

DIRECTED BY ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE MARK MORI
NARRATED BY SUSAN SARANDON



A GENERATIONAL UPRISING

FEATURING YO-YO OMARI HARDWICK
MUSIC FROM TOM PETTY PETE ROCK BILLY BRAGG OLIVER ANTHONY WENDY BLACKSTONE

A BARISTAS MOVIE LLC PRODUCTION in association with SINGLE SPARK PICTURES, IMAGE DIGITAL MEDIA and PRHOLLYWOOD presents BARISTAS VS. BILLIONAIRES
a film by MARK MORI Narrated by SUSAN SARANDON Produced by MARK MORI, BOB JUDSON, MONICA MATULICH and GLENN SILBER Co-Produced by DENNIS L.A. WHITE
Contributing Producer ALEC BALDWIN Executive Producers MARK MORI and GLENN SILBER Resource Producer ROBERTA BRYANT Original Score by WENDY BLACKSTONE
Featuring YOLANDA YO-YO WHITAKER Music from PETE ROCK, BILLY BRAGG, OLIVER ANTHONY, WENDY BLACKSTONE Written by BRANDYN CROSS, MARK MORI and GLENN SILBER
Senior Editor LEIGH ANNE SIDES Offline Editor KAILY ANDERSON www.BARISTASVSBILLIONAIRES.COM ©2025 BARISTAS MOVIE LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. SINGLE SPARK PICTURES IMAGE PRHollywood



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Starbucks' Aggressive Union-Busting Exposed in Powerful Film—Oscar-Nominated and Oscar-Winning Creators Call on Public to Take Action

Starbucks faces allegations of over 100 labor law violations as award-winning filmmakers bring workers' stories to the big screen.

Baristas vs Billionaires, a bold new documentary exposing the grassroots labor movement led by young Starbucks baristas, is poised to become a cultural flashpoint in the national conversation about labor rights, equity, and generational power shifts. Narrated by Academy Award® winner **Susan Sarandon** and directed by Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker **Mark Mori** (*Bettie Page Reveals All*), the film uncovers Starbucks' illegal union-busting tactics and spotlights the workers fighting back.

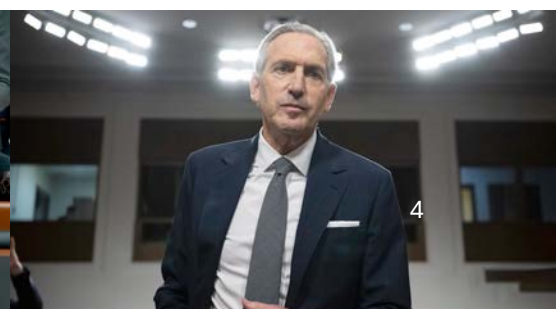


Press Release Cont'd

The film's core creative team—Director and Producer **Mark Mori** (*Single Spark Pictures*), Emmy Award-winning Producer, Shooter, Editor **Robert Judson** (*Image Digital Media*), Producer, Creative Executive **Monica Matulich** (*PRHollywood*), two-time Academy Award® nominee, and Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker **Glenn Silber** as Writer and Producer, and Award-winning Writer **Brandyn Cross**—began developing the project in 2021. Since then, an acclaimed roster of award-winning collaborators have joined, including:

- Susan Sarandon (Academy Award® winner, Narrator)
- Alec Baldwin (Academy Award® nominee, Contributing Producer)
- Deborah Shaffer (Academy Award® winner, Emmy Award winner, Consulting Producer)
- Susan Robinson (Academy Award® nominee)
- Wendy Blackstone (Ten films she has scored have won or been nominated for Original Score)
- Dennis LA White (Actor, Co-Producer)
- Pete Rock (Grammy Award® nominee)
- Leigh Anne Sides (Six Emmy nominations, Senior Editor)
- Kat Kramer (Actor, former Miss Golden Globe Ambassador, and Founder of “Kat Kramer’s Films That Change the World” and the #SHEroesForChange Initiative)
- Roberta Bryant (Resource Development Specialist)
- Yo-Yo (Yolanda Whitaker) – (Rapper, Actress, Grammy Award nominee)
- Omari Hardwick (Actor, Grammy Award winner)

In addition to Wendy Blackstone’s original score, the film includes music from Tom Petty, Pete Rock, Billy Bragg, and Oliver Anthony.





