



from the producer of *4 Little Girls* and *Slavery By Another Name*

# THE THROWAWAYS

a film by Bhawin Suchak & Ira Mckinley



"THE THROWAWAYS courageously explores the most pressing racial justice issues of our time: the mass incarceration and profiling of poor people of color."

-Michelle Alexander  
author, *THE NEW JIM CROW*

[www.throwawaysmovie.com](http://www.throwawaysmovie.com)

*For Educational or Institutional Sales and Inquiries:*



**Third World Newsreel**

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# THE THROWAWAYS

A FILM BY BHAWIN SUCHAK & IRA MCKINLEY

THE THROWAWAYS is a personal exploration of the devastating impact of police brutality and mass incarceration on the black community. Told through the eyes of formerly incarcerated activist filmmaker Ira McKinley with rawness, urgency and power, the film speaks directly to the national movement rising up to fight back against a wave of police killings of black people in America. Timely and provocative, THE THROWAWAYS is more just than an illumination of marginalized people at their weakest moments; it is a call to action, a story of directly engaging in the fight for justice.

THE THROWAWAYS is the winner of Best Documentary Award at the Long Beach Indie Film Festival and the New York Hi-Light Award at the Harlem International Film Festival, and has screened at dozens of film festivals, theaters, universities and community centers across the United States and Canada. The film provides a first-hand narrative of survival and struggle within the context of larger structural and institutional constructs that exist in the United States. THE THROWAWAYS provides an ideal platform for discussions about issues of police brutality, mass incarceration, racism, power, economic inequality, urban studies, poverty and white privilege.

FILM WEBSITE: [www.throwawaysmovie.com](http://www.throwawaysmovie.com)

(2014, 62 min, US, Color, Full HD 1920p x 1080p, 16:9, Dolby Digital Stereo)



BHAWIN SUCHAK



IRA MCKINLEY

Bhawin Suchak (Producer/Director, Cinematographer, Editor) is a filmmaker, educator and digital media producer who works with emerging technologies as tools to promote expression, communication, and connection. He co-directed *Free To Learn*, a feature length documentary about radical education and has produced, directed and edited several short documentary films. Bhawin is the founder and program director of Youth FX, a summer filmmaking program for inner-city teens based out of Grand Street Community Arts.

Ira McKinley (Producer/Director) is an Air Force veteran trained as a Medical Material Handler, he started his activism early on when he participated in Act Up in Ithaca, NY, in the 1980's. During the winters of 2007/2008 he started a Homeless Arts Showcase inspired by his fifteen years being homeless himself in Northampton's Pulaski Park. Ira won Northampton Arts Council's grant for an "Emerging Film Maker" (2009); as well as Producer of the Year for Northampton Community Television (2009). Ira continues his activism by engaging in food justice and independent media productions within a network of organizations and individuals seeking social justice across New York State.



**"Amidst national outrage over police brutality across the country, THE THROWAWAYS documents police shootings and the consequences of mass incarceration in upstate New York. The Throwaways focuses on the idea that certain lives in our society are considered disposable."**

**AMY GOODMAN, DEMOCRACY NOW!**

**Release Date: January 2015**

*Higher Education Institutions:*

**DVD & Digital File: \$300**

*K-12, Public Libraries & Select Groups:*

**DVD: \$79.95**

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# THE THROWAWAYS

## Production Team

**Bhawin Suchak** (Producer/Director, Cinematographer, Editor) is a filmmaker, educator and digital media producer who works with emerging technologies as tools to promote expression, communication, and connection. He co-directed *Free To Learn*, a feature length documentary about radical education and has produced, directed and edited several short documentary films. Bhawin is the founder and program director of Youth FX, a summer filmmaking program for inner-city teens based out of Grand Street Community Arts. He has been a media arts teacher at The Albany Free School for 12 years, and has worked with youth in digital film production and multimedia at several locations including: Sanctuary for Independent Media, Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, Ark Charter School, and with the Museum Club afterschool program at The New York State Museum.

**Ira McKinley** (Producer/Director) is an Air Force veteran trained as a Medical Material Handler, he started his activism early on when he participated in Act Up in Ithaca, NY in the 1980's. During the winters of 2007/2008 he started a Homeless Arts Showcase inspired by his fifteen years being homeless himself in Northampton, MA's Pulaski Park. Ira won Northampton Arts Council's grant for an "Emerging Film Maker" (2009); as well as Producer of the Year for Northampton Community Television (2009). Ira is currently a cameraman for the Sanctuary for Independent Media and Troy, NY and continues his activism by engaging in food justice and independent media productions within a network of organizations and individuals seeking social justice across New York State.

