

BIN YAH:  
There's No Place Like Home



Bin Yah: ([Gullah] *n. sing.* 1. 'been here': natives, long-time residents

Come Yah: ([Gullah] *n. sing.* 1: "come here": newcomers

[www.binyahfilm.org](http://www.binyahfilm.org)

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## Filmmakers

Director and Editor	Justin Nathanson
Producers	Nancy Cregg Cara White
Director of Photography	Jesse Berger
Additional Cinematography	Alex Hessemen Jennifer Matto Ed Bates
Historian	M. Patrick Hendrix
Writer	Cara White
Narrator	Ron Daise
Music	Darryl E. Horne
Opening Poem by	Fouche Sheppard
Additional Music	We Be Brethrens

“A BE A BIN YAH”  
Words and Music by Ronald Daise and Darryl E. Horne  
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## Participants

Michael Allen, National Park Service Gullah Geechee Coordinator,  
Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor

Evelyn and Louis Benson, Johns Island, SC

Mary Alice Bostick, Four Mile Community, basket maker

Ethel Snipe Coakley, Four Mile Community, basket maker

Dr. Angela Halfacre, Department of Political Science, College of Charleston

Jane Lareau, Program Director, Coastal Conservation League

Ed Lee, Remley's Point Neighborhood Association

Jeannette Lee, Hamlin / Seven Mile Community, basket maker

Elizabeth Mazyck, Hamlin / Seven Mile Community, basket maker

Janie Campbell Mazyck, Hamlin / Seven Mile Community, basket maker

Maggie Mazyck, Hamlin / Seven Mile Community, basket maker

Reverend Harry Palmer, Phillips Community

Dr. Bernard Powers, Department of History, College of Charleston

Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah-Geechee Nation

Marie Rouse, Hamlin / Seven Mile Community, basket maker

Fouche Sheppard, Poet and Storyteller

David Simmons, Jr., Remley's Point

Reverend Elijah Smalls, Phillips Community

Thomasena Stokes-Marshall, Snowden Community, Mt. Pleasant Town Council member

Reverend Victoria Washington, Hamlin / Seven Mile Community

Nakia Wigfall, Six Mile Community, basket maker

Henry Wigfall Sr., Six Mile Community, basket maker

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the Coastal Community Foundation,  
and through a partnership with the  
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Gullah/Geechee National Heritage Corridor

Chris Dixon

Henry Fair

The Humanities Councilsc (THCsc)

Liz Oakley, IVS Video

Ed Bates, IVS Video

Joe Rice

With special gratitude to residents of the historic communities  
East of the Cooper:

Scanlonville

Four Mile

Six Mile

Seven Mile/Hamlin

Phillips

Snowden



## BIN YAH

*Bin Yah: There's No Place Like Home* is a documentary film that explores the potential loss of important historic African American communities in Mt. Pleasant, S.C due to growth and development. Through the testimonies of the residents themselves, the film explores the culture, the history, the importance of land and the concept of home, giving a voice to those who seldom have had a chance to be heard.

A proposed highway extension threatens to bisect these close-knit neighborhoods of cousins and kinfolk, established by freed slaves and home to generations of their families for hundreds of years. Many residents are artisans and craftspeople, practicing traditional skills including sweetgrass basketmaking, brought over from West Africa and handed down from mothers and fathers to sons and daughters. Today, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina is the primary place in the U.S. where this grass is harvested and “sewn” into this particular type of basket.

*Bin Yah* will attempt to preserve — at least on film — the memories of the special places that may be lost forever as the struggle between the real “bin yahs” and the “come yahs” escalates.

## Filmmakers

**Justin Nathanson (Director/Editor)** is an independent film director and editor, and Executive Director of ChasDOC, a non-profit organization he founded to create documentary films based on local stories. ChasDOC organized the 2006 Charleston Documentary Film Festival, an event to showcase the best environmental and human rights films. “Bin Yah: There’s No Place Like Home” is the first feature-length project of ChasDOC.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Nathanson’s first directorial effort was “BURN,” an independent feature film completed at 19 years old while at New York’s School of Visual Arts. While still in film school, Nathanson was asked to produce Greg Paine’s “Baby Shakes and the Return of Mac Daddy,” a comedy about a failed writer/bike messenger in over his head.

For 15 years, Nathanson has produced, directed and edited commercials, films, and television shows in Los Angeles, Miami and New York for clients such as Lamborghini, Macy’s, Estee Lauder, Gatorade, and Jeep/Wrangler. His work has been seen on television shows such as “The Howard Stern Show,” Comedy Central’s “Beat the Geeks,” and Fox Sports “The Best Damn Sports Show Period.” He also worked on the feature documentaries “Blue Vinyl,” “Everything’s Cool,” and “Hood Dawgs.”

In addition to ChasDOC and running The Cut Company, a full service film and TV production company, Nathanson and partners are launching a new commercial advertising company late 2008.

**Nancy Cregg (Producer)** is the Membership Director for the Coastal Conservation League, an environmental advocacy nonprofit. Prior to joining the League, Nancy served as the Director of Patron Programs for the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska, and as Assistant Director of Development for the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She served as Board President of the Bristol, TN-VA YWCA for six years, leading the first sliding-scale childcare facility for working families.

**Cara White (Producer, Writer)** has been involved in the publicity campaigns for over 200 films, working with directors ranging from Tim Burton to Bob Zemeckis, from Richard Linklater to Steven Soderbergh, from Gus Van Sant to Victor Nunez. She served as Vice President of Publicity at Tri-Star Pictures and was a principal of Clein + White, a bi-coastal publicity firm specializing in independent feature films.

White is now partnered with Mary Lugo in CaraMar, Inc. a publicity firm that works with both film and television clients. Current television clients include PBS, the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*, the Independent Television Service (ITVS), the Center for Asian American Media, and Litton Entertainment, a television syndication company.

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