

A LOVE STORY OF LAND AND FAMILY

RHYTHMS OF THE LAND

AWARD WINNING

MULTIMEDIA FILM DOCUMENTARY BY
DR. GAIL P. MYERS



FILM INFORMATION

FILM TITLE

Rhythms of the Land
A Multimedia Film Documentary by Dr. Gail P. Myers

LOG LINE

A Love Story of Land and Family

SYNOPSIS SHORT

Rhythms of the Land documentary is a valentine to generations of Black farming families in the United States, from the enslavement period to the present. Their story is long overdue.

SYNOPSIS LONG

In 1920, there were over 920,000 Black families farming in the United States, although the majority were sharecroppers and tenant farmers. Today there are just over 48,697, a 95% decrease in 100 years. Black farming families have lost their land and their stories are quickly disappearing and should be preserved so that we may understand the history and nature of lives on the farms. The goal of this documentary is to preserve their stories and honor their lives and agrarian legacies.

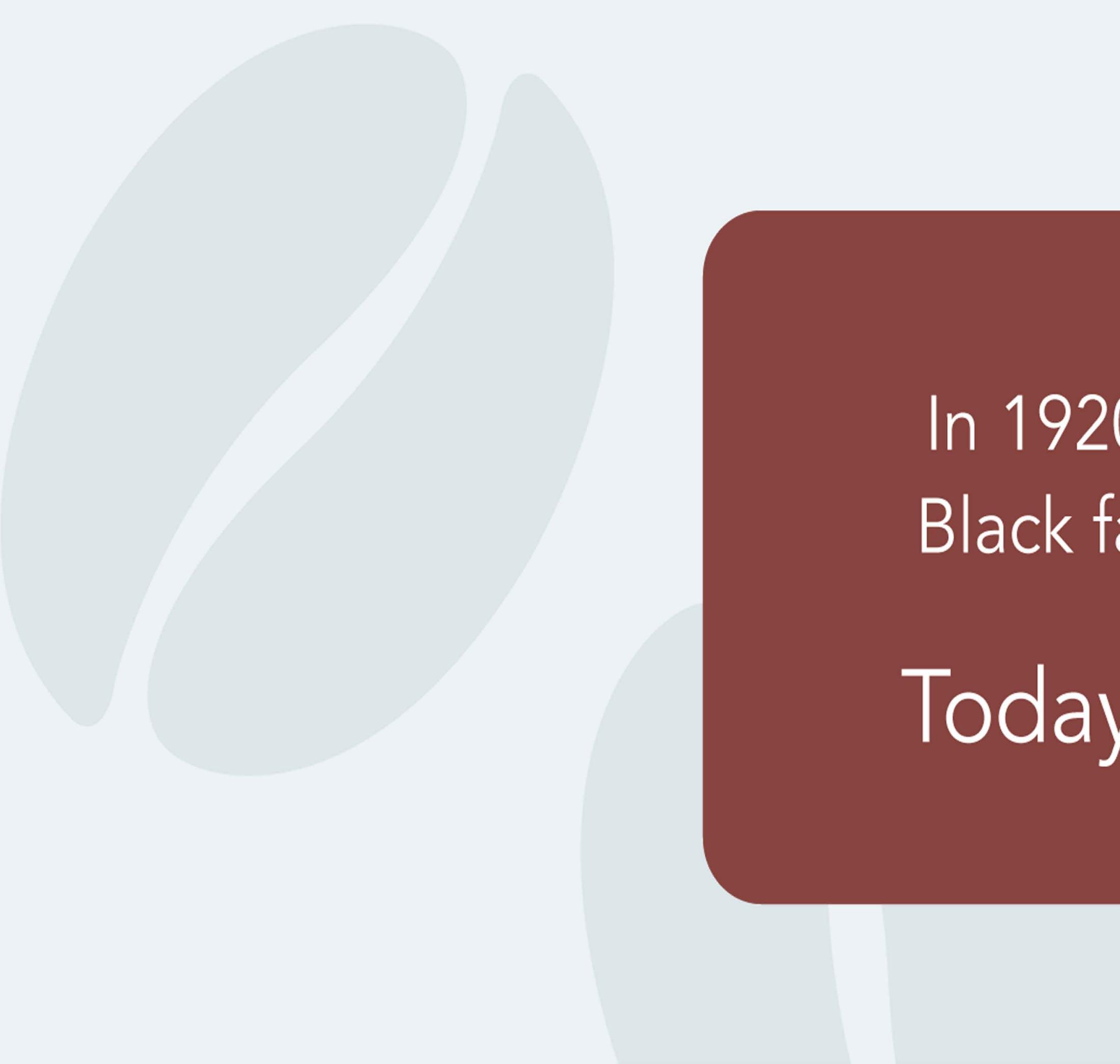
TECHNICAL INFO

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Resolution: 3840 x 2160

Frame Rate: 24p

Runtime: 1:01:28



In 1920, there were **over 920,000** Black families farming in the United States.

Today there are just over **45,000**

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I am **Gail Myers**, a cultural anthropologist and creator of the film project, *Rhythms of the Land*. In 1997, while pursuing my doctorate at The Ohio State University, I conducted my first interviews with African American farmers. For the last 23 years I have been interviewing, researching, writing about, and filming the stories of African American farmers.

During the summer of 2012, I toured 10 southern states -- Texas, Arkansas, South Carolina, North Carolina, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Tennessee -- interviewing over 30 farmers, sharecroppers, and gardeners and a 5th generation coil basket weaver. Several of these interviews are with elders, 98, 92, and 109. Suffice it to say, the wisdom and personalities of the elders farmers are infectious. These interviews represent generations of cultural traditions of Black farming philosophy that honors land, sustainability, God, family and love for their community.

Rhythms of the Land documentary fills the void of these missing agrarian narratives and honors these sharecroppers, farmers, and gardeners.



