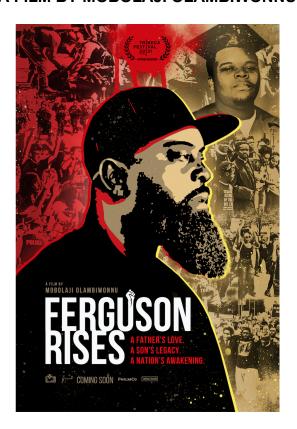
DREAMSEEKER MEDIA In Association with FILMS WITH A PURPOSE YORUBA SAXON and PHILMCO Present

FERGUSON RISES A FILM BY MOBOLAJI OLAMBIWONNU



EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY, SANDRA EVERS-MANLY GIGI PRITZKER, KAI BOWE, TJ MARTIN, ALOE BLACC AND RZA

AUDIENCE AWARD WINNER – TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL 2021 HONARABLE MENTION BEST DOC - TALLGRASS FILM 2021 RUNNING TIME: 82 MINS

PRESS CONTACT DAVID MAGDAEL & ASSOCIATES DAVID MAGDAEL – <u>DMAGDAEL@TCDM-ASSOCIATES.COM</u> VINCE JOHNSON – VJOHNSON@TCDM-ASSOCIATES.COM

PRESS RESPONSES TO FERGUSON RISES:

"Excellent and impressive. The filmmaker's measured tone enables him to make the story very moving while conveying strong activist intentions. Not easy to do."

- Kenneth Turan Film Critic

"This is an act of remembrance and quiet defiance, a principled refusal to let Brown's death be

forgotten"

- Screen Daily

FERGUSON RISES A FILM BY MOBOLAJI OLAMBIWONNU

SHORT SYNOPSIS

How does a father find purpose in his pain? In 2014, Michael Brown Sr.'s son was killed by white police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri, an event that fueled the global Black Lives Matter movement. But his personal story seeking justice and healing has not been told until now.

MAIN SYNOPSIS

Before the explosive global uprising condemning the murder of George Floyd, there was a small town in Missouri that erupted in protest after the Aug 9, 2014 killing of unarmed Black teen Michael Brown Jr. by a white police officer. It was this small town and its people that propelled Black Lives Matter to international prominence and inspired a new global civil rights movement. To understand this present moment, we must understand what happened in Ferguson.

FERGUSON RISES goes deep into the aftermath and protests. It also highlights the diverse voices of community members: from residents to police officers, to business owners and those who chose to say "enough is enough" by taking to the streets for a record 400 days straight. These varied perspectives are interwoven with a rarely seen portrayal of a Black father's grief, to help us understand the human side of this tragedy and to give us an intimate view of what it means to be a Black man in America. Director Mobolaji Olambiwonnu shows us the indomitable nature of the human spirit and how people can take something so tragic and build something beautiful around it.

FERGUSON RISES is ultimately about empathy. We sit with a grieving father, with police officers, with community members who are outraged at this murder and with community members who are angry at protesters. We see that they are all human, and ultimately, they are capable of growth and healing, and that we may have something to learn from them.

FERGUSON RISES A FILM BY MOBOLAJI OLAMBIWONNU DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

THE TRUTH

"You can plead guilty or we will find you guilty," the police officers said to me as they interrogated me for a crime I did not commit. I was a naïve nineteen-year-old, working my summer job in door-to-door sales when the police arrived and told me that I fit the description of someone wanted for rape and robbery. After hours of interrogation and manipulation by the police, alone and terrified without my parents or a lawyer, I nearly confessed until I realized that on TV crime shows, the person who is being interrogated can always demand a phone call. I decided to call my employer's staff attorney and he got me released on my own recognizance pending the trial. After months in court I was finally exonerated, thanks to that lawyer, two other lawyers and more than a hundred character witnesses. I was incredibly fortunate, far more so than countless others. I would never be the same.

When Michael Brown Jr. was killed, he was just one year younger than I had been when I had my life-altering experience with the police. I couldn't help but think that it could have been me; what happened to Michael Brown Jr. could have easily happened to me or to any other Black or Brown teen.

At the time of Michael's killing, my wife was seven months pregnant with our only child, our son. I knew that if nothing changed, he would have to face these same dangers and injustices every day of his life too. It became clear to me, at that time, that I could not just sit there and do nothing. I wanted to someday be able to tell my son, when he asked what I did at that crucial moment in history, that I did something meaningful, that I at least tried to make a difference for him and other people. It is because of this that I made Ferguson Rises.

