

BLACK CHEROKEE *Filmmaker Bios*

SAM CULLMAN | director, producer, cinematographer, editor

Sam Cullman is a cinematographer, producer and director of documentaries with over a decade of experience. He partnered with director Marshall Curry to co-direct, shoot and produce *IF A TREE FALLS* (2011) which was awarded the U.S. Documentary Editing Award at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival and then later received a nomination for a 2011 Best Documentary Feature Academy Award®. Dubbed an “an exemplary piece of reporting” by Stephen Holden of the New York Times, and flagged as a Critic’s Choice by the Los Angeles Times’ Kenneth Turan who called it “one of the best documentaries of the year,” the film was released in theaters nationwide and broadcast by PBS on POV in the summer of 2011. More recently, Cullman produced and shot *THE HOUSE I LIVE IN* (2012). Directed by Eugene Jarecki, the film won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance 2012 and was released theatrically in fall of 2012 with a national broadcast on PBS to follow in 2013. Cullman’s cinematography has been featured in dozens of films and his credits also include *REAGAN* (2011), *KING CORN* (2006), and *WHY WE FIGHT* (2005). A graduate of Brown University (1999) with Honors in Visual Art and a second major in Urban Studies, Sam lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

BENJAMIN ROSEN | director, producer, editor

Benjamin Rosen has been producing and directing non-fiction television and film for the past ten years. He began as a camera assistant to legendary documentary cinematographer Mark Benjamin (*SLAM*, *THE TRIALS OF HENRY KISSINGER*, *WHITE BOYS*, *THE LAST PARTY*), and assisted Doug Liman on the commercial hit, *MR. & MRS. SMITH*. In 2006, Rosen premiered his first feature documentary, *A STADIUM STORY*, at the prestigious Tribeca Film Festival. Jeffrey Lyons of NBC found the film be to be “a fascinating look at an amazing episode in New York history,” and John Anderson at *Variety* determined that “Arthouse play and TV exposure seem assured, especially given the stylishness of the production.” In 2007 Rosen produced two documentaries for MTV’s award winning series, *TRUE LIFE*. In 2009 Rosen shot and produced 6 episodes for *THE FIRST 48*, A&E’s highly acclaimed documentary series on homicide investigations. He has produced various other non-fiction programming for MTV, VH1, A&E, and Food Network. Rosen is a graduate of Oberlin College.