



The New York Times

"Today Simone's multitudinous identity captures the mood of young people yearning to bring together our modern movements for racial, gender and sexual equality.

This is a large part of the appeal of the documentary "The Amazing Nina Simone," by Jeff L. Lieberman, which features more than 50 interviews with Simone's family, associates and academics."

The Amazing

nina simone

A DOCUMENTARY FILM FROM WRITER & DIRECTOR JEFF L. LIEBERMAN

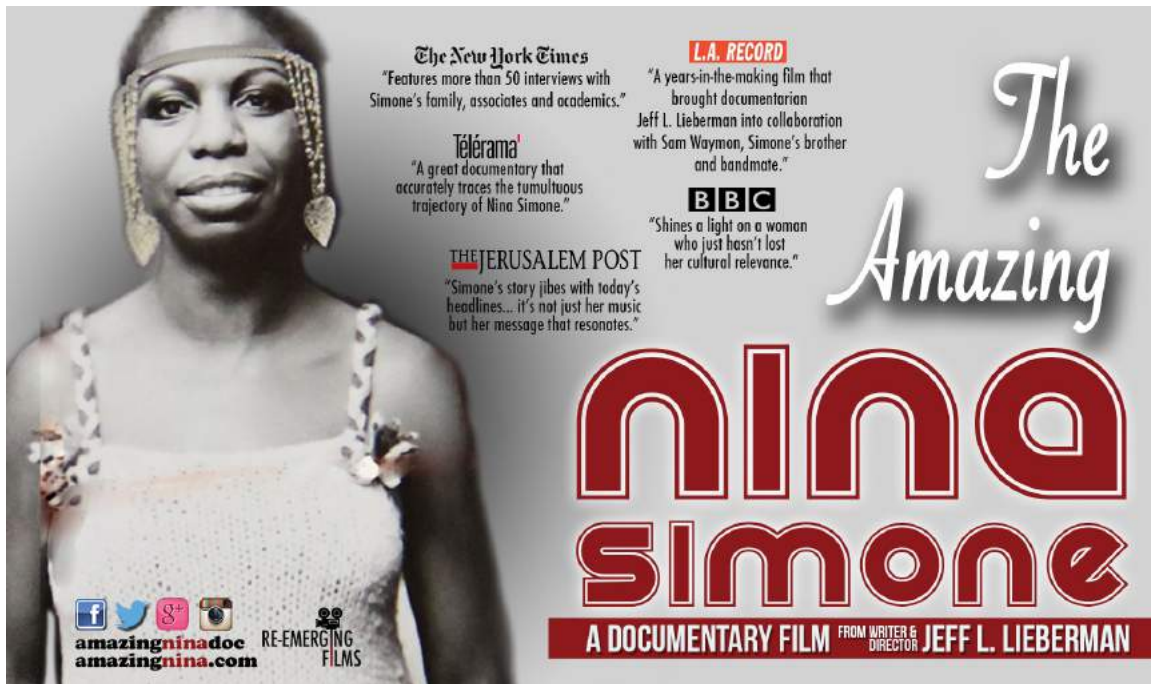


amazingnina doc
amazingnina.com

PRODUCTION NOTES

Re-Emerging Films
310-869-4686
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PRODUCTION NOTES

Much beloved and often misunderstood, the story of America's most overlooked musical genius is finally brought to light in "The Amazing Nina Simone." Director Jeff L. Lieberman ("Re-Emerging: The Jews of Nigeria") brings audiences on Nina's journey from the segregated South, through the worlds of classical music, jazz joints & international concert halls. Navigating through the twists & turns of the 1960's fight for racial equality, the film delves deep into Nina's artistry and intentions, answering long-held questions behind Nina's most beloved songs, bold style, controversial statements, and the reason she left America.

"**The Amazing Nina Simone**" is the only documentary film to tell the story of the singer, songwriter, pianist and activist, through over 50 exclusive and intimate interviews with the people who knew Nina best: her friends, family, musicians and fellow activists, including Eric Burdon (The Animals), Sam Waymon (Nina's Brother & Longtime Band Member), Nikki Giovanni (Poet, Professor & Friend) & Marie Christine Dunham-Pratt (Nina's Lover & Friend).