With this film, I have tried to convey several things: the reality of what happened in Ferguson and what happens to Black people on a daily basis; the generally unrecognized human suffering, the rarely seen vulnerability and strength of Black fathers and Black men in this country; the common humanity that we all share; and the reframing of our suffering into hope, community and action.

What started in Ferguson is now everywhere. The story of Michael Brown Jr, his father and his community is not limited to the city boundaries of Ferguson. It's a story about all of America because what happened there, as we have seen since, could happen anywhere.

This country has a lot to learn from black people about resilience, courage, and how to find purpose in the face of ongoing tragedy. These qualities are exemplified by Michael Brown Sr. who has never been featured in a film before this. I hope that people see that African Americans are an extraordinary people who have never stopped persevering despite centuries of abuse in this country, and that they deserve to be viewed through a lens of compassion, respect and support.

I also hope that through Michael Brown Sr. and the community of Ferguson people will learn how to find purpose in their pain - how to channel what could be destructive into a life affirming and community building force. Finally, I want people who might be losing hope know that we are not alone. People all across the country and around the world are standing with us and because of this, it may finally be possible to begin to have transformative conversations around race and new forms of humane policing in America that leave all people feeling protected and served.

What Ferguson showed me, and what I hope it can show many more people, is that injustice and cruelty must ultimately answer to the greater forces of love and compassion... and that when you fight for Black lives you fight for all lives. This was a 7 year independently financed project that we are offering to the world as an opportunity to heal the division that divides us.

FERGUSON RISES A FILM BY MOBOLAJI OLAMBIWONNU FILMMAKER BIOS

MOBOLAJI OLAMBIWONNU - DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Mobolaji is a graduate of UCLA and AFI. He is the recipient of the Directors Guild of America Student Filmmaker Award. Besides freelance film work, Mobolaji has also worked in the fields of education, conflict resolution, and community organizing. His community-based experience is the conscience behind his work. *Ferguson Rises* is Mobolaji's first feature film.

SANDRA EVERS - MANLY - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Sandra is founder of Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) and Films with A Purpose. She is highly active in philanthropy as well as a big supporter of filmmakers via the organizations she has founded.

T.J. MARTIN - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

TJ is an Oscar and Emmy award-winning American filmmaker who is best known for his films *Undefeated, LA92 and Tina*. He has also helped guide the careers of many new filmmakers by supporting them with the development and execution o their projects.

GIGI PRITZKER - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Gigi is a philanthropist and noted film producer of films such as *Drive, Ender's Game, Hell or High Water, 21 Bridges and Motherless Brooklyn.* She is the founder of Madison Wells Media.

KAI BOWE - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/PRODUCER

KAI was Supervising Producer for A&E's Emmy-nominated *LA Burning*, EP/Showrunner of *Resist* (a documentary series that successfully thwarted the Los Angeles County's plan to build two new jails), Co-EP of the Emmy-winning, *Leah Remini: Scientology and the Aftermath,* and EP/Showrunner of Lifetime's *Hopelessly in Love*. Currently, Kai works as an executive at OWN Network.

ALOE BLACC - CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Aloe is a chart topping singer, writer, activist and philanthropist that lends his talents to a wide variety of causes and creative ventures.

ROBERT F. DIGGS "RZA" - CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Founding member of the world-famous rap group "Wu-Tang Clan." Robert is also a an actor, a highly sought after record producer and filmmaker.

DAVID OYELOWO - PRODUCER

David Oyelowo is an award-winning actor known for his role as Martin Luther King Jr. in the movie *Selma* and many other notable roles in film. Hi company Yoruba Saxon's produced NIGHTINGALE (HBO), CAPTIVE (Paramount), A UNITED KINGDOM (Fox Searchlight), COME AWAY (Relativity Media), FIVE NIGHTS IN MAINE (FilmRise), and THE WATER MAN, directed by David (Shiv Hans, Harpo, RLJE, Netflix) and SOLITARY (BRON Studios)

JESSICA OYELOWO - PRODUCER

Jessica is producing partner's with David Oyelowo in Yoruba/Saxon Productions. They have a first look deal with Disney to develop and produce family oriented content.

TANAYI SEABROOK - PRODUCER

Tanayi Seabrook has performed multiple roles in front of and behind the camera over the past 15 years. She recently won a local Emmy for producing and has worked in the capacity of producer for many years.

TJ ODEBUNMI - PRODUCER

TJ Odebunmi has extensive experience as a writer and story analyst. In 2002, Odebunmi leveraged his vast business, political and media contacts in Africa to assist in the successful launch of The Africa Channel.

