Directed By
Monica Berra, SheRea DelSol, and Gini Richards
“Soul City” is a documentary short that tells the story of a group of civil rights activists and city slickers who attempt to build a multiracial utopia in the heart of Klan Country, North Carolina in the 1970s. Their pioneering efforts to jumpstart this black-owned, black-built town run up against tenacious enemies that still face idealists and dreamers today--ingrained racism, public skepticism, and unwillingness on the part of the government to think outside the box to solve social problems. As this group of dreamers try to bring together unlikely allies to support black power and economic development, they are forced to balance their soaring idealism with the hostile reality of the times.

**Synopsis**

**Genre:** Documentary  
**Duration:** 20:36  
**Location:** North Carolina, USA  
**Completed:** April 2016
Credits

Directed, produced and edited by: Monica Berra, SheRea DelSol and Gini Richards

Motion Graphics Artist: Gini Richards

Composer: Patrick Willard

Sound Mixer: Tom Green

Color Correction: NOLO Digital Film
Filmmaker Bios

Monica Berra works with Stanley Nelson’s Firelight Films, and was previously a television anchor/reporter in Florida. She has produced documentaries about North Carolina public education, a black environmentalist in the Florida Everglades, and novelist Marjorie Rawlings. Her next documentary will explore Cuban-American self-identity through three generations of her family.

SheRea DelSol has worked with London-based production companies Great Guns and Giant Films & TV. She comes to documentary with a Communication background and her academic work focuses on media representations of Blacks. Her recent documentary addressed racism on a college campus. Her next project examines sizeism in the natural hair community.

Gini Richards has worked with PBS Frontline, Alex Gibney’s Jigsaw Productions, DCTV, and Wake Forest faculty. Her own documentary work has focused on North Carolina mountain miners, Mars astronaut hopefuls, and racial tensions on a college campus. Her next documentary will focus on race relations in the Mormon church.
Screenings

- Official Latino Short Film Festival (New York, NY) (2016) Winner: Best Documentary
- Harlem International Film Festival (New York, NY) (2016)
- Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival (New York, NY) (2016) Winner: Best Director’s Award
- Austin Film Festival (Austin, TX) (2016)
- Savannah Film Festival (Savannah, GA) (2016)
- Tallgrass Film Festival (Wichita, KS) (2016)
- Aesthetica Short Film Festival (York, UK) (2016)
- Cucalorus Film Festival (Wilmington, NC) (2016)

Awards

- **Carole Fielding Grant Recipient**, University Film and Video Association 2015
- **Filmed in N.C. Grant Recipient**, Cucalorus Film Foundation 2016
- **Best Director’s Award**, Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival 2016
- **Best Documentary**, Official Latino Short Film Festival 2016
Contact Information

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