Re-Emerging Films, 2015, USA, 105 Minutes

Official Website:

www.amazingnina.com

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SYNOPSIS - SHORT

125 WORDS

She was left out of Civil Rights history, erased by jazz critics, and forgotten by most Americans because no one knew how to categorize her greatness. But throughout the 1960s, Nina Simone was both loved and feared for her outspoken vision of Black Freedom. Her musical proclamations like "Mississippi Goddam", and her iconic style created an alternative voice that continues to empower with its unrelenting appeal for justice. Now, a new documentary reveals the real Nina Simone through over 50 intimate interviews with those who best knew the artistry and intentions of one America's true musical geniuses. With new insights into her journey from Classical Music and the segregated American South, Nina's legacy is chartered all the way to the South of France where she finally found freedom.

SYNOPSIS - MEDIUM

250 WORDS

With musical proclamations like "Mississippi Goddam" and an iconic style, Nina Simone was both loved and feared throughout the 1960s for her outspoken vision of Black Freedom. Today, Nina is more popular eleven years after her death than ever before. President Barack Obama listed "Sinnerman" in his top 5 favorite songs, and whether re-mixed, re-sampled or in its pure form, Nina's music continues to reflect the turbulent twists of our times, and empower people around the world.

The film traces Nina's roots from her upbringing in segregated North Carolina, when she was once Eunice Waymon and destined to be a great Classical Pianist. As she experiences early disappointments and lands in an Atlantic City bar, she develops her unique signature mix of layering folk, gospel, classical, jazz, and pop music. Forced to sing or lose the job, she conceals from her religious mother that she is performing in a bar, and Nina Simone - a star - is born.

The documentary uncovers Nina's rise to fame, her education among Harlem's intelligentsia, the creation of over 30 albums, navigating the many factions of the Civil Rights Movement, proclaiming her own unique identity through her style, fashion, and sexuality, and her abrupt departure from the United States. Chased by an untreated illness that consumes both her and her actions, Nina eventually re-builds her career, performing again for a generation of fans eager to rekindle the optimism and love she once provided in the 1960s.

SYNOPSIS - FULL

600 WORDS

She was left out of Civil Rights history, erased by jazz critics, and forgotten by most Americans because no one knew how to categorize her greatness. But throughout the 1960s, Nina Simone was both loved and feared for her outspoken vision of Black Freedom. Her musical proclamations like Mississippi Goddam, and her iconic style gave voice to people of all colors facing oppression, and continues to empower today with its unrelenting appeal for justice.

Yet, Nina is often remembered more for her fiery temper, scolding of audiences and her subsequent abrupt departure from the United States. Now, a new documentary reveals the real Nina Simone through over 50 intimate interviews with those who best knew the artistry and intentions of one America's true musical geniuses.

With new insights into her journey from Classical Music and the segregated American South, Nina's legacy is chartered through her early disappointments, her education among Harlem's intelligentsia, the creation of over 30 albums, navigating the many factions of the Civil Rights Movement, proclaiming her own unique identity through her style, fashion, and sexuality, and the battle with the untreated illness that consumed both her and her actions. The film follows Nina's journey all the way to the South of France and the place where she finally found freedom.

Through Nina's friends, family, band members, lovers and fellow activists, we learn the true Nina, and the inspiration behind the songs that for 60 years have moved people to both tears and elation. Music that is pure and untouched by today's electronics, and touches emotions of love, joy, despair, rage, and revenge - often reflecting the turbulent twists of the 1960s. President Barak Obama listed "Sinnerman" in his top 5 favorite songs, and whether re-mixed, re-sampled or in its pure form, Nina's music can be heard in films, commercials, radio, and online throughout the world. Her voice is one reflecting Freedom, inspiring people all over the world in the fight for dignity and respect from Cairo to Ferguson.

The film traces Nina's roots from her upbringing in segregated North Carolina, when she was once Eunice Waymon, playing piano with a White piano teacher, her beloved Mrs. Mazzy. Destined to be a great Classical Pianist, Eunice's journey is carefully documented as she experiences early disappointments navigating the Classical Music establishment, landing in an Atlantic City bar, where she develops her unique signature mix of layering folk, gospel, classical, pop and African music. Forced to sing or lose the job, she conceals from her religious mother that she is performing in a bar, and Nina Simone - a star - is born.