DAISY MO - PRODUCER

Daisy is also a West Point Graduate, and a former Captain in the United States Army. She brings those skills along with an extensive fiction writing background to her first role as a producer on Ferguson Rises.

LISA SMITHLINE - PRODUCER

Lisa Smithline is an innovative leader in the cause marketing field. As an impact producer and marketing strategist Lisa creates dynamic multi-platform distribution campaigns using film and new media. She currently works for the firm Moca Media creating highly successful impact campaigns for films.

TAMIKA LAMISON - PRODUCER -

Tamika is an award-winning producer, director, actor who is a founding member of Philmco and Make A Film Foundation a non-profit that grants 'film wishes' to children who have serious or life-threatening medical conditions by teaming them with noted actors, writers and directors who help them create short film legacies.

NICK MOON - PRODUCER -

Nick is a former executive at Yoruba/Saxon Productions founded by David and Jessica Oyelowo. He is passionate about spotlighting stories that unapologetically showcase humanity and evoke empathy.

JERRY A. HENRY - CINEMATOGRAPHER

Jerry is a sought after cinematographer and Academy member whose documentary feature credits include Sundance winner *City of Gold: the story of L.A. Times food critic Jonathan Gold, The Rachel Divide, Between the World and Me and Asian Americans.*

BRADINN FRENCH - EDITOR

Bradinn is currently an editor on the long-running series *American Horror Story* and has worked on various other TV series like *Surviving R. Kelly* and *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*.

JEFF STRIKER - EDITOR

Jeff has an extensive background in visual arts, music and experimental cinema. He edited the Sundance film Call Me Lucky and works in a variety of video formats to produce art for musicians on tour as well as commercials and music videos.

SION DEY - ORIGINAL MUSIC

Sion is a multi-instrumentalist who has composed for Academy Award-Winner TJ Martin on his documentary I Am Dying, the indie feature Ramblin' Freak and The Truth Is Hard To Find The New York Times commercial short series.

FERGUSON RISES A FILM BY MOBOLAJI OLAMBIWONNU CHARACTER BIOS

Michael Brown Sr., father of Michael Brown Jr. -

Despite his tough exterior, Michael Brown Sr. has struggled to come to terms with the murder of his teenage son. He has worked to find a positive path for himself and his family, including founding Chosen for Change, a nonprofit that provides support and community to other grieving families who have lost loved ones to police violence.

Tory Russell, St. Louis resident, Co-Founder, Hands Up United -

Before the killing of Michael Brown Jr., Tory Russell was a high school football coach. Michael Brown's death compelled him to become an activist and a leader in the fight for justice and an end to police brutality. Tory also has a tough exterior but believes in the fight for a future filled with hope, love and beauty.

Rev. Osagyefo Sekou, St. Louis resident, Organizer, Fellowship of Reconciliation -

An activist and scholar, Rev. Sekou has been a leader in the protest movement. Articulate with a unique charisma, he has given classes to teach demonstrators the ins-and-outs of protesting and how to bring a spiritual philosophy to nonviolent resistance.

Jeff Ahrens, Ferguson resident -

Jeff has lived in Ferguson for nearly 30 years, is politically conservative and believes in law and order. He also shows some empathy for Michael Brown Jr. and reaches out to an African American friend to discuss what is going on. After driving by the site of Michael Brown's killing, he is hit by the seriousness of the situation and organizes a delivery of food and supplies to Ferguson residents who have been stuck at home due to police blockades.

Susan and Ank Ankebrand, Ferguson residents -

The Ankebrands are longtime residents of Ferguson, having raised three sons there. Ank believes that All Lives Matter, and feels uncomfortable with the protests. Susan seems conflicted, and ultimately wants to overcome her anger and be open to growth and change. Together they visit Michael Brown Jr.'s memorial plaque and wonder what he would think about all that has happened.

Rev. Renita Lamkin, St. Louis resident, Pastor, St. James AME Church -

Renita is a white pastor and mother with a caring demeanor who has risked her life to be out in the streets protesting for Black lives. She is a leader in the protest movement and supports many of the young activists on the streets.

Heather Taylor, St. Louis Police Sgt., Homicide Division -

Heather has the demeanor of a Police Sergeant, but is concerned about police abuses of power. She questions the circumstances surrounding Michael Brown's death, and also shares how she has been targeted and pulled over by police because she is Black.

Gary Wiegert, retired St. Louis Police Sgt. -

Gary was a career police officer who has served as a spokesperson for the Police Department. He is a sensitive person who chooses his words carefully. He offers a police perspective on the protests and explains why "stop and frisk" is the backbone of policing, yet he also admits that it may be unconstitutional.

