WALKING WHILE BLACK
L.O.V.E. IS THE ANSWER

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PEACE OFFICERS AND THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY

WalkingWhileBlackTheMovie.com
I was really moved by it and was really impressed. It’s great for police departments, it’s great for the public. Everybody needs to watch it.

-Maj. Luther Johnson
Howard County Police Department

Extraordinary. Important. Outstanding film. The community needs the police and the police need the community. We cannot afford to wait another day to have this conversation. We cannot wait for another headline. Working through this together is the only way we can get to a solution. We’ve got to keep this conversation going. I want to make sure that we get this film seen by as many people as possible.”

-Rod L. Hairston
Senior Pastor, Messiah Community Church

This film is something that should be shared in every part of our city, in every state in this country, because I believe love is the answer without a doubt.

-Catherine Pugh
Baltimore Mayor

It’s a great film to open eyes and create great dialogue.

-Torrey Smith
Super Bowl Champion Wide Receiver
Philadelphia Eagles

Viewing of this film will bring great healing and L.O.V.E. throughout the nation.

-Chief Melvin Russell
Community Collaboration Division
Baltimore Police Department

Most balanced film of this type I’ve ever seen – painful truth and the power of building bridges! “WALKING WHILE BLACK” is a game changer!

-Rod L. Hairston
Senior Pastor, Messiah Community Church
WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. IS THE ANSWER

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Baltimore, Maryland

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LOGLINE
As minority communities face the daily stranglehold of racial profiling, and police officers face relentless scrutiny by an anxious public, tensions mount as lines are being drawn in the sand. This conflict can only be broken by finding common ground with each other. L.O.V.E. Is The Answer.

SYNOPSIS
Instances of racial profiling plague minority communities on a daily basis. Director, A.J. Ali is no stranger to this phenomenon. When he and his wife were targeted for harassment by police numerous times in Howard County, Maryland, he was forced to take a stand. Though his attempts at achieving justice through channels offered by the system went unrewarded, he refused to let go of the dream that a solution to the problem could be found. He went on a quest for truth and reconciliation, which led him to find living examples of love in action.

More than four years in the making, "Walking While Black: L.O.V.E. Is The Answer" presents proven action steps to bridge the painful gap between peace officers and the communities they serve. L.O.V.E. is an acronym for Learn about the community and the people in it, Open your heart to the humanity of people in the community, Volunteer yourself to be part of the solution, and Empower others to do the same. Featuring interviews with peace officers, faith leaders, educators, activists and others, the film offers an inspiring blueprint to end racial profiling and heal our communities.

The impact of racial profiling is traumatic and contributes to the decline of mental health and well being for individuals and communities.

-Lizette Ubides, LCSW-C
Chief Officer of Innovations
Responsive Recovery, Inc.
LEARN about your community and the people within it. For peace officers, that means embracing true community policing, listening to people, getting to know them, serving them and earning their trust. Ministries, make sure there is at least one person from your church serving as a chaplain in your local police department. Learn about the adversity our peace officers face, both in the community and within their own department. Companies, seek out ways to nurture and employ members of your community. Take an active interest in learning about the specific needs of the community.

OPEN your heart to the humanity in the community. After you take the time to learn, let that knowledge enter your heart. As knowledge seeps into the heart, something magical happens -- you start to relate and care on a deeper level. Views and solutions become two-way, not just one-way. Patterns of respect and commitment develop and real relationships are built.

VOLUNTEER yourself to be part of the solution. Let yourself go there -- into that place that makes you both professional and human. It’s OK, it’s not a weakness. It’s a strength. What I’m talking about is changing the mindset from “us versus them” to “we’re all in this together.” Treat every person you deal with like they are a member of your family and pretty soon, that’s exactly what they will become.

EMPOWER others to do the same. As you practice the first three steps, reach out to others in your life to encourage them to do the same thing. When you do this, you’ll start to experience a change in attitudes and a stronger community.

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”
-Mahatma Gandhi
WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. IS THE ANSWER

WORLD PREMIERE

WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. Is The Answer premiered to a packed house at The Broad Stage in Santa Monica, CA, on February 1, 2017.

Santa Monica PD Chaplain, Pastor Joseph Metoyer hosted the Q&A that followed. Retired LAPD Sergeant, Cheryl Dorsey, and Santa Monica College Police Chief, Johnnie Adams joined filmmakers, A.J. Ali and Errol Webber on stage for an engaging Q&A session, sharing concerns and comments from residents, police officers, and community leaders.

