

OWSLEY BROWN PRESENTS

# RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT

A FILM BY MARLON JOHNSON & ANNE FLATTÉ



The documentary feature RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT is coming to PBS in June, 2021

RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT will be available from PBS and its local stations beginning June 18, 2021. (Check local PBS stations for listings.) The documentary will also be available on PBS digital platforms, including the PBS app, PBS.org, and via PBS Distribution streaming services.

PR inquiries: Adam Segal, [adam@the2050group.com](mailto:adam@the2050group.com)

Publicity Assets <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ogmg56qg06c39fj/AAC0zn-d8Zmz5iiVTdUeqVkJXa?dl=0>

Vimeo Trailer: <http://bit.ly/rcd2021trailer> YouTube Trailer: <http://bit.ly/rcdyttr2021>

Website: <https://rivercitydrumbeatmovie.com>

## LOGLINE

RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT is a powerful story of music, love, and legacies, told by the members of a Black youth drum corps in Louisville, Kentucky. When the founder steps down, a young alum whose life was saved by the drumline rises to mentor the next generation in the face of systemic injustices.

## SYNOPSIS

The critically-acclaimed, audience favorite RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT is an immersive story of music, love, and legacies set in the American South. For three decades, the dynamic Ed “Nardie” White offered a path to empowerment to Black youth in Louisville, Kentucky through his Pan-African community drum corps. When he decides to step down, Albert Shumake, an alum whose life was saved by the drumline, returns home to carry “the spirit of the drum” forward for the next generation. During the year-long changing of the guard, young drummers Imani, Jailen, and Emily navigate the cadences of adolescence even as systemic forces threaten to undermine their dreams. Directors Marlon Johnson and Anne Flatté deliver a vital and insightful tale that shows how art, love and mentors can transform a child’s life. With compelling characters, evocative visuals, and kinetic drumline performances, RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT is a testament to the impact of this creative community on the lives of three generations. Witness the immense power of love and music in what [Film Threat](#) called “an edifying story of rhythm, passion, and rites of passage.”

RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT made its world premiere at DOC NYC and went on to a successful festival and virtual theatrical run in 2020. The feature documentary was named a [2020 New York Times Critic’s Pick](#) and one of [Common Sense Media’s Top 20 Best Family Films of the Year](#).

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Owsley Brown Presents “RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT”  
FEATURING Ed “Nardie” White, Albert Shumake, Imani Keith, Jailen Leavell,  
Emily Carey, Ed Hamilton and the River City Drum Corp. of Louisville, Kentucky  
CINEMATOGRAPHY Juan Carlos Castañeda and John Anderson Beavers.  
SOUND RECORDISTS Brad Cassetto and Sean Demers. EDITOR Jeff Boyette  
ORIGINAL MUSIC B. Quincy Griffin SOUND DESIGN Richard Beggs EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Owsley Brown  
PRODUCED BY Owsley Brown, Anne Flatté, and Marlon Johnson  
DIRECTED BY Marlon Johnson and Anne Flatté

Produced with the support of SFFILM’s FilmHouse Program. FilmHouse is made possible with the generous support of the Kenneth Rainin Foundation.



## ENGAGEMENT and OUTREACH

Fiscal Sponsorship provided by the Louisville Film Society



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARTNERS

Community outreach partners for the television broadcast of River City Drumbeat include:

Afterschool Alliance ([afterschoolalliance.org](http://afterschoolalliance.org)), a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs.

Kentucky Educational Television (KET), Kentucky's largest classroom, serving more than one million people each week via television, online, and mobile.

WHUT ([whut.org](http://whut.org)) Howard University Television, delivering educational, entertaining and intellectually stimulating multicultural and intergenerational programming to the public in the Metro DC region and licensed by a HBCU — Howard University.

WNPT Nashville Public Television ([wnpt.org](http://wnpt.org)) Nashville's independent, non-profit PBS station, serves nearly 2.4 million people throughout the Middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky viewing area. Four HBCUs are located in Nashville: American Baptist College, Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, Tennessee State University (attended by one of the River City Drum Corp members featured in the film).

The partnerships bring attention to key themes in the film including the benefits of afterschool programs to the well-being of youth and communities, cultural traditions of the drumline and their connection with HBCUs (Historical Black College and University).



## RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT PRESS QUOTES and CLIPS



“Beautiful.”

