

A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY FOLLOWING THE FIGHT TO END THE INHUMANE PRACTICE OF PRISON BIRTH IN THE UNITED STATES

# GO UNTERD





**COUNTED** follows Pamela Winn, a previously incarcerated activist, as she fights to enact a groundbreaking law to end prison birth in Georgia and ultimately the United States.

Filmed over four years, **COUNTED** shares heartbreaking and ultimately inspiring stories of directly impacted women turned activists that expose the hidden horrors over 55,000 pregnant women face annually behind bars.





**COUNTED** shines light on the “uncounted” through following the lives of previously incarcerated pregnant women turned activists who use the transformative power of their own stories to inspire others and change laws. The film exposes the harsh reality of women’s mistreatment in jails and prisons, where data on incarcerated women—particularly pregnant women—is systematically suppressed. Pamela Winn, former RN who miscarried her baby in prison due to shackling, legislates the first bill in the U.S. to end prison birth. Interwoven with her four-year journey to pass the bill are the stories of Tiawana Brown, the first formerly incarcerated council member of Charlotte, North Carolina, who gave birth in prison to her second child at 19 and now owns safe homes that house and support women as they leave prison, and Kristie Puckett, a lobbyist and activist advocating for the advancement of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, who experienced pregnancy with twins while incarcerated. On their unique, yet interwoven paths, the three protagonists embark on a radical mission to dismantle a broken system—advocating for justice, the lives of those still “uncounted” and an end to prison birth.





In 2021, we made **WINN**—a short documentary about the fight to end the shackling of pregnant people in prison. WINN premiered at the Atlanta Film Festival and was the recipient of the Reel South Award. In 2022, **WINN** aired on PBS and won the PBS Short Film Festival Award.

**COUNTED** builds on the movement as a feature documentary about the fight to end prison birth. WINN was a short documentary focused on ending the shackling of pregnant people in prison, while **COUNTED** is a national story that takes us outside of Georgia to tell the stories of more women in the fight to get pregnant women out of jails and prisons.

FROM A SHORT TO A FEATURE





# THE PARTICIPANTS







# PAMELA WINN

## THE CHANGEMAKER

Pamela Winn is a formerly incarcerated mother and founder of RestoreHER, a Georgia-based organization which addresses the social inequities affecting directly impacted women. As a nationally recognized leader, Winn leads the fight to end prison birth in the U.S. After losing her child while shackled in prison, Pamela has dedicated her life to legislative change, creating and legislating the CARE Act in Georgia and working with activists nationwide to protect pregnant people in custody. Pamela received the 2023 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, and was recognized by Forbes' 50 Over 50 Impact list of top women leaders for social change in the United States.



# TIAWANA BROWN

## THE LAWMAKER

Tiawana Brown, a council member for District 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina, gave birth in federal prison and was separated from her daughters for over four years. Now a politician and activist, she advocates for incarcerated women, using her experience to fight for systemic change in the criminal justice system. Tiawana is the founder of Beauty After the Bars, which is an organization that houses and supports women upon release from incarceration.







# KRISTIE PUCKETT

## THE ACTIVIST

Kristie Puckett, a lobbyist and activist in North Carolina, holds prisons accountable for upholding anti-shackling laws. After giving birth to twins days after release from jail, Kristie graduated with three degrees and became a relentless advocate for incarcerated women, working to ensure they receive proper care and dignity.



# DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

The films we've created expose injustice and illuminate inspiration. **COUNTED** is an evolution of our practice, allowing an audience to empathize without being paralyzed. Documenting optimists like Pamela Winn teaches us all that there is room for humanity to learn, grow, and improve. This film aims to catalyze empathy, organize, and activate change to end prison birth in our lifetime.





# CHANGE & IMPACT

A woman with vibrant red curly hair is shown from the chest up, looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. She is wearing a white textured cardigan over a blue and white patterned shirt. In the background, a black metal fence with vertical bars is visible, and behind that, a large, ornate classical building with a prominent dome and columns, likely a state capitol building, stands under a clear blue sky.

From the beginning, our mission aligns with Pamela Winn and the women represented in our film: to end the inhumane practice of incarcerating pregnant people and illuminating the maltreatment of women in prison. By sharing their powerful stories and offering healthy alternatives to prison/jails for all women, we aim to spark meaningful conversations and advocacy. The film will serve as a catalyst for legislative change, empowering communities to support initiatives like the CARE Act.



# STORY STRUCTURE

The documentary is structured around Pamela's fight to pass the CARE Act, woven with compelling and artistically framed stories of other directly impacted women. Interwoven with Pamela's journey are Kristie and Tia's work fighting for incarcerated women. The narrative arc follows the bill's journey through the legislative process, highlighting the challenges faced by the women involved. Their incarcerated birth stories will also carry through the arc of the film, culminating in the critical moments of either the passing or failing of the CARE Act.