Cathy "Mama Cat" Daniels, St. Louis resident, Activist/Founder, Pot Bangerz -

Cathy is the mother of the movement in that she uses her culinary gifts to nourish and support those who were on the front lines fighting for justice and well as those who have suffered tragic losses via police. She understands that "all lives matter", but until you see her in the same light you see yourself she has to keep being specific."

Dr. Leah Gunning Francis, St. Louis resident, Author of Ferguson and Faith -

Dr. Francis is the academic dean at Christian Theological Seminary and is also a Black mother. She offers a sensitive and critical perspective, looking deeply into the language used to stereotype Black men and observing the courage of young protestors.

Montague Simmons, St. Louis resident, Chair, Organization of Black Struggle -

Montague is a soft-spoken leader in the protest movement who offers an articulate perspective on race relations in his city and the interactions between protestors and police.

FERGUSON RISES A FILM BY MOBOLAJI OLAMBIWONNU KEY TIMELINE OF EVENTS

BRIEF TIMELINE

•	Aug 9, 2014	Michael Brown, Jr. killed by police - vigils begin
•	Aug 10, 2014	Protests begin after the announcement that he was unarmed
		and unrest breaks out
•	Aug 12, 2014	Michael Brown Jr's friend speaks about what happened transpired
•	Aug 13, 2014	Justice department opens Civil Rights probe - reporters
	•	arrested in violation of freedom of the press
•	Aug 14, 2014	Obama addresses the nation
•	Aug 15, 2014	Darren Wilson Identified and tape of Michael Brown, Jr. in
	0	liquor store
•	Aug 16, 2014	State of Emergency declared
•	Aug 18, 2014	National Guard deployed
•	Aug 20, 2014	Eric Holder Visits Ferguson
•	Aug 25, 2014	Michael Brown Jr's funeral
•	Sep 16, 2014	Wilson Testifies
•	Oct 21, 2014	Governor Nixon launches special probe into examine social
		and economic conditions in Ferguson
•	Oct 22, 2014	Autopsy leaked and fact that Mike Brown had weed in his
		system
•	Nov 17, 2014	Gov. Nixon prepares for grand jury decision and prepares
		national guard
•	Nov 24, 2014	Grand Jury decision is reached - unrest breaks out
•	Nov 25, 2014	Brown family reacts to decision and events that followed
•	Dec 15, 2014	Obama calls for body cameras
•	Mar 14, 2015	2 DOJ reports
•	Aug 9, 2015	1 year anniversary gathering
•	Apr 7, 2015	In Ferguson's first municipal election since Brown's death,
		two of the three City Council members elected are Black. Blacks
		now hold three of six seats, compared with one seat prior to the
		election.
•	Apr 23, 2015	Lawyers for Brown's family sue the city of Ferguson, Wilson
		and Jackson.
•	May 20, 2015	The large makeshift memorial that sat in the middle of
		Canfield Drive for months, in the same spot where Brown's body
		had been, is cleared out on what would have been his 19th
		birthday, giving way to a permanent plaque installed nearby in his
		memory.
•	Jun 9, 2015	Ferguson hires a new municipal judge and interim city
		manager, both of them Black.
•	Jul 10, 2015	Nixon signs into law legislation limiting cities' ability to profit
		from traffic tickets and court fines, the first significant step taken
		by state lawmakers to address concerns raised after Brown's
		death. Among other things, the law lowers the percentage of
		revenue most cities can collect from traffic fines and fees from
		30% to 20%.

•	Jul 22, 2015	Andre Anderson, a Black, longtime police administrator in suburban Phoenix, is introduced as Ferguson's new interim police chief
•	Sep 14, 2015	The Ferguson Commission releases its report addressing the economic and racial factors that contributed to the unrest after Brown's death.
•	Jan 27, 2016	Ferguson announces a tentative deal with the Justice Department to reform the city's policing and municipal court. The recommended overhaul follows seven months of negotiations.
•	Jul 20, 2017	A federal judge in St. Louis approves a wrongful-death lawsuit settlement that awards Brown's parents \$1.5 million.
•	Jul 26, 2017	The Ferguson Community Empowerment Center opens at the site where the QuikTrip convenience store burned the day after Brown's death. The center houses the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, the Salvation Army and other offices.
•	Aug 7, 2018	In a stunning upset, Ferguson City Councilman Wesley Bell defeats 28-year incumbent McCulloch in the Democratic primary for St. Louis County prosecutor. Bell, who is Black, was unopposed in the November election and took office in January 2019. McCulloch, who is white, was seen as an old-school, law- and-order prosecutor who drew criticism for his handling of the Wilson <u>investigation</u> . Bell ran on a platform of reforms, saying he would work to reduce incarcerations and start a unit to investigate shootings involving officers.
•	Jun 2, 2020	Ella Jones becomes the first Black mayor of Ferguson