PEOPLE IN THE FILM



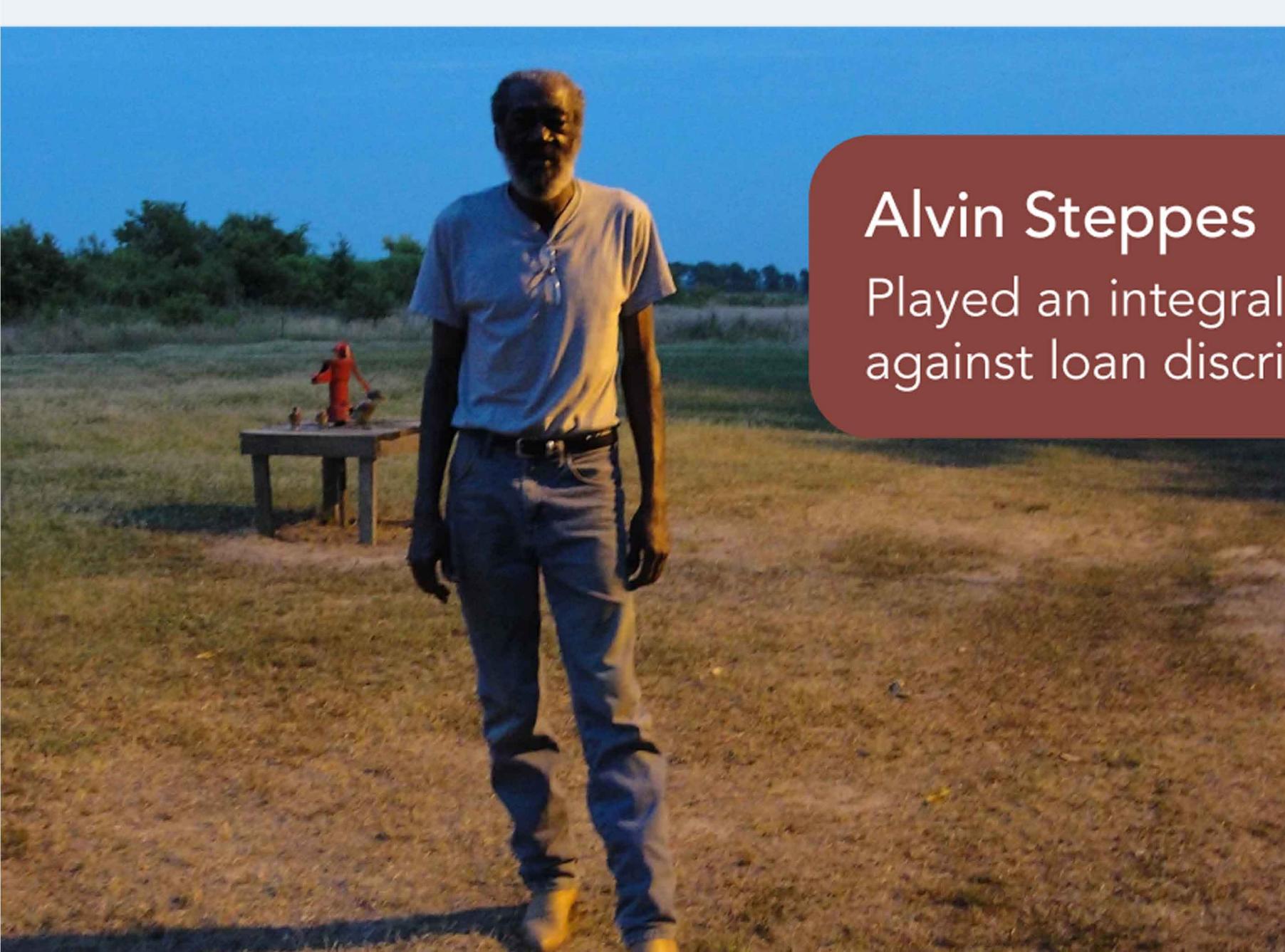
Icefene Thomas

Lived until the age of 113, born December 24, 1902, died January 6, 2016.



Aunt Rose

In 2016, Aunt Rose turned 104 years old. She is the daughter of a tenant farmer and maintained her own garden until she was 96 years old.



Alvin Steppes

Played an integral part in Pigford v. Glickman, the lawsuit against loan discrimination against Black farmers.



Jery Taylor

Basket weaver that shows how rice plantations in South Carolina used basket weaving in the "fanner basket".



Shirley Sherrod

Former Georgia State Director of Rural Development of the USDA.



Deborah Williams

In 1996 Co-founded "The Mother Clyde Memorial West End Garden", the first Atlanta community garden



Vermont Preston

Pictured in the background is the cob oven he made by hand. He tells the story of how to prepare Poke salad, which he grows on his urban farm.



