



**AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT AND US CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AMONG  
TOPICS EXPLORED FOR CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES'  
2017 DIVERSITY FELLOWS INITIATIVE FOR WOMEN FILMMAKERS OF COLOR**

**NEW YORK, NY (May 8, 2017)**–Chicken & Egg Pictures announced the newest participants of their **Diversity Fellows Initiative**. The program, in its second year, supports five nonfiction projects helmed by women directors of color making their first or second films. Among last year's cohort was Hana Mire, director of *Rajada Dalka / Nation's Hope*, who is currently in this year's Chicken & Egg Pictures Accelerator Lab program.

Chosen from a pool of international applicants for the Accelerator Lab Open Call, participants of the Diversity Fellows Initiative receive professional and creative support from the organization, which includes a \$5,000 grant; tailored mentorship and workshops on story development, pitch practice, and more; and a retreat to the DOC NYC film festival. At DOC NYC, Diversity Fellows will be given the opportunity to pitch their project to industry decision-makers such as potential funders, producers, broadcasters, supporters for their film.

"The Diversity Fellows Initiative provides emerging women filmmakers of color the practical skillsets needed to navigate the highly competitive industry of nonfiction filmmaking, but it also offers the industry a chance to engage with talented new voices and diverse perspectives." said Lucila Moctezuma, Program Director at Chicken & Egg Pictures. "It's not just an opportunity for new filmmakers, it's an opportunity for the industry as well."

Chicken & Egg Pictures' Diversity Fellows Initiative is made possible with the generous support of the Harnisch Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The 2017 Diversity Fellows Initiative projects are:

### **How to Have an American Baby**

Directed by Leslie Tai (US)

*How to Have an American Baby* is a kaleidoscopic voyage that travels behind closed doors into the booming shadow economy that caters to affluent Chinese tourists who travel to the US on birthing vacations—in order to give birth and obtain US citizenship for their babies. Tracing the underground supply chain from Beijing and Shanghai to Los Angeles, the film weaves together vignettes and deeply private moments. In bedrooms, delivery rooms, and family meetings, the story of a hidden global economy emerges—depicting the fortunes and tragedies that befall the ordinary people caught in the web of its influence.

### **Warrior Women**

Co-directed by Christina D. King & Elizabeth Castle (US)

The women of the American Indian Movement fight from a vulnerable place only matriarchs can understand—it is a battle for their children and the culture they hope to preserve for them. *Warrior Women* chronicles the struggle of Madonna Thunder Hawk and Marcy Gilbert, a Lakota mother and daughter whose fight for indigenous rights started in the 1970s and continues today at Standing Rock.

Through archival footage, verité, and video art, we experience Thunder Hawk's dedication to Red Power and come to understand that activism is necessary for the very survival and success of Native culture and values for the next generation.

### **Untitled Race & Criminal Justice Project**

Directed by Ursula Liang (US)

A nuanced look at how two communities of color navigate an uneven criminal justice system, anchored by one polarizing New York City case.

### **It Rains**

Directed by Carolina Corral (MEXICO)

Since Oliver was killed, he communicates with his mother María through the rain. He let her know the attorney's office buried him, along with 117 other corpses, in a hidden mass grave. This sparks a new life mission for María: to hold the government accountable for exhuming them all and returning the bodies back to the families who have been looking for them for years.

## **The Other Half of the African Sky**

Directed by Tapiwa Chipfupa (

*The Other Half Of The African Sky* follows filmmaker Tapiwa Chipfupa's attempts to reconcile her estrangement from her family, triggered by a disagreement over her marriage.

Through encounters with other women from all walks of life facing their own predicaments, Tapiwa explores how women hold up their half of the sky under a very constrictive and constantly contradictory environment in this very personal, brutally honest, and intriguing document of the disparities and the vast contradictions that women face in contemporary Zimbabwe. The film gives voice to the hopes, fears, and dreams of Zimbabwe's women while simultaneously revealing a country in flux.

### **ABOUT CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES**

Chicken & Egg Pictures supports women nonfiction filmmakers whose artful and innovative storytelling catalyzes social change. We envision a world in which women filmmakers, representing a range of experiences and backgrounds, are fully supported to realize their artistic goals, build sustainable careers, and achieve parity in all areas of the film industry.

Chicken & Egg Pictures was founded in 2005 by Julie Parker Benello, Wendy Ettinger, and Judith Helfand. Since inception, the organization has awarded over \$5.2 million in grants and thousands of hours of creative mentorship to over 220 films. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>.

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