



## The History® Channel Premieres New Doc May 30

28 Apr, 2021

THE HISTORY® CHANNEL PREMIERES 'TULSA BURNING: THE 1921 RACE MASSACRE' EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY NBA SUPER STAR RUSSELL WESTBROOK AND DIRECTED BY EMMY AWARD® WINNER STANLEY NELSON AND PEABODY AWARD WINNER MARCO WILLIAMS ON SUNDAY, MAY 30 AT 8PM ET/PT

Two-Hour Documentary Aims To Coincide With The 100th Anniversary Of The Tragic Tulsa Race Massacre Events And Launches New Podcast 'Blindspot: Tulsa Burning' Debuting May 28 As Complementary Audio Content

Network Supports Preservation Of Tulsa's Historic Vernon A.M.E. Church Through Its 'Save Our History' Initiative

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The HISTORY® Channel sets the premiere date for its new two-hour documentary **"Tulsa Burning: The 1921 Race Massacre"** on **Sunday, May 30 at 8PM ET/PT**. Executive produced by NBA super star and philanthropist **Russell Westbrook**, and directed by Peabody and Emmy-Award winning director **Stanley Nelson** ("Freedom Riders") and Peabody and duPont-Award winner **Marco Williams** ("Two Towns of Jasper"), the documentary commemorates the 100th anniversary of the horrific Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, one of the worst acts of racial violence in American history, and calls attention to the previously ignored but necessary repair of a town once devastated. The HISTORY® Channel is also partnering with WNYC Studios to launch a new six-part podcast series **Blindspot: Tulsa Burning** on May 28 as complementary audio content. Additionally, through its **"Save Our History"** philanthropic initiative, the network is helping to preserve the Historic Vernon A.M.E. Church, the only standing Black-owned structure from the Historic Greenwood Avenue and Black Wall Street era.

In the 1920s, the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma, also known as Black Wall Street, was one of the most prosperous African American communities in the United States. Filled with booming businesses and thriving entrepreneurs, the district served as a mecca of Black ingenuity and promise, until the evening of May 31, 1921, which marked the start of the devastating Tulsa Race Massacre. More than thirty-five city blocks were burned to the ground and hundreds of Black city dwellers were killed. The Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921 is one of the most tragic moments in our nation's history, yet this harrowing event is largely unknown to many Americans. It is an often-overlooked story that needs to be told. **"Tulsa Burning: The 1921 Race Massacre"** takes an in-depth, sobering look at the tragic events of a century ago and focuses on a specific period, from the birth of Black Wall Street, to its catastrophic downfall over the course of two bloody days, and finally the fallout and reconstruction. The documentary also follows the city's current-day grave excavation efforts at Oaklawn Cemetery where numerous unmarked coffins of victims who were killed and buried during the massacre have been recovered. It will also feature rare archival footage and imagery from the time, coupled with commentary and interviews from numerous historians, city leaders, and activists, including the Tulsa Historical Society & Museum, the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation, the Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission and the Historic Vernon A.M.E. Church, among others.

In addition, The HISTORY® Channel will be supporting the Historic Vernon A.M.E. Church in Tulsa with a **"Save Our History"** grant to help preserve aspects of the building, which is the only standing Black-owned structure from the Historic Greenwood Avenue and Black Wall Street era. Funds from the Save Our History grant will help restore areas such as the refuge room in the church basement where Black citizens of Tulsa sought safe harbor during the 1921 massacre. The church also plans to build a Prayer Wall For Racial Healing using the exterior wall of the basement, which upon completion will be the only prayer wall for racial healing in the world. "Save Our History" is The HISTORY® Channel's initiative to save and preserve important sites and stories throughout the U.S.

The HISTORY® Channel is also joining the **Russell Westbrook Why Not? Foundation**, WME, RedFlight Innovation and Values Partnerships to create an educational and experiential initiative which will provide Tulsa-area students with cutting-edge STEAM kits focused on innovation and entrepreneurship. Digital versions of the curriculum will also be available for students nationwide.

The HISTORY® Channel has also partnered with WNYC Studios on **Blindspot: Tulsa Burning**, a new six-part podcast series that explores this devastating piece of American history and its aftermath through narratives of people who lived there. Launching **May 28**, the series takes listeners back to the turn of the 20th century and the settling of Oklahoma, when a wave of racial terror rocked the frontier. The podcast explores how Tulsa's Greenwood District endured destruction and how this traumatic event continues to take a toll – through conversations with survivors, descendants, historians, and local experts. Hosted by WNYC Studios' KalaLea and produced in collaboration with KOSU public radio in Oklahoma, **Blindspot: Tulsa Burning** will be a complementary podcast to the on-air TV documentary and a standalone addition to A+E Networks' burgeoning stable of podcasts.

**"Tulsa Burning: The 1921 Race Massacre"** is produced for The HISTORY® Channel by Blackfin (an eOne Company) and Firelight Films, and will be available as a two-part series on Hulu beginning this summer. Stanley Nelson and Marco Williams serve as directors of the documentary. Russell Westbrook is executive producer. Geno McDermott is executive producer for Blackfin. Donnell Beverly is executive producer for Russell Westbrook Enterprises. Nelson is executive producer for Firelight Films. Eli Lehrer and Jen Wagman are executive producers for The HISTORY® Channel.



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