Rhythms of the Land is a Farms To Grow, Inc. Production

www.farmstogrow.com
www.rhythms of the land.com

“Rhythms of the Land” Award-Winning Film

PRODUCTION TEAM



Dr. Gail P. Myers
Director



Elaine Smith
Producer



Jemila Sequeira
Co-Producer



Marilyn Rivchin
Co-Producer/Colorist



Shannon Joy Shird
Screening/Distribution



Maggie Liu
Digital Marketing,
Archival Research



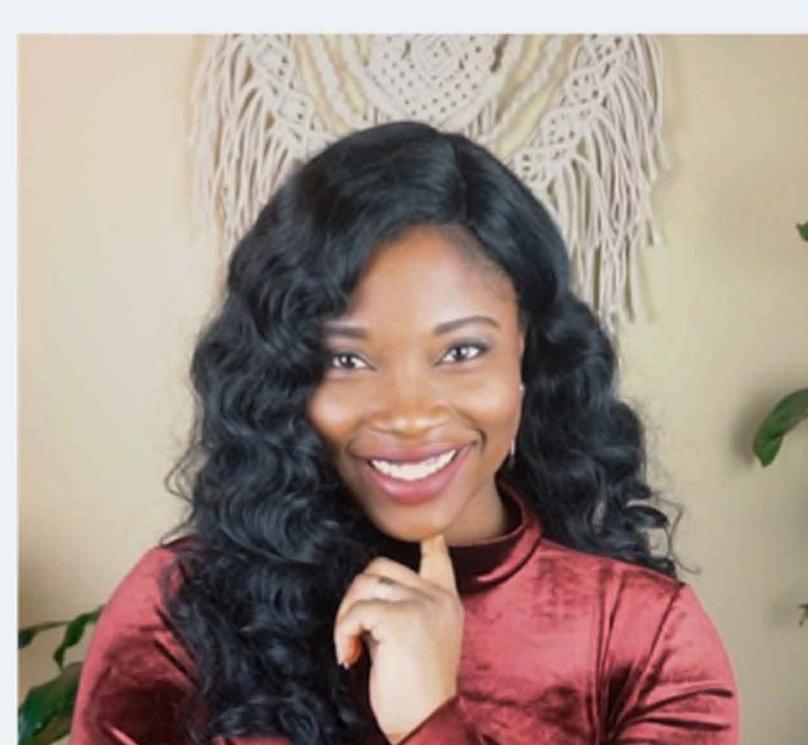
Lake Raymond
Social Media Graphics



Courtney Peal
Digital Marketing,
Archival Research



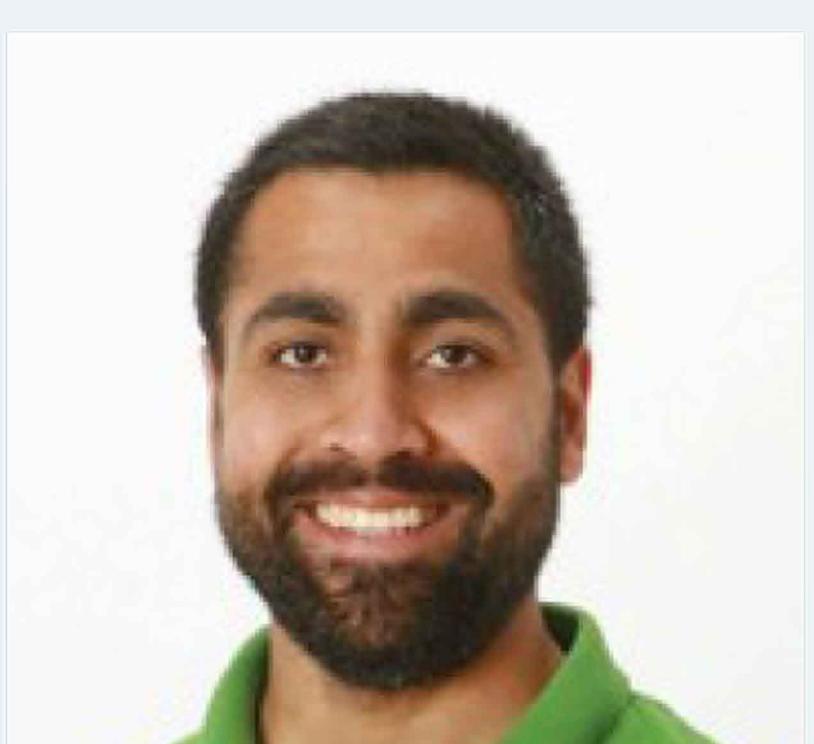
Michelle Novak
Bookkeeping,
Financial Advisor