# KEY CREATIVE PERSONNEL

## ERICA TANAMACHI (CO-DIRECTOR/PRODUCER)

Erica Tanamachi's first documentary feature, *Home Court* (2024), received the 2023 ITVS Open Call award and will broadcast on Independent Lens in 2025. She is a 2024 Wyncote Filmmaker Fellow and co-directed the award-winning short *Winn* (2021), currently distributed by PBS. Erica has over 20 years of experience in independent documentaries and holds an MFA in Cinema from San Francisco State University.

## JOSEPH EAST (CO-DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/CINEMATOGRAPHER)

Joseph East is a director, producer, and cinematographer whose work has appeared on PBS, ABC, and Hulu. He co-directed the award-winning short *Winn* and was the director of photography on *Refuge* (DOC NYC, 2021). Joseph won a Southeast Emmy for his work on the PBS series *Your Fantastic Mind* and co-founded Brave Voices Media in Atlanta.

## EVAN MASCAGNI (PRODUCER)

Evan Mascagni is a documentary filmmaker from Kentucky, most recently directing and producing *Persistent: A Challenge to Kentucky's PFO Law* in partnership with ITVS. His work includes *Building a Bridge* (Tribeca 2021), executive produced by Martin Scorsese. Evan co-founded Player Piano Productions and produces films and branded content for nonprofits and social-impact companies.

## DARCY MCKINNON (CONSULTING PRODUCER)

Darcy McKinnon is a New Orleans-based documentary filmmaker whose recent work includes *Under G-d* (Sundance 2023) and *Look at Me! XXXTENTACION* (Hulu). Darcy is an alum of the Sundance Institute Creative Producing Fellowship and Filmmaker Magazine's 2020 "25 New Faces in Independent Film."

## JEAN KAWAHARA (EDITOR)

Jean Kawahara is a documentary film editor with credits including *Home Court* (2024), *Belly of the Beast* (2020), *T-Rex* (2015), and *Point of No Return* (2017). Her work has been featured in the New York Times and New Yorker. Jean holds a BA from UC Berkeley and a Master's in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University.



# ARTISTIC APPROACH



**COUNTED** will be shot in a cinema-verité style, with a mix of intimate, heroically framed shots of Pamela, Tia and Kristie and staged reenactments directed by the women themselves. The film will use visual storytelling, animation, and art by the protagonists to offer moments of respite and contemplation, overall creating an engaging and visually striking documentary.



# DISTRIBUTION & MARKETING STRATEGY

We aim to premiere at top-tier film festivals and create a theatrical screening circuit targeting states with no dignity laws for incarcerated pregnant women. We plan to collaborate with RestoreHER (Pamela's organization) and Beauty After the Bars (Tia's organization), along with national organizations like the ACLU for a broad reach, intending to activate audiences to support legislative change.







# FINANCING AND CREDITING

## FINANCING

**Total Budget:** \$881,236

**Funding to Date:** \$92,000

**Funding Gap:** \$763,569

## CREDITING STRUCTURE

### FOR NON-RECOUPABLE GRANTS

**\$100,000**

In Association with

**\$75,000**

Executive Producer

**\$50,000**

Co-Executive Producer

**\$25,000**

Contributing Producer

**\$5,000**

With Support from

**Below \$5,000**

Special Thanks

### FOR RECOUPABLE INVESTMENT

**\$250,000**

In Association with

**\$100,000**

Executive Producer

**\$50,000**

Co-Executive Producer

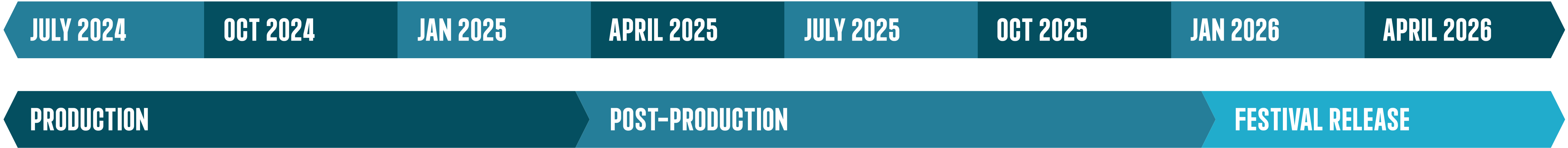
**\$25,000**

Contributing Producer





# PRODUCTION TIMELINE



The project is currently 70 percent filmed. With additional funding, we aim to continue our edit that we began in July 2024 and complete production by Spring 2025 and target an early 2026 festival release.





# THANK YOU!

**“WOMEN WHO DON’T COUNT, DON’T GET **COUNTED**.  
AND WOMEN WHO DON’T GET **COUNTED**, DON’T COUNT.”**

**—DR. CAROLYN SUFRIN**

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**WMM**  
WOMEN MAKE MOVIES



PERSPECTIVE FUND

