

BLACK BARBIE: A DOCUMENTARY



World Premiere Screening:

Saturday, March 11th, 11:00 AM CST @ *Alamo Lamar B*

Additional Screenings:

Tuesday, March 14th, 2:00PM CST @ *Violet Crown Cinema 1*

Tuesday, March 14th, 2:30PM CST @ *Violet Crown Cinema 3*

Wednesday, March 15th, 2:15PM CST @ *Alamo Lamar C*

Director / Screenwriter: Lagueria Davis
Executive Producers: Grace Lay, Sumalee Montano, Camilla Hall, Milan Chakraborty, Jyoti Sarda
Producers: Aaliyah Williams, Lagueria Davis
Director of Photography: Sara Garth
Editor: Heidi Zimmerman
Music: Esin Aydingoz
Subjects: Beulah Mae Mitchell, Kitty Black Perkins, Stacey McBride-Irby, Ashley Blaine-Featherson Jenkins, Gabourey Sidibe, Julissa Calderon
Associate Producer: Brianne Klugiewicz
Archival Producer: Rebecca Kent
Music Supervisor: Jennifer Smith
Run Time: 100 min

[Website](#) | Facebook: [@Blackbarbiefilm](#) | Twitter: [@Blackbarbiefilm](#)

R&CPMK

For additional information please contact:

blackbarbiepr@rogersandcowanpmk.com

LOGLINE

Through intimate access to a charismatic Mattel insider, Beulah Mae Mitchell, Black Barbie delves into the cross section of merchandise and representation as Black women strive to elevate their own voices and stories, refusing to be invisible.

SYNOPSIS

Love her or hate her, almost everyone has a Barbie story. Even if they don't have a story, there's a story as to why they don't have a story. In this film, we tell the story behind the first Black Barbie, because yes, she has a story too. It started with the filmmaker's 83-year old aunt, Beulah Mae Mitchell and a seemingly simple question, "Why not make a Barbie that looks like me?"

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Growing up in Fort Worth, Texas, I met my aunt Beulah Mitchell, who lived in California, twice. As an adult Filmmaker, I moved to Los Angeles in 2011 and would stay with my aunt. It was then, hearing her tell the story of how she went from being on the assembly line making dolls to encouraging Ruth Handler to create a doll that looked like her, that I came to realize there was a story behind the first Black Barbie. Listening to my aunt and looking at her Mattel memorabilia, it was not lost on me, why my aunt and her Black women co-workers would want to see a Barbie that looked like them. With that in mind, I sat down to do a bit of research and discovered that it took 21 years for Mattel to release the first Black Barbie. Discovering this took me back to when I was a little Lagueria learning what it meant to be a Black girl. It was then that I knew I had to tell Black Barbie's story and in doing so, tell my aunt's story.

I can recall having three dolls growing up. The first, a life-size doll of Krystle Carrington from the TV show Dynasty. The second was a Black Cabbage Patch. The third, a Black Raggedy Ann doll that my mother had specially made for me, which she paid \$150 for. We were not a rich family. For my mom to drop \$150 per doll, she bought three, one for me and my two younger siblings, meant something more than I could have ever understood then. However, I thought my Krystle doll was beautiful and wanted to look like her, but Black Raggedy Ann and the Cabbage Patch looked more like me and as a child, I found some comfort in that. Within that comfort lived competing ideas and conflicting emotions, because unfortunately, I didn't find my Black Cabbage Patch or Black Raggedy Ann to be beautiful dolls. That being said, I think it's worth exploring the story behind that comfort zone and how that zone constructs or deconstructs one's identity.

- Lagueria Davis

DIRECTOR BIO

Laqueria Davis (Director / Producer)



Originally from Fort Worth, Texas, Laqueria Davis grew up in a household where her dreams had to be practical, which is how she found herself at the University of Oklahoma double majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Three years and three internships later, her need to create consumed her, and she left the engineering program and landed in the School of Art. After graduating with a BFA in Media Art, she worked in production until landing a Writers PA position on season two of *The L Word: Generation Q*. After wrapping *The L Word*, she was selected to participate in the Mentorship Matters Program. She was also hired as the Director's Shadow on Season three of *The L Word: Generation Q*, where she shadowed all ten episodes and five directors. Laqueria has several feature specs and four original pilots under her belt, was a 2016 Academy Nicholl Quarterfinalist, and is a four-time Austin Film Festival Second Rounder. Currently, she's gearing up for the premier of her first, feature documentary about the first Black Barbie at the 2023 SXSW film festival. As a queer, INFJ aquarian, born in the year of the horse, she is as unique as her name.

