



PRESS KIT

HEATHER BOOTH: CHANGING THE WORLD

**A FILM BY LILLY RIVLIN
PRODUCED BY LILLY RIVLIN
JUST LUCK PRODUCTIONS
60 minutes color, HD VIDEO, completed, 2017**

HEATHER BOOTH: CHANGING THE WORLD

LOGLINE:

Heather Booth is the most influential person you never heard of.

In telling the story of Heather Booth, her evolution from an activist in Mississippi to a legendary political organizer, the film presents, through her life and work, an overview of 50 years of the Progressive movement, as well as a manual on how to become an Organizer.

Renowned organizer Heather Booth began her remarkable career in 1964 at the age of 18, when she traveled to Mississippi at the height of the Civil Rights movement. Her work with such legends as Fannie Lou Hamer was only the first moment in an extraordinary journey. Over the following decades, Heather has borne witness to—and been at the heart of—the most pivotal moments in progressive movements of the last fifty years. Heather’s work—and her connections to nationally known leaders from Elizabeth Warren to Julian Bond—provide a unique, behind-the-scenes look into these moments through the eyes of the people who fought for change and justice.

As a teenager, Heather visited the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. She was moved by the memorial to the people of the Warsaw Ghetto who fought back against the Nazi oppression. Their bravery set her on her life’s path. While at the University of Chicago, a friend with an unplanned pregnancy called her—abortion then was a felony and illegal abortions were dangerous. Heather found a doctor who agreed to the procedure. Heather braved tremendous personal risk in founding what became known as the JANE Underground, a secret network offering safe abortion services.

Heather rode the crest of the waves of change through the 70s, forming multiple national coalitions to address pressing social problems. In the 80s, she took heed of activist Alice Palmer’s words, “if you don’t do politics, politics does you,” and began working on electoral campaign. She worked in Harold Washington’s successful, ground breaking mayoral campaign in 1983. In 2000, she spearheaded an unprecedented voter registration effort for the NAACP’s National Voter Fund adding nearly two million African-Americans to the rolls of eligible voters. Her strategy in this effort is credited with laying the groundwork for the election of President Barack Obama years later.

We have full access to Heather in telling this story of an extraordinary woman---as well as the cooperation of family, friends, students and colleagues of national stature.

TRAILER LINK:

www.heatherbooththefilm.com

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CREDITS:

Executive Producers

Mildred Weissman and Don Morris

Producer/Director

Lilly Rivlin, Just Luck Production

Consulting Producer

Margaret Murphy

Associate Producer

Stefanie Alleyne

Editor

Pola Rapaport

Associate Editor

Flavia Fontes

Original Music

Kyle Chu Casey

Graphic Design

Marcia Bujold

Cinematography

Julie Gaynin:

Mike Moser.

Emily Wathen

Ashley James:

Jonathan Marx:

Maggie Snyder:

Jo Freeman

Family Photos

Vanessa Tobis

Katherine Booth

Researcher

Lisa Flanzraich

Legal

Nina Reznick

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

Heather Booth: Changing the World, is the third in my trilogy about activist women and the times they live in. As I reflect on my filmmaking career, and review the films I have made, clearly, I make films about parts of me. As a childless woman, I understand by now, that these films are my children, and that I have gone through birth pangs for each of them. My filmography of Grace Paley was not such a difficult birth because Grace was totally there for the audience to love, just as they have loved her *Collected Stories*; Esther Broner, was a relatively easy birth, mainly because her book, *A Weave of Women* was an invaluable resource and the women of the Feminist Seder were all there to support me. Heather Booth was a more difficult work because her art is *Organizing* and, as Heather Booth said to me in our initial conversation, “organizing is exciting, thrilling and inspiring, but the role I play is boring”. Telling the story of *Organizing in America* through the life and work of Heather Booth is a journey through all the modern Progressive Movements. The film also creates a unique handbook that illuminates the lessons Heather learned through 50 years of organizing. Her legacy is the ongoing work of The Midwest Academy, a training program she established for aspiring organizers.

INTERVIEWEES:

Fred Azcarate

Eugene “Gene” Booth

Paul Booth

Robert Brandon

Bob Creamer

Lisa Donner

Diane Fager

Jo Freeman

Alderman Jesus “Chuy” Garcia

Jacky Grimshaw

Rep. Luis Gutierrez

Judy Hertz

Bob Hudek

Cristina Jimenez

Jackie Kendall

Steve Max

Gregory Moore

Susan Oppenheimer

Alice Palmer

Kate Peyton

Rep. Jan Schakowsky

Joel Silberman

Jane Silver

Austin Belali Thompson

Teresa Vilmain

Sen. Elizabeth Warren

SDS CARTOONS

“Student for a Democratic Society- A Graphic History”

Written (mostly) by Harvey Pekar; Art (mostly) by Gary Dumm, Edited by Paul Buhle

STILL IMAGES

Heather Booth:







LILLY RIVLIN, FILMMAKER



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