BETRAYED

SURVIVING AN AMERICAN CONCENTRATION CAMP

56:46, 1.78, USA

www.betrayedfilm.com

A film by North Shore Productions

Produced in association with Friends of Minidoka

Distributor Contact

Andrew Clarke Communications Editor, Exchange Content American Public Television 617-338-4455 Andrew_Clarke@APTonline.org

Filmmaker Contact

Rory Banyard Executive Producer & Director North Shore Productions 503-225-0919 info@northshorepro.com

<u>Sales</u>

For international streaming and educational sales, please contact American Public Television Worldwide: info@aptww.org **Logline**: American citizens tell their story of being imprisoned without charge by the U.S. during WWII.

Short Synopsis: *Betrayed: Surviving an American Concentration Camp* tells the story of a group of American citizens and their mass incarceration by the U.S. government purely on the basis of race. In the compelling voices of survivors, the film explores the unconstitutional suspension of the civil rights of these Japanese Americans during WWII and the long-lasting impact of the incarceration on their community.

Longer Synopsis: *Betrayed: Surviving an American Concentration Camp* tells the story of a group of American citizens and their mass incarceration by the U.S. government, purely on the basis of race. In the compelling voices of survivors of Minidoka, a concentration camp in the Idaho desert, the film explores the unconstitutional suspension of the civil rights of these Japanese Americans during WWII, and the long-lasting impact of the incarceration on their community. *Betrayed* examines the incarceration of Japanese Americans in the Pacific Northwest in order to tell a universal story about unjust imprisonment and the loss of civil rights.

The film also explores the long-term effects of the incarceration over decades, and the phenomenon of intergenerational trauma as it affects this community. Over 40 camp survivors and descendants bring an unparalleled immediacy and urgency to the story. Interviewees include the late Kay Sakai Nakao, one of the first Japanese Americans to be taken, the poet Larry Matsuda, Paul Tomita, whose father went directly from camp to join the OSS, Satsuki Ina, a trauma therapist who was herself born in a concentration camp, and many others.

Lastly, *Betrayed* looks at the rise of Japanese American activism in defense of the rights of others, and the relevance of this story today, both in the targeting of groups based on their religion or ethnicity and the actions of the U.S. government at our southern border.

Directed by Rory Banyard and narrated by Tamlyn Tomita, the film is airing on public television stations beginning May 2022. This is a production of North Shore Productions, Inc., in association with Friends of Minidoka, and is distributed by American Public Television.

View or embed the trailer at: <u>https://vimeo.com/678547845</u>

Director's Notes: The incarceration of Japanese Americans in WWII was something I knew about - or so I thought. I was driven to make this film after completing a shorter film about the Minidoka concentration camp for Minidoka National Historic Site. It wasn't until I was in conversation with many of our incredible interviewees that I began to understand the depths of the racism and unequal justice that Japanese Americans faced in 1942. This was what enabled the government to turn away from the constitution and imprison so many innocent Americans without trial. I was also appalled to learn how much the community suffered after the war. I'm so grateful to our interviewees for sharing their stories and for their civil rights activism today. *Betrayed* covers a historical event, but it is very much a film for our time.

FILMMAKERS BIOS

Rory Banyard, Executive Producer and Director

Rory Banyard has a passion for telling visual stories, and for making films that change viewers' understanding of their world. He is an Emmy award-winning director with over 20 years of experience making films on civil rights, cultural history, and the natural world. He seeks opportunities to tell stories that illuminate a significant historical moment, a little-known aspect of a culture, or a beautiful part of the natural world. His films have won numerous awards and have been part of the Official Selection of the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Jackson Hole Wildlife Festival, and many other festivals around the world.

Mia Russell, Executive Producer

Mia Russell is the former Executive Director of the Friends of Minidoka, the Idaho-based nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the Minidoka Japanese American incarceration site. Russell earned a B.A. in the humanities from Soka University of America and an M.A. in Applied Historical Research from Boise State University. Mia serves on the board of the Boise Valley Japanese American Citizens League and is passionate about the preservation of the WWII Japanese American confinement sites and collaborative community organizing.

Sarah Kass, Writer

Sarah Kass is an Emmy award-winning storyteller specializing in long and short form documentaries and non-fiction television. She has crafted programs that have aired on PBS, Discovery Channel, and The History Channel, and she has been the senior writer on multi-episode series. She has written extensively on human rights issues, environmental and natural history, and also specializes in historical content. She was the senior writer on the 27-hour History Channel series *Man Moment Machine* and has written several History Channel specials including *USS Constellation: Battling for Freedom* and *The Battle of Tripoli*, which was nominated for a national Emmy.

Tamlyn Tomita, Narrator

Actor Tamlyn Tomita has been working in entertainment for over three decades. She made her screen debut in *The Karate Kid Part II* and is known for her roles in *The Joy Luck Club, The Good Doctor*, and *Cobra Kai*, and her narration work on PBS's *Asian Americans* 5-part documentary series. Her father and his family were incarcerated in Manzanar and Heart Mountain during World War II.

Cristin Norine, Senior Producer

Cristin Norine has many years of experience overseeing media projects. Her production experience encompasses projects ranging from television series to documentaries to still photography shoots. Cristin has produced many hours of programming for North Shore, including major projects for the Royal BC Museum, Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and Minidoka National Historic Site. She is also a visual artist who uses photography and performance to investigate how identity, interpersonal relationships, and privacy are being redrawn in the technological age.