“The film listens for this community’s heartbeat, finding its steady pulse just as expected: healthy and strong.”  
– Teo Bugbee, Critic’s Pick, The New York Times

“... a beautiful story of a legacy using art to build character. ‘River City’ shows how community is what matters in a child’s life.” – Wanda Sabir, San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper

“A must-see film for parents, kids, teachers, and all those who love music, this doc is balm for the news-battered spirit.”— Chuck Wilson, LA Weekly Movie Guide

“River City Drumbeat is an edifying story of rhythm, passion, and rites of passage.”  
– Bradley Gibson, Film Threat

Common Sense Media Selection for Families ★★★★★

“One of the most inspiring documentaries of the year.” – Randy Myers, Local News Matters

“Amazing” ★★★★★ – San Jose Mercury News

### Full Articles/Reviews

[The New York Times: CRITIC’S PICK; ‘River City Drumbeat’ Review: A Community’s Pulse Proves Strong;](#)

[Common Sense Media Selection for Families ★★★★★](#)

[San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper: Wanda's Picks: River City Drumbeat](#)

[San Jose Mercury News - Streaming Movie Picks](#)

[The Hollywood Times: River City Drumbeat – Set To Be Released Virtually August 7, 2020](#)

[Austin Chronicle: Review: River City Drumbeat](#)

[Salon: "It makes your heart beat faster": Documentary celebrates the artistic side of Louisville's West End"](#)

[The Moveable Fest: Interview: Anne Flatte and Marlon Johnson on Capturing the Rhythm of Life in "River City Drumbeat"; On a year spent in the company of Louisville's inspirational River City Drum Corp.](#)

[The Pop Break: 'River City Drumbeat' Review: A Textured, Quietly Powerful Documentary](#)

[The Philadelphia Globe: Culture: Documentary River City Drumbeat Shows Legacy Of Music Educators](#)

[What \(Not\) To Doc: In Virtual Release: RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT](#)

[KOED Arts: The Do List: Now Playing! Percussion, Pickles and Poetry in Your Living Room](#)

[Filmmaker Magazine: "Narratives Don't Have Lower Thirds and IDs. Why Should Documentaries?"](#)

[Film Threat: Review: RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT](#)

[KALW Radio: 'River City Drumbeat' Is A Triumphant Story About The Power Of An Arts Education](#)

[Courier Journal: National release of 'River City Drumbeat' tells triumphant story of west Louisville program](#)

[San Francisco Chronicle: 'River City Drumbeat' shows the positive impact of music on at-risk youth](#)

[Wanda's Picks: Owsley Brown presents: River City Drumbeat](#)

[Wanda's Picks: Wanda's Picks Radio Show Special](#)

[UK Film Review \(via MaddWolf\): River City Drumbeat film review ★★★](#)

[Local News Matters: Pass the Remote: Documentaries shine light on the world, a look at José Neto, and more](#)

[Mountain Xpress: Review: River City Drumbeat](#)

[Berk Reviews: RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT \(2019\) REVIEWED BY JONATHAN BERK](#)

[Women and Hollywood: Trailers: Trailer Watch: Drumline Members Honor Their Culture, Ancestors, & Community in "River City Drumbeat"](#)

[Shepherd Express: Black Culture Matters for Building Lives, Community, in 'River City Drumbeat'](#)

[Irish Film Critic: MOVIE REVIEW: "RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT" IS A BEAUTIFUL, UPLIFTING STORY THAT MADE ME SO HAPPY](#)

[Eat Drink Films: River City Drumbeat: An Urban Heartbeat](#)

[48 Hills: Clap your hands, stomp your feet for 'River City Drumbeat'; "This is American history"](#)

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### Directors, Marlon Johnson and Anne Flatté

**Marlon Johnson** is a ten-time Emmy award-winning producer and director. He has worked on award-winning documentary films exploring music and cultural issues like *Symphony in D* (2017); Emmy-winning *Sunday's Best* (2010) and *Coconut Grove: A Sense of Place* (2005). The Ford Foundation commissioned Marlon to direct the documentary *Breaking the Silence* (2006) which chronicled the rise of HIV infection in the Black-American South. Marlon served as Head of Production and Senior Producer/Editor for Plum TV and helped create TeleAmerica Broadcasting Network. His documentary *Deep City: Birth of the Miami Sound* (SXSW 2014) aired nation-wide on PBS. He has a B.S. in Communications from The University of Miami.