Photos: Roberto Ysais
WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. IS THE ANSWER

Following Mayor Catherine Pugh’s endorsement at the Baltimore Premiere on February 6, she has since hosted her own screening of the film for her cabinet members, elected officials, the Baltimore City Police Department’s command staff, and community leaders.

“\textit{I do believe that it’s something that should be shared in every part of our city, in every state in this country, because I believe love is the answer without a doubt. But more importantly, to hear the expressions of police officers and former police officers, and community leaders, and folks who’ve been wronged, and now feel that they can move their lives forward... I just wanna say thank you.}”

— Catherine Pugh, Mayor, City of Baltimore, Feb 6, 2017

On March 26, 2017, Representative Elijah Cummings of Maryland became the first Congressman in the nation to host a screening. The event, attended by more than 400 people, was held at Howard High School in Ellicott City.

Major Luther Johnson represented the Howard County Police Department on the post-screening Q&A panel after Rep. Cummings’ screening. The Major opened by saying that he was so moved by the film that he threw his planned rebuttal in the trash, and he stated that he plans to use the film to train his officers.

Photos: Derek Bowden
A.J. Ali is the Director of “WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. Is The Answer,” an award-winning feature-length documentary film improving relations between police and people of color. He coined the acronym “L.O.V.E.,” which stands for Learn about your community, Open your heart to the people in it, Volunteer yourself to be part of the solution in their lives and Empower others to do the same. The film won Best Documentary and Audience Favorite at the Garifuna International Film Festival in Los Angeles, CA and A.J. was awarded the Platinum Award by the NAACP in Howard County, MD for Contributions to the Community Through the Arts & Entertainment. The film offers a universal formula for tackling many of the challenges faced by societies throughout the world.

A.J. is also the Creator, Producer and Host of Wellness 101, a TV game show based in Santa Monica, California. His first film, “Positive Choice,” which also included a mentoring component he helped design, is credited with saving the national youth soccer program “Soccer in the Streets” from extinction in the year 2000 by attracting much needed sponsors, board members, investors and marketing partners such as U.S. Soccer and Major League Soccer. He was the Creator, Producer and Star of “Good Fellas of Baltimore,” which aired on Fox 45 TV in the Baltimore market in the Spring of 2011 and was responsible for raising more than $250,000 worth of support for charities in the Baltimore area in one year. He has produced, written and appeared in numerous commercials and PSA’s.

He has published hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles. He co-authored a popular faith-based inspirational book with Vera Jones titled ”The True Champion’s 30-Day Challenge,” published in 2009. He has written two business golf books and created workshops to go along with those books. His musical work includes writing and producing the cancer survivor anthem “Through the Darkness, Into the Light” and producing the Hollywood FAME Award-winning compilation music CD ”Survivor Celebration” to benefit breast cancer survivors.

He is a U.S. Air Force Veteran (83-87).
Errol Webber is Producer and Director of Photography of “WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. Is The Answer.” Over the past decade, Errol Webber has earned a reputation as a refined cinematographer adept at capturing polished, hyper real visuals.

Trained in film at the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2004, in his off hours during college, he ran his own video production company out of his dorm room. Then, just two weeks after graduation, he was hired to shoot his first feature documentary, the film “iThemba,” about a group of eight Zimbabwean Afro-fusion musicians. “iThemba,” which he also edited, won numerous accolades and awards at major festivals in Europe and Africa.

Since then, Webber has been the producer, director, or cinematographer on 22 other documentary and narrative films in the U.S., Zimbabwe, Zambia, Liberia, and other African countries. The short documentary, “Music by Prudence” won the 2010 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject. “American Promise” won the U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, won the Grand Jury Award at Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, and was nominated for three Emmy Awards, including Best Documentary.

Webber’s talent for film lies not in his ability to bring his world to the viewer, but the urgency with which he immerses the viewer into his world. With a full appreciation for the digital realm and a knack for compelling looks and concepts, cinematographer Errol Webber will continue a career in his most prized obsession; imagery.

www.errolwebber.com
Lydia Hall, a Red Hook, New York native, started in the arts as a drawer and painter. Delving deeper into professional arts career, Hall studied fine art at the Maryland Institute College of Art. While at MICA, she took a Film and Video introduction class which set alight her new media exploration, centered around genuine ways of visual storytelling and communication of the human thought process.

Right after receiving her BFA in June 2015, she moved across the country to Los Angeles, California to establish herself in the industry. There she works as a freelance video editor on personal passion projects, shorts, music videos and commercials. Hall is interested in editing engaging documentaries and fictional motion pictures.

