

KANE LEWIS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

DIRECTED BY RICHARD KANE  
DOCUMENTARY, 63 MIN. 2021

# TRUTH TELLERS



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# LOGLINE

An artist's journey to paint portraits of activists fighting for racial justice, indigenous rights, and climate justice and shine a light on the power of truth telling in America.

# SYNOPSIS

Truth Tellers is a new documentary film diving into the lives of courageous Americans fighting for racial justice, climate change and indigenous rights through the eyes of Robert Shetterly, a long time activist and artist. The film explores the intersection of these timely issues stressing the urgency of coming together to confront them and galvanizing our resolve to uphold our country's founding ideals.

For artist/activist Robert Shetterly, it's a citizen with the moral courage to confront issues of social, environmental and economic fairness. Shetterly has painted 255 portraits of such Americans, past and present, with their words inscribed into the dark background of the portrait. These Americans Who Tell the Truth have been exhibited throughout

the United States for almost two decades. Truth Tellers is both a story of Shetterly's art and activism and a history lesson in what it means to be a citizen of a democracy. In bringing Shetterly's message to a wide audience, Truth Tellers will spark a national conversation on truth telling.



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# BIOS



## Richard Kane | Director, Editor, Cinematographer

Richard is an independent director whose work is focused on the intersection of art and contemporary American life. Previous film releases include, J. Fred Woell: An American Vision, I Know a Man ... Ashley Bryan, Imber's Left Hand, and 15 others, all part of the Maine Masters collection, a New England Emmy-nominated series of portraits that airs on public television. With partner Melody Lewis-Kane, their company, Kane-Lewis Productions, has worked for National Geographic, The Discovery Channel, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the White House Office of Technology Policy among many others. Kane-Lewis produced the Natural Resources Council of Maine's 50th anniversary film Protecting the Nature of Maine, an indie doc ROCK SOLID: The Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium and the classic award-winning documentary M.C. Richards: The Fire Within. From 2007-2016 Richard served as chair of the Maine Film & Video Association.



## Melody Lewis-Kane | Co Producer

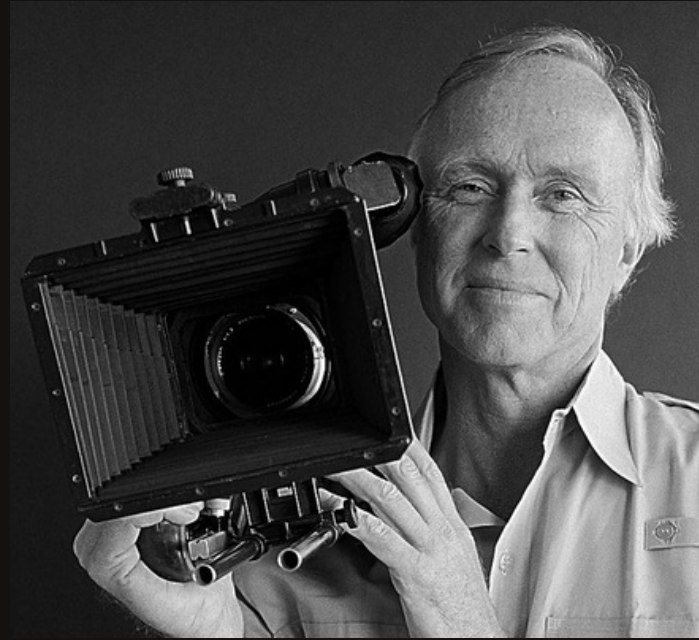
Melody is a potter, arts educator and filmmaker and is the primary consultant on all arts and education films produced by Kane-Lewis Productions. She is the "Lewis" partner in their production company and often acts as producer and interviewer. For Imber's Left Hand Melody's role was co-producer, interviewing several subjects and participating in all editing reviews. She was the producer of the documentary M.C. Richards: The Fire Within, selected for 12 film festivals winning Best Film at the Image Gazer Film Festival, and produced a series of arts-in-education teacher training films for the John F. Kennedy Center Education Department. Melody produced and co-wrote Arts & History: Storytelling funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Kennedy Center Education Department. She is the author of four arts-in-education curriculum guides including the guide that accompanies the Maine Masters film Stephen Pace: Maine Master, a film that was nominated for a New England Emmy Award. She is now guiding the development of a Resource Guide for Teachers and Librarians for I Know a Man ... Ashley Bryan, in collaboration with the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



