

# Blacks without Borders



**Chasing the American dream**

**in**



**South Africa**





# Press Kit

# Synopsis

From filmmaker **Stafford U. Bailey** who directed such critically acclaimed documentaries as *A Laugh, A Tear*; *The Other Side of Victory*; and *The Black Road to Hollywood*, comes *BLACKS WITHOUT BORDERS* – an emotional story about hardship, sacrifice and great rewards. This film plunges into the lives of a group of African Americans who have come to South Africa to find the American dream. These ex-pats have discovered that America is not the only land of opportunity. The boundaries that many of them faced in the United States don't exist in South Africa. Everyone knows about the deplorable conditions in parts of Africa, but this film captures the wonderful lifestyle South Africa has to offer. We follow these modern day globetrotters all over the country and tour their amazing homes. From an 11,000 sq ft. house that overlooks the Indian Ocean to a 35,000 sq ft. mansion that sits on 700 acres. This film is funny, heartwarming and passionate. It will take you by surprise and leave you deeply moved.



# Press Our Weekly

**Afrikan Americans in South Afrika**

**A formula for success on the continent.**

**By Kwaku Person-Lynn, Ph.D.**

Wow, is the first word that comes to mind after seeing a new documentary Blacks Without Borders chronicling Afrikan Americans living in South Afrika. Among the most conscious of black folks, there has always been thoughts and discussions about moving to Afrika, or at least having another residence there. During the 1960s, the romantic idea of going to the continent and being taken care of was prevalent, but unrealistic.

I had an uncle who moved to Ghana in the 1960s as an executive for General Electric. He eventually set up cocoa farms and other ventures. He wanted my father to move other with him, but he was busy traveling around the world as a musician and actor. I had just returned from Viet Nam, working in the community and going to college. However, there were others who also moved to Afrika and set up very successful businesses.

But now, in the 21st century, after seeing *Blacks Without Borders*, there are some black folks in South Afrika who are living large, based on very successful business ventures.

The husband and wife filmmaking team of Stafford U. Bailey (writer, producer, director) and Judy Thayer-Bailey, (co-producer), have produced what is arguably the best film ever made on this subject. They took great pains in giving us as complete a picture and realities of Afrikan Americans living in South Afrika from the perspective of those who went there. It was through their entrepreneurial skills, financial resources, and transferable skills that they were able to do very well in an encouraging environment.

According to the Baileys, After two trips to South Afrika and over 50 hours of HD (high definition) footage, the film provides a candid and touching tale of sacrifice, hardship and great rewards by U.S. born citizens such as Cora Vaughn, a Chicago attorney who walked away from a million dollar a year law practice to open up a bed & breakfast up the street from Nelson Mandela; James Prevost who came up to South Afrika with nothing and revolutionized the comedy industry; Charles Henderson, heroin addict at age 16 now a Harvard graduate, helps blacks and whites deal with the emotional turmoil caused by apartheid; and Jose Bright gave up his high-profile law practice in Washington, D.C. to help kids orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. There are others like Eugene Jackson, who sold all of his assets in America and invested \$30 million in South Afrika, and is now building an empire. One individual in the film, commenting about Jackson said, He always had a Pan Afrikanist view.

One point became very clear. If one wanted to go to South Afrika to live, you have to go with something to offer. The chance of getting initial financing to set up a business is very improbable. Once your business is set up and proves to be successful, then financing is more forthcoming.

Another thing that was emphasized, money and talent goes

much further than in the United States. A home and attached land that may cost \$3 million or more in the States would cost about \$250,000 in South Afrika. The climate for development is very favorable. The government is supportive in building the economy with Afrikan control. As one brother stated, In America, when you talk about the man, it is usually the white man. Here in South Afrika, you are the man.

Towards the end of the film, we visit the homes of those featured. After seeing that, you want to jump up and go to South Afrika as soon as possible. When you think of Bel Aire, Hancock Park, Malibu or Beverly Hills, they have nothing over the compounds in which some of the brothers and sisters in South Afrika are living. Having a swimming pool in the back yard of a home has always been somewhat a sign of success. In Eugene Jackson's home, and on his land, he has three swimming pools, one specifically for children.

