



## Un(re)solved A Multiplatform Investigation

Documentary | Podcast Series | Interactive Experience | Augmented-Reality Installation | Tour | Curriculum

*\*World Premiere at Tribeca Festival 2021*

*\*Included in Tribeca Festival's Juneteenth Programming*

*\*Official Selection for Best Creative Non-Fiction Competition (Interactive)*

*\* Official Selection for Narrative Nonfiction (Podcast)*

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**Project brief:** *Un(re)solved* is a major initiative that draws upon more than two years of reporting, thousands of documents and dozens of first-hand interviews. The multiplatform investigation tells the stories of lives cut short, and examines a federal effort to grapple with America's legacy of racist killings through the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act. The story takes many shapes. It is told through a web-based interactive experience, serialized podcast, augmented-reality installation and documentary.

## SYNOPSIS:

### THE INTERACTIVE



**Short:** *Un(re)solved* tells a story of lives cut short and examines a federal effort to investigate more than 150 civil rights era cold cases.

**Long:** *Un(re)solved* is the story of lives cut short. Most were Black, many were victims of a campaign of racist terror unleashed across the United States for decades. A soldier coming home to his pregnant wife. The first woman to become a prosecutor in Louisville. A young Black man whose death sparked a movement. A member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine. In this immersive interactive storytelling experience, shine the light of truth upon their stories and learn about the limits and failures of a federal effort to right wrongs in the country's past.

## THE INSTALLATION



**Short:** Say their names. Know their stories. Visit the *Un(re)solved* installation and use augmented-reality to bring civil rights era killings, often racist murders, out of the shadows of the past.

**Long:** Say their names. Know their stories. Who are the men, women and children whose cases were re-examined under the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act? In the *Un(re)solved* installation, explore a living quilt and use augmented reality to bring to life the stories woven throughout. Learn about a federal effort to grapple with America's legacy of racist killings.



## THE PODCAST

**Short:** What prompted a new FBI initiative to investigate unsolved civil rights era murders? And what would justice look like for families whose loved ones were killed?

**Long:** What prompted the FBI to investigate over one hundred unsolved civil rights era killings? And what does justice look like for families whose loved ones were killed? Reporter James Edwards seeks answers to these questions, reflecting on his own family's experiences along the way.

## UN(RE)SOLVED VIDEO REEL

<https://wgbh.cimediapcloud.com/r/Xw1wP3rKSZrt>

## THE COLLABORATORS & ADVISORY COUNCIL

A distinguished advisory council that includes:

- Margaret Burnham, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project at Northeastern University
- Jelani Cobb, Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism
- Rhea Combs, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery
- Leslie Fields-Cruz, Black Public Media
- Hank Klibanoff, Georgia Civil Rights Cold Cases Project at Emory University
- Jerry Mitchell, Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting
- Stanley Nelson, Firelight Media
- Ron Nixon, The Associated Press
- Lisa Osborne, Black Public Media

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## ADVISORY COUNCIL



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## FAQS

### What is Un(re)solved?

*Un(re)solved* is a multiplatform investigation that draws upon more than two years of reporting, thousands of documents and dozens of first-hand interviews. FRONTLINE spoke to family and friends of the victims, and witnesses, some of whom had never been interviewed; current and former Justice Department officials and FBI agents, state and local law



enforcement; lawmakers, civil-rights leaders and investigative journalists, to explore the Department of Justice's re-examining of civil rights era cold cases under the 2008 Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act.

In addition to an examination of the federal effort, the project features the first comprehensive, interactive list of all those whose cases were reopened by the Department of Justice. Today, the list stands at 151 names. Among the victims: voting rights advocates, veterans, Louisville's first female prosecutor, business owners, mothers, fathers, and children.

Read more about how FRONTLINE combined powerful investigative reporting with art and technology to produce the Un(re)solved series, [here](#).

### ***What will the project consist of?***

The project consists of a web-based interactive experience, serialized podcast, a touring augmented-reality exhibit, documentary and companion education curriculum for high schools and universities.

