

DAISY MAY FILMS PRESENTS  
A FILM BY MERCEDES KANE

# BREAKFAST AT INA'S



PULL UP  
A SEAT  
AND  
OPEN  
YOUR  
HEART.

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It's the last time the old door will clink quietly behind her, but Ina Pinkney doesn't look back. The final meal has been served at her legendary cafe and she's finally heading home. Tomorrow will bring with it a new year, and the start of Ina's next chapter. We begin a look back to where it all began.

Ina Pinkney is a Chicago legend of the tastiest kind. Known around town as the "Breakfast Queen", she has been feeding Chicagoans for the past 33 years - first, out of a small bakery and, most recently, from her beloved breakfast nook in the West Loop. Ina, who survived polio as an infant, now suffers the effects of post-polio syndrome, and has decided to close the doors of her celebrated establishment at the close of 2013.

An undeniably outstanding chef and astute businesswoman, Ina is so much more. She's a community leader, a pioneer, a television personality, but most importantly, she's the rare sort of person who's found a way to transform her passion into a joy that extends across an entire city, and beyond.

The documentary, "Breakfast at Ina's" gives audiences a glimpse into Ina's extraordinary life, all while chronicling the last days of the restaurant as Ina and her staff serve up its final meals.





# BREAKFAST AT INA'S



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR, MERCEDES KANE

In August of 2013, I came across an interview in the Chicago Tribune with a local restaurateur closing up her longstanding breakfast establishment in the West Loop neighborhood. Being the child of a restaurant owner myself it caught my eye, but as I read on, Ina Pinkney's story captured my heart - and my full attention.

Truth be told, I had been thinking about taking on another documentary project for quite some time and this story peaked my interest. Not only did Ina start her career later in life (at the age of 37), she made a name for herself and changed the landscape of breakfast in Chicago forever. She married an African American man in the 1960s, much to the dismay of her family and most of the country. Her courage and vigor helped her overcome the pain of polio as a child and its reemergence as an older adult. She was a pioneer in every sense of the word and continues to be a living legend.



I put away the newspaper and tried to put away the documentary idea. After all, I was beyond busy. A month went by and I discovered I was with child. Clearly, it wasn't the best time to start a brand new project, especially one that required such immediacy. Ina's would be shutting its doors at the end of the year, just as I would be plumping up and preparing for motherhood.



The problem was, Ina's story wouldn't leave me. I began to visit her restaurant to eat a meal, see her in person and have a look at her beloved space and close-knit crew. I'd never seen anything like it - the kinship and connection Ina had to her staff and her customers was palpable. I realized I had to capture it before it was gone forever. Ina and I talked on the phone, and then Sanghoon Lee (my fellow producer and partner) and I met with her at her restaurant to discuss the idea. Having breakfast with Ina was unforgettable, and I knew I wasn't the only one who would be interested in learning more.

Sanghoon and I, along with a very small crew, spent the month of December immersed in the world of Ina's. We found that every day had its own story, its own challenges and a series of truly magical moments. We got to know Ina through a lens and as a person - lovely and flawed and more determined than anyone we had ever met.

This is the Ina I hope our audience begins to understand. It's an Ina who is saying goodbye to perhaps the most important chapter in her life with dignity, grace and anticipation for what comes next.

# BREAKFAST **AT** INA'S



## PRINCIPLE CAST & CREW

### **INA PINKNEY**

Ina Pinkney opened a special order bakery called The Dessert Kitchen in 1980 and Ina's Kitchen in 1991, which quickly became Chicago's premier breakfast restaurant. She was the chef and owner of INA'S, which opened in 2001 and closed its doors in 2013. Ina is a frequent and welcomed guest on radio, local news and cable TV and has done interviews on shows in the U.S., Canada and Germany. Ina is currently a columnist in the Chicago Tribune's Dining Section with a monthly column called BREAKFAST WITH INA!



### **MERCEDES KANE, DIRECTOR/PRODUCER**

"Breakfast at Ina's" is Mercedes Kane's third feature length documentary. Her 2012 film, "Today We Saw the Face of God" screened in over 10 film festivals and took home several awards including the "Best Feature Documentary" at the Illinois International Film Festival. Her award-winning film, "Hearts of Hope" (2009) screened internationally to critical and audience acclaim. Mercedes was associate producer on the feature film "Chicago Heights" named One of the Best Art Films of 2010 by Roger Ebert.



### **SANGHOON LEE, PRODUCER/CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Sanghoon Lee is a director, producer and cinematographer working in Chicago. His films have screened at numerous domestic and international film festivals and art museums. He served as producer and DP of "Chicago Heights", which was selected as one of best art films in 2010 by Roger Ebert. His recent film, "Breakfast at Ina's" was invited to the 2015 Chicago International Film Festival.



# BREAKFAST AT INA'S



## CREDIT LIST

### **DIRECTOR**

Mercedes Kane

### **PRODUCERS**

Mercedes Kane  
Sanghoon Lee

### **DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Sanghoon Lee

### **CAMERA OPERATOR**

Kim Brown

### **LOCATION SOUND**

Ryan Atenhan

### **GAFFER**

Donald Winter

### **GRIP**

Mamadou Bah

### **PRODUCTION COORDINATOR**

Heather Meents

### **EDITORS**

Mercedes Kane  
Sanghoon Lee

### **ASSISTANT EDITORS**

Kim Brown  
April Wilson

### **SOUND MIXER**

Ryan Atenhan

### **COLORIST**

Terry Jun

### **ORIGINAL MUSIC**

Kristin Cotts

### **TITLES AND ANIMATION**

Rose Davis

### **LOGO ANIMATION**

Alex Lyons

### **GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Leslie Fannesbeck

### **WEBSITE DESIGN**

Alex Nuttall

### **ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION**

Brian Bowman

### **INTERVIEW SUBJECTS (In order of appearance)**

Ina Pinkney  
Dean Richards  
Lana Wachowski  
Brad Rubin  
Alex Kotlowitz  
John Herrera  
Charlie Kurzawski  
Kelli Bixler  
Seana Monahan  
Gabriel Halpern  
Edith Taber  
Dan Rosenthal  
Marc Malnati  
Paul Osgood  
Bill Goddu

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Ina Pinkney  
Seana Monahan  
The entire staff of Ina's  
The customers of Ina's  
Dirk Fletcher  
Kindle Communications  
Governors State University  
Forward Motion Media  
WGN-TV

# BREAKFAST AT INA'S



## SCREENINGS & AWARDS



**WINNER: BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT**

River's Edge International Film Festival, 2015



**WINNER: GOLD AWARD, DOCUMENTARY**

Spotlight Film Awards, 2015

**WINNER: AUDIENCE AWARD, DOCUMENTARY**

Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, 2016

**WINNER: AUDIENCE AWARD, BEST OVERALL FILM**

Equinox Women's Film Festival, 2016



### OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Chicago International Film Festival, 2015

Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival, 2015

Boston Jewish Film Festival, 2015

Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, 2015

ReelAbilities Film Festival, 2015

Chicago Jewish Film Festival, 2016

Main Jewish Film Festival, 2016

Through Women's Eyes Film Festival, 2016

Sarasota Film Festival, 2016

Illinois International Film Festival, 2016

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival, 2016

Falmouth Jewish Film Series, 2016

DocUtah Film Festival, 2016

Chagrin Documentary Film Festival, 2016

