



Oct. 15, 2020

**'OUR AMERICA: LIVING WHILE BLACK,' THE MULTIPLATFORM DOCUSERIES  
PRODUCED BY ABC OWNED TELEVISION STATIONS, SET TO PREMIERE OCT. 19 WITH  
AN HOUR-LONG SPECIAL TO AIR THE WEEKEND OF OCT. 24**

**The Weeklong Docuseries and Hour-Long Special Tell the Stories of Black Families Across  
America and Will Air in ABC Owned Televisions Stations' Local Newscasts and Available Via  
Streaming Across Its 32 Connected TV Apps**



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ABC Owned Television Stations go beyond the statistics in a five-part docuseries, **“Our America: Living While Black,”** premiering **MONDAY, OCT. 19** through **FRIDAY, OCT. 23**, airing a **different series each day, culminating into an hour-long documentary that airs the weekend of Oct. 24.** The multiplatform docuseries shares stories of multigenerational Black families from across America navigating generations of systemic racism, policing, healthcare, education, wealth and housing disparities while seeking to build stronger communities and create a better life. The special is a collaboration between the eight owned ABC stations and will air in ABC Owned Television Stations' newscasts in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Houston, Raleigh-Durham and Fresno.

All \*linear times for the docuseries air in the newscasts of WABC-TV New York (4:00 p.m. EDT), KABC-TV Los Angeles (4:00 p.m. PDT), WLS-TV Chicago (4:00 p.m. CDT), WPVI-TV Philadelphia (5:00 p.m. EDT), KGO-TV San Francisco (4:00 p.m. PDT), KTRK-TV Houston (4:00 p.m. CDT), WTVD-TV Raleigh Durham (5:00 p.m. EDT) and KFSN-TV Fresno (4:30 p.m. PDT).

The \*\*60-minute documentary airs on WABC-TV New York, Sunday, Oct. 25 (2:00 p.m. EDT); KABC-TV Los Angeles, Saturday, Oct. 24 (9:00 p.m. PDT); WLS-TV Chicago, Sunday, Oct. 25 (11:00 p.m. CDT); WPVI-TV Philadelphia, Sunday, Oct. 25 (1:30 p.m. EDT); KGO-TV San Francisco, Saturday, Oct. 24 (8:30 p.m. PDT); KTRK-TV Houston, Sunday, Oct. 25 (1:30 p.m. CDT); WTVD-TV Raleigh Durham, Sunday, Oct. 25 (2:00 p.m. EDT); and KFSN-TV Fresno, Saturday, Oct. 24 (10:00 p.m. PDT).

Viewers tuning in to their local ABC newscast will see extraordinary personal journeys of Black families and individuals across America rising above obstacles and pushing through systemic racism to achieve personal and professional success. These families and individuals will tell their stories in their voices.

The docuseries follow the experiences of Black families across America including:

**The McKissacks**, twin sisters and CEOs of McKissack & McKissack, the nation's oldest Black-owned design and construction firm with offices in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. The award-winning business has been passed down five generations, starting with their ancestor Moses McKissack who was brought to the country as a slave by a contractor who used him as a builder. The McKissack projects are respected nationwide and include the John F. Kennedy Airport, the World Trade Center, the African American Museum, the Obama Library, the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial, and many more.

**The Scott Family Farms**, helmed by Will Scott, an 80-year-old fourth-generation farmer from Fresno, California. As a young boy, he worked alongside his grandfather and family as sharecroppers. Due to years of systemic racism, there are deep-rooted challenges Black farmers face; however, Will remains hopeful and is determined to keep the legacy of Black farmers alive and growing. For the first time, he sees more diversity and people recognizing that racism is a systemic problem.

**Mayor Michael Tubbs** of Stockton, California. At age 30, he is not only the country's youngest mayor representing a city with over 100,000 residents, he is Stockton's first Black mayor. He is a Stanford University graduate raised by a single mother and has an incarcerated father. When his cousin was murdered, Tubbs returned to the city of Stockton to create positive change. He became one of the youngest city council members in the country at age 22 and in 2016 was elected as the 82<sup>nd</sup> mayor of Stockton.

**Antoine Lovell** experienced homelessness while being raised in New York by a single mother. At one point they lived in train stations and his bedroom was the No. 3 train. The experience shaped his life. He is now a professor and doctoral candidate at Fordham University in the Bronx and Delaware State University, where he teaches social policy. His specialty is housing and homelessness, the core issues that impacted him as a young child.

Episodes include the following:

**Episode 1 – Maternal Morbidity:** The United States is the most dangerous place in the developed world for a woman in labor and delivery, especially a Black woman. Black women die three times

more during childbirth than white women. This shocking statistic will be further explained and explored.

**Episode 2 – Education Disparities:** The struggles in the education system for Black students have been around for decades. From racism to a lack of resources and access to more severe punishments, Black students continue to face a gauntlet of challenges in schools that can have a life-long impact.

**Episode 3 – Income Disparity and Generational Wealth/The Road to Black Excellence is Different for Everyone:** The third installment of the series takes a closer look at the role housing and a lack of generational wealth. Backed by data, the special investigates how housing plays into economic disparity for Black people.