**Anne Flatté** is an award-winning filmmaker whose work highlights stories about music and community. She is a director and producer of *Symphony for Nature* (PBS, 2018), the web series *Music Makes A City Now* (YouTube/PBS.org), and producer of *Serenade for Haiti* (World premiere, DOCNYC 2016). She co-produced and edited *Music Makes A City* (2010), and the TV version for broadcast (PBS, 2014). Her editing credits include *Monumental: David Brower's Fight for Wild America* (2004), *What Do You Believe?* (2003), *Daughters and Sons* (2005) and *Devil's Teeth* (2005). Anne has an M.A. in documentary film from Stanford, where she directed the award-winning shorts *Interlove Story* and *Body of Tradition*. She has a B.A. in Middle Eastern Studies from UC Berkeley.

### Producer, Owsley Brown

**Owsley Brown** was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. He is a filmmaker whose directorial debut, *Night Waltz: The Music of Paul Bowles* won the Independent Spirit Award in 2000, the Hamptons International Film Festival 1999 Jury Award for Best Documentary Feature Film, and selection by the Berlin International Film Festival in 2000. His critically acclaimed second film, *Music Makes A City*, chronicled the commissioning project of the Louisville Orchestra in the 1950's. *Music Makes A City* was awarded Britain's Gramophone Award for Best DVD Documentary in 2012, and had its U.S. television broadcast premiere in January 2014, on PBS stations nationwide. Owsley's third feature film as a director and executive producer is *Serenade for Haiti (Serenad pou Ayiti)*, a seven-year study of Haiti over the years 2007-2014 told through the perspective of the students and teachers at the Holy Trinity Music School in Port-au-Prince.

## **Directors' Statement**—Marlon Johnson and Anne Flatté

We are honored to be entrusted with the stories of Edward White and the drum corps he began with his late wife Zambia Nkrumah in Louisville, Kentucky thirty years ago. Over the last twenty years of filmmaking, we have both been drawn to stories about people who shine through negativity by creating community and connection with music and the arts. The drum corps philosophy—that communities need to provide time, resources, and mentors so that every child has what they need to thrive—resonates deeply with our own values.

We came to this story through our producer Owsley Brown, a Louisville native with a dedication to independent documentaries that explore the power of art and music. Owsley introduced us to Mr. White, a local hero at the critical crossroads of his last year leading the drum corps. We felt compelled to begin filming this iconic person before he moved on, and wondered if and how the group would survive when he stepped down. Mr. White became our partner in telling his own life story and brought us into a welcoming drum corps community that included his successor Albert Shumake, graduating seniors Imani and Jailen, and preteen Emily, each navigating their life transitions. Together we created an impressionistic, character-driven journey, where the protagonists and their emotional lives formed the core of the film. At the same time, we explored the rich geography of Louisville, a city that reveals the paradoxes and forces that are at the core of many of our country's issues today.

We believe our directing team's diversity has been a great asset and helped us create a more truthful film. Marlon grew up in a southern low-income African-American neighborhood (Liberty City, Miami), and through the saving grace of art became an accomplished filmmaker and father of four. As a storyteller, Marlon conveys the life-saving importance of art to the people of the drum corps, whose experiences reflect his own life journey. Anne brings her filmmaking, musical, and parenting background to the project, and is dedicated to bringing the protagonists' internal dialogues and emotions into the film. As filmmakers, we are committed to experiential and cinematic content over dispensing information. We had a minimal crew who were invested in the human relationships first. We find this kind of filmmaking leads to authentic moments that bring the viewer into a meaningful relationship with the protagonists. In the edit, we favor the slow build and the process of discovery, trusting our audiences to meet the film with openness.

We believe there is a large audience for moving, immersive nonfiction films like *River City Drumbeat* featuring people of color, both onscreen and in creative leadership roles, and present the film in this spirit. We are thrilled that PBS is bringing the drum corps' inspiring story about the extraordinary impact of local heroes to a national audience, and hope the film resonates with communities as they do the vital work of raising future generations.



## FEATURED PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

### **Edward "Nardie" White, RCDC Founder and Artist**

Edward "Nardie" White is the co-founder of the River City Drum Corp Cultural Arts Institute which he founded with his late wife Zambia Nkrumah in 1991. Since its inception, the program has helped countless Louisville students embrace African drumming and cultural education. Mr. White has been awarded at both the local and national level for his work in shaping the hearts and minds of Louisville's youth.

### **Albert Shumake, RCDC Executive Director and Alum, Artist**

Albert Shumake is the executive director and alum of the River City Drum Corp Cultural Arts Institute. As the newly appointed executive director Albert is devoted to using music and arts education to transform behavior, scholastic achievement, leadership, cultural awareness of its young participants.