## Judith Dwan Hallet | Writer

Judith Dwan Hallet is an award-winning documentary filmmaker who has been making films for 50 years. After college, she joined the Peace Corps and went to Tunisia where she made a film on the Berber Villages of Southern Tunisia. In 1986, National Geographic Television hired her as the Senior Producer for EXPLORER. There she oversaw more than 60 documentaries. She also produced and directed 4 of her own films including a documentary on Jane Goodall. In 1991, Judith formed her own company, JUDITH DWAN HALLET PRODUCTIONS. Over her career she has made over 100 documentaries in 17 countries around the world on subjects as diverse as a tribe living in tree houses in the rainforest of New Guinea, to the gauchos in Argentina, and a biography on Pope John Paul II as well as on the return of the buffalo to Yellowstone and the American Indian reservations. She has received many distinguished awards including Woman of Vision Creative Excellence Award from Women in Film and Video in Washington DC and an Emmy from The National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in recognition for her significant contributions to the broadcast industry.

# BIOS



## **Bob Elfstrom | Cinematographer**

Early in his career, Bob Elfstrom lucked into getting a job as camera operator for two fathers of the American documentary film movement, David and Albert Maysles. He shot three films for them including Gimme Shelter, about the Rolling Stones' 1969 tour and their fateful Altamont Free Concert. Bob has shot and directed documentaries for half a century and won multiple Emmys and Academy Award nominations. His resume includes the likes of PBS, Frontline and National Geographic and a feature film with Brian De Palma and Robert De Niro. To appreciate Bob's lengthy career, check out his film credits at [www.bobelfstrom.com](http://www.bobelfstrom.com) and [imdb](https://www.imdb.com).