The film showcases Nina through her most influential period in the 1960s, but also the journey after the Civil Rights movement fades from the headlines. With the assassinations of friends and leaders, we chart Nina's journey as she departs the United States, traveling through the Caribbean, Africa, and Europe, confronting her complicated relationship with performance, artistry and fame. With the help of friends and fans, Nina eventually re-builds her career to perform again for a generation of fans eager to rekindle the optimism and love she once provided in the 1960s.

With this film, we get one step closer to understanding the woman who has given fans moments of pride, and opportunities to cry in solitude. We gain a deeper appreciation of Nina's music, and an understanding of the events leading to their creation. We continue her fight for freedom for all people, and introduce younger audiences to the songs that inspired us. We help preserve and understand the Amazing Nina Simone.

JEFF L. LIEBERMAN

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I discovered my first Nina Simone song several decades after its initial recording, and immediately fell in love with the mysterious, androgynous, haunting sound of Nina's unique voice. I was a teenager at that time, and much of Nina's music had been repurposed onto Jazz compilation CDs, and while she was in the company of other great female vocalists, I never felt her sound meshed with the other artists, nor fit in this over-simplified category called "Jazz". I later discovered that Nina never considered her music Jazz either, instead preferring the much more elegant and uniquely Simone label of "Black Classical Music".

As my love and hunger to hear all of Nina's music grew, I also found a recording of Nina chastising one of her audiences. I knew that she was extremely beloved during the 1960s by a group of loyal fans, and I was fascinated that this love transcended moments when Nina could praise and berate an audience in almost the same instant. If audience members were insulted, it didn't seem to stop them from loving the woman who gave them music that inspired, empowered and consoled. This duality fascinated me. When I finally saw Nina live in person in 2000 at New York's Beacon Theatre, an audience member lovingly shouted out "Welcome home, Nina". Nina swiftly replied, "This is not my home. Africa is my home."

My curiosity about Nina eventually sent me on a research journey, where I discovered many remarkable characteristics that marked Nina's life, many of which I felt were unknown to her fans, left out of Civil Rights narratives, and under-represented her contributions and legacy. At the same time, Nina's music was becoming increasingly popular a decade after her death. Beyonce was citing Nina in her film, Hip Hop stars were sampling her music, her songs were continually popping up in TV shows and commercials, and a controversial bio-pic film stopped and started through a series of actors and producers, raising issues of Black identity and representation, sharply criticized by a vocal chorus in the blogosphere. Nina had become a symbol for a generation of young people, was still beloved by her Baby Boom followers, and crossed gender, race, nationality and genre, while becoming a symbol for those fighting this decade's fights for freedom, whether it be democracy, marriage, or dignity.

All of this led me to believe that a documentary exploring Nina's journey and origins could bring new meaning to her music, and a greater understanding of her life. Speaking to the people who knew her, loved her, worked with her, and helped create some of those iconic songs, the film unfolded and not only did Nina's story come to life, but so did the historical backdrop and political climate of 20th Century America. The film ultimately becomes not just a personal story, but also a larger story of that iconic era.

I bring this film forward to continue repairing our difficult past – to speak about slavery, segregation and discrimination. Progress will elude us until these issues are sufficiently tackled. Nina knew this well. She sang of freedom and spent her whole life searching for her own personal freedom. She was consumed by a mental illness that added to the barriers she was already facing. Yet, she was more free than most of us ever will be – speaking her mind on politics, expressing her iconic beauty, enjoying a sexual freedom with both men and women, and living life without the constraints of others' expectations. With this film, we continue Nina's fight for freedom for all people, and get one step closer to understanding the woman who has given fans moments of pride, opportunities to cry in solitude, and the ability to confront the impossible.

