



LOGLINE:

After graduating from journalism school, Nick Beaulieu returns to his hometown of Omaha, Nebraska to document its surging racial justice movement while seeking to reconnect with his staunchly pro-Trump father Randy – a task made more urgent when Randy is unexpectedly diagnosed with stage-4 cancer.

SYNOPSIS:

MY OMAHA begins in 2016, as Donald Trump is elected president and the Black Lives Matter movement is burgeoning in Omaha. Nick is determined to understand how these forces are colliding in his hometown – including the white suburbs where he grew up and the Black community of North Omaha. Along the way, he meets Leo Louis II, a fiercely independent activist, who introduces him to the birthplace of Malcolm X in North Omaha, which is emerging as a hub for community activism. In parallel, Nick takes his camera home to explore the increasingly tense relationship he has with his father Randy – a pro-Trump, conservative Christian. After Randy is suddenly diagnosed with stage-4 cancer, they commit to a series of conversations in the hopes of finding a new place of mutual understanding. At the same time, Nick becomes closer with Leo, witnessing his ascension as a leading voice in the city as Leo guides the people of Omaha through crisis following the polarizing death of a protestor. All the while, Nick confronts the reality of his father's impending death and their uncompromising differences, as he searches for the deeper truths of what their relationship says about Omaha and the country at large.





Director's Statement

When I started this film, I found it chilling that Omaha had one of the highest homicide rates in America for our Black population, despite constant messaging from city leaders about our united "we" community. Many in North Omaha, our Black community, whispered that we lived in "a tale of two cities."

It wasn't until a few years of filming that I understood the nuance of my role as a white person directing a movie about race. Leo Louis II, the lead organizer at the Malcolm X Center in Omaha (where Malcolm X was born), challenged me to look inward as I searched for my story. And he helped me realize that if I wanted to capture the tale of two cities, the best route to take was to go back home.

After Trump was elected, my conservative father and I found it nearly impossible to have a conversation without it spiraling into an argument. That all changed when he was diagnosed with Stage-4 Pancreatic cancer. Because as the doctor talked about his remaining time in months, the only path forward was to try – his way and mine – to reconnect.

I took a leap of faith when I started filming with my dad. And he did, too. It was from this vulnerable place that I discovered the film I was meant to make. I hope audiences feel inspired to have these same conversations in their own lives, so that they may come away feeling encouraged that connection is possible, even amidst the deepest divides.

This film is for the seekers. It's about the messy way we are all trying to coexist in these hyper-polarized times. It's about a city in the heart of America that's struggling, like so many others, and the heroic, everyday people who are leading the way.

MY OMAHA is a personal film. But the desire for love, reconciliation and a better future is universal.



PARTICIPANTS



Leo Louis II

Leo Louis II, human, and community organizer is the board president of the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation. Louis brings a thoughtful perspective that resonates with the common experience of ALL "Americans." Louis is an Omaha native who has experience in various disciplines, including gang intervention, urban farming, entrepreneurship, public speaking, fatherhood and more.



Randy Beaulieu

Randy was a committed father, volunteer and man of faith in the Omaha community. He was a long-time volunteer at Scatter Joy Acres, helping build the organization into a well-known brand while touching the lives of those who visited and worked there. He was a contributor at his church, St. Vincent de Paul in Omaha, helping lead and organize their Alpha program.



Cynthia Ramirez Lindemeyer

Cynthia is a former pastor and military veteran. Cynthia organized recurring events centered around racism and white privilege in Omaha, during her five years of ministry at First United Methodist Church. Currently, she has established an online outreach known as the Sacred Activism Community. She is committed to organizing events that address anti-racism and healing the effects of political polarization.

