

RACHEL MANLEY

In the Shadow of My Fathers



A 'LITERATURE ALIVE' DOCUMENTARY
CREATED AND PRODUCED BY FRANCES-ANNE SOLOMON
Leda Serene Films/ Caribbean Tales
48 minutes Colour DVD, VHS, BetaSP Canada 2006

RACHEL MANLEY: In the Shadow of My Fathers

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Literature Alive is a documentary series that profiles Caribbean-Canadian authors and follows the evolution of Caribbean-heritage fiction from the 1960s through to the hip-hop generation. These revealing and provocative documentaries explore the lives and creative process of these brilliant authors. In doing so, we discover the links between personal experience, ancestry, and migration; between Canada and the Caribbean; between an artist and their art.

Rachel Manley, author, poet and historian, from Toronto is the granddaughter and the daughter of two of Jamaica's national leaders. Her books, "Drumblair" and "Slipstream", tell the story of the brilliant, artistic Manleys. Jamaica's most prominent and glamorous political family provided Jamaica's first crop of political leaders on both ends of the political spectrum. In her work she vividly creates an intimate memoir of the family that changed Jamaica's intellectual, social and cultural landscape for all time.

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Production Credits

Created and Produced by
Director
Director of Photography
Line Producer
Production Coordinator
Editor
Color Correction
Composer/Sound Mixer
Technical Coordinator

Frances-Anne Solomon
Lana Lovell
Alberto Soares
Susan Fueg
Jeff Beadle
Anthony Baird
Hailey Moore
Mauri Hall
Rany Ly

Special Thanks
For Bravo!

Daniel Richter
Charlotte Engel

Publicity

Victoria Lord Public Relations

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PRODUCTION COMPANIES

LEDA SERENE FILMS

Leda Serene Films is a film, television and new media production company based in Toronto, Canada.

The Company has produced an impressive range of award-winning programs - from feature films to more innovative multi-media projects - and is dedicated to placing people of colour in front of as well as behind the camera.

The company has made its name as a producer of high quality dramas and documentaries, which celebrate diversity - strong personal stories from different cultural perspectives in the global diaspora.

CARIBBEAN TALES

Founded in 2004 by Frances-Anne Solomon, Caribbean Tales is an innovative not-for-profit multimedia company committed to producing Educational films, videos, and new media that celebrate the rich traditions of Caribbean-heritage storytelling. Caribbean Tales' projects use any and all new media to reflect the diversity and invention of Caribbean culture.

Projects include the website, [Caribbeantaes.ca](http://caribbeantaes.ca), "A People's History of the Caribbean Interactive Website", a vital anti-colonial history that documents the diverse histories that make up the Caribbean and makes them available to all on the worldwide web; an E-newsletter, a quarterly multi-media E-newsletter that features multi-media content including interviews with Caribbean storytellers and artists across different genres (written, audio and video). The Literature Alive documentary series; the Literature Alive Online Website (see <http://literaturealiveonline.ca>), a unique, storytelling project that makes literature accessible to the general public. Other initiatives include: The Writing Contest: "My Voice... My Story" Writing Contest intended to lead young people of all heritages to embark on a voyage of self-discovery, providing a way for them to understand the world they live in by encouraging them to write about themselves as Canadians sharing a unique identity that is enriched with distinctive heritage, cultures and an Annual film festival which screens the latest in Caribbean Tales productions.

For more information visit www.caribbeantaes.ca

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LANA LOVELL

DIRECTOR

Documentary filmmaker Lana Lovell has been a fixture on the Toronto media scene for over a decade. Lovell has worked in television for the CBC News, Discovery Channel and CTV News. She has produced and directed the well-received films, *Into the Heart of Africa* and the 2004 Motor City Film Festival award-winner for best documentary, *Underground: Featuring Coco Brown*. Currently, she is developing a documentary for Omni Television and working as a freelance journalist for radio.

RACHEL MANLEY: In my Father's Shadow

FRANCES-ANNE SOLOMON

SERIES CREATOR AND PRODUCER



Frances-Anne Solomon is a Director, Producer and Writer in film, TV and new media. She is the Founder and President of Leda Serene Films, and Artistic Director of its sister company Caribbean Tales, a not for profit company developing multimedia educational tools that draw on Caribbean heritage storytelling.

Born in England, Frances-Anne grew up in Trinidad, and studied Theatre Arts at the University of Toronto before moving to the UK where she lived and worked for several years. Frances-Anne's previous credits as a director include the feature film Peggy Su! (BBC Films, 1997); the dramas What My Mother Told Me (Channel 4 1995), and Bideshi (British Film Institute 1994); and documentaries Reunion (BBC, 1993), and I Is A Long Memored Woman (Arts Council of England 1991). Her latest feature film, "A Winter Tale", is currently in

production in Toronto.

Alongside directing, between 1992-98, Frances-Anne also worked as a Script Editor, Producer and Executive Producer for BBC Single Drama & Films, where she was responsible for several films and TV movies, including the Black Screen strand, (for black writers, producers and directors) and Screen on the Tube (for new feature directors). Productions include, Speak Like A Child, director John Akomfrah, Love Is The Devil, director John Maybury, The Sixth Happiness, director Waris Hossein, Flight, director Alex Pillai and Siren Spirits, directors Ngozi Onwurah, Pratibha Parmar and Dani Williamson. She also worked as a radio drama producer/director for the BBC, responsible for some 35 productions including Monsoon by Maya Chowdhry, Nadir by Parv Bancil, Afrogoth by Pete Kalu, The Adoption Papers by Jackie Kay and Her Father's Daughter by Winsome Pinnock.

She is the Creator, Producer and Director of "Literature Alive", a series of half hour documentaries exploring the life and work of Canadian Caribbean authors from the 60's through the hip-hop generation. The series aired on Bravo! (2005). A companion website Literature Alive Online! was launched in January 2006, along with a series of 5 Audio Books by Caribbean Authors including Nalo Hopkinson, Tessa McWatt and Olive Senior.

She produced and directed "Coming Home", a 1-hour documentary special on Indo-Trinidadian author Ramabai Espinet for OMNI Television; and was the Co-creator, Producer and Director on Lord Have Mercy! Canada's first multi-cultural sitcom, which aired on Vision TV, Toronto/one, Showcase and APTN and was nominated for two Gemini Awards, including Best Comedy series.

Her current feature film production, A Winter Tale, is scheduled for release in 2006. She originally developed the story through a collaborative process with a group of talented Canadian actors, and in January 2006 had it adapted for a highly successful run as a stage play.