- Jeff L. Lieberman

JEFF L. LIEBERMAN

DIRECTOR'S BIO



JEFF L. LIEBERMAN
jeff@amazingnina.com

Jeff L. Lieberman is an award-winning Journalist, Producer and Documentary Filmmaker. His TV Specials, News Stories and Documentaries have appeared on CBS, HBO, CNN, FOX and on the websites of Yahoo!, The New York Post, CBS Moneywatch, and The Huffington Post. Lieberman is the founder of RE-EMERGING Films, and the Writer, Director and Producer of the company's brand new feature-length documentary film, "The Amazing Nina Simone".

"The Amazing Nina Simone" premiered in October 2015 to sold-out audiences in over 50 American cinemas, and stayed in theatres for 4 weeks in several cities. The award-winning film has been heralded by The New York Times, BBC News, Hollywood Reporter, JET Magazine, LA Record, Jerusalem Post, Indiewire, Chicago Reader & The Seattle Times for its in-depth research into the often misunderstood singer and civil rights activist. The film also received international attention via feature-length interviews with Jeff Lieberman on BBC's "Newshour" on the Worldservice and New Zealand Public Radio. "The Amazing Nina Simone" is the only documentary film to tell the story of the legendary singer, songwriter, pianist and activist, through over 50 exclusive and intimate interviews with the people who knew Nina best: her friends, family, musicians and fellow activists, including Eric Burdon (The Animals), Sam Waymon (Nina's Brother & Longtime Band Member), Nikki Giovanni (Poet, Professor & Friend) & Marie Christine Dunham-Pratt (Nina's Lover & Friend).

Jeff's previous film, the Academy Award-Qualifying documentary, "RE-EMERGING: The Jews of Nigeria" opened theatrically in 2013 in New York and Los Angeles, and premiered at festivals in Toronto, Boston, Washington, Vancouver, London, Switzerland & Israel. The film gained rave reviews from The New York Times, NPR, The Hollywood Reporter & Village Voice, with New York's Amsterdam News proclaiming the film as "one of the must-see documentaries of 2013".

RE-EMERGING Films also regularly produces documentary programming for Coca-Cola, Walt Disney Films, Showtime's "Homeland", Entertainment Tonight, The Insider, Macy's, Marlo Thomas & Wine Enthusiast Magazine. Lieberman also directed, edited and produced the hit viral election video, "Call Your Zeyde".

Previous to this, Jeff was a Writer/Producer with CBS National News and a Video Reporter with The New York Post website, covering events all over New York and Washington, DC including the Obama Inauguration, New York's Fashion Week, the Times Square terrorism attack, and The September 11th 10-year Anniversary commemoration.

SAM WAYMON

HISTORICAL CONSULTANT

(Brother & Longtime Band Member of Nina Simone)



Sam Waymon began his musical odyssey playing alongside his sister, Eunice. His sister left North Carolina in the '50s and traveled north to pursue her career. Along the way she dropped her given name and became one of music's most influential and independent musicians, known as Nina Simone. Sam worked with his sister for over ten years but finally broke away to develop his own style that combined everything from gospel to jazz.

Sam went on to record for record labels like: RCA, and Polygram, and has worked side by side with legendary artists like Miles Davis, Donnie Hathaway, Roberta Flack, Phyllis Hyman, and groups like, The 5th Dimension, and Main Ingredient. He also starred in the feature film, "Ganja and Hess" (directed by Bill Gunn), and wrote the film's score. That led to writing songs and scores for the film, "Weeds", and Jonathan Demme's "Philadelphia". Sam "Magic Man" Waymon lives in Nyack, NY where he performs regularly throughout New York City and the surrounding area.

ABOUT RE-EMERGING FILMS

RE-EMERGING Films is an award-winning producer and distributor of entertaining and informative content, founded by Journalist, Producer and Documentary Filmmaker, Jeff L. Lieberman. The company's TV Specials, News Stories and Documentaries have appeared in theatres internationally, and on CBS, HBO, CNN, FOX and on the websites of Yahoo!, The New York Post, CBS Moneywatch, and The Huffington Post.

RE-EMERGING Films has produced the Academy Award-Qualifying "Re-Emerging: The Jews of Nigeria" and produced programming for Coca-Cola, Walt Disney Films, Showtime's "Homeland", Entertainment Tonight, The Insider, Macy's, Marlo Thomas & Wine Enthusiast Magazine. The company also produced the hit viral election video, "Call Your Zeyde", and the pilots for the reality TV shows, "Beauty Queens" and "Mario The Magician".

