

WAKING THE SLEEPING GIANT

LOGLINE:

A documentary film at the crossroads of
2016 presidential race and the effort to
build a new progressive politics in America.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Waking the Sleeping Giant: The Making of a Political Revolution is the story of the attempt to build a 21st century progressive movement in the United States. Five remarkable individuals wrestle with persistent racial injustice, growing economic inequality, and the corrupting influence of money in politics against the backdrop of an extraordinary 2016 presidential race.

From the presidential campaign trail with Senator Bernie Sanders to a local race in the failing economy of rural West Virginia, from a mass sit-in on the U.S. Capitol steps to racially charged police commission hearings in Los Angeles, Waking the Sleeping Giant makes sense of this moment in American politics, probing widespread discontent during the 2016 election cycle, Donald Trump's dramatic electoral victory, and the challenges ahead for those building a re-energized progressive movement.

FULL SYNOPSIS

In the midst of an historical gap between rich and poor, the growing influence of unlimited and untraceable campaign spending, and systemic racism across American economic, civic, and cultural life, a broad movement is emerging to take back democracy from the political establishment and the economic elite and to make it work for all Americans.

Waking the Sleeping Giant: The Making of a Political Revolution is the story of a fracturing political landscape in the United States and the struggle to remake the political left. Five remarkable individuals wrestle with persistent racial injustice, growing economic inequality, and the corrupting influence of money in politics against the backdrop of an extraordinary 2016 presidential race.

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ahead for those building a re-energized progressive movement. These five individuals include:

Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders from his early days of exploring a run through the Democratic National Convention;

Sabrina Shrader, a remarkable woman from rural West Virginia, working to escape generational poverty and secure a seat in her state legislature;

Jan Williams, a Black Lives Matter activist in Los Angeles, fighting against systemic police brutality and institutional racism; and

Elise Whitaker and Kai Newkirk, two millennial organizers leading peaceful demonstrations and sit-ins with Democracy Spring to confront the corrupting influence of money in politics.

Along the way we meet journalists, political activists, public intellectuals, students, politicians, and others offering insight and context on this revolution-in-the-making, including Medea Benjamin, Jamelle Bouie, Becky Bond, Clayola Brown, Zack Exley, Amy Goodman, Bob Herbert, Taj James, Van Jones, Lawrence Lessig, Ai-jen Poo, Robert Reich, Linda Sarsour, Micah Sifry, Cenk Uygur, Winnie Wong, and more.

This election – this moment in American political history – has the potential to be a watershed moment to build a reenergized, powerful, durable and genuinely inclusive progressive movement. *Waking the Sleeping Giant* asks: How did we get here? What will it take to reenergize the movement? What needs to happen, and who needs to do what? *Waking the Sleeping Giant* will help fuel and shape the post-election progressive movement so that this moment lives up to its potential and promise.