



BLACK POWER: A BRITISH STORY OF RESISTANCE

PRESS KIT



Premieres on Prime Video in the US, Canada: 9/17/21

Review Embargo: None - but we ask that you hold any reviews until the week of our premiere, 9/13, if possible

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Executive Producers: Steve McQueen, James Rogan, Tracey Scoffield, and Soleta Rogan

Senior Producer: Helen Bart

Director: George Amponsah

Narrated by: Daniel Kaluuya

Production Companies: Rogan Productions, Lammas Park, Turbine Studios, and Amazon Studios

SYNOPSIS

Narrated by Daniel Kaluuya, *Black Power: A British Story Of Resistance* looks at the 60s and 70s through the eyes of the young Black people who refused to take racism as a part of the natural order of things in the UK. It shows how the civil rights struggle in America inspired activists to take a stand, and features

rare archive of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Stokely Carmichael's activities in Britain, as well as footage of leading figures in the movement in the UK: Altheia Jones-LeCointe, Darcus Howe and Roy Sawh.

The film describes the different groups in the movement such as R.A.A.S., the British Black Panthers and The Fasimbas, that appeared in cities across the UK at the time. It illustrates how the activism of these groups, combined with community and culture, helped fuel hope and resilience, and ultimately started Britain on the road to being a more inclusive and diverse society.

The film looks at key moments in the movement's history, such as the Mangrove Nine trial and the Oval Four convictions, and examines controversial figures such as Michael X, and events such as The Spaghetti House siege.

But at the heart of this documentary is a series of interviews from past activists, many of whom are speaking for the first time about what it was really like to be involved in the British Black Power movement, who bring to life one of the key cultural revolutions in the history of the nation.

BIOS

GEORGE AMPONSAH

George Amponsah is a multiple award-winning BAFTA nominated film maker who first started taking pictures in the 1980s as a photographer and Super 8mm film enthusiast. George's most recent work in 2019 saw him working as director on *Enslaved* - a new inspirational six-part documentary series hosted by Academy Award nominated actor Samuel L. Jackson (*Glass, Captain Marvel, Pulp Fiction*) that brings home the horror of slavery to the world through underwater archaeology. George's directing work on *Enslaved* involved filming in Brazil, Ethiopia and Jamaica as well as Europe and the UK. George's feature length documentary - *The Hard Stop*, was nominated for a BAFTA in 2017 in the Outstanding Debut category. *The Hard Stop* unpeels the true story behind the UK riots of 2011 following the death of Mark Duggan who was shot and killed whilst being arrested in a 'hard stop' procedure by armed police. This incident ignited a riot that escalated into a week of the worst civil unrest in recent British history. His other work includes *The Fighting Spirit* (2008) a feature documentary which tells the story of three young boxers and *The Importance of Being Elegant* (2004) about a bizarre cult of fashion lead by the flamboyant Congolese singer – Papa Wemba. George is a graduate of The UK's prestigious National Film and Television School where he won a Post-Office Scholarship to attend the documentary directing course. Since graduating in 2000 George has taught documentary directing at the NFTS and The Met Film School and has been a tutor at Docubox, a film academy set up for aspiring filmmakers.

STEVE MCQUEEN

Steve McQueen is a Turner Prize-winning artist and filmmaker. In 2008, McQueen's critically acclaimed first feature *Hunger* starring Michael Fassbender won the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. His second feature *Shame* won two Best Film awards when it premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2011. His third film, *12 Years A Slave*, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, received numerous prizes, most notably winning three Academy Awards, including Best Picture. In 2018 he released *Widows* starring Viola Davis, who was

nominated for a Best Actress BAFTA. McQueen's most recent project, *Small Axe*, for BBC One and Amazon Prime Video, is an anthology of five films which brings to life the experiences of London's West Indian community, starring John Boyega and Letitia Wright. An unprecedented two of the films were selected for the 2020 Cannes Film Festival. In 2020 McQueen was awarded a knighthood for his services to the arts, and alongside his film work, his artwork continues to be exhibited in major museums and galleries around the world.

JAMES ROGAN

Award-winning filmmaker James Rogan, the Creative Director of Rogan Productions, has a proven track record for making deeply impactful series and international feature documentaries. He directed and executive-produced the double-Grierson awarded *Stephen: The Murder That Changed a Nation*, the landmark series for BBC One. His recent credits include the award-winning, BAFTA-nominated *Putin: A Russian Spy Story* for Channel 4, on which James was Executive Producer; he is also a director on the upcoming 8-part series *1971: The Year That Music Changed Everything* for Apple TV+.

SOLETA ROGAN

Soleta Rogan co-founded the indie Rogan Productions in 2013, with a vision of delivering high-end films for broadcast and not-for-broadcast content. In addition to her operational responsibilities, Soleta performs Executive Producer and Production Executive roles across the production slate. Previous credits include *The Confession* for BBC Storyville/BFI, *Waiting for Invasion* for Al Jazeera and *The Craftsmen's Dinner* series, with Michel Roux Jr. for The Balvenie. At the same time, Soleta drives younger, sister brand Rogan Digital, delivering content for commercially-funded broadcast and advertising projects for brands, major communications agencies and NGOs.

TRACEY SCOFFIELD

Tracey Scoffield is an Emmy and Golden Globe winning drama and film producer, whose career includes establishing and running the films books list at publishers Faber and Faber, ten years with BBC Films where she developed and Executive Produced films for the cinema and television, including *Dirty Pretty Things*, *A Cock and Bull Story*, and *The Gathering Storm*. She left the BBC to set up Rainmark Films with veteran HBO producer Frank Doelger and for HBO their work included *Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight* starring Christopher Plummer and *Into the Storm* starring Brendan Gleeson. Tracey is now a founding director of Turbine Studios, and with fellow director David Tanner, produced and Executive Produced *Small Axe*, Steve McQueen's collection of films for the BBC and Amazon about the West Indian experience in London. Turbine are now in post production with *Municha* film for Netflix.

HELEN BART

Helen Bart brings a wealth of talent and experience to the projects she manages. Her background in BBC journalism, documentary-making and drama has allowed her to collaborate with those pushing the boundaries of programme-making and creativity.

Bart has been the Senior Producer across three separate documentaries which portray and highlight forgotten periods in modern, British social history relating to the UK's Black communities. This series

covers Black Power, Education and Identity and it co-produced by Rogan Productions, Lammas Park and Turbine Studios. The documentaries are the factual counterparts to Sir Steve McQueen's *Small Axe* television series on which Bart was the Associate Producer and consultant in charge of the research and development for nearly seven years.

The series had a long period of development as Bart undertook around 150 interviews for the project, seeking out incredible stories. Using her journalistic experience, she took the testimony she collected and developed it using in-depth archive research to convey precise period detail, historical commentary and records of key public events. *Small Axe* has recently been nominated for several awards including two Golden Globes.

Prior to *Small Axe*, Bart was the Legal Lead Producer on the ground-breaking BBC documentary, *Stephen: The Murder That Changed A Nation*, about the killing of Stephen Lawrence. The documentary went on to win several prestigious awards.

From documentaries to drama and her early career as the senior community affairs reporter for BBC English Regions, producer at the World Service and Newsnight, a number of threads link her work. Bart is inspired by the world around her and the stories within it, by the characters and what they tell us about how we got here and where we are going.

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