

Winner: Jury Prize for Best Documentary Feature Film
at QFest, Philadelphia

ALICE WALKER

beauty in truth

a film by pratibha parmar

"Activism is the rent I pay
for living on the planet."

—Alice Walker

Dear God
I am so tired of
slipped
shirts
and pants
blankets
The pile
reach way
They are
prison laundry
Clothes. like a
heavy old brown
Someday
reach way

alicewalkerfilm.com



Kali Films | Kali8 Productions
Presents

Alice Walker

Beauty In Truth

A feature documentary film
by
Pratibha Parmar

'An intimate, exquisitely rendered portrait of one of the great artists of our time.' Ava DuVernay, Filmmaker & Founder of AAFRM

'Alice Walker is one of the great thinkers of our time, and has changed the lives of so many women with her ideas - this rich and honest film tells a story that we all need to hear.' Jude Kelly (OBE), Artistic Director, Southbank Centre UK

"The ultimate impression left by Pratibha Parmar's eloquent film is of a courageous life full of risk but full of joy too." Time Out London **** (4 star review)

"A compelling and inspirational documentary." Outfest 2013

"Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth is a dazzling, courageous portrait of the extraordinary life of a living legend." Carol Coombes, QFest

"Parmar's film masterfully presents Alice Walker's revolutionary story as integral to American history." Heidi Hutner

TIP SHEET

Title	Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth
Genre	Feature Documentary
Running Time	82 Minutes
Format	HDCam
Shooting Format	P2
Editing System	Final Cut Pro
Copyright	2013
Writer/ Director/Producer	Pratibha Parmar
Producer	Shaheen Haq
Executive Producers	Susan Lacy for PBS WNET American Masters Sally Jo Fifer for ITVS Babeth M. VanLoo Eve Ensler Regina Kulik Scully Deborah Santana
Editors	Pratibha Parmar, Paul Monaghan, Linda Peckham
Original music composed by	Tena R. Clark and Tim Heintz
Featured Music by	Christen Lien
Associate Producers	Andy Shallal
Logline	Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth, a definitive biographical portrait that charts the legendary icon's inspiring journey to international visibility as one of the most exceptional writers' of our times.
Synopsis	Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth, a compelling story about the life of writer and human rights activist Alice Walker. The film follows her epic journey from her birth on a plantation in the cotton fields of Georgia to her historic win of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for

her groundbreaking novel *The Color Purple*. Walker's story is one of triumph and inspiration. Her life unfolded during some of the most turbulent cultural and political shifts in North America. Hearing Martin Luther King speak while a student, Alice Walker's intimate involvement in the civil rights movement was inevitable.

A self-confessed renegade and outlaw, Walker was awarded the LennonOno Peace Award for her ongoing humanitarian work in 2010. *Beauty In Truth* is a definitive biographical portrait that charts the legendary icon's inspiring journey to international visibility as one of the most exceptional writers' of our times.

Contact Info

Pratibha Parmar | Shaheen Haq
info@kalifilms.com
www.alicewalkerfilm.com

SYNOPSIS

Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth is the compelling story of an extraordinary woman's journey from her birth in a paper-thin shack in the cotton fields of Eatonton, Georgia to her recognition as a key writer of the 20th Century. Alice Walker made history as the first black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for her groundbreaking novel, *The Color Purple*, which has been transformed from a novel, to a Hollywood movie and latterly to a successful Broadway musical. This universal story of triumph against all odds is not that different from Walker's own story.

Born in 1944, eighth child of sharecroppers, her early life unfolded in the midst of violent racism and poverty during some of the most turbulent years of profound social and political changes in North American history. *Beauty In Truth* looks at the art and life of an artist, a self-confessed renegade and human rights activist. Praised and pilloried, Walker is a fearless pioneer whose voice has driven people to express joy as well as anger and ruthless vilification. Alice Walker's inspiring journey is also a story of a country and a people at the fault line of historical changes.

Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth is a complex exploration of Walker as a writer, public intellectual and human rights activist. Walker was a key architect of the US civil rights movement as much as a participant. In 2010, Walker was awarded the LennonOno Peace Award for her ongoing humanitarian work by Yoko Ono. *Beauty In Truth* offers audiences a penetrating look at a life lived with passionate commitment to truth and justice.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The birth of a creative idea is always a memorable moment.

Four years ago, when I thought of making a feature documentary film on the life and art of writer, activist and poet Alice Walker, my excitement was palpable. Why hadn't this occurred to me before? I came to filmmaking from a passionate desire to see stories about women, particularly women of color who are rarely seen on mainstream television or cinema screens in all their complexity and nuance.

Where are the in-depth explorations of women as thinkers and public intellectuals, women as history makers and shapers, women who are inspirational leaders and role models for upcoming generations?

So started an exciting journey that gave birth to *Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth*.

One of the deepest desires of many a filmmaker is to engage the audience in the conversation unfolding on screen. I am thrilled to offer this in *Beauty In Truth* where Alice's openness, warmth and on screen intimacy reflects our long history of kinship.