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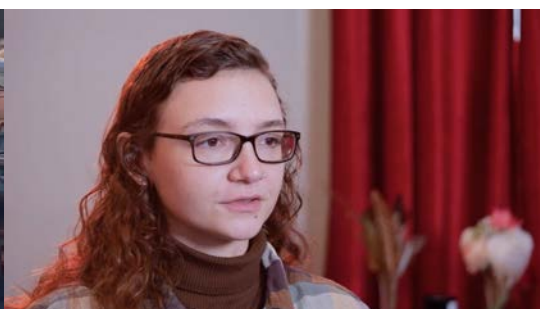
"It's an honor to have Ms. Sarandon lend her voice to this film that marks a historic moment in American labor history," said Director Mark Mori, a former steelworker and United Steelworkers of America member.

"Even though the Starbucks Workers' fight for a living wage was so public, I had no idea of the twists and turns and heartbreak connected to their struggle."
- Susan Sarandon

A Fight Brewing in Buffalo

The documentary centers on the baristas at Starbucks' Elmwood Avenue store in Buffalo, NY—the first to successfully unionize in December 2021—sparking a nationwide movement. Today, **over 600 stores in 40 states and 12,000+ employees** have joined Starbucks Workers United (SBWU), yet Starbucks has refused to reach a national contract agreement after nearly four years.

Despite **70% of Americans supporting unions**—the highest level since 1965, according to a recent Gallup poll—Starbucks has been cited by the National Labor Relations Board for violating federal labor laws more than 100 times in just 18 months, far more than any other corporation in America. Allegations include firing union supporters, spying on workers, and closing stores during organizing campaigns.





Press Release Cont'd

Starbucks Corporation Cited While Raking in Billions:

More than 700 complaints have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) accusing Starbucks of unlawful labor practices, such as firing union supporters, spying on workers, and closing stores during labor campaigns (as reported by *U.S. News*).

The NLRB has ruled that Starbucks violated federal labor laws 100 times in the past 18 months—more than any other U.S. corporation (Bernie Sanders, 3/23/23 Senate Hearing with Howard Schultz).

Starbucks' market value was approximately \$100 billion as of 2021 (Wikipedia). "I think audiences will connect with the film's themes about the right to unionize, the right to earn a living wage, and workers' requests for basic benefits that all working Americans deserve," said Brandyn Cross.

"I've seen the struggles of these baristas up close," Mori added. "Their fight reflects bigger issues—wealth inequality, corporate overreach, and the disappearance of America's middle class. The time to tell this story is now."

A Call to Action

With Starbucks Workers United planning a 600-store strike on Starbucks' Red Cup Day in November 2025, the filmmakers believe the timing couldn't be more urgent.

Baristas vs Billionaires was funded through grants and individual donors. Supporters are encouraged to join the movement by visiting www.baristasvsbillionaires.com to sign up for updates and share the message on social media.



Press Release Cont'd

About the Filmmaker



Director/Producer Mark Mori is an Academy Award-nominated (Building Bombs), Emmy Award-winning (Kent State, The Day the War Came Home) documentary filmmaker and former labor organizer. His feature documentary, Bettie Page Reveals All, won Best Documentary (Garden State and Cine-Kink Film Festivals), was released theatrically in the US (2013-14) and continues in worldwide distribution.

Key Links

Film Website & Press Kit: <https://www.baristasvsbillionaires.com>

Follow & Share

Instagram: [@baristasvsbillionaires](https://www.instagram.com/baristasvsbillionaires)

Facebook: Baristas vs Billionaires

X/Twitter: [@BaristasVsBill](https://twitter.com/BaristasVsBill)

DOWNLOAD THE PRESS RELEASE [HERE](#)



Watch the [Trailer](#)



FILM SYNOPSIS

A new generation of workers takes on Starbucks, exposing the company's union-busting tactics behind its pro-worker image.

Baristas vs. Billionaires tells the powerful and timely story of a new generation of workers taking on Starbucks—an iconic brand that publicly champions progressive values while secretly waging an aggressive, illegal campaign to crush union efforts.