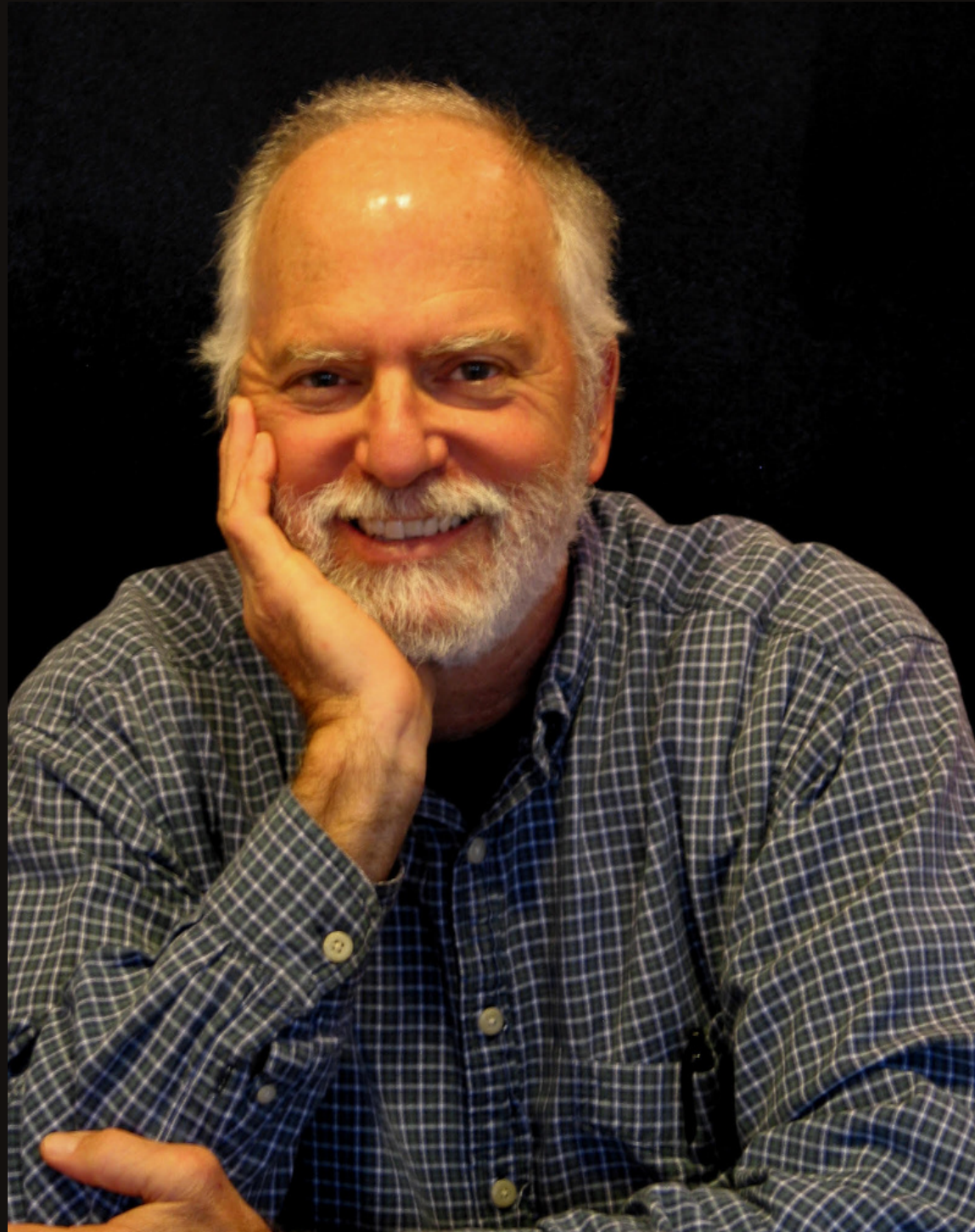
## **Betty Burkes | Consulting Producer**

Betty Burkes has been an educator/activist for five decades. She has been a Montessori teacher for children, a peace educator with the United Nations, and educational consultant with Rethinkers in New Orleans. Her activism has been expressed internationally and nationally with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and as a columnist at the Cape Cod Times. She began her meditation practice over 40 years ago with Phiroz Mehta at the Buddhist Society in London, and with Krishnamurti during his residences near London. Since 2001 those seeds of mindfulness and loving kindness have been nourished at the Cambridge Insight Meditation Center (CIMC). Betty has served on the CIMC Board since 2012.



## **Marga Varea | Impact producer**

Marga Varea is the founder of Twin Seas Media, a Boston-based impact distribution boutique agency working with documentary films and documentary film festivals. With over twenty years of experience in film and television, Marga has a deep understanding of the industry and believes in the power of storytelling to engage, educate and transform. Marga has worked with dozens of documentary films and film festivals over the years in a variety of positions from screenwriter and script consultant to line and consulting producer. For the past decade, she has designed and led many successful impact campaigns for documentaries such as: *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North* (2008, official SUNDANCE selection and PBS/POV), *1913 Seeds of Conflict* (2015), *I Know a Man... Ashley Bryan* (2015), *Lobster War* (2018) *Activated* (2019) and *A Reckoning in Boston* (2020).