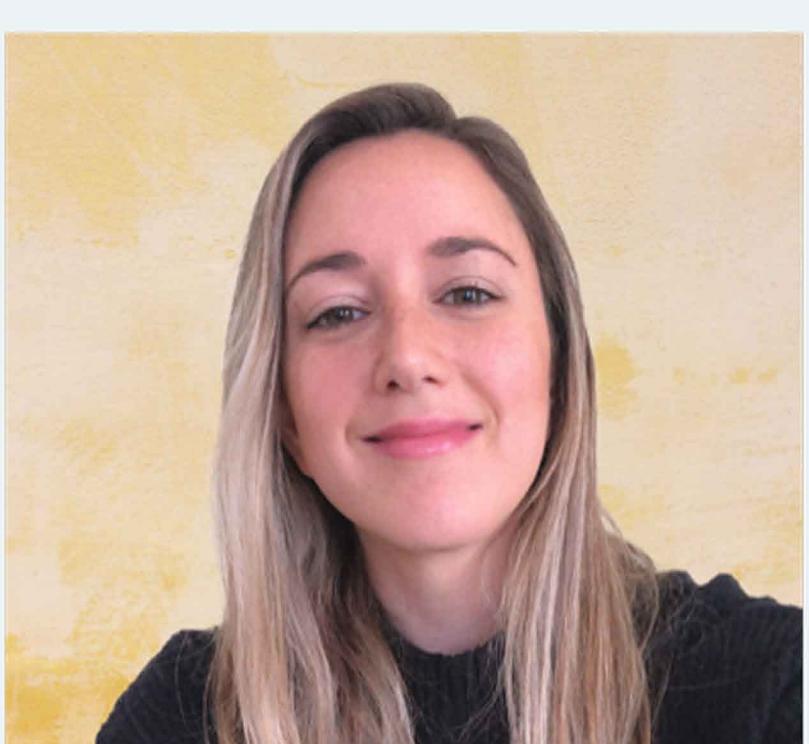
Genisia Green
Trailer Editor



Kimberly Nicholson
Fundraising



Nab Chitwant
Web Designer



Leah Ryan
Graphic Designer



Shaun Ross
Outreach/Distribution

Special thank you to...

Alia Davis, Haley Braveheart, Sara Englehardt, Steffany Dignum,
Ramandeep Kaur, Yi Xie, Emily Kiernan, and Jen Wing.