## ABOUT THE FILM TEAM

### Director of Photography, Juan Carlos Castañeda

**Juan Carlos Castañeda** is a writer, director and cinematographer who has worked around the world for the past 20 years. His work has been broadcast nationally and internationally and has screened widely at International film festivals. Juan Carlos holds a Bachelors in Multimedia Arts from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, Melbourne, Australia, and a Masters in Fine Arts in Film Production from Chapman University, Los Angeles, California. Juan is one of the co-founders of Human Pictures, a production company dedicated to media creation for social change. His involvement with Human Pictures has allowed Juan to create a voice against the injustices of humanity and promote Human Transformation in the work he does.

### Editor, Jeff Boyette

**Jeff Boyette** has been working in the film and video industry in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2007. Jeff began as an assistant and eventually staff editor at Remedy Editorial in San Francisco where he worked with a variety of corporate clients and assisted on a number of feature length documentaries. Jeff edited for Mark Decena, award winning director and founder of Kontent Films, on a number of short projects, and as additional editor on the feature length documentary, *Watershed: Exploring A New Water Ethic for The New West*. Jeff teamed up with Decena again to edit the feature documentary *Not Without Us*. Jeff has also worked with director, producer James Redford on several films including working as one of three editors on his HBO documentary *Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution* (2017). In 2015, Jeff was brought on as an editor for *Serenade for Haiti*, directed by Owsley Brown, (DocNYC, 2016). Jeff edited *Symphony for Nature: The Britt Orchestra at Crater Lake* (Ashland Independent Film Festival, 2018; PBS National Broadcast, 2019) as well as a multiple episodes in the *Music Makes A City NOW* series, directed by Anne Flatté.

### Sound Designer, Richard Beggs

**Richard Beggs** has worked on over 60 films since 1979. He is best known for his work on *Apocalypse Now*, *Children of Men*, *Lost in Translation*, *Chronicles of Narnia*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. He won an Academy Award for Best Sound for the *Apocalypse Now*.

### Composer, B. Quincy Griffin

**B. Quincy Griffin** has scored over a dozen feature films including Oscar nominated *Daughter from Danang* and Sundance Film Festival winner *My Flesh and Blood*. His recent feature film scores include, *Without a Net*, *A Kind of Order*, *One in a Million*, and *We've Got the Power*. He was also the composer for the 2012 Oscar nominated documentary short *The Barber of Birmingham*. His music can also be heard in *The Waiting Room* (opening sequence), the Benjamin Bratt film *La Mission*, *The Two Escobars*, and *Better This World*. In addition, he recently wrote and produced the first ever Hip-Hop songs for the television show *Dora the Explorer*. Quincy founded and produced the Latin Hip-Hop band *O-Maya*, produced rapper Deuce Eclipse's album *Indigenous Noise*, and is currently writing with vocalist Luqman Frank.

### Associate Producer, Lyntoria Newton

**Lyntoria Newton** is an independent documentary filmmaker and creative producer in the SF Bay Area. Lyn has produced content for outlets such as *The Boston Globe*, *PBA30*, The University of Michigan, The Ford Foundation and others. Her work has shown at festivals across the U.S and internationally. She holds a B.A. from Hampshire College and an M.F.A. in Documentary Film and Video from Stanford University where she completed her thesis film, *Hey Little Black Girl* The short essay film explores black girlhood through the coming of age stories of four little black girls living in the SF Bay Area (Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, 2019). With support from the Ford Foundation, she is producing *Basic Able*, a satirical podcast devoted to disrupting ableist representations of disability.

### Consulting Producer, Dan Hamby

**Dan Hamby** is a content development & distribution consultant with more than 35 years' experience advising clients in the areas of production, acquisition, marketing, product development, distribution and licensing. He is a former executive of PBS & Discovery,

where his portfolio of responsibilities included oversight of consumer products, digital media & licensing. He also was GM for Educate, Inc., where he led their direct-to-consumer and education labels, which included branded products from *Hooked on Phonics* and the Emmy award-winning PBS series *Reading Rainbow*. He also has worked with Acorn Media Group, as SVP for Programming & Operations and as a consultant on acquisitions, distribution & marketing of their brands. Hamby was a consultant on Owsley Brown Presents *Symphony for Nature* (PBS, 2018) and *Music Makes A City* (PBS, 2014). He has a B.A. in radio, tv & film from U of Maryland and an MBA from Marymount University.