PRESS QUOTES

The New York Times

"This is a large part of the appeal of the documentary which features more than 50 interviews with Simone's family, associates and academics."

THE *Hollywood* *REPORTER*

"Lieberman is solid on chronology and facts, and with the help of interviewees like Simone's longtime guitarist Al Schackman, he gets plenty of behind-the-scenes color."

B B C

"Shines a light on a woman who just hasn't lost her cultural relevance."

J E T

"Lieberman's film draws fans into the musical make-up of Simone and her relationship with fear and ideals of being free."

the Stranger

"...a documentary that is more reverential but also more rounded.... (it) spends a good part of its running time describing the discovery and development of Nina Simone's genius."

L.A. RECORD

"The Amazing Nina Simone is the independent work of the bunch, a years-in-the-making film that brought documentarian Jeff L. Lieberman into collaboration with Sam Waymon, Simone's brother and bandmate."

THE JERUSALEM POST

"Simone's story jibes with today's headlines... it's not just her music but her message that resonates."



THE ACCLAIMED DOCUMENTARY COMES TO THE BIG SCREEN

Much beloved and often misunderstood, the story of America's most overlooked musical genius is finally brought to light in "The Amazing Nina Simone." Director Jeff L. Lieberman ("Re-Emerging: The Jews of Nigeria") brings audiences on Nina's journey from the segregated South, through the worlds of classical music, jazz joints & international concert halls. Navigating through the twists & turns of the 1960's fight for racial equality, the film delves deep into Nina's artistry and intentions, answering long-held questions behind Nina's most beloved songs, bold style, controversial statements, and the reason she left America.

Re-Emerging Films, 2015, USA, 108 Minutes



EXCLUSIVE INSIGHT

"The Amazing Nina Simone" is the only documentary film to tell Nina's story through over 50 exclusive and intimate interviews with the people who knew Nina best: her friends, family, musicians and fellow activists, including Eric Burdon (The Animals), Sam Waymon (Nina's Brother & Longtime Band Member), Nikki Giovanni (Author & Poet), Martha Flowers (Opera Singer), Roscoe Dellums (Civic Leader), Billy Vera (Singer & Historian), Marie-Christine Dunham Pratt (Lover & Friend) & Al Schackman (Nina's Longtime Guitarist).



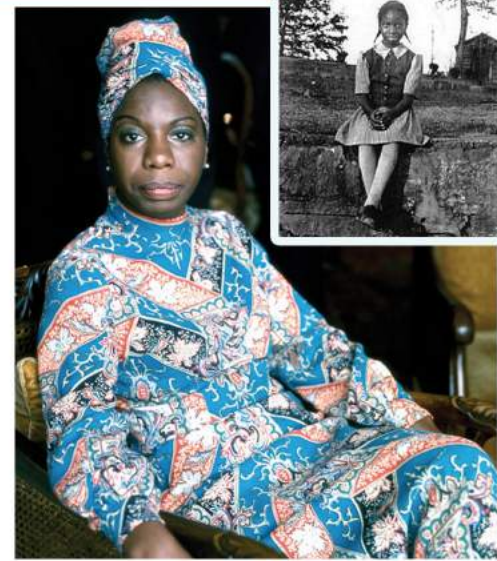
10,000 LIKES ON FACEBOOK

"Shines a light on a woman who just hasn't lost her cultural relevance."



BUILT-IN AUDIENCE

- Interest in Nina continues to escalate with music, book, film and theatre projects. President Obama cites Nina's "Sinnerman" in his top 5 songs, John Legend quoted Nina at the 2015 Oscars, and The New York Times recently devoted the entire cover of the weekend Arts section to her renewed popularity, highlighting the new documentary film "The Amazing Nina Simone."
- Both Nina and the film are in high demand, with over 1000 people recently attending our outdoor dance party, concert & advance screening (New York City, July 2015), with requests from other cities for similar events.
- Nina's fan base includes a wide swath of people from Baby Boomers to Millennials, and crosses race, gender, culture and nation, generating interest for the film in France, England, Greece, Israel, Nigeria, Brazil and throughout the US & Canada.