Leaked videos from whistleblowers reveal the company's playbook: deploying a "SWAT team" of out-of-town managers to intimidate and dismantle organizing efforts, retaliating against pro-union workers through harassment, surveillance, and termination.

Through exclusive interviews with front-line baristas like Michelle Eisen and Gianna Reeve, and veteran labor organizer Richard Bensinger, the film exposes a stark contradiction between Starbucks' public image and its behind-the-scenes union busting. Bensinger, with five decades of experience, calls Starbucks one of the most ruthless companies he's ever faced.

This fight has captured national attention, with congressional hearings and a Senate subpoena forcing CEO Howard Schultz to testify under oath. Even the U.S. Supreme Court has weighed in on a related case, underscoring the movement's far-reaching implications for American labor.

Baristas vs. Billionaires is more than a documentary—it's a call to action. At its heart is a deeply American struggle: the fight for dignity, fair treatment, and a voice on the job.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

MARK MORI

Baristas vs. Billionaires is a natural continuation of my lifelong commitment to investigative filmmaking that exposes injustice and inspires action. My work has always sought to amplify underrepresented voices, challenge power, and reveal the human stakes behind political and economic systems.

Before I became a filmmaker, I was a steelworker and union activist. That experience not only shaped my values—it gave me a deep understanding of workers' struggles and a voice that speaks clearly and authentically to broad audiences. That voice is essential for this film, which tells a deeply American story: young people, many of them women and people of color, standing up to corporate power and fighting for dignity on the job.

This documentary is more than an exposé. It's a call to action. It aims to empower viewers—especially workers—to realize the collective strength they hold and the change they can create when they organize and stand together.

My past work has had real-world impact.

- *Building Bombs* (Academy Award nominee) contributed to the cleanup of radioactive waste and launched a worker health study at the Savannah River Site.
- *Kent State: The Day the War Came Home* (Emmy Award) remains the definitive documentary on the 1970 shootings of anti-war protesters.
- *The Atlanta Child Murders* uncovered a political cover-up surrounding the deaths of over two dozen Black children.
- *Blood Ties: The Life and Work of Sally Mann* (Academy Award nominee) examined censorship and the artist's right to self-expression.
- *The Fire This Time* (Sundance Grand Jury Prize finalist, WGA Award) told the story of the LA riots through the eyes of South Central residents—voices the mainstream media ignored.

With *Baristas vs. Billionaires*, I continue to explore the intersection of power, resistance, and truth—this time through the eyes of a new generation rising up to demand a future rooted in fairness, solidarity, and justice.

Mark Mori

Director/Writer/Producer/Executive Producer

Baristas vs. Billionaires



REVIEWS

“The judges love your film. They think this is an excellent film with one of the best outlines and trailer they have seen recently. Your film can benefit many people and hopefully strengthen labor unions.

You are the recipient of the [Carole Dorothy Joyce Excellence in Documentary Storytelling grant](#). Congratulations.”

— *Carole Dean, President, From the Heart Productions*





BIOGRAPHIES

MARK MORI

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER/EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

President, Single Spark Pictures



Mark Mori is an Academy Award–nominated and Emmy Award–winning documentary filmmaker, television producer, and president of Single Spark Pictures. His work has been recognized globally, with wide-ranging impact across theatrical, broadcast, cable, and digital platforms. A leader in the nonfiction space, Mori has produced, written, and directed documentaries and reality series for major outlets including HBO, Showtime, BBC, PBS, Frontline, Fox, MTV, Discovery, A&E, Bravo, MSNBC, National Geographic Channel, Investigation Discovery, Oxygen and others.

A former Chair of the Non-Fiction and Documentary Committee of the Producers Guild of America, Mori’s work is marked by fearless investigative journalism and compelling storytelling.

His landmark documentary *Building Bombs* (1991) received an Academy Award nomination for Best Feature Documentary and helped expose radioactive contamination at the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site.

Mori’s *Kent State: The Day the War Came Home* (2000) won the News & Documentary Emmy Award for Outstanding Background and Analysis, featuring the first-ever on-camera interviews with Ohio National Guardsmen about the 1970 shootings of student protesters.

His feature documentary *Bettie Page Reveals All* (2013) won Best Documentary at the Garden State and Cinekink Film Festivals, had a national theatrical release, and remains in global distribution.