### **Impact Producer, Michon Boston**

**Michon Boston** is an impact consultant and writer based in Washington, DC. She founded the Michon Boston Group Ltd in 2010 providing strategic impact and partnership planning to national independent television, film, new media producers, and content featured on PBS, HBO, Amazon Prime and in national/international film festivals. Michon's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post Magazine*, *Washington City Paper*, *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, and *The Root*. Michon received a degree in English from Oberlin College where she was awarded a grant from the NEH for "A History of Black Women at Oberlin College." She continued taking classes in music at Oberlin's Conservatory of Music having studied piano and violin at DC Public Schools' Duke Ellington School for the Arts (graduate). Michon credits her mother's choice to buy a piano instead of a car as one of the most transformative and beneficial influences in her life.

### **FESTIVALS/SCREENINGS (Selected)**

Complete list at <https://www.rivercitydrumbeatmovie.com/screenings>

#### **World Premiere DOC NYC**

River City Drumbeat had its World Premiere at DOC NYC Film Festival on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at Cinopolis Chelsea, and an encore screening on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 12:30PM at the iconic IFC Center. These two screenings sold out and the festival added an additional encore screening on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 9:15pm at Cinopolis Chelsea. *The Wednesday screening was sponsored by the NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment and was free to NYC Public School students.*

#### **Miami Film Festival Official Selection, Knight Foundation Documentary Achievement Award Nominee**

March 7, 2020 at 3:45PM at the Tower Theater in Miami, Florida.

<https://miamifilmfestival.com/events/river-city-drumbeat/>

#### **SXSW EDU\* Film Program**

March 11, 2020 at 11:00AM at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, Texas.

<https://schedule.sxswedu.com/2020/events/OE39887>

#### **Flyover Film Festival\* Official Selection**

March 15, 2020 at 3:00PM at the Louisville Palace in Louisville, Kentucky.

#### **SFFILM Festival\* Official Selection, Golden Gate Award Competition Nominee**

<https://sffilm.org/event/river-city-drumbeat/>

**\*Postponed or Cancelled due to Covid-19**

#### **Nantucket Film Festival NFF@Home Official Selection June 23 -30, 2020**

<https://watch.nantucketfilmfestival.org/view/5ed056fa9a30b22a80652d34>

#### **Salem Film Fest (Virtual) Official Selection July 17-23, 2020**

<https://watch.eventive.org/salemfilmfest2020/play/5ef74b16985425004c9f688f>

American Black Film Festival (Virtual) Official Selection August 21-30, 2020  
[www.abff.com](http://www.abff.com)

[29th Annual Heartland International Film Festival October 8-18, 2020 \(Virtual and Drive-In Screening\)](#)  
Finalist, Documentary Grand Prize

2020 Milwaukee Film Festival Official Selection October 15-29 (Virtual)

River City Drumbeat is an official selection of St. Louis International Film Festival November 5-22, 2020, co-presented with Washington University Libraries' Film & Media Archive as part of the Henry Hampton Film Series (Virtual)

River City Drumbeat is one of eight documentaries nominated for St. Louis Film Critics' Joe Pollack and Joe Williams Awards at SLIFF — and is part of the SLIFF Georgia Frontiere Cinema for Students Program.

River City Drumbeat is one of 21 films selected for the international worldwide music expo WOMEX film program, October 15-25, 2020 (Virtual)

[River City Drumbeat is an official selection of the 2020 Black Harvest Film Festival](#) Nov.6-30,2020 (Virtual)

#### VIRTUAL CINEMA RUN — Opened AUGUST 7, 2020

<https://www.rivercitydrumbeatmovie.com/virtual-cinema>

River City Drumbeat's nationwide Virtual Cinema Release launched on August 7, 2020 with [Argot Pictures](#). The film has been programmed in over 40 virtual cinemas including Maysles in NY, the Roxie in SF, and Laemmle Virtual Cinema in LA. The film has received phenomenally positive critical acclaim from press in all major cities where it screened, including New York Times Critic's Pick, LA Weekly, The Boston Globe, The Washington Post, The Philadelphia Globe, The San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner, as well as publications such as Film Threat (9/10), Filmmaker Magazine, Salon, The Pop Break, CultureMix, Film-Forward and more.

