

# Black Before Blue

Genre  
Expository  
Documentary Short

Runtime  
32:37

*An honest conversation about policing while Black*

## SYNOPSIS

To be Black and a police officer in the United States' third largest local law enforcement agency, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), is to take an oath to serve while facing racial disparities within the department itself. *Black Before Blue* holds space for a forum of intimate conversations between twenty-one Black retired and active police officers as they unveil racial and gender discrimination they've experienced in the department.

Their assimilation into the "blue brotherhood" came with hurdles that were set up by their counterparts, and anchored by bigotry. As a result, these Black officers struggled in the hiring process, experiencing disproportionate promotion opportunities despite having qualifications in alignment with their colleagues, and they frequently experienced increased disciplinary sanctions when compared to their peers. Black women in particular often experienced careers riddled with discriminatory consequences related to both their gender and ethnicity – a "double-edged sword."

As the officers' stories of the past parallel those of present day, they express their frustrations about recent viral incidents of police brutality and the resulting worldwide civil unrest, concerned that history could repeat itself. From recalling the days before squad cars were racially integrated to anecdotes about their white colleagues' frequent use of the n-word, these emotionally honest stories expose the truth about what concerned them about the department, and give insight into what inspired them to see their journeys through.



Perspective & Empathy  
*Director & DP Interview Clip*  
[click to view video](#)



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# Black Before Blue

An honest  
conversation  
about  
policing  
while  
Black.

A Film By  
**TRACEY  
LINCOLN**

# Black Before Blue

A FILM BY TRACEY LINCOLN. ATHENS PARK MEDIA AND OSCAR JOEL BRYANT FOUNDATION PRESENTS "BLACK BEFORE BLUE"  
FEATURING RONALD BAKER, ROBERT L. CARTER, SHAMEL DAVIS, JI DAVIS, OTHA DAVIS, LYMAN BOSTER,  
TERRON FARRER, CORNELL GORDON, LONIC GRAY, PERRY JONES, BEVERLY LEWIS, MARQUEE MOORE, TIA MANNIX,  
EVANGELYN WATHAM, ANITA WATERS, BRUNO PARKS, LEYLA WILSON, BEHINA WISSE, CHRIS WISSE, TIMOTHY WILLIAMS JR., KAN YOUNG,  
CASTING BY MARIO BECKAS. EDITOR: MARIO BECKAS. PRODUCTION DESIGNER: TRACEY LINCOLN. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: OSCAR JOEL BRYANT FOUNDATION, JERRY STUBBS, SHANNON ENDS,  
TANIA LITVINSKI, SAMANTHA T. THOMAS. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: WILLIAM ROUSE.  
MUSIC BY TRACEY LINCOLN.

FILM POSTER



*"The cars on the outside were  
Black and white, but the people on  
the inside were not."*

*Robert L. Carter  
Retired Lieutenant, 22 years*

# Black Before Blue

## THEMES & PILLARS OF THE FILM

Perseverance  
Racism  
Sexism  
Community  
Double Standards  
"A few bad apples"  
Living History



*"Being Female and Black"  
Women Roundtable Clip  
click to view video*



*"Segregation within the Department"  
Men Roundtable Clip  
click to view video*



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## BEHIND THE SCENES

*Photos by Noble Views Photography*