PRODUCER BIOS

Aaliyah Williams (Producer)



Aaliyah Williams is founding partner of Adventure Media where she manages emerging & established writers and directors. She is a Peabody Award nominated television & film producer whose credits include the series *Gentefied* & film *Really Love* which won the 2020 SXSW Special Jury Prize for Acting and is streaming on Netflix. Williams launched Just A Rebel to create signature content that centers Black women and people of color—shifting the culture forward. The company has a first look deal at CBS Television Studios and a feature film slate that includes Tiffany Johnson’s (*Mike*, *Black Monday*) feature directorial debut *THE LAST CLASS* starring Marsai Martin based on the incredible true story of writer Kimberly Nicole Walker’s survival of a very special senior year of high school. Williams recently produced her first documentary feature, *BLACK BARBIE: A DOCUMENTARY*, written & directed by Lagueria Davis that premieres at the 2023 SXSW Film & Television Festival.

Originally from Arkansas and Oklahoma, Williams graduated from Harvard and is a 2023 UCLA School of Law MLS candidate. She is an active alum of Film Independent’s Project:Involve, SXSW, Sundance, and the Ron Brown Scholar Program. Additionally, she serves on the board of Series Fest and the Hollywood Radio & Television Society. Aaliyah can generally be found running around Los Angeles with her hilarious pit bull, Blue.

LinLay Productions (Executive Producers)

Grace Lay and Sumalee Montano of LinLay Productions are advocates for telling intergenerational stories that uplift multicultural talent in front of and behind the camera. LinLay’s films include: 2022 Sundance winner *NANNY* (Blumhouse/Amazon); *RIOTSVILLE, USA*, Spirit Awards nominee for Best Documentary (Magnolia/Hulu); and *THE DEAL*, a mother-daughter dystopian thriller (Roku Channel). Sumalee holds multiple perspectives within the industry, as an investment banker turned actress-producer. Onscreen she is a series regular on *DAN BROWN’S THE LOST SYMBOL* (Peacock). Grace Lay became a producer after a full career as a physician. The two women founded LinLay in 2018 to champion voices that deserve the chance to leave a visible and lasting mark in the history of storytelling.

Sumalee Montano (*LinLay Productions*)

Sumalee is a co-founder of LinLay Productions. She holds multiple perspectives within the industry as an investment banker turned actress-producer. Onscreen, Sumalee is a series regular in Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol* on Peacock. Her past projects include recurring roles on *This Is Us*, *Veep*, *Star Trek: Picard*, *S.W.A.T.*, *How to Get Away with Murder* and *Scandal*. Sumalee has also lent her voice to over 200 animated roles to date across film, television and triple-A video games like *Ghost of Tsushima*, *World of Warcraft*, and *Destiny 2*.

Grace Lay (*LinLay Productions*)

Grace is a co-founder of LinLay Productions which supports intergenerational stories, in both narrative and documentary forms, that center multicultural talent in front of and behind the camera. They are stories that address issues that people of color and other marginalized communities come up against.

Milan Chakraborty (*Executive Producer*)

Milan Chakraborty, Head of Film at Marginal MediaWorks, oversees all of the company's efforts in independent, studio and streaming film. He is an 18-year veteran of the film industry. Milan worked at Warner Bros and New Line Cinema in production finance and accounting on projects including *Batman Begins*, *Superman Returns*, *History of Violence* and *V for Vendetta*. Milan began independently producing in 2008 and has produced and executive produced over 20 features including *My Friend Dahmer*, *Assassination Nation*, *Plus One*, *The Dark & the Wicked*, multiple Spirit Award nominee *The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain*, and *Four Samosas* (IFC Films).

FULL CREDITS

Written & Directed By
Lagueria Davis

Music by
Esin Aydingoz

Archival Producer
Rebecca Kent

Music Supervisor
Jennifer Smith

FEATURING

Beulah Mae Mitchell
Kitty Black Perkins
Stacey McBride-Irby
Lagueria Davis
Patricia A. Turner
Virginia Watson
Amitis Motevalli
Paboo Geronimo Redfeather
Barbara Sanon
Stephen Mandela Sumner
Yolanda Hester
Billie J. Green
Julissa Calderon
Ashley Blaine Feathersen-Jenkins
Hayley Marie Norman
Shellie Lewis
Gabourey Sidibe
Rebecca Gross
Isis McKenzie Johnson
Nick Jones Jr.
DooWop Byrd
Mason Williams
Monica L. Bailey
Byronique Goodes
Aydrea Walden
Dr. Amirah Saafir
Brittany Jones
Dr. Antonya Jackson
Antwann Michael Simpkins
Yeshiva Davis
NaChelle Jackson
Kayden Jackson
Elizabeth June (Voice)
Patricia Shivers (Voice)
Raj Brown
Darlene Bunjako