August 7

NEW YORK, NY — Maysles Documentary Center

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — The Roxie

LOUISVILLE, KY — Speed Cinema

AUSTIN, TX — Austin Film Center

NASHVILLE, TN — Belcourt

August 14

CAMBRIDGE, MA – Coolidge Corner

NASHVILLE, TN – The Belcourt Theatre

LOS ANGELES, CA – Laemmle Theatres

BATON ROUGE, LA – Manship Cinema

SAN RAFAEL, CA—Rafael@Home

CLEVELAND, OH — Cinematheque at the Cleveland Institute of Art

COLUMBUS, OH — Wexner Center for the Arts

IOWA CITY, IA — FilmScene

THREE OAKS, MI —Vickers Theatre  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Guild Cinema  
VANCOUVER, WA – Kiggins Theater  
WINSTON-SALEM, NC – a/perture cinema  
MIAMI, FL – O Cinema  
MIAMI, FL – Tower Theater Miami  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Sound Unseen- Music & Film Festival  
SEATTLE, WA — Northwest Film Forum  
RICHMOND, VA — Byrd Theatre  
MIDDLEBURG, VA Middleburg Film Festival  
CHAPEL HILL, NC — Chelsea Theater  
ASHEVILLE, NC —Grail Moviehouse  
OMAHA, NE — Film Streams  
WASHINGTON DC —Miracle Theatre  
VANCOUVER, BC — Vancity Theatre

August 21

BALTIMORE, MD — SNF Parkway Theatre  
TUCSON, AZ — The Loft  
PHILADELPHIA, PA— The Philadelphia Film Society  
SOUTHERN PINES, NC —The Sunrise

August 26

SILVER SPRINGS, MD — AFI Silver

August 27

MIDDLEBURY, VT — Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival

August 28

DURHAM, NC — Carolina Theatre  
HUDSON, NY— Time & Space Limited  
PARK CITY, UT — Park City Film

September 4

RED BLUFF, CA — Prime Cinemas

September 11

HARTFORD, CT — Real Art Ways  
ROCHESTER, NY — The Little Theatre

## **ABOUT RIVER CITY DRUM CORP.\***

For three decades, the River City Drum Corp. Cultural Arts Institute has been enriching children's lives through Arts and Educational Enhancement. The Corp was founded under the direction of Edward 'Nardie' White while at the Parkland Girls' & Boys' Club. Shortly afterward, the Corp moved its office and programming to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in West Louisville. Since that time, RCDC has acquired non-profit status and expanded programming to include: Pipe drumming, Drumline, Percussion, Piano, Cultural Arts Enhancement, Leadership and Social Skills Development, Career Exploration and Professional Skills Development.

RCDC is far more than just a musical entertainment group; it is an organization that provides its members with a blueprint for success in life. Each young drummer makes his or her own drum, using recycled materials. Members learn how to manage all aspects of their performance schedule—not just drum! Students actively build skills needed for personal, academic and social success. They are responsible for scheduling, performance itinerary, and ensuring effective communications between staff, students and venue contact.

River City Drum Corp teaches children ages 5-18. Family and community play an integral part of the program's cultural philosophy, based on the Nguzo Saba (7 principles of Kwanzaa), serving as the basic support structure for what is accomplished through the children's efforts. Diversity is celebrated within the community; therefore, children from all ethnicities and religious backgrounds are accepted into the Drum Corp family.

Our overall success is a result of the commitment from participants, immediate/extended families, and program and community volunteers to function as one unit—a true extended family. The commitment from each of these entities plays a distinct role in the development and nurturing of youth participants. The River City Drum Corp Cultural Arts Institute has established numerous satellite drumming and arts programs in Louisville Metro over the past two decades. Some of those sites include: King and Wheatley Elementary Schools, Farnsley Middle School, Brooklawn Youth Services, Nativity Academy, Americana Drum Corp, Shawnee Cultural Arts Center, along with numerous churches and community centers.

RCDC performs in countless local, regional and national venues as well as sponsor four annual performances. One of which is the much anticipated, well-known Annual Da'Ville Classic.

(\*Excerpt taken from RCDC [website](#))

**Film Credits**

**RIVER CITY DRUMBEAT**

**Directed by**

Marlon Johnson and Anne Flatté

**Producers**

Owsley Brown  
Anne Flatté  
Marlon Johnson

**Executive Producer**

Owsley Brown

**Directors of Photography**

Juan Carlos Castañeda  
John Anderson Beavers

**Editor**

Jeff Boyette

**Sound Design**

Richard Beggs

**Sound Recordists**

Brad Cassetto  
Sean Demers

**Original Music**

B. Quincy Griffin

**Associate Editor**

Vincent Tremblay

**Associate Producer**

Lyntoria Newton

**Featuring**

Ed "Nardie" White  
Albert Shumake  
Imani V. Keith  
Jailen Leavell  
Emily Carey  
Ed Hamilton

