



OUTTA THE MUCK

A FILM BY IRA MCKINLEY & BHAWIN SUCHAK



SOCIAL CHANGE IN MIND PRODUCTIONS



SOUTHERN DOCUMENTARY FUND



SOCIAL CHANGE IN MIND PRODUCTIONS AND ITVS PRESENTS A FILM BY IRA MCKINLEY AND BHAWIN SUCHAK
PRODUCED BY TRACY RECTOR AND DARIAN HENRY EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY SAM POLLARD AND SALLY JO FIFER
FEATURING BRIDGET DEAN AND ALVIN DEAN

WWW.OUTTATHEMUCK.COM

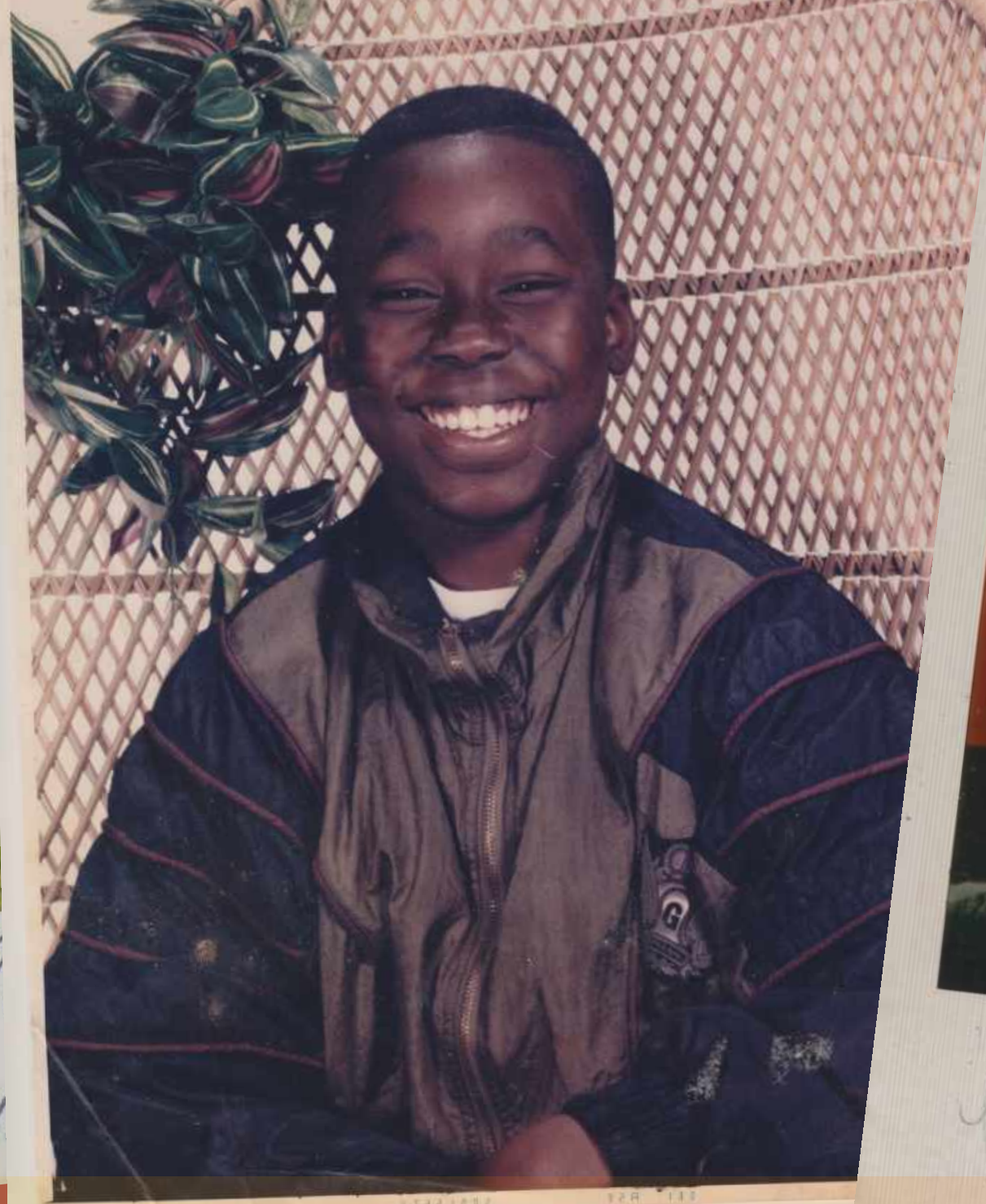
THE MUCK

Pahokee is a small rural city of approximately 6,344 people located in the Everglades region of South Florida, on the ancestral lands of the Seminole and Miccosukee people. Pahokee gets its name from the Seminole word for the Everglades region, Pa-ha-yo-kee, which means "grassy waters". Sitting on the shores of Lake Okeechobee, the area is known as "The Muck", named so because of the nutrient rich, dark soil which is unique to the land.





