



"What the people want is very simple -  
they want an America as good as its promise."

Barbara Jordan

# THE INQUISITOR

**DIRECTED BY ANGELA LYNN TUCKER   PRODUCED BY TREVITE WILLIS AND MOIRA GRIFFIN**





# THE INQUISITOR

**World Premiere**

USA, 2025, 98 min  
1.85:1, 5.1 Surround Sound, Color

## PRESS CONTACTS

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# LOGLINE

In 1972, Barbara Jordan became the first Southern Black woman to join Congress. THE INQUISITOR chronicles Representative Jordan's meteoric rise offering a blueprint for uniting a divided America through a turbulent political era.

# SYNOPSIS

As a young girl in Houston's Fifth Ward, Barbara Jordan was taught to defy expectations. She understood that to succeed, she would need to forge her own path. With relentless determination and unyielding tenacity, Barbara Jordan made history as Texas's first Black state senator and the first Southern Black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In a world dominated by white men, she moved with deft skill, earning both their respect and their fear. At a time when the idea of a Black woman holding power seemed inconceivable, Barbara Jordan created a roadmap for change. The Inquisitor chronicles the life of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, whose electrifying voice and moral clarity during President Richard Nixon's impeachment captivated the nation. Earning her the moniker "The Inquisitor."



# DIRECTORS STATEMENT

My films explore how Black women like myself fight to maintain our agency, joy, and imagination, even in the face of suppression. I examine how we navigate the forces that seek to limit our freedom—and how we transform those challenges into power, not just for ourselves, but for our communities.

To explore the rapidly shifting political landscape—one that is only now beginning to reflect the true demographics of our country—I have been working on a trilogy of films about Southern Black women and political power. *THE INQUISITOR* is the final chapter of this series.

At a time when Americans are both profoundly divided over and deeply unaware of their shared history, Barbara Jordan's story feels more urgent than ever. A powerful Black woman with an unforgettable public voice and a complex private life, she offers us an essential perspective in our national conversation.

At the core of this film is Barbara Jordan's reflection on the cyclical nature of history, a concept she expresses herself in the opening of the film. This idea serves as the thread that connects the narrative and structure, suggesting that history tends to repeat itself unless we actively reframe it. While many films covering these time periods focus on the white, male presence, the goal of this film is to offer a different perspective—one that adds depth to our understanding of history by incorporating these often overlooked narratives. It is an attempt to reframe history in a more intersectional way, contributing to a hopefully more inclusive form of historical storytelling that acknowledges the multiple dimensions of identity that shape individual and collective experiences.

Over the five years of making this film, the world has changed dramatically. Democracy feels more fragile than ever, and many people feel lost. Barbara's words stay with me: "What Americans want is simple. They want an America as good as its promise."

How will we get there?

I hope this film serves as both a balm for the times and a roadmap from Barbara in the great beyond. Making this film has kept me grounded through these turbulent years. For our team, THE INQUISITOR has been more than a project—it has been a purpose. Now, as we release it into the world, we carry forward what Barbara stood for.

We must all be inquisitors for our rights and for those who cannot fight for themselves.

**Angela Tucker**  
Director, THE INQUISITOR



# CREDITS

Directed and Produced by Angela Lynn Tucker

Produced by Trevite Willis, Moira Griffin

Internal narration of Barbara Jordan voiced by Alfre Woodard

Director of Photography and Co-Producer Duane Prefume

Edited by Annukka Lilja

Original Score by Omar Fadel

Executive Producers Jameka Autry, Katy Drake Bettner, Tyrone Dixon

Executive Producer Carrie Lozano

Supervising Producer Michael Kinomoto

Executive Producers for Firelight Media Stanley Nelson, Marcia Smith

Supervising Producer Julia Pontecorvo

Executive Producer for BPM Leslie Fields-Cruz, Denise A. Greene

Archival Producers Michelle Ngo, Susanne Mason

Co-Producer Charu Raman

Associate Producer Ausinikka Hunter

Consulting Producers Anurima Bhargava, Toneisha Taylor, Noland Walker

Co-Executive Producer Jennifer Pelling,

Executive Producers Grace Lay, Jonathan Logan

Animation by Kelly Gallagher

Graphics by Mindbomb

Motion Graphics Artists Christopher Kirk, Syd Garon

# DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY



**Angela Tucker** is an Emmy and Webby-winning filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist. She produced *BELLY OF THE BEAST* (PBS' *Independent Lens*) and directed and co-wrote the holiday film *A NEW ORLEANS NOEL*, starring Keisha Knight Pulliam and Patti LaBelle (Lifetime).