**Sam Pollard** (Executive Producer) is an award-winning feature film and television video editor, and documentary producer/director whose career spans almost thirty years. He is one of the nation's top film editors, and has edited several Spike Lee films (*Four Little Girls*, *Jungle Fever*, *Mo Better Blues*) and served as the producer for Henry Hampton's historical civil rights documentary *Eyes On The Prize II: America at the Racial Crossroads*. Pollard recently directed the acclaimed documentary *Slavery By Another Name* that aired on PBS.

**Adele Pham** (Co-producer, additional camera, sound, editing) is a filmmaker based in Brooklyn, NY. Since 2007 she has directed, edited, and produced four documentary shorts that have screened at over 20 film festivals domestically and abroad. Pham has lectured at NYU, Wesleyan, and The New School, taught documentary film to South Asian teenage girls in Queens, and youth of color in The Bronx and Brooklyn, NY. Pham is currently working on a feature length documentary title *Nailed It!*

**Messiah Rhodes** (Co-producer, additional camera, sound, additional editing) is a Brooklyn, NY based filmmaker who has produced documentary films and videos that have been featured on websites such as VICE, New York Daily News, BKLYNR, Current TV, The Blaze, Huffington Post and many others. Messiah is currently a Multimedia Production fellow at Democracy Now!

**Victoria Kereszi** (Creative Consultant) is an artist, photographer, documentary filmmaker, curator, community media organizer, and educator. She has completed two feature length documentaries and works with youth and community members to engage them in media and digital production at The Sanctuary for Independent Media in Troy, NY. Vickie is currently in post-production on her third feature, *Into Loving Hands*.

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ADELE PHAM



SAM POLLARD



MESSIAH RHODES



VICKIE KERESZI

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# THE THROWAWAYS

## AWARDS

Best Documentary, Long Beach Indie Film Festival  
New York Hi-Light Award, Harlem Intl. Film Festival

## SCREENINGS

World Premiere, Rated SR Film Festival, New York  
Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival, Ithaca, NY  
Meaningful Movies Series, The Park Church, Elmira, NY  
Siena College Visual Cultures Symposium, Loudonville, NY  
Cornell Cinema, Ithaca, NY  
Loaves & Fishes, Ithaca, NY  
Catskill Mountain Film Festival, Walton & Delhi, NY  
Sanctuary For Independent Media, Troy, NY  
Kingston Film Festival, NY  
Long Beach Indie Film Festival, CA  
Harlem International Film Festival  
Global Community Film Festival, Toronto  
Colgate University, Hamilton, NY  
Tompkins Community College, Dryden, NY  
College of St. Rose, Albany, NY  
Unitarian Universalist of Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY  
Film Columbia Film Festival, Chatham, NY  
Bundy Museum of Art, Binghampton, NY  
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie  
The Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, Athens  
First Unitarian Society of Denver  
Charles A. Melton Arts and Education Center, West Chester, PA  
Maylses Cinema, Harlem  
Spectrum 8 Theater, Albany  
Cinemapolis, Ithaca, NY  
Syracuse University, NY  
International House, Berkeley University  
Weber State University, UT

Available Formats: Quicktime Pro-Res 422, Quicktime Hi-Res mp4, DVD & Blu-Ray

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# THE THROWAWAYS

## REVIEWS

"THE THROWAWAYS courageously explores the most pressing racial justice issues of our time: the mass incarceration and police profiling of poor people of color. We have chosen to dispose of millions of impoverished people, particularly poor people of color -- literally throw them away -- rather than extend to them genuine care, compassion and concern. We've been willing to invest in incarceration rather than education, jails rather than jobs. The devastating consequences for individuals, families, entire communities, and our nation as a whole, are difficult to overstate, and The Throwaways dares to ask the questions that most policymakers have been content to ignore."

***Michelle Alexander, author, *The New Jim Crow****

"Amidst national outrage over police brutality across the country, THE THROWAWAYS documents police shootings and the consequences of mass incarceration in upstate New York. THE THROWAWAYS focuses on the idea that certain lives in our society are considered disposable."

***Amy Goodman, *Democracy Now!****

"Because McKinley is a participant-observer, he is uniquely able to get up close and personal with friends, neighbors, activists, and dealers in this film that brings Ferguson, Missouri home to New York State."

***Film Columbia***

"I was immediately drawn to this powerful personal narrative of people of color in Albany struggling with issues of race, police violence and mass incarceration. I am convinced that THE THROWAWAYS is going to make an impact on each and every person that watches it."

***Sam Pollard, Filmmaker/Executive Producer***



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# THE THROWAWAYS

## REVIEWS

"THE THROWAWAYS traces McKinley's troubled past and the larger struggle for economic and social justice in the city's impoverished South End and beyond."

***Paul Grondahl, Albany Times Union***

"THE THROWAWAYS is a courageous and important film that everyone in America needs to see."