1994
THE JAMES GANG 4
C.I



Bridgett D.

SYNOPSIS

Family, football and history come to life in an intimate portrait of the Dean family, longtime residents of the historic town of Pahokee, Florida. We take a journey back home, with filmmaker Ira McKinley, to the land of sugarcane, as he reconnects with his niece Bridget and nephew Alvin and explores their shared family history that spans seven generations. Told through stories that transcend space and time, *Outta The Muck* presents a community, and a family, that resists despair with love, remaining fiercely self-determined, while forging their own unique narrative of Black achievement.



ALVIN DEAN

"It's like a dream. For people to see my families story, what we went through, our journey, how we stuck together, it's gonna wake people up and change the world. This film gives you a glimpse into the core aspects of what makes a community. The history, our ancestors, the football, the family, we're showing the world the culture of the Muck. I'm telling you it's gonna change the world."



BRIDGETT DEAN

"I mean everything is the truth, there's no script, this the real truth about how we live here in Pahokee. I hope what people get out of this film is that no matter where you're from, what your background is, what your income is, and however you're living there's still hope. I don't care how bad the situation is keep your eyes on the future."



OUR TEAM



IRA MCKINLEY DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/WRITER

Ira McKinley is a filmmaker and activist and the director/producer of the award-winning documentary *The Throwaways*. Born in Upstate New York he is now based in South Florida where *Outta The Muck* is set. Ira started his activism in the 1980's when he participated in Act Up in Ithaca, NY. During the winters of 2007/2008 he started a Homeless Arts Showcase in Northampton, MA's Pulaski Park which was inspired by his fifteen years being homeless himself. Ira is the recipient of the 2014 ACLU Carol S. Knox award, 2013 MLK Storytelling + Activist Award from Siena College, 2009 Northampton Arts Council's Emerging Filmmaker Award, and was the 2009 Producer of the Year for Northampton Community Television. His current film *Outta The Muck* tells the story of his family roots in Pahokee, FL and is being produced with support from ITVS, JustFilms, Sundance, and Southern Documentary Fund.



BHAWIN SUCHAK DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/DOP/EDITOR

Bhawin is an educator, filmmaker, and founding member/co-executive director of Youth FX, a media arts organization focused on empowering young people of color in Albany, NY and around the world by teaching them creative and technical skills in film and digital media while supporting self-determined communities of emerging artists. Bhawin is the co-founder and co-director of NeXt Doc, a year-round fellowship program that exists to amplify the voices of documentary filmmakers of color between the ages of 20-24 years old. Bhawin is the co-director, producer, cinematographer and editor of *Outta The Muck* (2022), a feature length documentary supported by ITVS, JustFilms, Sundance, and Southern Documentary Fund. He previously co-directed, *The Throwaways* (2014) with Ira McKinley, and *Free To Learn* (2004).