Dustyn Bunjako
Ruby Cassimere
Kharlyn Hartsfield
Brylee Hsu
London Marie Redick-Walker
Ellison Perry
Azarias Pierre-Louis
Tahir Shabazz
London Starnes
Madison Tend
Kennedy Turner
Janai Turner
Marilyn Valenzuela
Dylan Walker
Cali Williams
Myla Williams

ARCHIVAL FEATURED

Dr. Howard Clark
Louis Shelton Smith III
Ruth Handler
Elliot Handler
Deborah Mitchell
The Handler Family
Kitty Black Perkins
En Vogue

CREW

Voice-over Director	Roxana Ortega
Assistant Production Coordinator	Angela Weathersby
Production Assistant	Kyra Borromeo
Production Assistant	Jesse Camacho
Production Assistant	Xochi Chimalli
Production Assistant	Colin Hannon
Production Assistant	Gage Hensley
Production Assistant	Josh Hoefling
Production Assistant	CM Landrus
Production Assistant	Courtney Simpson
Studio Teacher	Amy Stanoszek
Covid Compliance Officer	Ella Dudek

Casting By	Anissa Williams Casting
Casting Director	Anissa Williams & Fatima Washington
Director of Photography	Sara Garth
Additional Photography	Rita Baghdadi Rachael Hastings Crystal Kelley Ava Benjamin Shorr Aymae Sulick
Camera Operator	Colleen Haley Zoe Lubeck Jared Wennberg
1st Assistant Camera/DIT	Maria Arango Travis Francis Sabrina Mendez Jack Proctor
Still Photographer	Ashley Walker
Still Photographer Assistant	Teron Beal
Gaffer	Charles Cartwright Rachael Hastings
Production Designer	Juan Manuel Ramal Leone Reeves
Production Designer (miniature set)	Laurel Frank
Set Decorator	Maria A. Sanchez
Sound Mixer	Marcus Butron Jr. Stephen Harrod

	Venus Leone
	V Lopez
	Cody Smith
	Logan Smith
Editor	Heidi Zimmerman
Assistant Editor	Jayda Cardoza
Sizzle Editor	Adam Scott
Key Hair Stylist	Chantelle Johnson-Mosley
Key Make-Up Artist	Bobbie Riley
Doll Stylist	Mindy Davis
Archival Producer	Rebecca Kent
Archival Assistant	Gabrielle Koehler Lauren Todd
Music Supervisor	Jennifer Smith
Composer	Esin Aydingoz
Production Accountant	Melissa Rodriguez
Production Legal - Donaldson Calif Perez	Chris Perez
Production Insurance	Madison Karsenty Truman Van Dyke
Consultants	Brett Ragland Valeria Lopez Steak House

Advisors

Aminah Bakeer Abdul-Jabbaar
Ann duCille
Beverly Guy-Sheftall
Patricia Turner

DOLL TEST

Academic Consultant
Facilitator
On Set Therapist

Amirah Saafir, Ph.D.
Yeshiva Davis - LMFT
Alisha Manning

ANIMATION - FONCO STUDIOS

Creative Director

Fon Davis
Noah Kinsey

Operations Manager

J. Lance Moose

Director of Photography

Bry Thomas Sanders

Camera Operator
1st AC
1st Asst Director

Rod Portier
Octavio Estrada
David Moore

Gaffer
Key Grip

Charles Cartwright
Nick Weir

Stage Manager

Jarrell Hall

Art Director
Art Assistant

Kat Roberts
Lacie Barker

Construction Coordinator

Jeremy Deibo

Puppeteer Captain

Kate Katz

Puppet Engineer

Tim Osteen

Puppeteers

Aimee McCrary

Leah Olbrich

Craft Service

Andrea Dilley

GRAPHICS - 9B Collective

Phillip Boutte Jr. Mike Uwandi Aldis Hodge
Miwa Kido Angela Alise Nicole Hendrix
Kady Kamakate Rachel Meinerding
Piper Adonya Eric DePalo

Additional VFX by DextFx Studios Inc.