Making *Beauty In Truth* has been an adventure of discovery and sheer inspiration.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Pratibha Parmar – Writer, Director, Producer

Short

Award winning filmmaker Pratibha Parmar is renowned for her ground breaking films which cross genres and boundaries. Nina's Heavenly Delights, her multi award winning narrative feature, a lesbian curry romance was nominated for a GLAAD Award in 2007. Pratibha is a past winner of the Frameline Film Festival Life Time Achievement Award and honoured with The Visionary Award by the One in Ten Film Festival (2007).

Long

Filmmaker Pratibha Parmar has a passionate commitment to telling human stories that illuminate experiences rarely seen in the mainstream. Parmar's award-winning work has been widely exhibited at international film festivals and broadcast in many countries. Her dedication in bringing complex subjects to mainstream media has helped changed the contours of popular discourse on race, feminism and creativity. Parmar has an exemplary track record as a director of excellent ability and vision for her pioneering documentaries and dramas.

In 1991 Parmar's career reached a critical turning point with the release of A Place of Rage, a documentary on African-American women and the civil rights movement featuring Angela Davis and June Jordan. The film received international critical acclaim and was named Best Historical Documentary at the National Black Programming Consortium in the U.S. In the same year, she broke ground with her film Khush, one of the first film's to give voice and visibility to South Asian gay and lesbian people. In 1993 Pratibha released her most challenging and inspirational film Warrior Marks, which documented female genital mutilation in Africa, at a time when the subject was taboo globally. This award-winning documentary was made in collaboration with the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Alice Walker, author of The Color Purple. Parmar and Walker also collaborated on the book Warrior Marks – Female Genital Mutilation and the Sexual Blinding of Women, which documented the making of the film (Jonathan Cape UK, Harcourt Brace US).

Nina's Heavenly Delights, her award winning narrative feature film debut was released theatrically in the UK and US in 2006¹⁷ and nominated for a GLAAD Award.

Pratibha is the co-author and editor of several books. In October 2007, she was awarded the Visionary Award for her body of work from the One in Ten Film Festival, and is a past winner of the Frameline Film Festival Life Time Achievement Award.

Shaheen Haq – Producer

Shaheen Haq is a Production Executive with Kali Films. Her association with the company began twenty years ago as a Production Designer on Parmar's early films Sari Red, Emergence, A Place of Rage, Khush, and Warrior Marks. In her role as the lead producer on Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth, Shaheen actively raised finance for the

documentary with international broadcasters and investors. Shaheen has a background of 20 years of experience as an architect and project manager where she was actively involved in bids, schedules, resources, organising and managing multiple projects from initial creative development through to successful final delivery on schedule and within budgets. She brings this discipline and extensive knowledge base to her film producing career. Shaheen had the challenging job of organizing 16 shoots over the last 3 years and successfully reporting to almost as many funders for *Beauty In Truth*.

Tena R. Clark - Composer

A musical compass has guided Clark from rural Mississippi to Hollywood. Beginning at age five, she would visit New Orleans with her mother, a songwriter from the big band era, where she absorbed the city's intoxicating rhythms. Her first professional gig at 15 was playing drums at the Crescent City's famed Roosevelt Hotel. Since then, Clark has excelled in multiple genres across an astonishing breadth of mediums. Highlights include penning award-winning country hits, contributing to multi-platinum movie soundtracks including *Hope Floats*, *The Five Heart Beats*, *Where the Heart Is*, and *My Best Friend's Wedding*. Tena has written and produced hits for the likes of Patti LaBelle, LeAnn Rimes, Dionne Warwick and Aretha Franklin and amassed a slew of film and television credits. In 1997, she brought her interests under one umbrella when she launched DMI Music & Media Solutions.

"Alice Walker has always been an inspiration to me. Being asked to score the Alice Walker documentary "Beauty in Truth" was an honor and a dream come true. Working with the courageous and steadfast director/producer Pratibha Parmar and producer, Shaheen Haq has been a breath of hope and fresh air in a world of mediocre and toxic content." (Tena Clark)

Featured Music by Christen Lien

Classically trained musician Christen Lien performs original compositions on viola and bass guitar that are a mixture of classical and postmodern, acoustic and electronic sounds. Incorporating the use of guitar effect processors and looping pedals, Lien creates hybrid music and haunting, evocative performance art. Lien's career has been a study of the subconscious, with the intention of creating sensory experiences through music and media that allow audiences to process the most challenging and vulnerable emotions and ideas of our times.

"It has been an honor to provide music to accompany the heartfelt story of Alice Walker, a brilliant artist who captures both the light and dark perspectives of what it means to be alive through her courageous actions and through the stories she shares." (Christen Lien)

INTERVIEWEES

Interviewees order of appearance

Evelyn C White
Danny Glover
Gloria Steinem
Melvyn R Leventhal
Howard Zinn
Professor Beverley Guy-Sheftall
Fred Walker
Sonia Sanchez
Sapphire
Jewelle Gomez
Robert Allen
Professor Jennifer DeVere Brody
Quincy Jones
Steven Spielberg
Peter Guber
Arisika Razak
Jack Kornfield
Yoko Ono
Alexis Pauline Gumbs
Professor Angela Y Davis

Featuring
Alice Walker