Salutatorian of his Bachelor’s program, (Music Production) and Valedictorian of his Master’s program, (Instructional Design & Technology), there is no question to why he is quickly making a name for himself as a dynamic media composer/multi-instrumentalist in Los Angeles, CA.

His compositions are regularly featured on TV’s biggest networks such as, ABC, CBS, CNN, E!, NBC, MSNBC, Discovery Channel, Discovery En Español, Travel Channel, Food Network, Comedy Central, Animal Planet, Netflix, Outdoor Channel, W Network, FYI, Sportsman Channel, CBC News, and Mojo Brands Media.

His music has been used to set the mood in numerous well-known shows such as Dateline NBC, Restaurant Impossible, Trip Flip, Alaskan Bush People, American Grilled, John Walsh’s The Hunt as well as others.

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**MEET THE CREW**

**MARK ADAMS**  
Associate Producer  
Sound Recordist/Mixer

Based in the Los Angeles area, Mark Adams has worked for more than 16 years as a Camera Operator, Location Sound Recordist/Mixer, Field Producer/Director and/or Broadcast Equipment Manager on a number of network and cable television shows. Early in his career, Adams worked on MTV’s hit show “Making the Video”. During that time, Mark directed 2 episodes of “Making the Video” featuring Beyoncé Knowles and Madonna.

Adams has worked for the CBS Evening News covering the 2008, 2012, and 2016 presidential and vice presidential debates as well as on Barack Obama’s presidential campaign as a member of the traveling press. Adams regularly works as a Camera Operator and Location Sound Recordist/Mixer on CBS Sunday Morning. Mark’s other credits and clients include 60 Minutes, 48 Hours, the 1996, 2000, 2004 & 2012 Summer Olympic Games, Coca-Cola Company, NBA Entertainment, Major League Baseball Productions, National Geographic and various travel shows and documentaries.

**PIA CIVILETTI**  
Associate Producer  
Webmaster

Pia Civiletti a.k.a. “The Sassy Italian Lady” is an Associate Producer and Web Master for “WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. Is The Answer.” Pia’s first career spanned 24 years in the corporate world working in technology, marketing, training and consulting for several Fortune 500 companies.

With a B.S. in Marketing from Penn State University, a Layout and Production Arts degree from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, as well as being a Certified Holistic Health Coach, Reiki Master and Personal Trainer, Pia combines her skills of design, marketing, technology, coaching and wellness to deliver high-end, creative solutions for her clients.

Pia works as a Producer and Co-Host with Wellness 101, and Webmaster for Wellness101life.com, a Marketing Media Manager for Vesta Construction Websites as well as a health consultant.
Andrew Collins and Jameel McGee are featured in the film as an amazing example of the power of forgiveness and reconciliation. In 2005, Former Benton Harbor Police Officer, Andrew Collins arrested Jameel McGee for a crime he didn’t commit. During an investigation, Andrew then tampered with evidence, framing Jameel and sending him to prison.

Four years into Jameel’s 10-year prison sentence, when Andrew confessed and the truth was revealed, Jameel was released and Andrew was sentenced to three years in prison, of which he served 18 months. Jameel forgave Andrew. Today, they are best friends and work together in ministry, putting L.O.V.E. into action, to help others with racial reconciliation.
Cheryl Dorsey is a Los Angeles native. In 1978, she began a career in law enforcement where she worked for the State of California, Department of Justice. In 1980, Cheryl joined the Los Angeles Police Department and honorably retired as a sergeant of police in 2000. During her twenty year (LAPD) career, she worked exclusively in patrol and specialized units such as traffic, vice and the infamous gang unit known as Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums (C.R.A.S.H.)

As an LAPD insider, Cheryl Dorsey wrote an autobiography, The Creation of a Manifesto, Black & Blue, which provides an unfiltered look into the LAPD’s internal processes with a level of credibility that is undeniable and irrefutable. Today, she serves as a speaker, author, advocate and police expert; educating the public in the areas of police procedure as well as understanding police culture.

www.sgtcheryldorsey.com
Dr. B. Bernard Ferguson is an author, and a professional development and executive coach specializing in building the leadership capacity of individuals. In his new book, “Where's The EQ?: Race And Policing Up Close,” he uses emotional intelligence (EQ) in assessing the engagements between police officers and civilians for the purpose of finding solutions to many of the problems occurring within our society involving police officers and those they are sworn to "protect and to serve."

He is also the President of EQ Perspective, a consulting firm dedicated to ensuring their clients have the capacity and talent needed to keep them growing and flourishing regardless of changing market conditions. With over 25 years of experience, Dr. Ferguson’s industry expertise is broad and diverse. Prior to forming EQ Perspective, Dr. Ferguson was a senior law enforcement executive, where he designed and implemented organization-wide programs to support change management, and leadership development.