"A years-in-the-making film that brought documentarian Jeff L. Lieberman into collaboration with Sam Waymon, Simone's brother and bandmate."

L.A. RECORD

"A Great Documentary That Accurately Traces the Tumultuous Trajectory of Nina Simone"

Télérama

"A Fantastic Piece of Work"

- Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Filmmaker Jeff L. Lieberman & Nina Simone's brother, Sam Waymon, are keen to engage audiences around the country with talkbacks, concerts & educational forums. Re-Emerging Films is partnering with local schools, community action groups, jazz societies, blues festivals, women's groups and civil rights organizations to bring audiences to cinemas to celebrate Nina!

OCTOBER 2015 - KEY DATES

- 2nd - Advance Screening & Musical Tribute - Nyack, New York
- 10th - Film Opens the Tryon International Film Festival (Nina's birthplace)
- 15th - World Premiere - BAM and/or Carnegie Hall (Details Pending)
- 16th - Film Opens in New York, LA & Select Cities
- 23rd - Film Opens Nationwide in US & Canada



RE-EMERGING FILMS
presents

THE AMAZING NINA SIMONE

Written, Directed & Produced by
JEFF L. LIEBERMAN

Historical Consultants
SAM WAYMON
CRYS ARMBRUST
NADINE COHODAS
ROGER NUPIE
AL SCHACKMAN
SALAMISHAH TILLET

Cinematography/Editing/Motion Graphics &
Narrated by
JEFF L. LIEBERMAN

Original Music Composed by
TENNY WHYTE

featuring vocals by
DANA HILLIARD

Special Musical Performances by
PAUL BARTON
ANNA BUCHENHORST
B. JACKSON CAESAR
KEITH HINSON

Readings Performed by
ERIK DELLUMS

Nina's Childhood Hands
DALYN BOOKER
BROOKE JACOBS

Sound Re-Recording Mixer
CHRIS CHAE

Post Audio Facility
SOUNDTRACK FILM & TELEVISION

French Translations by
MAXIME DONZEL

Interview Locations Courtesy of

DREAM HOTEL, NYC
TIME HOTEL, NYC
CARNEGIE HALL, NYC
LE TROIS MAILLETZ, PARIS
RONNIE SCOTT'S, LONDON
KCRW, LOS ANGELES
VINCCI PALACE, VALENCIA, SPAIN
TEATRO MUNICIPALE, REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY
NYACK VILLAGE THEATRE, NYACK, NY
UNC STONE CENTER, CHAPEL HILL, NC
CHERYL GORSKI STUDIO, BUFFALO, NY
CRYS ARMBRUST, TRYON, NC

Interviewees

Debbie Alexander
Kevin Allred
Lisle Atkinson
Paul Barton
Suzanne Baumann
John Beal
Warren Benbow
Jacques Boni
Jean Michel Boris
Juanita Bougere
Eric Burdon
Lodi Carr
Marie Christine Dunham Pratt
Javier Collados
Fred Counts
Sharon D'Lugoff
Gerrit De Bruin
Roscoe Dellums
Ruth Feldstein
Leopoldo Fleming
Martha Flowers

Gino Francesconi
Nikki Giovanni
Marla Glen
Raymond Gonzalez
Garland Goodwin
Bernard Goffryd
Roland Grivelle
Emma Louise Hamilton
Beryl Hannon Dade
Tim Hauser
Wade Henderson
Les Hyman
Jim Jackson
Judy Gail Krasnow
Emile Latimer
James Madison
Sid Mark
Roberto Meglioli
Sharon Miller
Roger Nupie
Andrea Olmstead

Gloria Caldwell Ott & Horace Ott
Paul Pace
James Payne
Gene Perla
Stu Phillips
Viviane Priou
Paul Robinson
Al Schackman
Tom Schnabel
Noam Semel
Paco Sery
Eleanor Sokaloff
Chuck Stewart
Salamishah Tillet
Billy Vera
Ruth Walther
Carrol Waymon
John Irvin Waymon
Sam Waymon
Shelly Whiteside
Henry Young

TRT: 105 Minutes

Screening Format: DCP or BLU-RAY

Audio: 5.1 Stereo Surround Sound