Other notable works include:

- *Blood Ties: The Life and Work of Sally Mann* (1993), Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary Short
- *Raw Footage* (1996–97), hosted by Alec Baldwin, the first original series on IFC (also aired on Bravo)
- *To Tell the Truth* (2016), a series of 51 classic documentaries hosted by Alec Baldwin for Turner Classic Movies
- *The Atlanta Child Murders* (2000), a Court TV exposé suggesting political motivations in the high-profile prosecution of Wayne Williams
- *The Fire This Time* (1993), Sundance Grand Jury Prize nominee and WGA Award nominee for Current Affairs

Mori was also Supervising Producer on the Investigation Discovery true crime hit *Dead North* (2018), a two-night special event that was among the network’s highest-rated programs.

Currently, he is Executive Producer of *Exiled from Hollywood: Orson Welles’ Lost Masterpiece* and Director/Producer of *Baristas vs. Billionaires*—a powerful new documentary on the modern labor uprising led by Starbucks workers.



BIOGRAPHIES

BOB JUDSON PRODUCER



[Bob Judson](#) is an award-winning Atlanta-based film and television executive producer, director, writer and media consultant. Through his career, Judson led or contributed to feature documentary films and numerous television productions for National Geographic Channel, Discovery Channel, TNT and NBC.

Judson launched Image Digital Media LLC in 1999, focusing on the development and production of intellectual properties. Previously he spent 16 years as director of business development with Atlanta-based Crawford Communications, one of the world's leading post-production facilities.

As a Vietnam veteran, Judson did not feel veterans were appropriately recognized for sacrifices in an unjust war. Therefore, he created and produced "The Vietnam Trilogy"-which aired nationally on PBS, including 2017's "Remembering Vietnam", 2018's "Return to Vietnam"—co-produced with VTV 3 in Hanoi, Vietnam, and "Vietnam: Aftermath and Redemption" in 2021.

Judson also produced and directed the 2019 documentary "Our Plastic World" which draws attention to plastic pollution worldwide, with segments filmed in locations ranging from Athens and Savannah, Ga., and Long Island to Hawaii, Vietnam, Antarctica and African.

In addition to Judson's extensive film projects-he was a journalism professor at Georgia State University and managing director of the GSU, a partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting. Prior to GSU he was a professor of television production at Savannah College of Design (SCAD) in Atlanta.

Judson completed a 90:00 documentary in collaboration with Olympic historian and writer George Hirthler about the Atlanta 1996 Centennial Olympic Games, "The Games in Black & White," through Atlanta Story Partners, the company Judson and Hirthler co-founded in 2020. The film is the first comprehensive look at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the untold story of how its leadership harnessed the Games as an engine of social justice and economic opportunity for their community. It will be broadcast nationally on PBS in addition to being featured on Delta Air Lines flights beginning September 1, 2025

Judson and his teams have earned six Southeast Regional Emmy Awards, a 2021 Southern Film Festival award, seven Cine Golden Eagle awards for cinematography, and 20 International Telly Awards. A graduate of the University of Central Florida, Judson resides in East Cobb. For more information and credits visit his [IMDB profile](#).



BIOGRAPHIES

MONICA MATULICH PRODUCER

Founder, [PRHollywood](#)



Monica Matulich is a strategic communications expert, documentary filmmaker, and founder of PRHollywood, an award-winning marketing and public relations agency.

PRHollywood's roster of successful clients have included Hewlett-Packard, Coca-Cola, House of Blues, GoodYear, Subway, West49, Sprint, Hansen's Natural Juices, AT&T Wireless, Sikorsky Helicopter, The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority, the Wilshire Chamber of Commerce, the Turkish Ministry of Tourism, Columbia Pictures, Warner Bros. Pictures, Paramount Pictures, client's for Netflix, De Sean Jackson, and Nichelle Nichols from Star Trek, to name a few.

Ms. Matulich has 20 years of experience as a documentary film producer, consultant, publicist, and film marketer. Her credits include: The Award-winning children's TV show *The Adventures of Dave & Becky*, with WB stars Dave Hood and Becky Borg. Documentary films: *Turkey---A Country Between Two Worlds* and *#10 DeSean Jackson: The Making of a Father's Dream*.

