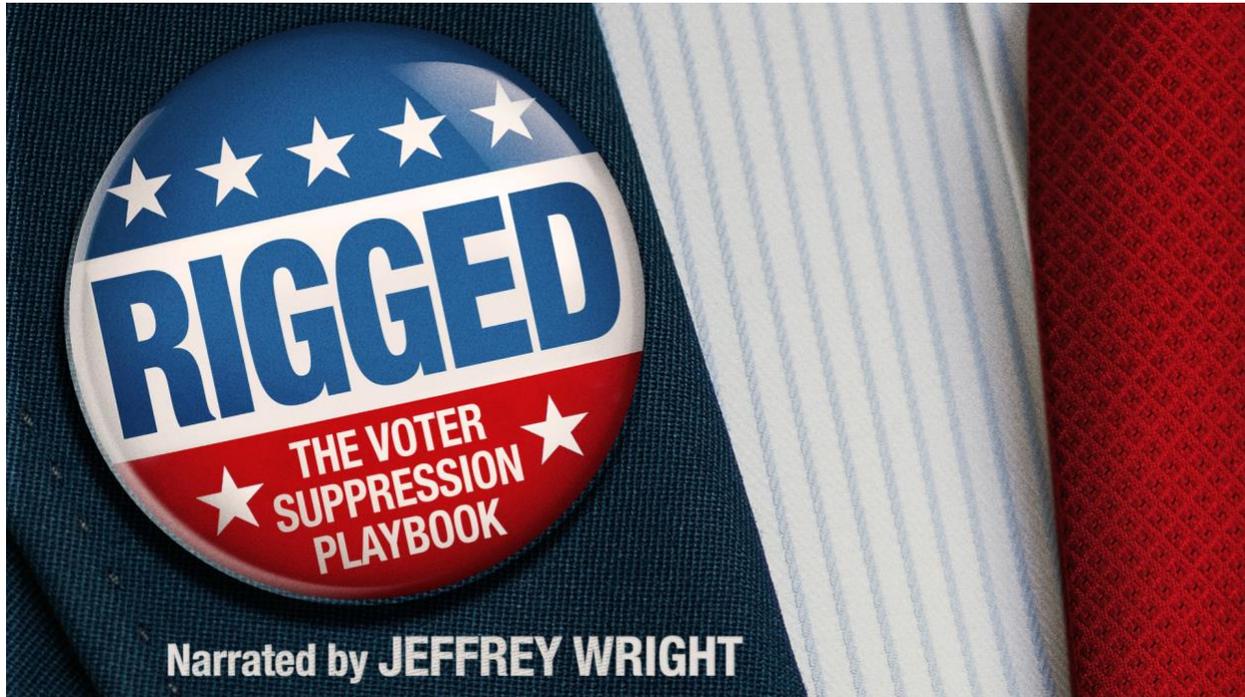


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NEW FEATURE DOCUMENTARY *RIGGED* PULLS BACK CURTAIN ON VOTER SUPPRESSION

FILM IS NARRATED BY EMMY & TONY AWARD-WINNER, JEFFREY WRIGHT

NEW YORK -- Today, the feature documentary film *Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook* celebrated its global launch with early acclaim from the Texas Monthly, Colorlines, The Nation, activists and filmmakers across the country. It serves to ignite a rigorous look at voter suppression and will spark discussion on what we as a nation need to do to protect our democracy. The film is now available worldwide on iTunes, Google Play and Amazon.

Executive Produced by Emmy Award-winning documentarian, Tim Smith, and Mac Heller, it is narrated by Tony and Emmy Award-winning actor Jeffrey Wright. *Rigged* lays bare the voter suppression playbook that some Republican partisans developed to try and prevent many Americans from exercising their right to vote.

Says **Smith**: “This film is a warning that ahead of 2020, the right to vote is under fire from every direction. Voter suppression disproportionately targets people of color and younger voters.”

Adds **Heller**: “These attacks on ‘one person, one vote’ must be countered by Americans willing to fight for and to protect voting rights. Otherwise, we will witness the slow bleed-out of our democracy.”

Says **Wright**: “This is a story that needs to be told – and heard. I was eager to play a part in telling it and I hope *Rigged* sounds an alarm that wakes America up.”

Shot principally during the 2016 election, *Rigged* tracks a systematic, decade-long effort to suppress votes at scale and reverse the growing demographic tide of new, young, non-white voters who helped elect President Barack Obama in 2008. It details voter suppression “plays,” or tactics, ranging from the purging of voting rolls and passing of new, restrictive voter ID laws to gerrymandering and voter intimidation – and includes interviews with Republican strategists detailing how the game was played as well as interviews with voting rights advocates, law professors, demographers and Democratic strategists.

The film takes viewers to Cumberland County, North Carolina, where in 2016 over 6,000 registered voter names were illegally removed from the voter rolls. In Edwards County, Texas, the filmmakers speak with an American citizen who was jailed for voter fraud by a Republican sheriff seeking re-election. The film also documents the implementation of voter restriction laws in Missouri, Kansas and Wisconsin.

Rigged closes with a stirring call to action from Rev. William Barber II: “*Until we can say without a doubt ‘one nation, under god, with liberty and justice for all,’ until that means exactly what it says, we are still working toward becoming a more perfect union.*”

The film has garnered early acclaim following a recent kick-off screening on Capitol Hill where **NAACP Legal Defense Fund President and General Counsel, Sherrilyn Ifill, Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D-AL),** and **Congressman John Sarbanes (D-MD)** introduced the film. The event drew political notables from both sides of the aisle.

“I cannot think of a better moment for this powerful film, which reinforces the reality of voter suppression, which I think so many more Americans have begun to recognize and understand,” said **Sherrilyn Ifill, NAACP Legal Defense Fund President and General Counsel.**

“If you care about protecting our constitutional right to vote, this documentary is a must-see,” said **Celinda Lake, Democratic pollster and head of Lake Research Partners.**

In October, the film was initially previewed to standing-room only crowds at screenings in New York, Nashville, TN and Los Angeles -- with the screenings sponsored by the Brennan Center for Justice, ACLU (TN) and Jesse Unruh Institute of Politics.

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Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook – **Narrator:** Jeffrey Wright **Director:** Michael Kasino **Senior Producer:** Barbara Friedman **Producers:** Jesse Moss & Ted Gasing **Editor:** Michael Kasino **Writer:** Tim Smith **Music:** Paul Brill **Executive Producers:** Mac Heller, Matt Robins, Tim Smith **A production of:** American Issues Initiative in association with October Films. Run Time: 78 minutes.

Media Inquiries and Screenings: Contact Anjali Cadambi at anjali.cadambi@berlinrosen.com to connect with executive producers Tim Smith and Mac Heller for interviews, and to RSVP to a D.C. screening on Mon. April 15th.

Website: www.riggedthefilm.com

iTunes link: apple.co/2SKFlie

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