### ***What inspired Un(re)solved?***

A project like *Un(re)solved* would not be possible without the historic and contemporary contributions of universities, civil rights groups, and the press, particularly the Black press, who have ensured the ongoing public record of racist violence in the United States. To pay homage to these groups, the web interactive begins with a quote from journalist, activist and researcher Ida B. Wells, one of the first to document with precision the horrors of racial terror in America. "The way to right wrongs," she wrote, "is to turn the light of truth upon them."

### ***What does the imagery in the web interactive and installation represent?***

Artist, filmmaker, and technologist Tamara Shogaolu rooted the visuals in the web interactive and installation in the powerful symbolism of trees. In the United States, trees evoke the ideal of liberty, but also speak to an oppressive history of racially motivated violence. "I was really inspired by looking at the role of the tree as a symbol in American history," Shogaolu said. "It's been looked at as a symbol of freedom, we look at it as a connector between generations, and also there's the association of trees with racial terror." When designing the creative vision for Un(re)solved Shogaolu wondered whether she might be able to reclaim the symbol of the tree. "As a person of color, we're often terrified of being in isolated places in the woods. And I thought it was kind of crazy that there are natural environments that instinctually give great fear because of this connection with racial terror and I wanted to reclaim that — to turn these into beautiful spaces."

Un(re)solved weaves imagery of trees, which also recall family ties, into patterns and textures from the American tradition of quilting. Among enslaved African Americans forbidden to read or write, quilts provided an important space to document family stories. Today, quilting remains a creative outlet rich with story and tradition for many American communities.

### ***What are our organizations known for?***

FRONTLINE (PBS) is U.S. television's longest running investigative documentary series known for exploring the issues of our times through powerful reporting and storytelling.

Ado Ato Pictures is a premier mixed reality studio founded by artist, filmmaker, and technologist Tamara Shogaolu.

StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit project whose mission is to record, preserve, and share the stories of Americans from all backgrounds and beliefs.

Northeastern University's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ) is a mission-driven program of interdisciplinary teaching, research and policy analysis on race, history, and criminal justice.

### ***What makes our companies unique?***

FRONTLINE (PBS) is investigative journalism that questions, explains and changes our world. Our reporting has helped breathe new life into terrorism cold cases, freed innocent people from jail and spurred both policy and social change.

Ado Ato creates diverse and engaging storytelling geared to audiences who crave fresh, boundary-pushing, and meaningful experiences.

StoryCorps' mission is to preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world.

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### ***What are three things we'd like journalists to take away from experiencing Un(re)solved?***

1. *Un(re)solved* is at once a multiplatform experience and an investigation of the federal government's effort to grapple with America's legacy of racist killings through the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act. Our investigation raises important questions amid current calls for systemic reform.

2. *Un(re)solved* makes available for the first time a comprehensive interactive list of all the people whose cases were re-examined under the Till Act. Among the victims: voting rights advocates, veterans, Louisville's first female prosecutor, business owners, mothers, fathers, and children.

3. Every aspect of *Un(re)solved* is geared toward centering the stories and voices of victims and their families, for whom justice has long been denied. Nearly two dozen oral histories with next of kin of the victims were gathered over the course of production and will be archived in the National Library of Congress.

***Did creating in a time of a pandemic influence Un(re)solved at all?***

Yes, because of the pandemic FRONTLINE and StoryCorps needed to record the oral histories with next of kin remotely. As we did not need to travel it allowed us to gather stories from a greater variety of locations. For the AR Installation it posed all sorts of new challenges. For one, the traveling exhibit needed to be designed to work in both an indoor and outdoor setting.

***What unique technology is used in Un(re)solved?***

WebGL, React, Three.js, and Unity Engine.

***What are the social handles associated with Un(re)solved?***

Instagram: @frontlinepbs; @adoatopictures; @storycorps. Twitter: @frontlinepbs; @AdoAtoPictures; @StoryCorps.

