

BEYOND SIXTY PROJECT

A woman's age is not her story

A FILM BY MELISSA DAVEY

RUNTIME : 77 minutes

GENRE : Documentary Feature Film

"BEYOND SIXTY PROJECT" A FILM BY MELISSA DAVEY IN ASSOCIATION WITH EXPRESSWAY PRODUCTIONS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MELISSA DAVEY PRODUCED BY JAMES MADISON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ZAC RUBINO EDITED BY ZIGGY GAMBLE
VFX SUPERVISOR DANIEL HADDAWAY CO-PRODUCER MICHAEL GUALTERI DIRECTED BY MELISSA DAVEY

Sponsored by:



SYNOPSIS

SHORT SYNOPSIS

The original voice of Siri, the Madam CJ Walker biographer and the sculptor of Lady Gaga's Fame perfume carriage are among the inspirational stories revealed in this compelling documentary. From a very early age women are made to believe that our relevance has an expiration date. Showing us the power of resilience, defiance and the wisdom of experience the Beyond Sixty Project will challenge the way we think about aging and the value of our own stories.

B E Y O N D
S I X T Y



SYNOPSIS

In our modern society, women are broadly judged and valued by their age and appearance. Despite their contributions to our history and prolific influence on our culture, a tragic phenomenon often occurs in women over the age of sixty. They become invisible. These later years are a time when women are at the height of their experiences and accomplishments, yet this demographic's significance is rarely acknowledged in media or literature. The Beyond Sixty Project is a documentary feature film that challenges these conventions and reveals a window into the inspirational lives and ongoing stories of every day women who have moved into senior citizen status.

Driven by a series of interviews with women ranging in age from their early sixties to mid-eighties, the documentary highlights their resilience and challenges society's definition of continued relevance. Rich in experiences and accomplishments, these women continue to grow and challenge themselves as they move through the next chapters in their lives. Through this film we celebrate the impact of these women, seek to inspire younger generations and finally bring attention to the importance and significance of their stories. The Beyond Sixty Project celebrates the power of a documentary to connect its subjects, all women over the age of 60, with an audience base that spans generations through personal story-telling by offering relatable themes of success, loss, experience, resilience and continued relevance.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

As the Director and Executive Producer of the Beyond Sixty Project, this is also my story. For decades, I had a highly successful career as a Vice President creating and running a division of a large national company. My life dream, however, has always been to be a filmmaker. As I approached what most people consider to be retirement age, I began to take an inventory of my life. I knew there was more that I wanted to do. My partners on the company's executive team would often hear me lament that I did not want to die at my desk. At 65, after a fortuitous day on the set with a famous director, I knew how I would parlay retirement into a new career. I took a calculated risk and left all that was secure and comfortable in order to become a filmmaker.

Reactions from colleagues, friends and family were varied. Some thought I was too old to take on something so different. Some believed that because I had worked for more than three decades in a high powered corporate career that I should take the usual route to retirement and spend my days relaxing. I disagreed with them, and so do many women over the age of 60. Older women continue to succeed in all they do because they are at the most confident times in their lives. Our multitude of work and life experiences has led us to a place where there is no longer fear in change. There is fear in not making changes. We are a curious group looking for challenges that will not only fulfill us but hopefully offer something to others in return.



DIRECTOR STATEMENT

When I started the project I spent weeks researching women I could relate to, women who showed resilience and continued relevance as they aged. What I found was a number of stories about aging celebrities with an emphasis on fashion or beauty. Not what I was searching for. It was clear the everyday woman over age 60 was not easily found through routine internet searches. After a few changes to my research tactics I began to make some connections. Before too long I had more women willing to tell their stories than I had film time.