One thing became very clear; all of the individuals in the film obviously had an Afrikan consciousness. If one was interested in making the move, one thing mentioned was to learn something about the history and culture of the country. Coming with the typical American arrogant attitude will not work. If one was coming to run a scam, one brother mentioned, this is the king of scam, so don't try it here.

It is almost a forgone conclusion that this film will be in the Pan African Film Festival in February. If you have any inclination to move to South Afrika, or just to observe what successful Afrikan Americans are doing on the continent, *Blacks Without Borders: Chasing the American Dream in South Africa* is a mandatory must see.



# Press

## Indianapolis Recorder

### 'Blacks Without Borders'

The new American dream is in South Africa

By Danyella Davis

America, the home of the free and land of the brave, noted so eloquently in the Star Spangled Banner, for many upholds the values and principles on which this nation was founded.

The land of opportunity, symbolic of the Statue of Liberty inscribed with "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe."

However for some, something once deemed the American credo has fallen by the wayside as many African-Americans are finding the very opportunities that are often sought on American soil in the world's second largest and second most-populated continent in the world - Africa.

Producer and director Stafford Bailey and Judy Bailey, producer of the documentary "Blacks Without Borders," shows in another light what used to be deemed the "dark continent."

Despite the pictorials of jungles, tribes, impoverished areas and rural lands often displayed in American history books and mainstream media, the Baileys have set out to illustrate

to African-Americans that America is not the only place opportunities may present themselves. In fact, Stafford says many of the opportunities that have eluded Blacks in the states are available in South Africa.

“The reason the people we followed in the film moved to South Africa was because they didn’t find those same obstacles there as in the U.S.,” Stafford said. “There was no glass ceiling or an asterisk next to your name because you were Black. In South Africa being Black was a plus for them.”

During the documentary, the 12 African-Americans now residing in South Africa, share their stories of success and revelation, obtaining heights and securing a certain lifestyle that all agree would have been unobtainable in America despite their education or level of experience and expertise.

Cora Vaughn, a Chicago attorney, resigned from a million dollar a year law practice to move to South Africa, a place she says she has always identified strongly with.

“Law practice in the U.S. was very difficult because the legal system is pretty much a racist system. So, you had to constantly fight against sexist and racist attitudes,” Vaughn said.

In spite of the cynical behavior Vaughn faced in the U.S. life in South Africa has proven to be more generous. No longer practicing law, Vaughn is now an inn keeper who lives only two blocks from Nelson Mandela, and is experiencing her American dream on foreign soil — a place she’s always considered home.

“I love living in South Africa. Besides being beautiful, scenic, as close to the Garden of Eden you will get on this Earth, it is progressive,” Vaughn said. “While living here I have met people from Asia, Europe and America. It really gives me a different perspective about the world and not just one from the viewpoint fed to us by the American press.”

The Baileys note the economy is in crisis and unemployment rates in the U.S. are 6.1 percent and 11.2 percent for Blacks, American retirement plans have lost \$2 trillion and foreclosures are skyrocketing at record levels.

They say this is an optimal time for African-Americans to start looking outside of the box and maximizing the opportunities — if not available in the U.S. — then elsewhere.

“Blacks have so many advantages in South Africa and we show this in the film,” Judy said. “South Africa is a growing market and that presents many more opportunities than in a

more mature market such as the U.S.; South Africa’s affirmative action has teeth. White-owned companies are required by law to incorporate Blacks into their companies and being Black is an asset.”

The scope of this film also highlights the beauty of South Africa’s lush green land, the Atlantic and Indian oceans bordering South Africa, large cities, and its world-class infrastructure.

Among other things, South Africa provides a lifestyle for African-Americans that may be otherwise difficult to obtain in the states, with many of the participants living in large homes, some as big as 11,000 to 30,000 square foot houses.

Charles N. Henderson, the managing director and co-owner of Henderson, Harper & Associates, a company that provides services in leadership, emotional intelligence and customer service, found a niche in the South African market to help heal the wounds after apartheid.

“My mission is to create opportunities for people to change the quality of their life for the better, both personally and professionally,” Henderson said. “With there being less competition in South Africa it generally is less intense than in the U.S. and I created my opportunity.”

Residing in South Africa for 15 years, and starting down a path at a young age of drug addiction and crime, now Henderson, Harvard educated, is living a lifestyle he says he never would have been able to sustain in the U.S.