***Miscellaneous information?***

After the *Un(re)solved* AR installation's world premiere at Tribeca, the exhibit will begin a national tour with initial exhibitions at the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, the DuSable Museum of African American History, and the Rosa Parks Museum. Public engagement and community programming will take place in collaboration with a range of institutions including the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Brown University's Center for Slavery and Justice, and HBCUs such as Tougaloo College, Southern University's Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice, and more. The podcast, also world-premiering at Tribeca as a Narrative Nonfiction Official Selection in the Competition Program will publish subsequent episodes of the mini-series throughout the summer. Additionally, filmmakers and journalists Yoruba Richen (*The Killing of Breonna Taylor*, *The Sit In: Harry Belafonte Hosts the Tonight Show*) and Brad Lichtenstein (*When Claude Got Shot*, *As Goes Janesville*) are directing a related documentary that will air in late fall of 2021 and is being produced in collaboration with Retro Report, a media outlet that uses investigative journalism and narrative storytelling to provide historical context for today's fast-paced news.

## CURRICULUM & DISCUSSION GUIDE INFORMATION

As we approach a moment when surviving family members may no longer be alive to share the stories of these Civil Right-era victims, a curriculum guide designed to accompany **UN(RE)SOLVED** will help educate students about this chapter of American history — and preserve its lessons for generations to come.

Impact-focused educational resources in the form of interactive high-school curricula and digital discussion guides will be developed to complement the transmedia project across forms. The resources will unpack and amplify the value of the investigative journalism behind **UN(RE)SOLVED**, while also helping students and the greater public understand the intersectionality of public history, journalistic storytelling, multimedia content and education.

The educational materials will also provide educators and community leaders with the necessary framework for leading enriching discussions, encouraging critical thinking, and supporting reflection on and the exploration of important historical and contemporary topics around race and race relations.

### **PBS LearningMedia Stats:**

- 13M+ users and 83M page views in past school year
- 78% of current educator users report they will continue to visit
- Educator users more likely to be in Title 1 schools with diverse student bodies

Components will include:

- **High School Curriculum:** Secondary classroom materials will be created by PBS LearningMedia, which will provide digital resources (lesson plans, documents, audio recordings, etc.) that align with Common Core, as well as state and national standards. PBS LearningMedia has nearly two million registered users, reaching educators across the country.
- **Community and College Discussion Guide:** Available for public programming in communities nationwide, and college classroom instruction, the discussion guides will be created to help provide a framework for conversations on Civil Rights historiography and current events on race in America. The guides will be distributed within and beyond the network of partners participating in the tour.

The curriculum and discussion guide process will unfold as follows:

- **Research/Development:** A cohort of academics, historians, media makers, and thought leaders will be convened to form an advisory group to provide guidance and consultation throughout the duration of the development and research process.



- **Strategy Mapping:** A braintrust within the advisory group will provide insight into opportunities and systems necessary for widely distributing the curriculum and discussion guide resources nationally and regionally.

## CREATOR BIOGRAPHIES:

### **TAMARA SHOGAOLU, Creative Director**



Tamara Shogaolu is the founder and creative director of Ado Ato Pictures. She is an international director and new media artist who strives to share stories across mediums, platforms, and virtual and physical spaces in order to promote cross-cultural understanding and challenge preconceptions. With a track record in featuring her work at film festivals, galleries, and museums worldwide, such as the Tribeca Film Festival, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the National Gallery of Indonesia, her innovative approach to storytelling has led to sources like The Guardian, Forbes Magazine and Vogue naming her as a leader in the field of new and immersive media. She was a 2018 Sundance Institute New Frontier Lab Programs Fellow, a 2019 Gouden Kalf Nominee, a 2020 Creative Capital Award Recipient, and a 2020 Sundance New Frontier John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Grantee. Tamara was a

Burton Lewis Endowed Scholar for Directing at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, where she graduated with an MFA. Shogaolu was also a Fulbright Scholar in Egypt, a Luce Scholar in Indonesia, and an Academy Nicholls Fellowship Semifinalist.