Rhythms of the Land is a Farms To Grow, Inc. Production

www.farmstogrow.com
www.rhythmsoftheland.com

“Rhythms of the Land” Award-Winning Film

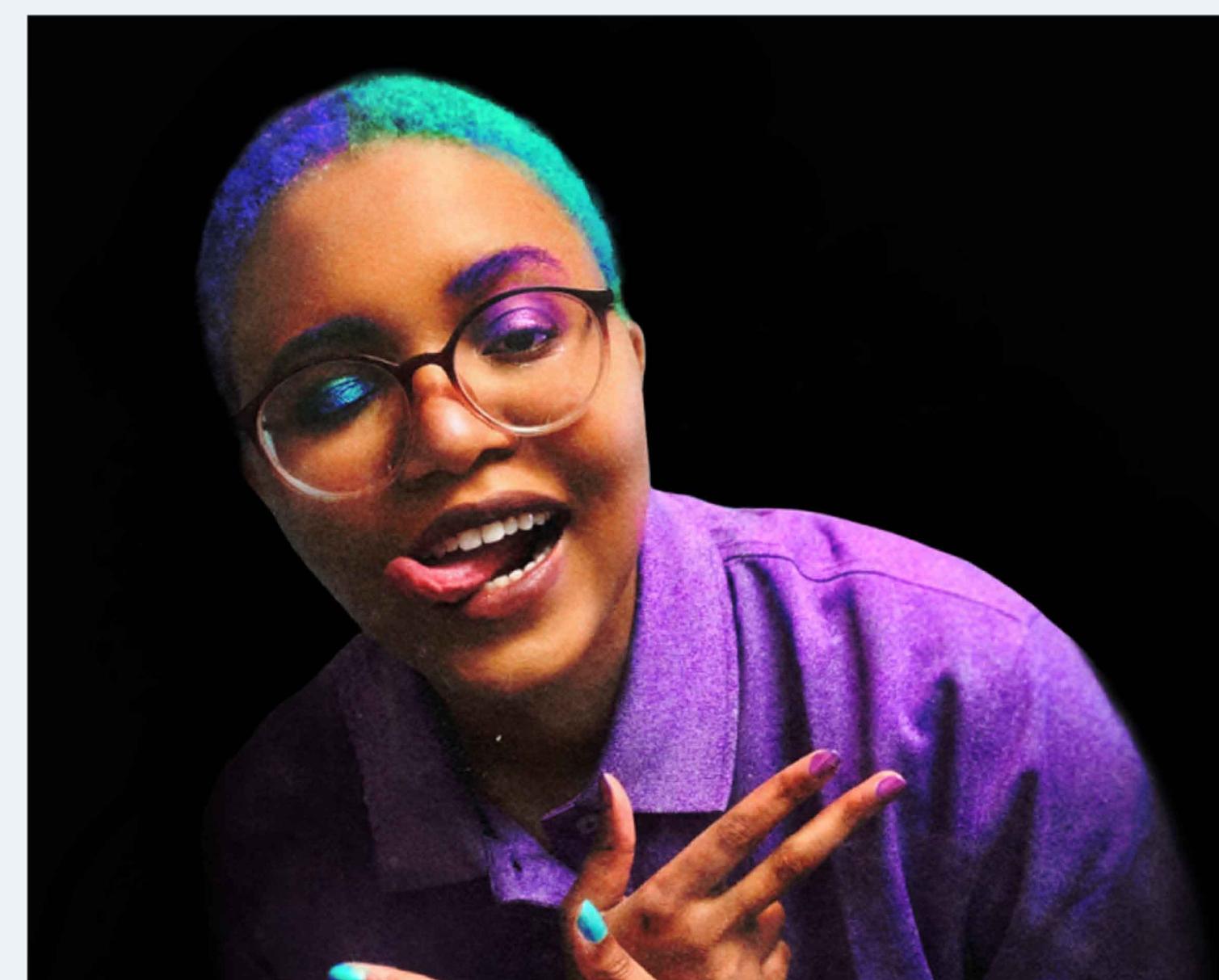
PRODUCTION TEAM

Animator: Tynesha Foreman

My name's Tynesha (They/Them/Their), a passionate and strange animator with a proclivity for the grotesque. I incorporate these passions through animation, character design and Illustration.

I've been animating for various publications, ad agencies, TV / web series all up and down the east coast. I'm currently freelancing in Eastern Pennsylvania, animating and designing with a focus on storytelling, social justice and Black Identity.

I work primarily in Stop-motion, Cel and After Effects animation. However, I like to mix all three when I get the chance. I hope to make a mark that communicates my passion to bring things to life through animation, illustration and more.



Editor: Genisia Green

Genisia Green is a video editor that has a deep passion for storytelling and bringing ideas to life through video with seven years of professional experience in pre-production, production, and post-production. After a move to Los Angeles, she quickly gained many notable clients such as BMW, RCA Recording Label and City of Aubandale Florida. She has also worked for many social media celebrities that have over 1 million subscribers. Ms. Green project was nominated for Best Short Film in the Charlotte Black Film Festival.

Sound Designer: Cyrille Taillandier

After graduating in 1996 from the Ecole Supérieure de Réalisation Audiovisuelle (Paris, France), Cyrille Taillandier started his professional career as an assistant recording engineer. From 1996 to 1999 he worked at a number of prominent French studios including Davout, Soft-ADS, Miraval, and Le Manoir. As a second engineer for the recording of the multi-platinum and award-winning *Essence Ordinaire* by the renowned French band