POST PRODUCTION SERVICES PROVIDED BY FANCY FILM

Supervision Post Producers

Gloria F. Coronado

Ayanna Hart

William B. Macomber

Finishing Producer

Brett Baldrige

Online Editor

Mathew Meredith

Online Supervisors

Christian Navas

Tony Shek

Digital Colorist

Matthew Schwab

Re-Recording Mixer

Paul Hollman

Dialogue Editor

Gaby Estes

Sound Effects Editor

Ivan Grinober

Assistant Sound Editor

Aidan Neuner

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Monica Bailey

ARTWORK COURTESY OF

“Big” artwork part of the Fallen Legends series / Shlome J Hayun
Quilt by Ella Mae Bolton provided by Patricia A Turner

OTHER MATERIALS WERE USED FROM THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

‘Vintage (1960/70) ‘Roddy’ Black Doll’/SplendidDressingUp	‘Stacey Irby-McBride’/ via One World Doll Project	Hair, Headband, Orange Floral Print Dress & Heels, 3 to 8 Years Old’/Mattel, Inc.
‘1880 Topsy Turvy Doll’/Country and Shaker Antiques	‘Barbie: Big City, Big Dreams Barbie “Brooklyn” Doll (11.5-In, Brunette)’/Mattel, Inc.	‘Barbie Looks Ken Doll (Brunette Hairstyle)’/Mattel Creations
‘Antique Topsy Turvy Reversible Doll’/Treasure Hut	‘Barbie Doll And Accessories, Barbie Extra Doll with Pet Poodle’/Mattel, Inc.	‘Mattel’s Creatable World introduces gender-neutral dolls’/Mattel, Inc.
‘Elliott and Ruth Handler’ / ThoughtCo	‘Barbie Signature Posable Barbie Looks Doll, Dark-Brown Hair, Tall Body Type’/Mattel, Inc.	‘Barbie Career Gymnastics Playset with Doll, Balance Beam and 15 Accessories’/Mattel, Inc.
‘Early 12” Bruckner Topsy Turvy Cloth Doll 1901 Horsman Babyland Rag’/Kathleen Tornikoski	‘Barbie Fashionistas Doll #144 With Long Braids in Neon Look’/Mattel, Inc.	‘Barbie Gymnastics Playset: Brunette Barbie Doll’/Mattel, Inc.
‘Orleans Black Mammy’/Shirley’s Dolls	‘Barbie Space Discovery Astronaut Doll’/Mattel, Inc.	‘Signature Francie Doll 1967’/Mattel, Inc.
‘Live Action Christie’/Debbie Behan Garrett	‘Barbie Fashionistas Doll #166 With Wheelchair & Crimped Brunette Hair’/Mattel, Inc.	‘So In Style Chandra and Zahara’/Mattel, Inc.
‘Hard to Find Sunset Malibu Christie NRGB’/Julie Jorgensen	‘Barbie Signature Posable Barbie Looks Doll (Petite, Brunette)’/Mattel, Inc.	‘So In Style Kara and Kiana’/Mattel, Inc.
‘Doll set: Yellowstone Kelly’/The Strong National Museum of Play	‘Barbie Fashionistas Doll #135 With Vitiligo’/Mattel, Inc.	‘So In Style Grace and Courtney’/Mattel, Inc.
‘Kenneth and Mamie Clark 1958 (cropped)’/Charlotte Brooks	‘Barbie Fashionistas Doll #182, Long Wavy Brunette	‘So In Style Trichelle and Janessa’/Mattel, Inc.