After extensive phone interviews, the women were chosen, film dates secured, and I criss-crossed the country for the next two years to film their stories. What I loved about each woman were the very distinct differences in their backgrounds and life experiences. What they all had in common was resilience and continuing relevance. Their stories, like mine, have many twists and turns with important lessons learned along the way. The women are strong and courageous and refuse to fade into the shadows of old age. Some have broken through glass ceilings. All have quietly helped to pave the way for generations of women to come. We may be invisible as you pass us on the street but if you stop for a minute and listen to our stories you may be surprised by what we have experienced and what we have planned for the future.

A story can only truly be a story if it is shared. By sharing our stories, we can strengthen inter-generational ties, keep histories alive and offer solutions to others as they navigate life. The Beyond Sixty Project women do just that. My hope is to challenge others who may think aging is a negative process and inspire them through these compelling stories.



Melissa Dancy

Director, *Beyond Sixty Project*

THE WOMEN



A'LELIA BUNDLES

Author / Journalist

A former Emmy award-winning producer with ABC News and NBC News. Learn about her desire to leave her career in order to trace her family history and recount the story of her famous relative Madam CJ Walker.



KAREN ATTA

Sculptor / Founder, Atta Inc.

Owner and founder of Atta Studios, a sculptural fabrication powerhouse in New York City with clients like Lady Gaga and the WWE Hall of Fame, Atta is world renowned. Not slowing down for retirement, Atta is working on a special personal project we will see in a gallery soon.



SUSAN BENNETT

Voice-Over Artist / Musician

Listen to Susan's fascinating story about how she became the original voice of Siri. Not stopping any time soon, Susan continues to expand her work. She and her husband recently started a band named Siri Sings.



PEGGY ANN BRADNICK

Mental Health Advocate / Author

Peggy made national headlines when at age 17 she was abducted by a man who lay in wait behind a tree at her rural bus stop. Her faith and resilience carried her through the ordeal known as "Eight Days at Shade Gap" with a vow of forgiveness and promise to work to improve mental health support for the criminally insane.



CELESTE WALKER

Actress / Adjunct Professor

Celeste holds a MFA in Acting from the Actor's Studio Drama School at the New School University in New York City. Apart from acting, directing and teaching, Celeste has been a pioneer in bringing these disciplines to other professional realms.



SARA PICASSO LAVNER

Drama Therapist & Psychoanalyst / Author

Sara was once married to Pablo Picasso's son, Claude. Sara gives us details of her life in the New York City art world in the late 60's and early 70's. She recently published her first book, The Glitter Factory.

THE WOMEN



PAULA YANKAUSKAS

Veterinarian / Swimmer

Dr. Paula Yankauskas is a veterinarian and owner of Lamoille Valley Veterinary Services in Hyde Park, VT. Aside from running one of Vermont's largest vet practices, Paula is an avid swimmer. In September 2016, Paula became the oldest U.S. woman to swim the English Channel.



THE SUN CITY POMS

Dynamic cheerleaders and performers all between the ages of 55 and 85 are entertaining crowds at more than 50 shows each year. Representing aging in a unique way, these women embody resilience. Some of the Poms suffer from severe and chronic medical conditions but their sheer determination helps them power on.



GLORIA TOLLA

Performer

After suffering from severe osteoarthritis for more than four decades, Gloria defeated her addiction to pain medication. She joined the Sun City Poms, who inspired her drive to keep marching.



GRETA PAULSEN

Director, Secretary & Performer

As Director of the Sun City Poms, Greta coordinates dozens of performances each year. She provides an overview of the history and formation of this uniquely talented organization of senior women.



PAT WEBER

Secretary & Choreographer

Pat has been a Sun City Pom since 2003, and has played almost every role within the Poms. Despite past surgeries and a current diagnosis of Stage 4 cancer, Pat continues to split her time between the Poms' busy schedule and dancing to live music every week.