FILMMAKERS



Director and Producer Nick Beaulieu

Nick Beaulieu is a documentary film director and producer based in New York City. His feature debut, MY OMAHA, was made in association with Kartemquin films and will premiere at the Slamdance Film Festival in 2025. Previously, he was a contributing writer on "The Last Tear" and produced short films for the PBS series "American Portrait." He has received support for his work from Humanities Nebraska, the Kindle Project, the Union for Contemporary Art and the Andy Warhol Foundation. In 2024, he was awarded the Interchange Grant by Mid-America Arts Alliance with support from the Mellon Foundation. He's the founder of "Documentary Omaha", a community organization advancing the art and education of documentary filmmaking in Omaha, his hometown.



Producer Doug Block

Doug Block is an Emmy, Peabody and Sundance award-winning documentary filmmaker based in New York City. He's perhaps best known for his personal documentaries, which include THE KIDS GROW UP, 112 WEDDINGS and 51 BIRCH STREET, named one of 10 Best Films of the Year by the New York Times. He is the the founder and a co-host of The D-Word.



Consulting Producer Judith Mizrachy

Judith Mizrachy is a New York Citybased producer whose recent films include the short Academy Award®-nominated documentary THE MARTHA MITCHELL EFFECT (2022), THE BOOKSELLERS (2020), and most recently UNCROPPED (2024). Her films have screened at festivals around the world including Sundance, New York Film Festival, DOC NYC, Hot Docs and SXSW.



Editor Jordan Montminy

Jordan Montminy is an Emmy
Award winning editor. He recently
worked on the award winning
documentaries "Savage Waters"
and "The 8th" as well as the PBS
Frontline "Separated: Children at
the Border", "A Mother Brings Her
Son to be Shot," "The New Yorker
Presents" and "We Steal Secrets:
The Story of WikiLeaks." His work
has premiered at Sundance,
Tribeca Festival, Hot Docs,
CPH:DOX, BFI London.



Consulting Editor Maeve O'Boyle

Maeve O'Boyle is an Emmy-award winning editor and producer. She edited THE EDUCATION OF MOHAMMAD HUSSEIN (HBO), which was shortlisted for an Academy Award. She co-produced and edited the Emmy-award-winning FIRESTONE AND THE WARLORD (PBS). Most recently, she co-directed and edited JOAN BAEZ: I AM A NOISE which premiered at the 2023 Berlin Film Festival.



Composer Sarah Lynch

Sarah Lynch is an IFTA winning composer whose recent projects include JOAN BAEZ: I AM A NOISE; HIDDEN MASTER: THE LEGACY OF GEORGE PLATT LYNES, and SOUND & VISION. Earlier in 2022, Sarah scored the series THE DRY directed by Paddy Breathnach, for which she won an IFTA for Original Music (2023).



Kartemquin Films is a collaborative community that empowers documentary makers who create stories that foster a more engaged and just society. Their body of work includes HOOP DREAMS, MINDING THE GAP and numerous other films. With four Academy Award nominations, six Emmy awards, and four Peabody awards, Kartemquin has been described by the Chicago Reader as a "documentary powerhouse," but it is the recognition for outstanding service to the film community and awards like the Altgeld Freedom of Speech Award for "unflinchingly holding up a mirror to American society" that reflect their deepest purpose. In 2019, that commitment to mission was celebrated by an Institutional Peabody Award for Kartemquin's "commitment to unflinching documentary filmmaking and telling an American history rooted in social justice and the stories of the marginalized."

Duration: 85 Minutes

Nick Beaulieu Director, Writer, Producer Producer Doug Block In Association With Kartemquin Films Jordan Montminy Edited by Summers Henderson Consulting Editor Maeve O'Boyle Composer Sarah Lynch Cinematography James Zanders Nick Beaulieu Consulting Producer Judith Mizrachy Creative Consultant John Kaye Additional Cinematography Harrison Martin Brad DeCecco Graphic Designer Conor O'Boyle Rich Cutler Dialogue Editor and Re-recording Mixer Colorist Brian Boyd Oliver Lief Digital Intermediate Producer Digital Intermediate and Sound Postproduction Blue Table Post Conform Artist Christopher Young Clearance Council Donaldson Calif Perez, LLP The Film Collaborative Sponsored by





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