

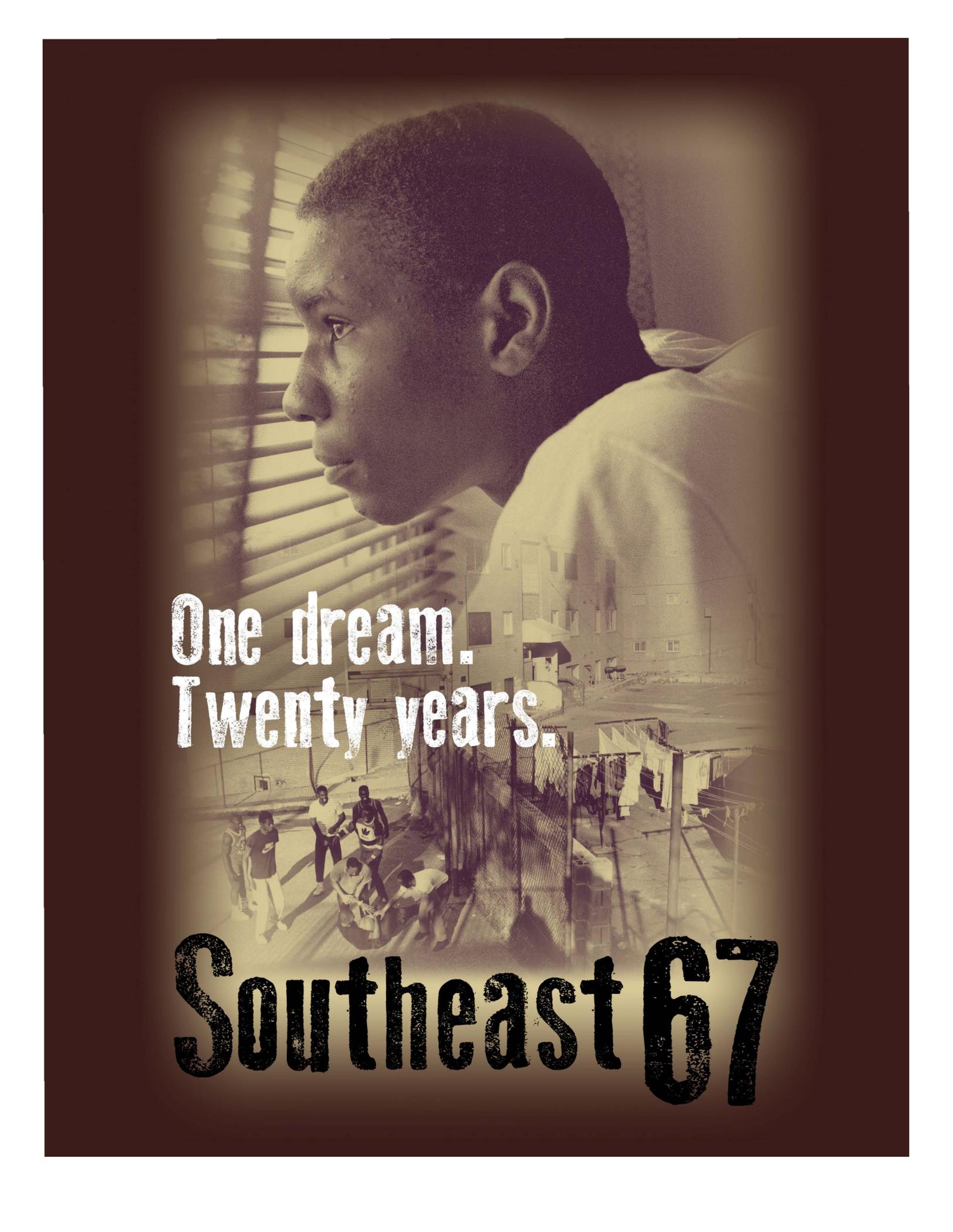
# Southeast 67

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A RED SPARK FILM

DIRECTED BY BETSY COX



One dream.  
Twenty years.