***Bill Duke, Actor/Filmmaker***

"...In light of the Mike Brown and Eric Garner cases, the themes of THE THROWAWAYS, and its exposure of the New Jim Crow in American society, are sadly all too topical, with McKinley's attempt to bear witness to its impact carrying power..."

***Basil Tsiokos, What (Not) To Doc Blog/DOC NYC Programmer***



"THE THROWAWAYS, is a clarion call; a timely trumpet of truth that where we are nationally is the spillover of where too many of us have been, individually, for a very long time. This film puts the links together in showing that poverty, broken educational systems, hunger, homelessness, incarceration all create the brew of violence that Ferguson, Michael Brown and other murders, have brought to the forefront."

***Imani Sao Vincente, Minister, Boston, MA***

"Seeing THE THROWAWAYS was a humbling, inspiring and eye-opening experience that has challenged me to push myself to find ways to use my privilege to further the cause of social justice and racial equality. With high profile cases of police brutality against the black community, there is no more appropriate time to screen a film like THE THROWAWAYS that promises to provoke a candid discussion of race, power and the need for change."

***Julie Odar, Teacher, Baltimore, MD***

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# THE THROWAWAYS

## ACADEMIC REVIEWS

"With searing detail, THE THROWAWAYS makes clear the devastating consequences of an unspoken, but implicit stigma ensnaring many black and brown people and communities – the ideology that some people and groups are “disposable” and undeserving of empathy and concern. Compelling viewing for many audiences, teachers will find particular inspiration for grounding all-too timely discussions surrounding social and institutional practices that have, themselves, manufactured the “disposability” of poor people of color: mass incarceration, police brutality, and other long-standing intergenerational patterns of white institutional neglect. Witnessing the courage, resolve, and resilience of Ira and other social justice activists captured in the film is arguably the most important take-away from the film, however; a lesson likely to embolden liberation-minded educators and their students alike.”

***Jennifer Mueller PhD.***  
***Assistant Professor of Sociology***  
***Skidmore College***

"Given the incidents surrounding the tragic and unnecessary deaths of Michael Brown and now Eric Garner, THE THROWAWAYS becomes more relevant with each passing day. I will be using it in my classroom to facilitate discussions about race, crime, and law enforcement that our policymakers should also be having.”

***Katie Owens-Murphy PhD.***  
***Assistant Professor of English***  
***University of Minnesota Duluth***

"By putting the subject behind the camera, THE THROWAWAYS offers an invaluable, and overlooked perspective, to the long enduring problems of mass incarceration and poverty often faced by people of color.”

***Joseph Raymond Gibbons PhD.***  
***Assistant Professor of Sociology***  
***Colgate University***

“THE THROWAWAYS is such an important film because its main character, and co-director, Ira McKinley tells his own story with force and sincerity. He becomes a personal connection for the audience, that the viewer either relates to personally or feels compelled to root for. What makes this film truly amazing however, is the fact that in many ways, it foreshadows this country's recent upheaval. McKinley, tells the story of a black man, thrown away by society, tethered to an unsympathetic criminal justice system, trying to make a life in a community confronting the same struggles he faces. His story, unique and at the same time common, predicts an inevitable pushback against a society that has cast away many of its citizens and against a criminal justice system that has demonized an entire race of people. In fact, you can hear McKinley warning us about the killings of Mike Brown and Eric Garner, years before their deaths.

Unfortunately, society didn't listen. Now, as we are forced to unpack the results of state violence and reconcile unhealed wound of American history, THE THROWAWAYS is a tool to for us to share with students; an instrument that illuminates the frustrations of a community and offers context to the upheavals taking place in our streets today.

***Victorio Reyes***  
***Assistant Professor***  
***Siena College***

# THE THROWAWAYS

## CREDITS

Directed By: Bhawin Suchak & Ira McKinley

Produced By: Bhawin Suchak & Ira McKinley

Co-Producers: Adele Pham & Messiah Rhodes

Executive Producer: Sam Pollard

Associate Producers: Elise Van Allen, Lee Skelton

Cinematography and Editing By: Bhawin Suchak

Additional Cinematography: Adele Pham, Messiah Rhodes & Ira McKinley

Additional Editing: Adele Pham, Messiah Rhodes & Ira McKinley

Sound Recordist: Jay Wilcox

Sound Mixer: Troy Pohl

Colorist: Eleanor Goldsmith

Creative Consulting Team: Jeff Root, Branda Miller, Vickie Kereszi, Maureen Murphy

Music: Mr. Sunshine, Ichiro Nakagawa & Williamson

Supporting Organizations: Grand Street Community Arts, The Free School, Sanctuary For Independent Media, Youth FX, First Unitarian Universalist of Albany, Social Justice Center

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