Josh Banyard, Editor and Producer

Josh Banyard is an award-winning producer and editor who makes documentaries about historical injustices and our changing natural world. He has extensive experience in all aspects of film production, at every stage of the process. Recent projects include films for the Royal BC Museum, Minidoka National Historic Site, and Wanuskewin. His films have been selected for film festivals across North America.

Mark Orton, Composer

Mark Orton is an award-winning musician and composer who has written scores for dozens of films including *12 Mighty Orphans* (2021), *Jim Allison: Breakthrough* (2019), *From The Ashes* (2017), and Academy Award-nominated film *Nebraska* (2013). He is the co-founder of Tin Hat, an internationally renowned acoustic chamber music group with seven critically acclaimed albums. He is both a multi-instrumentalist and a collector of antique and unusual instruments, performing on all manner (and era) of guitars, keyboards, and percussion.

Sarah Fahmy, Associate Producer, Assistant Editor, and Archival Producer

Sarah Fahmy has worked on a variety of film projects including films for national broadcast and interpretive films for museums and visitor centers across North America. With her attention to detail, she excels at research, producing shoots, and the archive acquisition and licensing process. She has traveled and reported around the world and has worked with the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, and Oregon Public Broadcasting.

North Shore Productions

North Shore Productions is a documentary media production company that creates content for broadcast and for site-specific environments that include major museums and national parks. The company was founded twenty-five years ago by Rory Banyard as a home base from which to launch filmmaking adventures. Since that time North Shore has become a hub from which a group of talented writers, producer/directors, directors of photography and editors make award-winning work. The company is known for its work in the fields of civil rights, cultural history and natural history, and has won numerous honors, including Emmy, Golden Cine, and Platinum Remi awards, and has presented films at documentary film festivals around the world. To find out more about North Shore Productions, visit <u>northshorepro.com</u>.



Friends of Minidoka

Friends of Minidoka is a Twin Falls, Idaho-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in 2003. Friends of Minidoka works to honor the legacy of the Japanese American incarceration experience through education, preservation, and advocacy. They strive to pass on the history, legacy, and lessons of civil liberties through transforming and inspiring experiences for the general public and those with personal and familial ties to Minidoka. To find out more about Friends of Minidoka, visit minidoka.org.



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EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM

In conjunction with the one-hour film, this project also includes an educational program crafted by professional curriculum writers, giving schools and teachers the resources necessary to bring the incarceration story into the classroom.

The incarceration history is a critical case study for educational dialogue in civics, one that has often been missing from the classroom. By providing these engaging resources to educators, free of charge, we remove many of the roadblocks that have prevented the incarceration story from being taught in schools and will enable a new generation to move forward with a greater understanding of the civil rights tragedies of our past.

The educational curriculum consists of four short documentaries (5-6 mins), each providing a deep dive into different aspects of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Each documentary and corresponding lesson plan can be stand-alone, but educators may choose to use multiple films based on the goals and needs of their classes. The materials, recommended for grades 6 to 12, focus on the experience of Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from their communities and incarcerated at Minidoka, an American concentration camp in southern Idaho. But the topics in these films and lessons apply broadly to the experience of Japanese Americans at other camps as well. The lesson plans utilize primary sources as learning tools and are standards-based. The lessons range from a full one-hour lesson to short ten minute activities, so we encourage educators to adapt them to meet the needs of their students and classes.

To view the educational films and educational program, please visit betrayedfilm.com/education.

CREDITS:

Executive Producers Rory Banyard Mia Russell

Narrator Tamlyn Tomita

Director Rory Banyard

Senior Producer Cristin Norine

Producer Josh Banyard

Scriptwriter Sarah Kass

Editor Josh Banyard

Composer Mark Orton

Associate Producer Sarah Fahmy

Assistant Editor Sarah Fahmy

Directors of Photography Bradley Sellers Eric Macey Additional Camera David Callahan Vincente Franco

Camera Assistants Roxy Ewing

Jared Rogers

Sound Recordists

Steven Bechtold Ray Day Gordon Glascock Mark Iler Jesse Nordhausen John Pai Spence Palermo Ross Smith

Production Assistants

Trey Alioto David DiDonato Jason Jones Kate Miller Clinton Sinclair

Voice Actors

Jeff Gersh Tom Chantler

Archival Research Sarah Fahmy Joan Mathys

Audio Post T2 Audio

Colorist Martin Melnick

Archival Images Provided By:

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Wakatsuki Family

Joe Abo	Janice McDonald	Robert & Marilyn Frost
	Michael McKeag	Cynthia Grobey
Yone Akagi	Elissa Morris	Allison Handler
Carol Ouchi Brunner	Fredrick Moody III	Jordan Harmer
Janikka Byman	Takaaki Okada	Michael Hayakawa
Boise Valley Japanese American Citizens League	Hirai Family	Dawn Hayami
Carmen Chan	Julia Oliver	Otto Papasadero
Ben Toribara-Chaney	James Ouchi	Allison Parks
Justin Chin	Yumi Yasuda	Mia Russell
Mara Cogswell	Michael Dawson	Dan Sadowsky
Justin Cook	Toby Deming	Carol Saito
Marc Matsuura	R. Ewing	Gordon Sakaue
Kathleen McAllister	Lisa D. Ferrier	Jackson Sany

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Marisa Hirata	Honore Storms	Zef Wagner
Nathan Kemalyan	Jackie Sugai	Sara Yada
Paul Kenny	Robert & Linda Saito	Scott Yoshida
Clarke Kido	Vincenza Scarpaci	

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