Drawing upon his doctoral research in the area of EQ, he uses facilitative coaching, and a myriad exercises designed to provide a roadmap for clients to generate new levels of awareness, realize their own blind-spots, and create positive behavioral shifts. Dr. Ferguson empowers and supports his clients in establishing clarity around their growth objectives by assisting them with devising strategies and actions that will produce the desired results.
Dr. Chance Glenn received his Bachelor’s of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Maryland at College Park. He then received his Master’s of Science degree and Doctor of Philosophy degree, both in Electrical Engineering, from The Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering. He began his engineering career at the Army Research Laboratory in Adelphi, Maryland where he designed microwave and radio frequency devices for a wide range of defense-related applications. He began publishing, presenting, and submitting patent applications even before completing his undergraduate studies.

In 2003 Dr. Glenn joined the faculty at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where was a tenured professor in the College of Applied Science and Technology. In 2008 he became the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. He was the founding director of the William G. McGowan Center for Telecommunications, Innovation and Collaborative Research, leading faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students, in order to develop new ideas in communications and signal processing. He is also founding editor of the Journal of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology. Dr. Glenn is well-published, giving talks nationally and internationally, and has several patents awarded and pending surrounding his work. Dr. Glenn is also an avid singer and songwriter, having written and published over one hundred songs, recorded two albums, and having a song nominated for a Grammy award in 2000.

In August of 2012 Dr. Glenn became the Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Physical Sciences at the Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama. He is leading the college through its expansion to prepare students and researchers to meet the global needs of the 21st century. He is working with the faculty to develop new programs in engineering and applied science, as Ph.D programs. He is leading efforts to collaborate with industry and other academic institutions around the world to grow research in materials science, image and signal processing, alternative energy, and other areas of major global significance.
After years of working in law enforcement, and seeing first-hand the effects a negative environment can have on young men, Bobby found his passion working with at-risk youth to reduce, and ultimately eliminate the number of young men who end up in the criminal justice system. As a single father of seven boys, the risk of African American males becoming involved in gangs or other criminal activities hits home for him.

Now that he is retired, Bobby uses his experience and expertise as a security expert/analyst in an effort to help make the world a safer place, speaking at conferences, seminars, schools, churches and workplaces to motivate, encourage, and inspire others.

He used his law enforcement experiences to write his first book, Surviving the Stop, to assist motorists with successfully managing interactions with law enforcement officers when they are stopped. His ultimate goal is to prevent the tragedies that we have seen in our nation over the past few years and bridge the communication gap between citizens and police officers.

www.bobbykimbrough.com
Lt. Tim McMillan is a thirteen-year law enforcement veteran and activist for civil rights and social justice. He has worked as a patrolman, Investigator, Crime Scene Tech, K9-Handler, Sergeant and Lieutenant. Lt. McMillan is also a Ga. P.O.S.T. Certified Instructor and graduate of Columbus State Professional Management Program.

Lt. McMillan graduated Summa Cum Laude from SNHU with a BA in Mathematics and Psychology. He is actively engaging in graduate studies in Cognitive Psychology.

Lt. McMillan "accidentally" became a police officer in response to the tragic murder of two friends in 2002. After a fateful traffic stop on October 1, 2016 he became an "accidental" social justice activist. Since his serendipitous encounter that October morning he has worked relentlessly to improve police services nationally and fight for racial equality. His story has been covered by 171 different media outlets in six different countries.

He was recognized for his work for social justice by the Department of Justice and Attorney General's Office. He was the 2016 "Protector of the Peace" award winner by the Races for Peace non-profit organization.

www.ltfixit.org
Chief Melvin T. Russell is the Commander of the Community Collaboration Division, Baltimore Police Department. Russell joined The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) in 1979 as a police cadet and graduated from the BPD academy in 1981 as the first and only African American class valedictorian.

Russell worked both as a uniform patrol and then an undercover officer for 20 years before re-emerging as an Eastern District Lieutenant in 2007. In this position, Russell turned the worse midnight patrol shift in the city to the best in 3 months and was promoted to Major of the Eastern District 11 months later. It was during this time as Major that Russell created the non-profit “Transformation Team” (TTT), a grassroots organization of community shareholders that are committed to working together to make a better Baltimore.

In January 2013, Russell was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and created the Community Partnership Division.

In July 2016, Russell was appointed Chief of the Community Collaboration Division in Baltimore.
Chief Seabrooks has more than three decades of progressively responsible municipal policing experience. She spent the last decade of her career as a Police Chief serving in two Southern California municipalities. Chief Seabrooks' career in law enforcement includes sworn service with the California State Police Division, the Inglewood Police Department, and the Santa Monica Police Department.