Zebda, Cyrille worked side by side with the album's producer Nicholas Sansano and traveled to New York for the completion of the record. He fell in love with the city and moved to Brooklyn in 1999. For the next two years, Cyrille worked as a Pro Tools engineer and mix assistant with Tony Maserati on multi-platinum albums including Alicia Keys' *Songs in A Minor*, P. Diddy's *Forever* and Jennifer Lopez's *On the 6*. Cyrille has been an independent audio and Pro Tools engineer since 2001. In 2006 he began teaching at the Clive Davis Department of Recorded Music, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU. Cyrille joined Drexel University AWCoMAD's Music Industry Program in 2007. His recent credits include Angelique Kidjo's *OYO* and Lenny Kravitz's *LOW-JAXX De Luxe* Remix. Cyrille started a community recording engagement project at Drexel in 2015 to bring together artists, students, and neighbors interested in the Art of music production. He also continues his mixing work in his home studio and recently launched "Mixed by T" as his online platform.



Rhythms of the Land is a Farms To Grow, Inc. Production

www.farmstogrow.com

www.rhythmsoftheland.com

"Rhythms of the Land" Award-Winning Film

PRODUCTION TEAM



Colorist: Marilyn Rivchin

Marilyn Rivchin is a filmmaker, photographer and videomaker who taught filmmaking and digital media at Cornell University from 1979 to 2012. She holds a B.A from Barnard College in Art History, completed an intensive 16 mm filmmaking course at UCLA, and earned an M.F.A from Cornell University in Photography and Cinema Theory. Before teaching at Cornell she was the Assistant Director of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art and then lived in Haiti working as a photographer and filmmaker for two years, where she co-directed and edited, *Saint Soleil: Art for a New Life* for the United Nations Habitat Conference. She lives in Ithaca, New York.