and  
Janee White  
Jamie Keith  
Kal Carey  
Bianca Randall  
Ella Louise Shumake  
Lorna "Nikki" Dunlap  
Brandon Weathers  
Kinisha Todd  
Countess Williams  
Jada Smith  
Cherya Smith  
Sofia Graham  
Keyiona Mitchem  
Bryan Sanderfer  
Jeremiah Stephens  
Samiah Stephens  
Isaac Johnson  
Colby Goodrich  
Cole Goodrich  
Devon Brown  
Michael Gibbs  
Veronica Thompson  
Shonnte Jackson  
Jahari Jackson  
Daisionne Jackson  
Apollo "Nicholas" Avery  
Sofia Graham  
Keyiona Mitchem  
Chandler Hambrick  
Cameron Hambrick  
Curtis Hambrick  
Kameron Graham  
Steven Thompson  
Lorna Dunlap  
Yauka Hinkle  
Chase Smith  
Camden Smith  
Ahmad Payne-Jones  
Kobe Payne  
Natoya Jones  
Cherron Cheeks  
Marley Cheeks  
JAMILA Young  
Jerome Patterson  
Carl Mack  
Racquel Thornton  
Jaron Alexander

The Carey Family  
Brandy Shumake

and all the members of  
The River City Drum Corp Pipe Drummers  
The Spirit of the Drum - Drum Line  
The Percussion Ensemble  
and  
River City Drum Corp. Cultural Arts Institute, Inc

**Additional Camera**

Alan Miller  
JD Andrews  
Marlon Johnson  
Anne Flatté  
Stephen Kertis  
Brett Marshall  
Wesley Bacon

**Additional Editing**

Anne Flatté  
Marlon Johnson

**Production Coordinator**

Amber Garvey

Consulting Producer

Dan Hamby

**Production Assistants**

Chiara Brown  
Niara Johnson

**Publicity Stills**

Megan Resch

**Trailer**

Vincent Tremblay  
Lyntoria Newton  
Lauren Veen  
Monte Vallier

**“Youth Pledge”**

Written by rAmu Aki

**Archival Photographs**

Courtesy of  
Ed “Nardie White



Albert Shumake  
University of Louisville Archives  
Arza Barnett, Courier Journal  
Bud Dorsey  
Eric Burse

**Re-recording Mixer**

Richard Beggs

**Additional Re-recording**

Will Storkson

**Asst. Sound Editor**

Eliana Vela

**FOLEY**

Will Storkson

**Mixed at Poplar Corners**

**HD Finishing**

ZAP Zoetrope Aubry Productions San Francisco

**Color Grading**

Leo Hallal

**Online Editor**

Ashley Pagán

**Post-Production Supervisor**

Kim Aubry

**Title Design**

Octopustudio

**Musicians - Original Score**

Mike Aaberg - Piano  
Bryan Bowman - Drums  
Dexter Griffin - Guitar  
Jeff Pierre - Percussion  
Keith Saunders - Piano

**“Secular”**

Written by Jecorey Arthur and Nick Burke  
Performed by 1200 and Jacqui Blue  
Courtesy of 1200 LLC  
Published by 1200 LLC

**“Corp”**

Written by Jecorey Arthur  
Performed by The Percussion Ensemble, RCDC

**“Hymn”**

Written by Jecorey Arthur  
Performed by 1200  
Courtesy of 1200 LLC  
Published by 1200 LLC

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Special Thanks

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church  
The La'Nita Rocknettes School of Dance  
Artistic Director: Harlina Trumbo  
West Louisville Talent and Education Center  
Artistic Director: Keith Cook  
3DI  
Lois and Freddie Huges  
Boom Squad  
Verdelski and Avril Miller  
Simmons College Marching Band  
"Revolutionary Sound of the South"  
Julian Sam, Band Director  
Dick Sisto  
Rhonda Harper  
Rev. Stephen Smith  
Central High School  
Lincoln University  
Tennessee State University  
Simmons College  
Shelby Elementary  
Farnsley Middle School  
Mill Creek Elementary  
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Shawnee Cultural Arts Center  
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Kentucky Derby Festival  
Cave Hill Cemetery  
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Burnett Avenue Baptist Church  
L.I.N.K. Youth Conference  
Louisville Story Program  
The City of Louisville  
Mayor Greg Fischer  
The Brown Family  
The Flatté Family