C R E D I T S

DIRECTOR

Melissa Davey

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Melissa Davey

PRODUCER

James Madison

CO-PRODUCER

Mike Gualtieri

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Joanna Duffey

STORY EDITOR

James Madison

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Zac Rubino

EDITOR

Ziggy Gamble

FEATURING

Karen Atta

Susan Bennett

Peggy Ann Bradnick Jackson

A'lelia Bundles

Sara Lavner

Greta Paulsen

Gloria Tolla

Celeste Walker

Patricia Weber

Paula Yankauskas

And the Sun City Poms

ALSO FEATURING

Kathleen Callahan

Marissa D'Elia

Emily Joynton

Sarah Leonard

Neha Raman

Autumn Wallace

Skylar Watkins

PRODUCTION COORDINATORS

Taylor Engel

Emily Schumacher

CAMERA OPERATOR

Melissa Dabback

Janelle Delia

Meredith Gunning

Ian Mosley-Duffy

Ryan Perkins

Tom Quiqley

Drew Saracco

Heather Treston

CAMERA ASSISTANTS

Melissa Dabback

Augustine Kim

Sidney Smith

Heather Treston

GRIP & ELECTRIC SUPPORT

Kevin Goff

Tom Quigley

SOUND MIXERS

Ziggy Gamble

Sean Hoffman

Rich Mach

Alex Yaker

POST-PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Joseph Leonard

VFX & ANIMATION SUPERVISOR

Daniel Haddaway

EDITOR - SUN CITY POMS MONTAGE

Chris White

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Taylor Engel

POST-PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Jonathan Davila

Hunter Davis

Sophia Schieli

POST-PRODUCTION CONSULTANT

Matthew Sanchez

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Farah Fauzi

SOUND DESIGN & MIXING

Ben Wong

COLOR-CORRECTION

Alec Freund

C R E D I T S

“ SHADE GAP MEMORIES ”

Written and performed by Ziggy Gamble

“ FEED ‘EM FISH ”

Written and performed by Max Swan
and Tracknique

A D D I T I O N A L B A C K G R O U N D M U S I C P R O V I D E D B Y

Artlist.io

Audio Jungle

A R C H I V A L M A T E R I A L S P R O V I D E D B Y

Getty Images

NBC News Archives

Pond5

Jim Alexander Collection

Pennsylvania State Police Museum, Hershey, PA

C L E A R A N C E R E P O R T I N G

Dana Michael

P R O D U C T I O N C O U N S E L

Alexander Murphy Jr., Esq.

P R O D U C T I O N E Q U I P M E N T P R O V I D E D B Y

Expressway Cinema Rentals

S P E C I A L T H A N K S

John Davey

Jennifer Rivers

Matt Rivers

Adam, Luke and Owen

Candace Kilstein

M Night Shyamalan

Keri and Steve Nelson

Taylor Joseph

Tim Wheaton

Chris Schubert, Esq.

Alexis Istzwan, Esq.

Corrine Winslow

Katherine Kline

Diane Mastrull

Joe Casey

Denis Wuestman

Annmarie Kelly

Jung Park

Lindsay Phillips

Laurie Smith

C R E D I T S

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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S P E C S

Total Run Time: 77 minutes

Production: USA

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Shot on: Digital

Exhibition Formats: .mov, Blu-ray

Languages: English

P R E S S

R E V I E W S & E N D O R S E M E N T S

“One thing we consistently hear from the people we serve, and especially the baby boomers who are rapidly aging into Medicare, is they want to stay healthy to pursue life’s dreams,” said David Shapiro, senior vice president for consumer and provider experience, UnitedHealthcare. “We view our role as helping people live the lives they want as they age, and Melissa’s film showcases women who are doing just that – and powerfully – which is why we’re glad to have the chance to support it.”

- UHC Newsroom - Community Article, November 2017

[Click to read the article](#)

M E D I A

The Philadelphia Inquirer, December 6, 2017

[Click to read the article](#)

6ABC - The Art of Aging, April 20 2018

[Click to read the article](#)

The Retirement Wisdom Podcast

[Click to listen to the podcast](#)

SOCIAL LINKS & CONTACTS



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