She successfully drove the national press tour for DeSean Jackson's documentary film, [#10 De Sean Jackson: The Making of a Father's Dream](#), obtaining 5+ star reviews for the film and national acclaim. Worldwide TV, and YouTube: 30MM views. Twitter 1MM impressions, 1MM+ print impressions, 35 major radio markets with BET Radio tour, reaching 10MM listeners.

Monica has climbed Mt. Nemrut (7,000 ft), survived a shipwreck in Greece, successfully negotiated the end of the U.S. trade war with the People's Republic of China (PRC) in '96, and brokered amnesty for fugitive Bill Hayes (*Midnight Express*). She is also the first American woman to have been a consultant to the Turkish government, when she worked with President Turgut Ozal's office, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Tourism, and the State Planning Ministry. Ms. Matulich designed and executed a multifaceted public relations/marketing program for Fortune 500 company United Technologies/Sikorsky Helicopter that resulted in a \$1.2 billion contract with the Turkish Ministry of Defense, notwithstanding fierce competition from three international helicopter manufacturers. As a result, Monica created and filmed the feature-length documentary *Turkey---A Country Between Two Worlds* that was instrumental in winning the contract.

Ms. Matulich also launched a media campaign for the "Macarena" song and dance on live TV that became a national phenomenon in the U.S. (news videos available). She's the author of the upcoming book, "The Accidental Arms Broker," to be published in 2026, and has garnered interest from producers to adapt it to a feature film. Monica is also developing the feature film: *Breaking Wall Street*, adapted from the memoir by Norma Yaeger. Logline: She survives razor blade sabotage to become the first woman to walk the halls of the New York stock market trading floor.

Monica has been developing and producing the documentary *Baristas vs Billionaires* since 2021, with team members Mark Mori, Bob Judson, and Brandyn Cross. Go SBWU union!!



BIOGRAPHIES

GLENN SILBER

WRITER/PRODUCER/EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

President, Catalyst Media Productions, LLC

Glenn Silber is an Academy Award-nominated and Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker. A long-time network television news producer, Silber has produced more than 80 prime-time newsmagazine stories for various CBS News and ABC News broadcasts, as well as several feature documentaries for broadcast on PBS.

Mr. Silber was twice nominated for an Academy Award for Best Feature Documentary his landmark films, *The War at Home* (1979) and *El Salvador: Another Vietnam* (1981).

Silber's first feature documentary, for PBS, *An American Ism: Joe McCarthy* (1979), received a Dupont-Columbia Silver Baton; *The Great American Bailout* (1991) on the 1980s Savings & Loan Bailout scandal, which he produced and directed for the Center for Investigative Reporting and FRONTLINE, was honored with the prestigious George Polk Award for National Television, and the I.R.E. (Investigative Reporters & Editors) Award.

Silber won a Writers Guild Award for the ABC News 20/20 Special, *The Matthew Shepard Story: Secrets of a Murder* (2004); and has been honored with dozens of other awards and citations for his work as both an independent producer/director and TV network broadcast journalist. His most recent FRONTLINE documentary is the investigative report, *A Death in St. Augustine* (2014), produced in partnership with the *NY Times*, was nominated for an Emmy for Best Investigative Reporting – Long Form. He has also received two National Emmy Awards, including the CBS News magazine piece, *Homeless in America: Suffer the Children* (1988).

Silber was the recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship for Filmmaking (1986) and was a Directing Fellow at the American Film Institute's Center for Advanced Film Studies. He is a former Board Member of the Independent Feature Project (IFP) and the International Documentary Association (IDA) and is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences (Documentary Branch).

Silber is partners in Catalyst Media Productions, LLC. with Claudia Vianello. The two have been married for more than 40 years and have two grown children, and four young grandsons.

<https://www.catalyst-media.com>





BIOGRAPHIES

BRANDYN CROSS

WRITER



Brandyn Cross is an award-winning writer, producer & director, author and internationally recognized songwriter & recording artist. He has penned several books, screenplays, and well over 100 episodes of TV and streaming productions. Musically, he has scored multiple top 10 hits in various countries throughout Europe, Asia and Australia.

Brandyn won *Best Song* at the Utah Film Festival for his composition and recording of his song, *Love Again*, as featured in the TV series *Proper Manors*.