Her latest film, *THE INQUISITOR*, will premiere at the 2025 Tribeca Film Festival. The documentary focuses on political icon Barbara Jordan and is the final installment in a series about Southern Black women and political power, which includes *ALL SKINFOLK*, *AIN'T KINFOLK* (PBS' *Reel South*) and *I AM NOT GOING TO CHANGE 400 YEARS IN 4*, co-directed by Kristi Jacobson (PBS' *Independent Lens*). Her documentary series *BLACK FOLK DON'T* was featured in Time Magazine's "10 Ideas That Are Changing Your Life."

Angela's work creates sanctuaries for Black thought, blending memory, resistance, and joy. She recently had her first solo exhibition in New Orleans and was an artist-in-residence at the True/False Film Festival. A member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Angela is a recipient of fellowships from the Sundance Institute, Firelight Media, Chicken & Egg Films, and Film Independent. She holds a BA from Wesleyan University and an MFA from Columbia University.

# PRODUCER BIOGRAPHIES



**Moira Griffin** is a producer and strategist based in Los Angeles for New Bumper and Paint Productions in partnership with writer/director Marshall Tyler. Her recent award-winning projects include *Slow Pulse* (CBS/BET), *Cap* (HBO), *Night Shift* (Sundance) Exec Produced by Viola Davis & Julius Tennon (Juvee Productions), and *Landline* (HULU). Her projects have premiered at festivals including Sundance Film Festival, SXSW, ABFF, and the Tribeca Film Festival. NBP is currently developing projects across all genres including the documentary, *The Prince of Seventh Avenue: The Legend of WilliWear/Willi Smith* (Vogue Studios/Conde Nast) and the narrative film

*Fever Dream*. In addition, she is producing the PBS documentary *The Inquisitor* about the life of Barbara Jordan directed by Angela Tucker, through her company Alice's Plan. A graduate of the University of Windsor, Moira was the Executive Director of Production & Creative Labs for 21st Century Fox and the Head of Diversity Initiatives at the Sundance Institute where she created partnerships with Macro Entertainment and the Will & Jada Smith Foundation, as well as supported the career development of notable directors including Sydney Freeland, Marta Cunningham, Erica Watson, Marielle Heller, Gandja Montiero among others. She also created the Ethiopian Film Initiative for the IEFTA, a program that has expanded throughout the MENA region and is a founder of the acclaimed Rooftop Films series in New York City. Moira is a Film Independent Alumn and Blackhouse Producing Fellow.



**Trevite Willis** is the Head of Development and Production at Best Yet Entertainment and a film festival founder committed to courageous storytelling. Ms. Willis was one of the Co-Producers on the Broadway musical, *THE WIZ*; Executive Producer on the Sundance 2024 film, *KIDNAPPING, INC.*; Co-Executive Producer on the Sundance 2023 film, *TO LIVE AND DIE AND LIVE*; and was an executive producer on the Sundance 2020 award-winning film, *FORTY YEAR OLD VERSION*. She has produced 9 feature films, including *LOVE, JOY AND POWER: TOOLS OR LIBERATION*, *THE INQUISITOR: THE BARBARA JORDAN DOC* (2025 Tribeca), *CARGO* (2017 Amnesty International Human Rights Prize), and

*CHILDREN OF GOD* which had theatrical releases in the US, UK and The Netherlands, won 17 awards, and sold in 24 territories. In 2018, Ms. Willis launched the Southern Fried Film Festival in Huntsville, Alabama with fellow founder, Kelley Reischauer. She was a 2020 Blackhouse Multicultural Producers Lab fellow. She is an alumni of Trans Atlantic Partners (2017), a Sundance Catalyst fellow (2018), and a Women at Sundance Strategy Intensive fellow (2017, 2019). Ms Willis was a SXSW Tech Conference speaker (*Mining Diversity: Developing a Community of Color*, 2012).