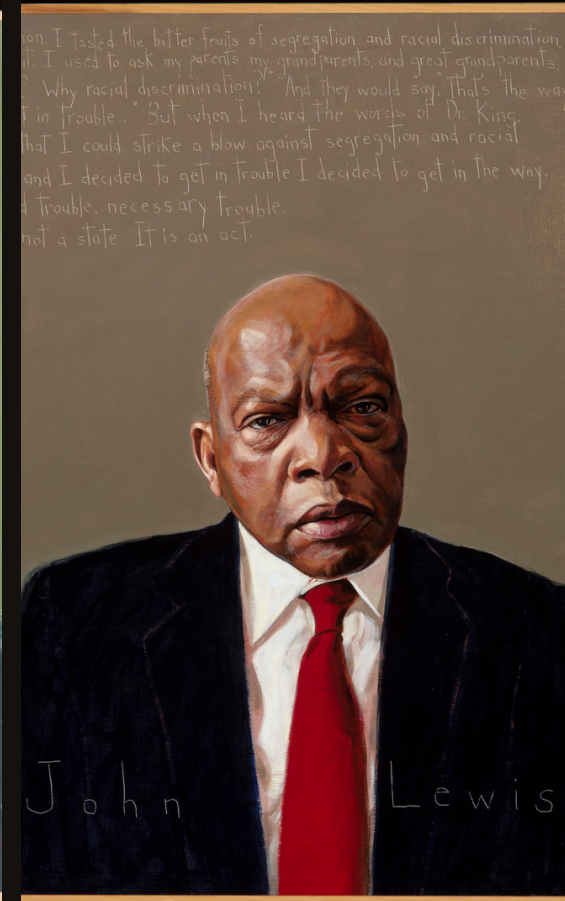
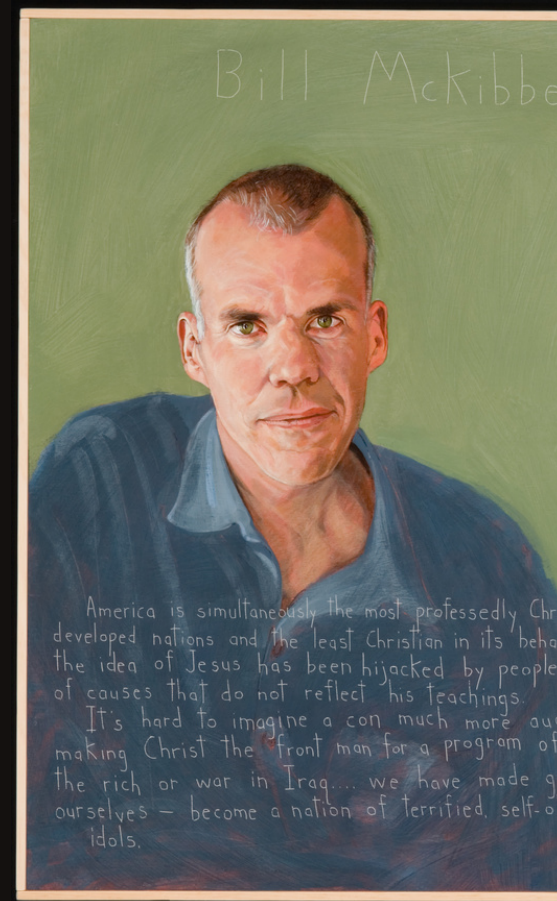
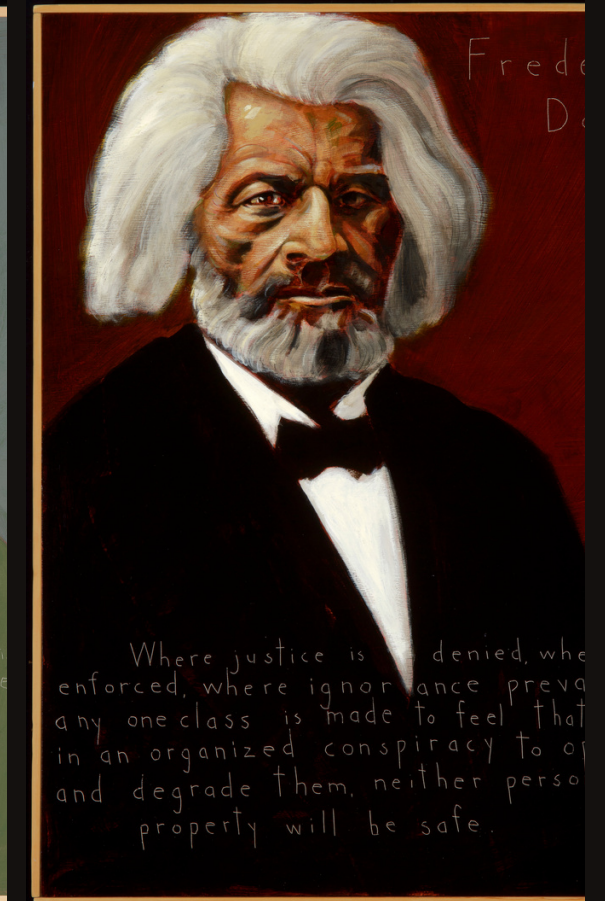
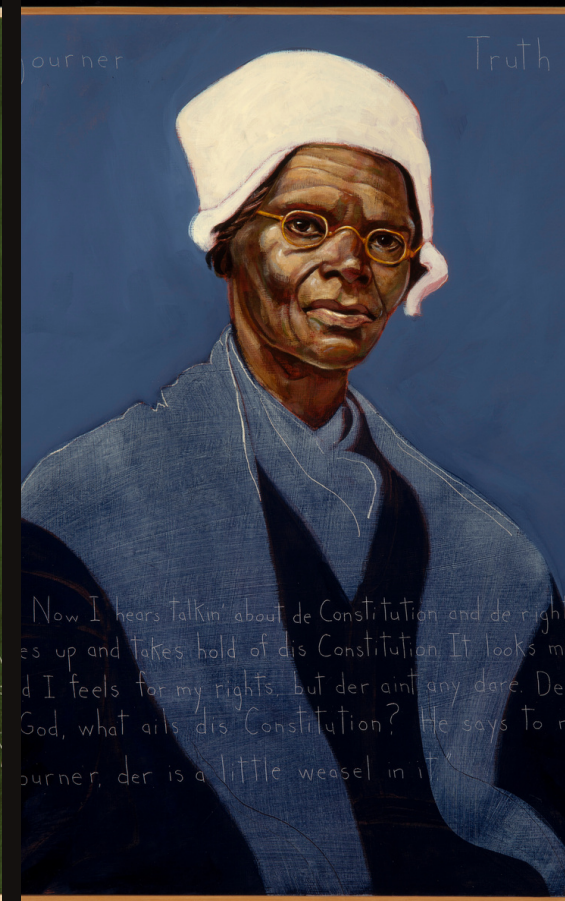


### **Robert Shetterly | Subject, artist & activist**

Robert Shetterly was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated in 1969 from Harvard College with a degree in English Literature. At Harvard he took some courses in drawing which changed the direction of his creative life -- from the written word to the image. Also, during this time, he was active in Civil Rights and in the Anti-Vietnam War movement. After college and moving to Maine in 1970, he taught himself drawing, printmaking, and painting.

Robert's paintings and prints are in collections all over the U.S. and Europe. A collection of his drawings & etchings, *Speaking Fire at Stones*, was published in 1993. He is well known for his series of 70 painted etchings based on William Blake's "Proverbs of Hell", and for another series of 50 painted etchings reflecting on the metaphor of the Annunciation. His painting has tended toward the narrative and the surreal, however, for more than ten years he has been painting the series of portraits *Americans Who Tell the Truth*. The exhibit has been traveling around the country since 2003. The portraits have given Shetterly an opportunity to speak with children and adults all over this country about the necessity of dissent in a democracy, the obligations of citizenship, sustainability, US history, and how democracy cannot function if politicians don't tell the truth, if the media don't report it, and if the people don't demand it.

"Shetterly is... an invaluable chronicler of 21st century America" - Bill Moyers





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