The Harrington Family  
The Johnson Family  
The Stillwell Family  
The Moore Family  
The Family and Friends of Makeba Lee

Gill Holland  
Suzanne Eick  
Tracey Heather  
Jennifer Inman  
Rena Lambert  
Christina Limberakis  
Julie Ortiz  
Paula Rivers  
Mary Dunn  
Molly Rosenblatt  
Pat McDonogh  
Darcy Thompson  
Sydney O'Bryan  
Teddy Abrams  
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SFFILM FilmHouse Residency Program  
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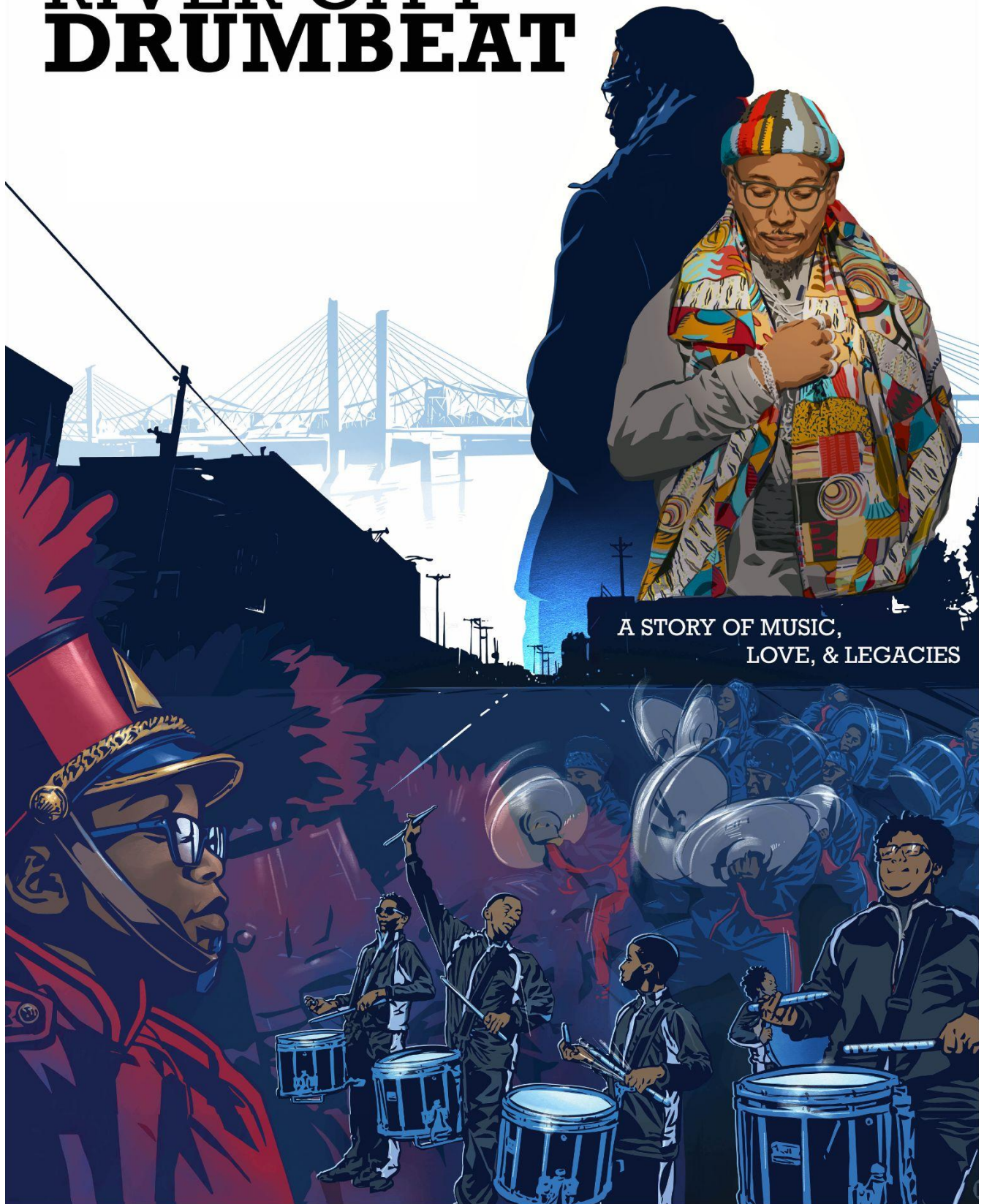
Dawn Porter  
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Chi Do Duong  
Amanda and Jesse Moss

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