### **JAMES EDWARDS, Podcast Reporter and Host**



James is a producer for the FRONTLINE Dispatch podcast. He has held a variety of producing, reporting, and digital positions at public media outlets such as WBEZ Chicago, Public Radio International, WGBH News, and the newsmagazine Need To Know On PBS. Most recently, James served as a producer with WBEZ's podcast team, where he was the lead producer for the award-winning podcast 16 Shots, and developed and produced the series South Side Stories, a collaboration with Comedy Central. James has also worked as a researcher on a number of TV, film, and documentary projects, including the feature film Candyman and the HBO series Lovecraft Country (both produced by Monkeypaw Productions). He is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago (B.A. Film & Video) and Northwestern University (M.S. Journalism).

### **YORUBA RICHEN, Documentary Director**



Yoruba Richen is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose work has been featured on PBS, *The New York Times*, FRONTLINE Digital, *New York Magazine's* website -The Cut, *The Atlantic* and Field of Vision. Her latest films, "The Killing of Breonna Taylor" premiered on FX and Hulu and "The Sit In: Harry Belafonte Hosts the Tonight Show" premiered on MSNBC and is streaming on Peacock. Yoruba's previous film "The Green Book: Guide to Freedom" was

broadcast on the Smithsonian Channel to record audiences and was nominated for an Emmy Award. Yoruba's feature documentary, "The New Black," won multiple festival awards and was nominated for an NAACP Image Award and a GLAAD Media Award before premiering on PBS's Independent Lens. "Her film Promised Land" was broadcast on POV. Yoruba won a Clio award for her short film about the Grammy-nominated singer Andra Day. She has also won Creative Promise Award at Tribeca All Access and was a Sundance Producers Fellow. Yoruba is a featured TED Speaker, a Fulbright fellow, a Guggenheim fellow and a 2016 recipient of the Chicken & Egg Breakthrough Filmmaker Award.

#### **BRAD LICHTENSTEIN, Documentary Director**



Brad is an award-winning filmmaker who has been making documentaries since 1998 and founded 371 Productions in 2003. He's been nominated for two Emmys: one Sports Emmy for the VR film "Ashe '68," which premiered at Sundance in 2019, and a News and Documentary Emmy for the 2012 Independent Lens/PBS film "As Goes Janesville." He's won two DuPonts: one for the 2016 Al Jazeera America series "Hard Earned" (produced with Kartemquin Films) and another for his 2001 film "Ghosts of Attica" (produced with Lumiere Productions). His recent film "There Are Jews Here" won a Telly award and was broadcast on PBS/World. He was nominated for a Peabody for his radio series about gun violence, "Precious Lives." He is in post production for "When Claude Got Shot," a feature doc about race and gun violence in America, produced with Stick Figure Entertainment and supported by Ford, ITVS, Sundance, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Black Public Media and Patty Quillen. Brad also produced for FRONTLINE and Bill

Moyers. He is also in post on “American Reckoning” (with producer/director Yoruba Richen), a film about ongoing violence directed at Black people, with a focus on unsolved murders from the 1960s civil rights movement era — under the umbrella of *Un(re)solved*. His company is in post on a Participant project to be announced soon. 371 is committed to diversity and will soon launch PipeDream, a mentorship and career development fellowship for filmmakers of color.

### **DAWN PORTER, Executive Producer**

Dawn Porter is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose work has appeared on HBO, PBS, Discovery, and Netflix among others. She is currently directing and executive producing an Apple TV



multi-part documentary series with Oprah Winfrey and Prince Harry, which focuses on both mental illness and mental well-being.

Other current projects include the documentary *Vernon Jordan: Make It Plain* which explores Vernon Jordan’s rise from the segregated South to become one of the most influential African American thought leaders in America; *John Lewis: Good Trouble* for CNN Films, which explores late Congressman John Lewis’ pivotal role in the Civil Rights movement and decades of political and social activism on important issues including voting rights, immigration laws, and much more; and *The Way I See It*, about photojournalist Pete Souza, who served as Chief Official White House photographer for President Barack Obama and

previously as an Official White House photographer for President Ronald Reagan.