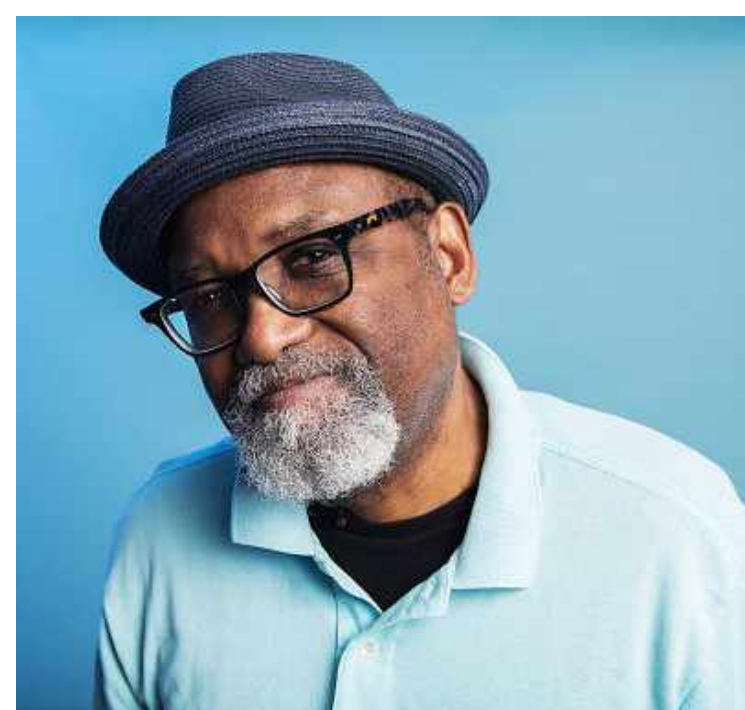
TRACY RECTOR PRODUCER

Tracy Rector approaches storytelling with a passion for amplifying and uplifting Indigenous and BIPOC voices. She has two decades of experience as a community organizer, educator, filmmaker, film programmer, and arts curator, all infused with her deep roots in plant medicine. For the last 20 years she has directed and produced over 400 films including shorts, features, music videos, and virtual reality projects. Her work has been featured on Independent Lens, ImagineNative, National Geographic, and the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian, as well as at international film festivals including Cannes and Toronto. Tracy recently completed her second term as a Seattle Arts Commissioner, sits on the boards of the Mize Foundation, the Flaherty Seminar, and Working Films, and is the co-founder of Longhouse Media and the founder of Indigenous Showcase.



DARIAN HENRY PRODUCER

Darian Henry is a filmmaker, digital-media educator, founding member, and co-executive director of the nationally known film and digital media organization Youth FX. She has shot, directed, and produced over 50 short documentary, narrative, and experimental films. In 2016 Darian co-founded NeXt Doc, a year-long documentary fellowship designed to amplify the voices of emerging documentary storytellers between the ages of 20-24 from diverse backgrounds. As an educator, Darian uses film and digital media as a means to empower and inspire black and brown youth in a wide range of Youth FX programs that arm them with the skills, techniques and access needed to create films based on their own realities and imagination. Darian is currently working as a producer on Ira McKinley and Bhawin Suchak's feature-length documentary film *Outta the Muck* which is supported by Sundance Institute and ITVS.



SAM POLLARD EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Sam Pollard, Director, is one of the most respected names in the world of documentary cinema, the recipient of an Oscar nomination and multiple Emmy awards. He produced the HBO documentaries *Four Little Girls*, *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*, and *If God is Willing and Da Creek Don't Rise*. Sam directed the acclaimed documentary *Slavery by Another Name*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and subsequently aired on PBS. He also directed four episodes of PBS's *American Masters*--including, most recently, *August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand*--and two installments of the groundbreaking series *Eyes on the Prize*. In 2017 Sam premiered three new films: *ACORN & The Firestorm*, *Maynard & Sammy Davis, Jr: I've Gotta Be Me*. His latest film *MLK/FBI* was shortlisted for an Academy Award in 2020.



TECHNICAL SPECS

FORMAT: HD, 2K

RUNTIME: 82 Minutes

AUDIO: DOLBY 5.1

Online Press Materials: [DROPBOX LINK](#)

Email bhawin74@gmail.com to request private viewing link



DIRECTORS STATEMENT

IRA - I can remember my father taking me and my sisters to Pahokee, this magical place when I was a child. It was the place where he and my mother met. I remember thinking, if there is a paradise this has to be it. We used to go every year (sometimes twice,) from the time I can remember, up until my father was shot and killed by police in 1979. I wanted to share the experience of my family and the seven generations of people in my lineage who stayed there even at the height of many epidemics. I wanted to take you on a magical journey through my childhood memories and let you see the people, the land, and the rich history of Pahokee through mine and my family's point-of-view.

BHAWIN - Ira and I have known and worked with each other for 10 years, this is our second film together. When he first shared the story of his family and their roots in Pahokee, automatically I wanted to support in this critical process of preserving a family's history and their presence and their lineage in this town. The process of creating *Outta the Muck* demanded constant self-reflection and conversation not only with each other but with the people in the film and the broader community! At every turn, they were holding us accountable, and we welcomed this as a means of humbling ourselves to the reality of people's concerns and allowing the film to be a collaborative process with Ira's family members.

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