He has been lauded by disability advocacy groups for his accomplishments, and for drawing attention to successes of disabled people, as Cross is not only an autistic artist, but physically disabled as well, after an industrial accident cost him a leg. A member of the United Transportation Union (UTU), Cross has long advocated for working class unionization and fair treatment for blue-collar workers.

Notable works include:

- Writer of more than 100 episodes of the streaming TV series, *Proper Manors*, which won over 40 industry and festival awards, including Cross' own win for *Best Song*, and was a #1 ranked trade publication fan favorite. Brandyn also produced *Proper Manors*, and directed about 30 episodes of the show. He wrote & produced the series' spin-offs, *Proper Manors: The Series*, *Proper Education* and *The Kids of Proper Manors* as well.
- Writer / Producer of *Jackie Evancho: We are Hope*, a live performance series filmed for TV.
- Writer of *As if I Never Existed*, an inside look at Gary Coleman's private life, written with his wife and agent.
- *The Legacy* book series. Brandyn also wrote the film adaptation. Having directed many TV episodes, *The Legacy* was his feature film directorial debut.
- Producer of the best-selling multi-media, interactive book/film *The Night Before Christmas*.
- Writer on the series, *Genesis*, *The God Particle* and *America's Ghosts Flaunted*.
- His #1 hit recording of *If Money Talks (It Ain't on Speakin' Terms With Me)* spent over 6 months on the Worldwide Independent Hot 100, charting on three continents. His song, *Dear Mr. Jesus*, was also an international Top 10, as was his music video of *I Will Always Love You*.

At present, he is the writer of *Baristas vs. Billionaires*—an explosive documentary on the current, largely generational, labor uprising led by Starbucks workers.



BIOGRAPHIES

SUSAN SARANDON

NARRATOR



Photographer: Darren Tieste

Susan Sarandon is a five-time Oscar®-nominee and Academy Award®-winning actress for *Dead Man Walking*. She has received numerous Emmy® and Golden Globe® nominations and has created many iconic characters in films, including *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Pretty Baby*, *Atlantic City*, *The Hunger*, *Bull Durham*, *Thelma & Louise*, *Lorenzo's Oil*, *The Client*, *Stepmom*, & *Little Women* to name just a small sample. She has made a career of choosing diverse and challenging projects in film as well as television. The *Dead Man Walking* Oscar winner, Sarandon, is known for her unwavering support of important social issues. Most recently, you can see Susan in the Emmy-nominated ensemble Netflix film, *Nonnas*.



BIOGRAPHIES

ALEC BALDWIN

CONTRIBUTING PRODUCER



Since 1980, Alec Baldwin has appeared in numerous productions on stage, in films and on television. He received a Tony nomination (*A Streetcar Named Desire*, 1992) an Oscar nomination (*The Cooler*, 2004) and has won three Emmy awards, three Golden Globes and seven consecutive Screen Actors Guild Awards for Best Actor in a Comedy Series for his role on NBC-TV's *30 Rock*, making him the actor with the most SAG Awards of all time. His films include *MIAMI BLUES*, *THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER*, *GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS*, *MALICE*, *THE EDGE*, *IT'S COMPLICATED*, *BLUE JASMINE*, *STILL ALICE*, *MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: ROGUE NATION*, and *THE BOSS BABY* among many others.

Baldwin earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 1994 and has received honorary doctorates from NYU (2010) and the Manhattan School of Music (2012). He has served on numerous boards related to the arts, the environment and public policy including the Hamptons International Film Festival, Bay Street Theater, The Actors Studio, Guild Hall of East Hampton, and the Roundabout Theatre Company. He currently serves on the board of People For the American Way and the New York Philharmonic.

He has authored three books: *A PROMISE TO OURSELVES*, his memoir entitled *NEVERTHELESS* and, with Kurt Andersen, the Donald Trump parody *YOU CAN'T SPELL AMERICA WITHOUT ME*.

He is the host of a podcast, *HERE'S THE THING*, for iHeartRadio.

Baldwin is married to author and wellness expert Hilaria Thomas Baldwin. They have seven children: Carmen, Rafael, Leonardo, Romeo, Eduardo, Lucia, and Ilaria, as well as his eldest, Ireland Baldwin. Hilaria and Alec oversee The Hilaria and Alec Baldwin Foundation, which focuses on funding the arts.