After rising through the ranks and serving in a variety of administrative and operational positions during her 25-year tenure with the Santa Monica Police Department, Chief Seabrooks was appointed to the chief executive position at the Inglewood Police Department where she was not only the first African-American woman to serve as a municipal police chief in the history of the State of California, she was the first woman to hold the top executive position in Inglewood's 100 plus year history. In another first, in May 2012, Chief Seabrooks rejoined the Santa Monica Police Department to serve as the City's 17th Chief of Police.

Over the course of her tenure as a chief executive, Chief Seabrooks has consistently provided effective reform and transformational leadership as she implemented the tenets of 21st Century Policing. She successfully navigated a variety of policing challenges, including a "pattern and practices" investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice, organizational downsizing, organizational restructuring, team building, staff development, and succession planning, while also being specifically attentive to fiscal conservatism, new and evolving crime trends, and the need to build and strengthen community-police partnerships.
Lieutenant Robbie Williams is a 21-year veteran with the Hawthorne Police Department and was the Community Affairs Unit Supervisor. He is currently assigned as a Patrol Watch Commander. After Captain Kauffman left HPD to become the Chief at the Redondo Beach Police Department in 2015, Lieutenant Williams has been the main National Instructor (with Sgt. Cognac) for the Coffee with a Cop training classes.

Currently, he leads efforts to bridge relations between the police and citizens, including initiatives like hosting Crime Prevention Workshops for business owners and community members.

Lieutenant Williams has taught Community Orientated Policing and Introduction to Criminal Justice at the community college level and is a recipient of the 2015 Homer L. Garrott Community Service Award. Lieutenant Williams is a graduate of the Sherman Block Leadership Institute, and the California State University Los Angeles Edmund G. Brown Institute for Public Affairs “Problem Oriented Policing” program.
February 1, 2017:
WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. Is The Answer held its packed-out Red Carpet World Premiere at The Broad Stage in Santa Monica, CA.

February - December 2017:
- The Filmmaker’s Premiere Screening Series traveled around the U.S., with local theatrical premieres in key cities (Baltimore, Washington, Los Angeles, etc.).
- The film played at festivals, trade shows and other events.
- The first-ever L.O.V.E. Is The Answer Conference was held at The Gathering Place in North Syracuse, NY in October.
- Through ongoing licensing of the film to organizations such as law enforcement agencies, ministries, schools, nonprofits, libraries and other groups, the film played in more than 20 cities.

January - February 2018:
- The L.O.V.E. Is The Answer 5-Minute Film Contest kicked off, pairing teens and young adults with peace officers, with monthly prizes beginning in the summer and a national winner to be announced in early 2019 from videos submitted NLT 12/31/18.
- Two screenings were hosted by NFL players in Philadelphia and Orlando, and one was hosted by the NFL at their headquarters in New York.

Spring 2018:
- L.O.V.E. Is The Answer Workshops launch a 3-hour format designed for students and law enforcement together and a full-day format designed for community leaders and law enforcement together.
- A companion L.O.V.E. Is The Answer book featuring contributions by a wide range of experts is schedule to be published.
- Licensing, conferences and participation in festivals and trade shows continues throughout the year.
The L.O.V.E. Is The Answer Conferences kicked off in Syracuse, NY. By the end of 2018, we will have visited all 50 states, and conducted 120 full-scale screening/Q&A/workshop events. We are now in talks with potential host organizations and local and national sponsors.
The L.O.V.E. Is The Answer 5-Minute Film Contest runs through December 31, 2018. Each team must be led by a teen or young adult (13-23) and a peace officer, working together as co-producer/director. Other team members may join them to fulfill various roles such as camera person, editor, grip, sound, lighting, associate producer, executive producer, social media promotions, on-camera talent, etc.

We are also asking celebrities to participate in some of the films to help attract more views and more awareness of the need for peace officers and other members of the community to start working together more to be the change they wish to see in their community. Anyone can start a team — just make sure that the team is built around the teen and peace officer who will be the two team leaders, each with equal decision-making power, working together and learning from each other.

Teams will post their 5-minute videos to YouTube and Facebook, where likes, shares and comments will determine local and national winners. State winners will be revealed at the end of January 2019. State winners will then compete for the national crown to be revealed at a red carpet event in Santa Monica, CA in the Spring of 2019 during Hollywood’s awards season.

Visit www.loveistheanswermovement.com for more details and ongoing program news.
CONTACT US!

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