FERGUSON RISES A FILM BY MOBOLAJI OLAMBIWONNU FULL CREDIT LIST

DEDICATED TO MY SON ELLIS KAYODE OLAMBIWONNU

INTERVIEWEES IN ALPHABETIC ORDER JEFF AHRENS RASHEEN ALDRIDGE SUSAN ANKENBRAND ANK ANKENBRAND DARIUS BASS WESLEY BELL JEANNIE BOETTCHER SCOTT BONNER MICHAEL BROWN SR. CAL BROWN MAMA CAT SONNY DAYAN DR. LEAH GUNNING FRANCIS STEVE HARMON AMY A. HUNTER SHAQUILLA JONES MAYOR JAMES KNOWLES **REV. RENITA LAMKIN DENISE LIEBERMAN KEILLER MACDUFF ALVIN MORROW** JONATHAN PALPHUS TORY RUSSELL SANDY SANSEVERE **REV. OSAGYEFO SEKOU** MONTAGUE SIMMONS DARRICK SMITH ALISHA SONNIER HEATHER TAYLOR JOSEPH TOLBERT JR. **ELIZABETH VEGA** MICHAEL-JOHN VOSS SHANNON WASHINGTON JOY WEESE MOLL GARY WIEGERT

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PRODUCTION CONSULTANTS

ANURAG GUPTA DARRYL TAJA

STORY CONSULTANTS

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ADDITIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHY

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LEGAL COUNSEL	INNES SMOLANSKY
ADDITIONAL LEGAL	FRANK GRUBER JUSTINE JACOBS JAKGEEM MAYS
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SOCIAL MEDIA PRODUCTION EDITING

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SONGS

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> *"WHAT I WANNA SEE"* PERFORMED BY UNDERSTANDING DIGGS WRITTEN BY JOE PICARD AND UNDERSTANDING DIGGS LICENSING COURTESY OF 36 CHAMBERS

"EVERYBODY DESERVES TO BE FREE" PERFORMED BY DEVA MAHAL FT. RESISTANCE REVIVAL CHORUS WRITTEN BY DEVA MAHAL AND STEPHANIE BROWN LICENSING COURTESY OF RIGHTEOUS BABE RECORDS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH SUGAROO!

"OTHER SIDE" PERFORMED BY ALOE BLACC WRITTEN BY ALOE BLACC AND TIM MYERS LICENSING COURTESY OF BMG RIGHTS MANAGEMENT GMBH PUBLISHED BY ALOE BLACC PUBLISHING INC. AND SONGS OF Z YNC BY ARRANGEMENT WITH KOBALT MUSIC AND ZYNC MUSIC LICENSING

SPECIAL THANKS

DR. AND MRS. OLAMBIWONNU

DR. AND MRS. MO MICHAEL AND CAL BROWN JANA GAMBLE **RICHARD CONDON** LILY STARR MATT DANIELS **KATINA PARKER BLANCHE HALEY BOB SCHEER** ARMIK AND LAURA AGAKANIAN NARDA ZACCHINO MAYA JUPITER LANI RICHMOND **REBECCA AND JOSH TICKELL IBRAHIM HAMAD** SCOTT LAZER CHARLES BURNETT **CLIFTON MO** ABBEY KUHN LEONARD AND STUART MO **MINISTER J.A. SALAAM** MARK AND JAMIE PEAY PETER RAMSEY MICHAEL KINOMOTO ALISHA ALDRIDGE LUCINDA AND CORIROSE ANJALI NABEEHAH AZEEZ ED BARGUIARENA BEDIAKOO AND NANAEFUA AFOH MANIN ALEXANDER TAYLOR ZAKI BARUTI COREY BELL WILLIAM BERKOWITZ **BLANK SPACE** JAYLEN BLEDSOE PETER BRODERICK **KEVIN BRYANT** MACY CHEEKS TANA COFER LAURA COPPINGER ANDREW COX TORI DAHL CHARLES DAVIS NATALIE DUBOSE MAGGIE ELLINGER-LOCKE **BRIAN FLETCHER** LIZZY JEAN JEROME JENKINS PATTY JENKINS **TILANE JONES** ANGELIQUE KIDD

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