



Keith A. Beauchamp

Emmy-Nominated Documentary Filmmaker

Award-winning filmmaker Keith A. Beauchamp attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he studied criminal justice with the intention of becoming a civil rights attorney. As a young boy in Baton Rouge, Beauchamp had his share of run-ins with racism but it wasn't until an incident where he was assaulted by an undercover police officer after dancing with a white classmate at a party that he felt compelled to fight racism and move to New York. It was here he could pursue a dream in becoming filmmaker. And through this feat, he'd attempt to remedy some of the past and present injustices that plague communities abroad.

In the fall of 1997, Beauchamp relocated from Baton Rouge to New York. He quickly found work at Big Baby Films, a company founded by childhood friends that focused on music video production. Beauchamp honed his behind-the-camera skills during the day and spent his evenings doing research and reaching out to anyone who might have information on the Emmett Till case, a story told to Beauchamp when he was just 10 years old. It was at this young age that Beauchamp saw a *Jet* magazine that contained a picture of Emmett Till's dead body and was told the story behind Till's murder.

In 1999, Beauchamp founded Till Freedom Come Productions, a company devoted to socially significant projects that can both teach and entertain. He has devoted the past twenty-two years of his life telling the story of Emmett Till and has traveled extensively between New York, Chicago, and Mississippi to investigate the historic murder. Through his journey he tracked and spoke with witnesses who had never before spoken about the case, befriended Mamie Till Mobley – who took Beauchamp under her wing – worked with such influential figures as Muhammad Ali and Reverend Al Sharpton, all the while persistently lobbying both the State of Mississippi and the federal government to reopen the Emmett Till murder investigation.

On May 10th, 2004, the United States Department of Justice re-opened this 50 year-old murder case citing Beauchamp's documentary *The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till* as both a major factor in their decision and the starting point for their investigation. In May of 2005, Emmett's body was exhumed and in 2006, the FBI turned over their evidence to the appropriate district attorney in Mississippi. Sadly to say, in February 2007, a Mississippi Grand Jury made a decision to not indict the remaining suspects in the case.

That same year, Beauchamp began his collaboration with the FBI's new civil rights "Cold Case" initiative, producing documentaries on other unsolved civil rights murders in hopes of



helping federal agents with their investigations that could lead to bringing remaining perpetrators to justice.

Keith Beauchamp has been featured on *60 Minutes*, *ABC World News Tonight* 'Person of the Week,' *Court TV*, *MSNBC*, *Good Morning America*, *CNN*, *BBC*, as well as in hundreds of publications around the world including *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Associated Press*, and the *Chicago Sun Times*. Beauchamp's past works include TV One's *Murder in Black and White*, hosted by Reverend Al Sharpton and *Wanted Justice: Johnnie Mae Chappell* for the History Channel.

Beauchamp is currently the executive producer and host of Investigation Discovery's crime reality series, *The Injustice Files* and the producer of the upcoming feature film *Till*. He is also a frequent lecturer at colleges and universities around the country.

Topics:

- The Importance of the Civil Rights Movement: Where Does it Stand Today?
- Young African Americans Today: Taking Responsibility and Leading for the Next Generation
- Caste Versus Class: 50 Years Ago and Today
- Pursuing Change through Passion and Perseverance: My Nine-Year Journey that Led the Department of Justice to Reopen the Murder Investigation into the 1955 Death of Emmett Louis Till
- Race in the South: What the Civil Rights Movement Did and Did Not Accomplish
- *The Untold Story of Emmet Louis Till* with Panel Discussion
- Wanted: Justice! The Johnnie Mae Chappell Murder