**Southeast 67**

# Southeast 67

A Red Spark Film by Betsy Cox

## SHORT

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**Southeast 67** tells the story of a group of African American students from Washington, D.C. who were promised college scholarships in 1988 at the age of twelve, yet struggled with survival in an impoverished neighborhood devastated by the crack epidemic. Spanning two decades, their story movingly reveals the complex challenges facing kids in underserved communities, and the hope - and anguish - of trying to seize an improbable dream.

## LONG

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Devastated by the arrival of crack cocaine in the 1980's, Washington, DC became known as our nation's "Murder Capital." Growing up at the epicenter of this violence – in southeast DC – 67 rising seventh graders were promised college scholarships by a wealthy area businessman through the I Have a Dream program. **Southeast 67** focuses on the students' struggles to reconcile the dream of college with the competing reality of daily survival in a community rife with violence, poverty and addiction.

Blowing up the simplistic bootstrap narrative of success, this feature-length documentary combines raw, never-before-seen archival film footage and photographs, with present day footage and intimate interviews with the students themselves, 20 years later, as they reflect on the hope – and anguish – of trying to seize an improbable dream. Their journey through junior high and high school from 1988 to 1994 was fraught with staggering challenges, far beyond the program's initial educational scope. But the kids, together with the two dedicated and compassionate educators who stood by them, band together in ways that profoundly change all of their lives.

Their collective story illuminates the challenges facing kids growing up in communities of poverty, violence and inferior schools, and offers a nuanced understanding of what it means to truly "succeed."

# WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

“An intimate experience that expertly humanizes a struggle we all sometimes just associate with the blank phrase of ‘poverty.’”

– Clinton Yates, *The Washington Post*

“Powerful story about profound struggle against terrible odds.”

– James Bennet, Editor in Chief, *The Atlantic*

“Blows up traditional narratives of ‘success’ in educational reform.”

– Laura Bliss, *The Atlantic’s CityLab*

“An inspiring documentary with an objective that is not lost on idealism nor spoiled by cynicism.”

– Michael Parsons, *DC Filmdom*

“The documentary, far from offering a clichéd rags to riches narrative, acknowledges there’s no royal road out of Anacostia.”

– Madelyne Xiao, *The Frederick News-Post*

“A dream deferred is turning into reality.”

– Natalie Wexler, *Greater Greater Washington*

“This dream deferred is not festering. It is taking form.”

– Diana Kapp, *The New York Times*

“Tackles the age old question of who wins – nature or nurture? – and dares to answer ‘life isn’t that black and white.’”

– Kevin Sampson, *Picture Lock*

# BIOS & CREDITS



## **Betsy Cox – Director/Producer/Writer**

Betsy's films focus on a wide range of social issues, including poverty, education, domestic violence and healthcare. Her work has aired on PBS and Discovery, and has been featured in museum exhibitions, showcased at galas, served as the centerpiece of grassroots campaigns and broadcast in Times Square and at the Army/Navy game. Over her twenty-five year career, she has received more than sixty awards, including a Capitol Region Emmy for **A Call to Care** (PBS). In 1997, she founded Betsy Cox Productions which became Red Spark Films in 2014 ([www.redsparkfilms.com](http://www.redsparkfilms.com)).



## **Bob Kanner – Editor**

Bob's editing career spans three decades, and includes documentaries for PBS, the History Channel, National Geographic, A&E and the BBC, among others. For eighteen years, he was Senior Editor and Vice-President of Asgard Entertainment, a top Washington, D.C. production house. He has received five local Emmys, and edited the National Emmy Award-winning special, **Life on Mars**. He was recently inducted into the National Academy of Arts & Sciences Silver Circle.



## **Ryan Hill – Director of Photography**

Ryan has filmed aborigines in Australia, child soldiers in Liberia, U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan and Eskimos whale hunting in Alaska. His work has aired on HBO, PBS and the National Geographic Channel. In 2005, he received the Overseas Press Club's Best International Reporting on Human Rights Award for **Border Jumpers** (PBS: Wide Angle). In 2011, he earned the Sundance Cinematography Award for **The Redemption of General Butt Naked**, a film he both shot and produced.



## **Michael Josephs – Composer**

Michael has been composing for film and television for three decades. His original scores have graced programs on Wild Kingdom, National Geographic, HBO, BBC, PBS, NBC, CBS, ABC, The History Channel and many independent productions. He received a National Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Main Title Theme Music for the series **Thoroughbred**, among many other honors.