“I can afford things here that are unusual in the U.S. if you are not among the super rich. I have a full time worker and three part time workers that assist me,” Henderson said. “This is definitely different from how I was living in the states.”

Henderson says everything in South Africa is almost 50 percent cheaper than in the U.S.

Karen Vundla, a filmmaker originally from San Francisco, now resides in Soweto with her husband, and says in Hollywood the TV industry was very difficult to maintain a stable lifestyle.

“Living the L.A. life was tough. Film and TV freelance work is scare. However, here in South Africa we’ve had the opportunity to work in our chosen field,” Vundla said.

With 4 to 5 million immigrants populating American soil, the

12 African-Americans documented in "Blacks Without Borders" were looking for, sought and have found their refuge and land of opportunity in South Africa.

"There are many opportunities in South Africa for the enterprising African-American," Vaughn said. "I believe every African-American owes it to himself or herself to see what Africa has to offer. If nothing more there is a sense of belonging, which you will never have living in America."

"Blacks Without Borders" received the Audience Choice Award and Best Documentary at the 2008 Trinity Film Coalition Film Festival.

Both Stafford and Judy hope this film encourages African-Americans, churches and other organizations to look beyond the borders and create their own opportunities, while illustrating that the possibilities for African-Americans are endless.

If interested in a copy of the film visit:

**[www.blackswithoutborders.net](http://www.blackswithoutborders.net)**

# Filmmakers

## Director

### Director, Producer and Editor

Stafford U. Bailey is founder and president of 20 Four 7 Productions and Writer, Producer and Director of Blacks without Borders: Chasing the American dream in South Africa. Stafford has over 2 decades of experience in production, beginning in 1980 as a producer for Baltimore's WJZ, the city's ABC affiliate. While at WJZ he created and developed the popular series "City Line" and worked on several projects with Oprah Winfrey.

He also produced a series of highly successful PSA's and was creatively involved with two extremely successful commercial campaigns entitled: "This moment in Black History" and "This Moment in Sports History." In 1983 he moved to Los Angeles to join the creative team at Telepictures where he produced entertainment and lifestyle television reports for national broadcast. At the same time he became an independent producer for such broadcast outlets as ABC, NBC, CBS, HBO and Showtime. He also produced several television shows for national syndication. In the early 90s he was hired to create, develop and produce a series of documentaries, that included: "A Laugh a Tear" with Whoopi Goldberg, "The Black Road to Hollywood" and "The Other Side of Victory" series hosted by



the late Arthur Ashe. In 1993, Stafford and his wife Judy launched 20 Four 7 Productions, a concept to completion full service television, film and video production company. At its inception, the company landed several major contracts to produce featurettes, electronic press kits, specials and DVD bonus features for such studios as; Disney, Paramount Pictures, New Line Cinema and DreamWorks. In 2002, the company lead by Stafford expanded its services to include commercial production, television series, documentaries and original programming.

For over 20 years, Stafford has been creatively involved with various aspects of television, film and video production and has received critical acclaim for several of his documentaries and television programs. While in South Africa in 2005, he saw a growing number of African Americans relocating to the region. Following further research, he discovered that African Americans chasing the American dream on foreign soil was on the rise and no major documentary covering this topic was being made or was planned. So, in 2006 he began production for a series of documentaries that explores this trend called, Blacks without Borders.

# Filmmakers Producer

## Producer

Judy Thayer-Bailey is co-founder and vice president of 20 Four 7 Productions and Co-Producer of Blacks without Borders. Judy has more than 20 years of experience in production management; she oversees budgeting, research, scriptwriting and producer responsibilities. Her projects have included coordinating producer for Network series such as "Arless", "Sisters", "In Living Color" and Steven Spielberg's drama "High Incident." Her background in research and producing along with her personal love of travel led to her researching and producing two television shows that included The Travel Channel's series "Secrets" and the independently produced "Paradise on a Budget." She also produced two highly successful documentaries for the Fox Family Channel series entitled: "Famous Families." She produced several shows on such notable families as "The Jackson Family" and "The Grimaldi Family of Monaco." Judy has also been involved in the production of electronic press kits; video news releases and video highlight packages for the company.



# Links

Visit website

email

Trailer

Teaser

Trailer on YouTube

MySpace

facebook