**Episode 4 – Honoring the Past, Hope for Future:** Many history lessons leave out the history of slavery that began in 1619. While that history is brutal and tragic, Black families celebrate the work, sacrifices and knowledge of their ancestors and work to honor them by building on their family legacies and setting up future generations.

**Episode 5 – Policing, Racism Living While Black:** For the final installment of the docuseries, the focus shifts to the topic that ignited this most recent civil unrest across the country and world. The policing of the Black community and the systemic racism that makes Black people more likely to be targets of police.

**Our America: Living While Black** – An hour-long special that airs as a culmination of a five-part docuseries highlighting the lives of Black families. The special goes beyond the statistics to explore racial inequality and structural barriers affecting Black families across the country. Despite the obstacles, viewers will see the perseverance, hope and success of Black families across America as they seek to build stronger communities and make real change despite centuries of systemic racism.

The docuseries is produced by a diverse editorial team from across the owned stations, led by Jennifer Mitchell, senior vice president of content development for ABC Owned Television Stations. The team included Maxine Crooks, a talent recruitment executive at the station group and former executive producer at owned station WPVI-TV Philadelphia; Monica Barnes, a community engagement executive at WTVD-TV Raleigh-Durham; WPVI's anchor Tamala Edwards, and former overnight anchor for ABC's "World News Now;" Mariel Myers, an executive producer from KGO-TV San Francisco; and Justin Allen, a senior producer of content development for the ABC Owned Television Stations.

The editorial team contributed their unique perspective to every aspect of the docuseries through a lens of diverse cultural awareness and sensitivity. The group collaborated daily to address and tackle all issues covered throughout the series to ensure authentic representation and diversity of voices showcased. At times, the team shared their personal and professional stories that led to real-time production pivots such as refining the graphics package to be cognizant of pervasive stereotypes.

"Our America: Living While Black" docuseries airs in linear broadcast on Oct. 19-24 across the ABC Owned Television Stations' evening newscasts, leading to a powerful 60-minute special set to air the weekend of Oct. 24. Viewers can stream the docuseries and hour-long special on ABC Owned

Television Stations’ connected TV Apps on streaming platforms Fire TV, Android TV, Apple TV and Roku.

**Editor’s Note:** \*All linear times for episodes below air in the newscasts of WABC-TV New York (4:00 p.m. EDT), KABC-TV Los Angeles (4:00 p.m. PDT), WLS-TV Chicago (4:00 p.m. EDT), WPVI-TV Philadelphia (5:00 p.m. EDT), KGO-TV San Francisco (4:00 p.m. PDT), KTRK-TV Houston (4:00 p.m. CDT), WTVD-TV Raleigh Durham (5:00 p.m. EDT) and KFSN-TV Fresno (4:30 p.m. PDT).

Date	“Our America: Living While Black” Docuseries
Mon, Oct 19	Healthcare and Maternal Morbidity
Tue, Oct 20	Education Disparities
Wed, Oct 21	Income Disparity and Generational Wealth
Thu, Oct 22	Honoring the Past, Hope for the Future
Fri, Oct 23	Policing, Racism, Living While Black
Sat, Oct 24	60-minute special, “Our America: Living While Black”

\*\*All linear times below reflect the 60-minute documentary special that airs the weekend of Oct. 24

Date	Time	Station
Sat, Oct 24	8:30-9:30 p.m. PDT	KGO-TV San Francisco
Sat, Oct 24	9:00-10:00 p.m. PDT	KABC-TV Los Angeles
Sat, Oct 24	10:00-11:00 p.m. PDT	KFSN-TV Fresno
Sun, Oct 25	1:30-2:30 p.m. CDT	KTRK-TV Houston
Sun, Oct 25	1:30-2:30 p.m. EDT	WPVI-TV Philadelphia
Sun, Oct 25	2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT	WABC-TV New York
Sun, Oct 25	2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT	WTVD-TV Raleigh-Durham
Sun, Oct 25	11:00p.m.-12:00a.m. CDT	WLS-TV Chicago

### About ABC Owned Television Stations

Walt Disney Television’s eight owned ABC stations are multiplatform leaders in local news and information. Collectively No. 1 across all U.S. television, reaching 23% of households and more than 34 million Total Viewers and 62 million digital visitors a month, the eight stations are comprised of WABC-TV New York, KABC-TV Los Angeles, WLS-TV Chicago, WPVI-TV Philadelphia, KGO-TV San Francisco, KTRK-TV Houston, WTVD-TV Raleigh-Durham and KFSN-TV Fresno. The stations also deliver locally sourced storytelling to more than 14 million viewers across America through its digital-first national lifestyle brand and broadcast channel, Localish. Most recently, the stations received four Broadcast & Cable awards in the major market category for 2020: Best News Coverage, Best Digital Multiplatform or Website, Best Investigative Reporting Station Group and Best Public Affairs Programming, illustrating the group’s strength and ever-increasing growth and reach in the multiplatform space.

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