ORIGINAL SCORE & VOCALS

Original Score: Eric Lewis

"Eric Lewis aka ELEW" was born in Camden, New Jersey in 1973; his early exposure to pianos and piano teachers started his journey of expressing through music. He studied piano at the Settlement Music School in Queen Village, near his home. In the mid- to late 90s he attracted some attention when he played with artists such as Betty Carter, Elvin Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Clark Terry (appearing as one of the pianists on the trumpeter's set of duos, *One On One*), and Cassandra Wilson (*Traveling Miles*), but it was his success in winning the 1999 Thelonious Monk International Piano Competition that substantially raised his profile. Among other artists with whom Lewis has recorded are alto saxophonist Craig Bailey, Robin Eubanks, and Wynton Marsalis.



Vocalist: Georgia Anne Muldrow

Georgia Anne Muldrow is an Instrument of the Ancestors, electronic musician, mother, mentor, activist, vocalist/ songwriter and producer.

She's collaborated in recorded work with Brittany Howard, Anderson Paak (for Flying Lotus), Erykah Badu, Yaasin Bey (Mos Def), Lakecia Benjamin, Meshell Ndegeocello, Adrian Younge and Ali Shaheed Muhammad's *Midnight Hour*, Denzel Curry, Dudley Perkins, Tank and the Bangas, Bahamadia, Henry Threadgill, Dev Hynes, Mike & Keys, Keyon Harrold, Robert Glasper, Jason Moran, Brian Jackson, Wildchild, DJ Romes, Oh No, Big Daddy Kane, Posdonous, Steve Arrington, Madlib, Bilal, Sa-Ra Creative Partners, Dwight Tribble...and many more.

You guessed it- that IS a whole lot of talented black folks. She's from L.A., raised and steeped in the afrocentric art technologies of Leimert Park. She wrote *Stay Woke* with a kiddie marker on an old white tee and it turned into a worldwide phenomenon soon after. She also thinks the blues is too good to throw away but loves that her computer listens to her better than humans can. Her *Overload* album was nominated for a Grammy, but she likes *Mama, You Can Bet!* more. She's recorded 21 records to date. Been in the morning paper quite a few times; L.A Times, New York Times. Georgia wants you to know that music is her spaceship- she's a one woman band that translates cosmic waves of music above her head... so they can touch your heart. Landed in 1983, debuted in 2004 & still alive.

Rhythms of the Land is a Farms To Grow, Inc. Production

www.farmstogrow.com
www.rhythmsoftheland.com

"Rhythms of the Land" Award-Winning Film

CONTACT INFO

For more information about the film visit our website:

www.rhythms of the land.com

And follow us on social media!

@rhythms of the land

Dr. Gail Myers is a cultural anthropologist and creator of the film project, Rhythms of the Land. She is also the Co-founder of Farms to Grow, Inc., and has been advocating for African America farmers for more than 20 years.

Farms to Grow, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to working with Black farmers and underserved sustainable farmers around the country. Farms To Grow, Inc. is committed to sustainable farming and innovative agriculture practices which preserve the cultural and biological diversity, the agroecological balance of the local environment.

Farms To Grow, Inc. aims to increase the capacity of underserved farmers to keep their farm operations and establish farming as a viable career for future generations. Underserved farmers may include Native American, Hispanic, other minority groups, women, the physically challenged and limited access organic farmers.

To learn more visit: www.farmstogrow.com
Email at: marketing@farmstogrow.com

Farms to Grow, Inc.
P.O. Box 10504, Oakland, CA 94610



"Rhythms of the Land" is a Farms to Grow, Inc. production. All Rights Reserved 2025.

Rhythms of the Land is a Farms To Grow, Inc. Production

www.farmstogrow.com
www.rhythms of the land.com