



**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.

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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.

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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.

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## TRAILER LINK:

[www.heatherbooththefilm.com](http://www.heatherbooththefilm.com)

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**Executive Producers:**

Mildred Weissman  
Don Morris

**Producer Director** Lilly

Rivlin

**Consulting Producer**

Margaret Murphy

**Edited by**

Pola Rapaport

**Associate Editor**

Flavia Fontes

**Associate Producer**

Stefanie Alleyne

**Assistant Editor**

Stefanie Alleyne

**Production Assistant**

Rahima Rahi

**Chief Researcher**

Lisa Flanzraich

**Additional Research**

Hugh Iglarsh Madeline  
Court Jean Moylan

**Cinematography**

Jo Freeman  
Julie Gaynin  
Ashley James  
Michael Moser  
Emily Wathen  
Maggie Snyder  
Jonathan Marx

**Family Footage**

Vanessa Tobis  
Katherine Booth

**Audio**

Richard Pooler  
Hayden Jackson  
Michael Boyle

On Line Editing  
GLUE Editing & Design  
Color Correction & Final Mix: Steve  
Pequignot Sound Editing: John Davis

Music Composed and Performed by  
Kyle Casey Chu

**Additional Music:**

Song: Woman on the Front Line of Justice

Music by Kyle Chu  
Lyrics by Eve Zanni  
Vocals: Bobby Harden & Eve Zanni  
Recording Engineers: Barbaros Baros A. Kaynak  
Music Supervisor: Pola Rapaport

Tsayt Lid, a call to arms, Words by Nachum Yud, music by E.Teytlboym sung in  
last days of the Warsaw Ghetto, Dec. 1942.

**Interviews**

Jeff Blum  
Eugene "Gene" Booth  
Paul Booth  
Robert Brandon  
Bob Creamer  
Lisa Donner  
Diane Fager  
Jo Freeman  
Jacky Grimshaw  
Rep. Luis Gutierrez  
Judy Hertz  
Cristina Jimenez  
Jackie Kendall  
Steve Max  
Gregory Moore  
Susan Oppenheimer  
Alice Palmer  
Rep. Jan Schakowsky  
Joel Silberman  
Jane Silver  
Austin "Belali" Thompson

Teresa Vilmain  
Sen. Elizabeth Warren

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Vicki Marantz  
Richard Means

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McCain Archive at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg  
Chicago History Museum  
Media Burn Archives  
The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archives of the Hebrew University of  
Jerusalem and the World Zionist Organization  
A Regular Bouquet-Richard Beymer Collection, Washington University  
Libraries Buyout Footage  
Oddball  
WTTW- Eshed Halpern  
Bill Zimmerman- Zimmerman and Markman advertising

SDS Cartoons by Gary Dumm from A Graphic History, Students for a  
Democratic Society, by Harvey Pekar, Edited by Paul Buhle

### **Add'l footage provided by**

Bruce Orenstein & Bob Hercules  
Joseph Dean Tinnin, JoDe Productions  
Erik Rist  
Jo Freeman  
Dick Schmeer (black and white home video/childhood)  
Dan Drasin  
Paul Richards-Estuary Press  
Scottish Election Board  
National People's Action- Jacob Swenson-Lengyel  
Kathleen Rogers, Earth Day Network  
Bill Moyers Journal

### **Still Photographs**

Kimberly Perry

U.S. Holocaust Museum

Jennifer Kotting

Elaine Wessel © CWLU Herstory Project [www.CWLUherstory.org](http://www.CWLUherstory.org)

Jo Freeman

Chuck Berman/Chicago Tribune/TNS

Val Mazzenga/Chicago Tribune/TNS

Jose More/Chicago Tribune/TNS

Thomas Jefferson portrait Courtesy of Independence National Historical Park

<https://www.goodfreephotos.com>

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futureatlas.com [www.Futureatlas.com](http://www.Futureatlas.com)

Bettye Lane Collection- Donna McAlpine

Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University.