BIOGRAPHIES

DENNIS L.A. WHITE

CO-PRODUCER



Dennis L.A. White is an American actor, producer, director, writer, activist, and seasoned acting coach whose career spans almost over three decades. In 2001, under the stage name “Dennis Da Menace,” he released his Billboard-charted album *The Wonderful World of Dennis*, and in 2003 became the first African-American host on Fuse Television, anchoring shows like *Weekend Vibe*, HBO’s *5 Rounds & Chatzone*, and MTV’s *Hip Hop Life*. He gained recognition for portraying Damion “D-Roc” Butler in *Notorious* (2009) and went on to appear in numerous films and TV series including *The Brave One*, *The Closer*, *Atlanta*, *Parenthood*, and *The Family Business*. As a director and producer, he has helmed projects like *The Prayer* (2020), *Street Connected* and *Careful What You Ask For!* (2025), often writing as well. Dennis is currently on the AMC TV series “*Kold X Windy*” as Fountain. Founder of “*Act Like You Know*”, he also leads workshops and mentorship programs across the country and launched the M.O.R.P.H. foundation in 2013 to combat racial profiling.

WENDY BLACKSTONE

COMPOSER



Wendy Blackstone is an award-winning composer. Her work is a testament to her passion and commitment to film scoring. Wendy has scored over 140 films and TV shows, ten of which have won or been nominated for an Academy Award. She is the first woman signed to CAA and one of the first women invited to the music branch of the Academy of Motion Pictures arts and Science.

<https://www.wendyblackstone.com/>



VOICES IN THE FILM

Baristas vs. Billionaires highlights the diverse and courageous voices of frontline Starbucks workers and their allies who stood up to corporate power to lead the largest wave of union organizing in the company's history.

Worker Organizers

Michelle Eisen

Lead organizer at the Elmwood Avenue store in Buffalo—the first Starbucks in the U.S. to successfully unionize. Eisen has become a national spokesperson for labor justice and a central figure in Starbucks Workers United.

Gianna Reeve

At just 19 years old, Reeve stood up to Howard Schultz during an illegal union-busting meeting in Buffalo, sparking national momentum for the movement. A founding member of Starbucks Workers United, she was later fired for her union activity.

Angel Krempa

A passionate organizer who led her Buffalo store to a successful union victory. Krempa was fired shortly afterward, a clear act of retaliation by Starbucks for her leadership.

Victoria Conklin

Initially against unionization, Conklin changed course after witnessing Howard Schultz's behavior at a Buffalo meeting. She went on to successfully unionize her East Robinson store in Buffalo, NY, and was later fired for her support of the movement.

Will Westlake

A seasoned organizer who brought prior experience from the victorious Gimme Coffee union drive. Westlake played a key role in Starbucks organizing efforts and was fired for his union involvement.

Sam Amato

A 13-year Starbucks veteran who was fired for being a union leader. His dismissal became a national symbol of corporate retaliation and galvanized further support for the union effort.



VOICES IN THE FILM

Worker Organizers

Beto Sanchez

A key leader in the *Memphis 7*, Sanchez was fired—along with six other baristas—on the same day by Starbucks for union organizing at their Memphis store.

Lakota McGlawn

Another member of the *Memphis 7*, McGlawn brought a powerful Southern voice to the movement. She was also fired the same day as her fellow organizers for her role in union efforts.

Nabretta Hardin

A *Memphis 7* organizer who advocated for racial and economic justice within the workplace. She was terminated alongside the others in a mass firing by Starbucks targeting union supporters.

Florentino Escobar

A fearless Memphis barista and *Memphis 7* member who invoked the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his activism. Escobar was fired the same day as the rest of the group in a coordinated act of retaliation.

Experts and Advocates

Richard Bensinger

Veteran labor organizer and strategic advisor to Starbucks Workers United. Bensinger provides historical context and insight into grassroots campaign building.

Gary Bonadonna Jr.

Manager of Workers United Rochester Regional Joint Board. Bonadonna has played a pivotal behind-the-scenes role in empowering Starbucks workers across the country.

Rachel Donaldson

Labor historian and curator. Donaldson connects the current movement to broader struggles in American labor history, underscoring its historical importance.