'So in Style Stylin' Hair Barbie Back of the Box'/Mattel, Inc.	african american bd11'/VintageMemoriesToo	Clips from <i>Barbie Dreamhouse Adventures</i> /Netflix/Mainframe Studios, Mattel Television
'So in Style Stylin' Hair Barbie Trichelle'/Mattel, Inc.	'Francie and Casey w/ Twist 'n Turn Waist'/Mattel, Inc.	Clips from <i>Shindana ~ Black Dolls ~ The History of Black Dolls Factory</i> /Blog Talk Radio/Gist of Freedom, Leslie Gist
'So in Style Stylin' Hair Barbie Kara'/Mattel, Inc.	'Wanda Action Career Dolls'/Shindana Toys/Operation Bootstrap, Inc.	Clips from <i>Shooting Star</i> /The Math Club ft. Jordyn Kane and Tarra Layne/Jordyn Kane, Mansa Wakili, Jason Rabinowitz, Colton Fisher, Kelli Wakili, Jaron Lamot, and Brayden Deskings/Mattel Rhapsody
'So in Style Stylin' Hair Barbie Grace'/Mattel, Inc.	'Career Girl Wanda'/Shindana Toys/Operation Bootstrap, Inc.	Clips from <i>Barbie: Big City Big Dreams</i> /Netflix/Mattel Television/Scott Plydell-Pearce
'Young girl with So In Style Barbie Grace'/Mattel, Inc.	'Little Friends Collection'/Shindana Toys/Operation Bootstrap, Inc.	Clips from <i>Barbie in A Mermaid Tale</i> /Universal Studios Home Entertainment/Mattel Entertainment/Adam L. Wood
'Mattel's headquarters on Rosecrans Ave. in Hawthorne. Undated photo.'/Mattel, Inc.	'Shani // Mattel Girls Toys Catalog'/Mattel, Inc.	Clips from <i>Barbie: Princess Adventure</i> /Netflix/Mattel Television, Mainframe Studios/Conrad Helten
'African American Barbie, 1980'/Mattel, Inc.	'Meet Addy' Book Cover/Melodye Rosales	Clips from <i>Barbie: Spy Squad</i> (en español)/Universal Pictures Video/Nickelodeon, Mattel Playground Productions/Conrad Helten, Michael Goguen
'Ibtihaj Muhammad Barbie'/Mattel, Inc.	'A Dress-Up Job: Barbie's Principal Designer Scales Down Glamour and Plays Up Fantasy'/Los Angeles Times/Beverly Beyette	Clips from @Barbie/Barbie Vlogs:'Barbie and Nikki Discuss Racism'
'Shani Ebony Ad 1991'/Mattel, Inc.	Clips from <i>Julia</i> Ep. 103/NBC/Hann Carr Productions, Savannah Productions, 20th Century Fox	Clips from MattelShop/'Behind the Design of Barbie So in Style Dolls'
'Shani 03'/SevignyFF	Clips from <i>Lost LA - Shindana Toy Company: Changing the American Doll Industry</i> /KCET/KCET Link, USC Libraries, Nonetheless Productions, Rigler Creative	
'Shani 02'/SevignyFF		
'Lot 31: 2 x Cloth Dolls 1950s Black doll wearing colorful clothes & fruit straw'/The Collector-Invaluable.com		
'Pink and Pretty Christie y Barbie'/Jose Saldarriaga Garcia		
'Pink & Pretty Christie'/Toy Sisters		
'Pink & Pretty Christie'/M St Claire		
'1976 Ballerina Cara'/Jerald Fowler		
'1997 mattel happy holidays special edition barbie doll		

Clips from Mattel, Inc./'Mattel
Shani 30 sec 6:14:91 Red Car'

Clips from Urban
Street/'Urban Street Shani
Story'

MUSIC

"Barbie Girl"

Written by Søren Rasted, Claus
Norreen, René Dif, Lene Nystrøm,
Karsten Dahlgaard, and Johnny
Pedersen
Performed by Aqua
Courtesy of Universal Music A/S
[DK] under license from Universal
Music Enterprises

"I'm Coming Out"

Written by Bernard Edwards and
Nile Rodgers
Performed by Diana Ross
courtesy of Motown Records under
license from Universal Music
Enterprises

"Black On Both Sides"

Written by Kelli Domonique
Wakili and Mansa Tsokwa
Wakili
Performed by Bunny
nder license from Dahomey Music
Enterprises

Additional Music Courtesy of APM Music

VERY SPECIAL THANKS

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Marja-Lewis Ryan
Joanna Rabiger
Ben Beresh
Roz Welch
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Brian Goldberg
Pharalyn Robinson (EP)
Louise Runge
Steak House
Angela Startz
Morgan Lariah
Amy Adrion
Li Lu
Bonnie Lu Braendlin
Jen McGowan
Jill Morley
Leah Patterson
Rainy Kerwin
Iram Parveen Bilal
Jen Tiexiera
Katie Kriegel
Leena Pendharkar

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Luisa Novo
April Connelly
Dustin Saunders
Adrian Fernandez
Laurie Cummings
Nico Oppen
Barrington Smith-Seetachitt
Jennifer Smith
Meridythe Emmanuel
Monte Laforti
Regan Lee
Joe Langford
Kyra Borromeo
Gabriela Tollman
Michelle Carr
Hannah Ascheim
Elizabeth Dell
Rebecca Box
Rebekah Bell
Tomeka M. Winborne
Mary Lyn Chambers
Emily Dell
Bridgette Lee

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Courtney Inman
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Frank Lopez
Martina Silcock
Precious Williams
Nicole C Kendrick
John Dentlinger
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Julie Lawson
Luis De Tagle
Alex Coffey
Valeria Lopez
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Patsy Davis
NaChelle Jackson
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Floyd Bell
Azusa Sakamoto
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Felicia Taylor
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Shellie Lewis
Sydney Bell
Linda Jiang
The Turner Family
The Tend Family

The Salt Eaters Bookshop
Citizens of the World Charter School
Ebony Media Group
Light It Up

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