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## **ADDITIONAL CREDITS:**

Field Producers: Peter Forbes and Claudia Nye

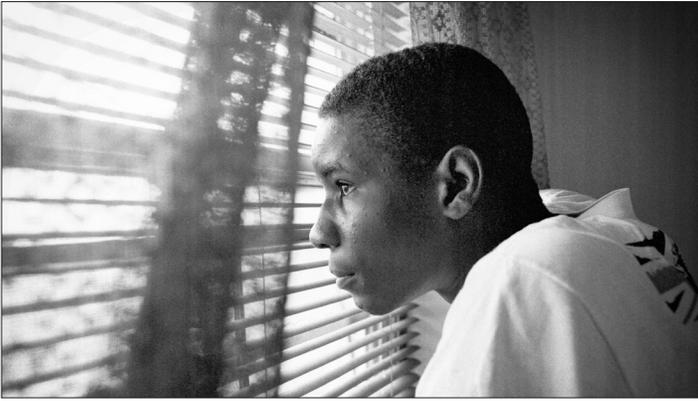
Sound Designer and Re-Recording Mixer: Cheryl Ottenritter, MPSE, CAS

Photographers: Nancy Andrews and KK Ottesen

Graphic Designer: Toni Jannelli

Color Grader: Justin Kanner

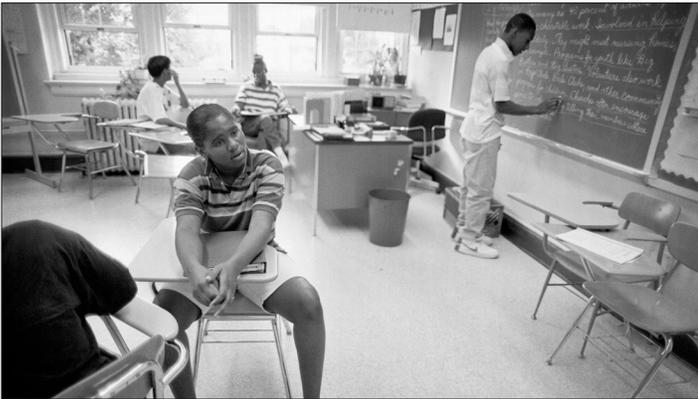
# PHOTOS & FILM STILLS



Jesus Downing, 1991 Credit: Nancy Andrews/The Washington Post



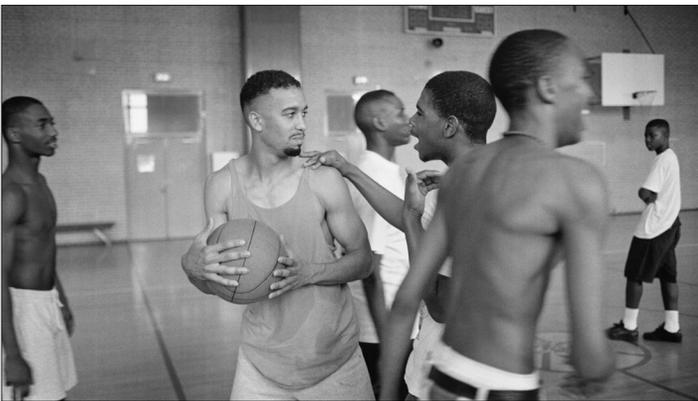
Stewart Bainum and Dreamers, 1988 Credit: Unknown



Dreamers' Classroom, 1991 Credit: Nancy Andrews/The Washington Post



Antwan Green in Anacostia, 2014 Credit: Ryan Hill



Steve Bumbaugh and Dreamers, 1991 Credit: Nancy Andrews/The Washington Post



Tenille Warren at FIT, 2014 Credit: Betsy Cox



Press Coverage, 1988 Credit: Betsy Cox



Phyllis Rumbarger and Tyrone Anderson, 2014 Credit: Jeff Hutchens

# Southeast 67

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**2-MINUTE TRAILER**

<https://vimeo.com/115018834>



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**WEB:** [www.Southeast67.com](http://www.Southeast67.com)

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**TWITTER:** @SE67film