Dawn also directed and produced the acclaimed four-hour Netflix original series *Bobby Kennedy for President*, which was released in 2018 and premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

A two-time Sundance festival Director, her film *Trapped* which explored laws regulating abortion clinics in the South won the special jury social-impact prize at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival, in addition to a Peabody and numerous other awards.

Her 2013 documentary *Gideon’s Army* premiered on HBO and won best editing at Sundance. *Gideon’s Army* was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award and an Emmy, and is part of the U.S. Department of State’s American Film Showcase.

Dawn also directed and produced *Spies of Mississippi*, a critically-acclaimed historical documentary that was part of the Independent Lens series on PBS. In 2015 Dawn directed and produced *Rise: The Promise of My Brother’s Keeper*, a film for The Discovery Channel chronicling President Obama’s program to help young men of color succeed.

Dawn has been commissioned to create films for the Center for Investigative Reporting, Time and Essence Magazines, The New York Times Op Docs, and Amazon. Her work has received generous support from the MacArthur Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, Tribeca Film Institute, Sundance Film Institute, Chicken & Egg Pictures and other esteemed organizations. She is a

member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Directors Guild of America.



#### **RANEY ARONSON-RATH, Executive Producer**

Raney Aronson-Rath is the executive producer of FRONTLINE, PBS' flagship investigative journalism series, and is a leading voice on the future of journalism. From the U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic to the true toll of Flint's water crisis to the consequences of Amazon's global dominance, Aronson-Rath oversees FRONTLINE's acclaimed investigative reporting on air and online and directs the series' editorial vision — executive producing more than 20 in-depth documentaries each year on critical issues facing the country and the world. FRONTLINE has won every major award in broadcast journalism under Aronson-Rath's leadership, including Emmy Awards, the first Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Gold Baton to be awarded in a decade, and the series' first-ever Peabody Institutional Award. Aronson-Rath has also expanded FRONTLINE's theatrical documentary footprint, with the series earning its

first-ever Academy Award nomination for Abacus: Small Enough to Jail in 2018 and its second in 2020 for For Sama. The 2019 Hearst Digital Media Lecturer at Columbia Journalism School, Aronson-Rath has spoken on journalism and filmmaking at the Skoll World Forum, the TV Next Summit, the Power of Narrative Journalism Conference, and at universities including Stanford, UC Berkeley, NYU and MIT. She is a member of the Board of Visitors for Columbia University's journalism school, and serves on the Advisory Board of Columbia Global Reports. Aronson-Rath joined FRONTLINE's staff as a senior producer in 2007 after producing notable FRONTLINE documentaries including News War, The Last Abortion Clinic, The Jesus Factor, Law & Disorder, and Post Mortem. She was named deputy executive producer by the series' founder, David Fanning, in 2012, and then became executive producer in 2015. Before FRONTLINE, Aronson-Rath worked at ABC News and The Wall Street Journal. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and her master's from Columbia Journalism School.

#### **CREDITS AND DETAILS**

**Other Principle Creators of the Un(re)solved Installation:** Riyadh Alnwili (Producer), Carla Borrás (Senior Producer), Ko Bragg (Reporter), Sarah Childress (Senior Editor), James Edwards (Reporter), Ben Greenberg (Reporter), Andrew Metz (Managing Editor), Michelle Mizner (Producer), Dan Nolan (Designer), Anthony DeLorenzo (Senior Web Developer), Lauren Prestileo (Senior Editor), Kuca Sandrin (Line Producer), Chika Shimizu (Set Designer), Collyn Stephens (Producer), Marcela Stolzmann (Producer), Zoe Todd (Reporter), Katie Worth (Reporter)

**Executive Producers:** Raney Aronson-Rath, Dawn Porter

**About the Narrator:** Charlayne Hunter-Gault is an award-winning journalist, author and civil rights pioneer. In 1961, she fought to desegregate the University of Georgia and became the first Black woman to enroll in the school.

**Country of Origin:** USA

**Genre:** Documentary, journalism, historical

**Format:** Augmented-reality, installation