Danny Lyon, Magnum Photos

Yad Vashem Photo Archives

Associated Press

University of Chicago

Victor Radivinovski

Penguin Random House

Chicago Review Press

Architecture of Capitol- Flickr.com

Heather Booth's friends and family who shared their personal photos

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### **Historical Consultant**

Kathryn Kish Sklar, SUNY Binghamton

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Women Make Movies

### **Special Thanks**

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Anita Altman

Aaron Black

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Shulie Eshell

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Kate Peyton  
Ronnie Rivlin  
Natalia Martinez Sagan  
Ruth Sullivan  
Margery Tabankin  
Dean Tinnin  
Josh Waletzky  
Move On, Ben Wikler  
Peter Yarrow

Naomi Weisstein's Memorial:  
Digital Humanities Initiative (New School) Red Dog Productions at the New  
School

**This film is dedicated to  
President Barack Obama and Heather Booth  
And organizers everywhere who make the world a better place**



## **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

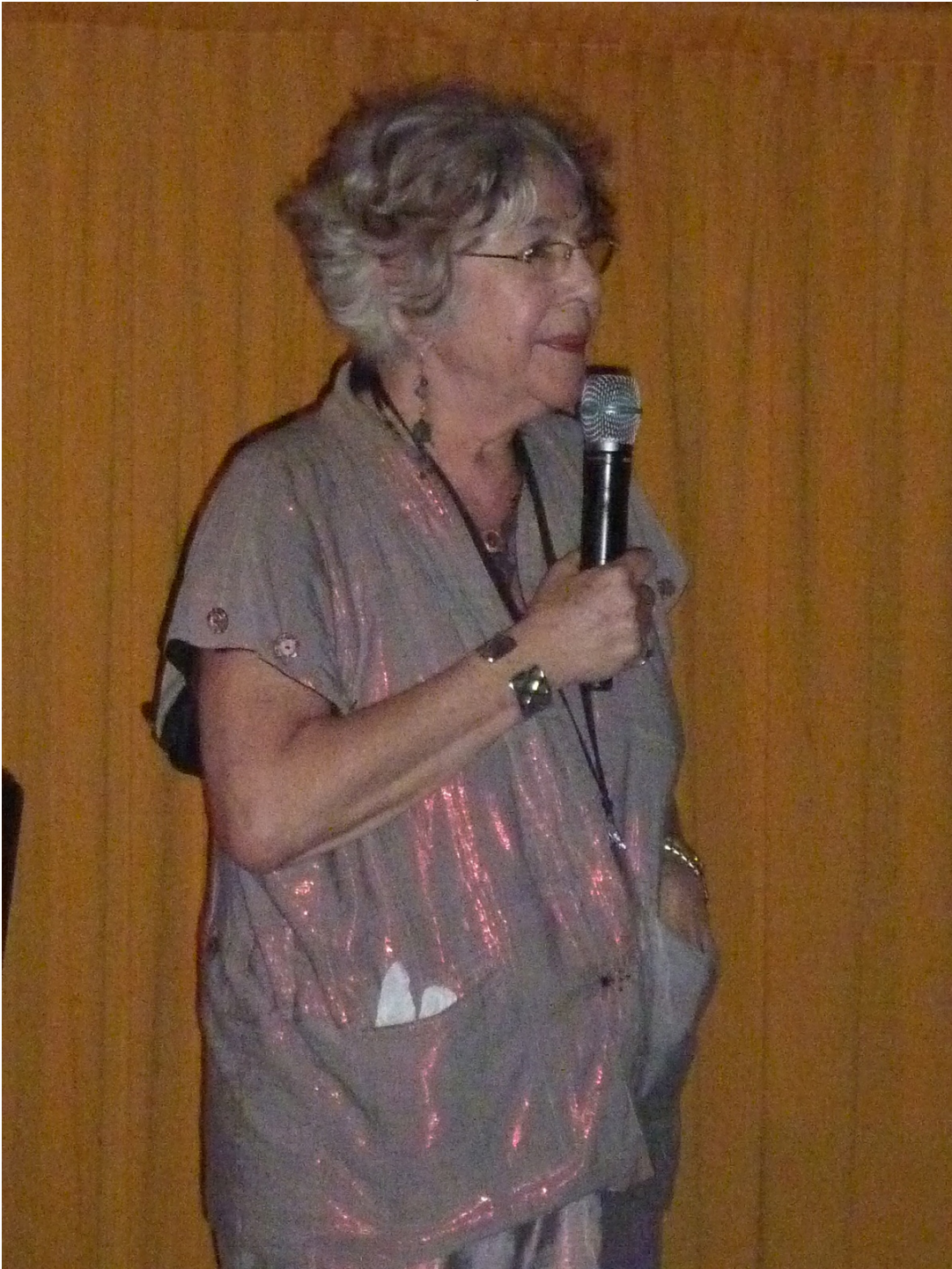
Heather Booth:







LILLY RIVLIN, FILMMAKER



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