VOICES IN THE FILM

Cultural and Public Figures



Photographer: Darren Tieste

Susan Sarandon

Narrator of *Baristas vs. Billionaires*. The Academy Award-winning actor and activist lends her voice to guide the story with clarity, compassion, and urgency.



Alec Baldwin

Contributing producer. Baldwin has supported the film from the very beginning, working behind the scenes to elevate the project. He also featured Gianna Reeve on his podcast *Here's the Thing*, giving national visibility to the worker-led campaign.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What inspired you to make **Baristas vs. Billionaires**?

As a longtime documentary filmmaker focused on social justice—and as a former steelworker—I was deeply inspired by the courage of these young baristas taking on a corporate giant. When workers at a single Starbucks store in Buffalo launched a union drive, it was clear this was more than a local labor story. It echoed the same struggles for dignity and fairness I’ve seen throughout my career, and experienced firsthand. This is a generational fight for the future of work in America, and I knew it needed to be documented as it unfolded.

2. How did you fund the film?

The film has been funded primarily through individual contributions, small grants, and in-kind support. All the core creative team—including myself as director and producer—deferred our fees to make this happen. This is truly an independent labor of love.

3. How long did the film take to make?

We began development in late 2021, shortly after the initial union wins in Buffalo. It has taken nearly three years for the story to play out—and for the filming, editing, and postproduction work to unfold alongside it. We followed the movement as it exploded across the country, capturing events in real time as they happened.

4. What makes your film different from other documentaries about forming a union?

Baristas vs. Billionaires centers on young, diverse voices—predominantly Gen Z and Millennials, many of them women—who are not traditional labor figures but became frontline leaders. We tell the story from their point of view, in their own voices, and highlight the organizing methods they used to build power. It’s not a history lesson—it’s a real-time portrait of a modern movement. Central to why the film works is the direct conflict we show between Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and the baristas themselves—giving the audience a clear look at the imbalance of power and the courage it takes to challenge it.

5. Who is the narrator, and why did you choose her?

The film is narrated by Academy Award-winning actress and activist Susan Sarandon. She’s long been a supporter of labor and progressive causes, and her voice lends credibility, warmth, and gravitas to the story without overshadowing the workers themselves.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

6. What are your hopes for distribution?

We are seeking distribution through festivals, theatrical screenings, streaming platforms, educational outlets, and union hall and community screenings across the country. We're also aiming for a national broadcast on PBS. Our goal is to reach both mainstream audiences and grassroots organizers, union members, and students—particularly those on campuses who have actively supported the Starbucks union drive and protested against Starbucks' anti-union actions. We hope the film serves as a tool for dialogue, solidarity, and continued activism.

7. What is the main message you want audiences to take away?

That real change is possible when ordinary people stand together. The film shows that even in the face of billion-dollar opposition, young workers can spark a national movement—if they organize, persevere, and support one another.

8. How did you approach the visual storytelling of the film?

We blended vérité footage with TikToks, social media posts, news coverage, and intimate interviews. The look and feel reflect the urgency, energy, and digital-native tools of the movement. We wanted the visual style to echo the spirit of the baristas: bold, unfiltered, and honest.

9. What's the tone of the film? Is it hopeful?

Absolutely. The film is raw and emotional at times, but ultimately hopeful. It's about courage, solidarity, and the power of collective action. Despite setbacks and union-busting, the spirit of these workers is unbreakable—and that's deeply inspiring.

10. What age group is the film suitable for?

The film is appropriate for ages 13 and up. It's especially relevant for high school and college students, young working-class audiences, and anyone interested in activism, labor rights, social justice, or a way to fight the billionaire class.

11. What is the goal of the film?

The goal is to support these young baristas in winning a national union contract with Starbucks, while also raising awareness, inspiring action, and strengthening the broader labor movement. We want this film to educate, motivate, and equip viewers—especially young people—to believe in their collective power and take action in their own workplaces and communities.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

12. Will there be educational materials or a curriculum to accompany the film?

Yes, we are developing a companion toolkit for educators, community organizers, and labor groups. This will include discussion guides, lesson plans, and calls to action to help contextualize the film and spark organizing conversations.

13. How can I support the film's impact campaign?

You can support us by:

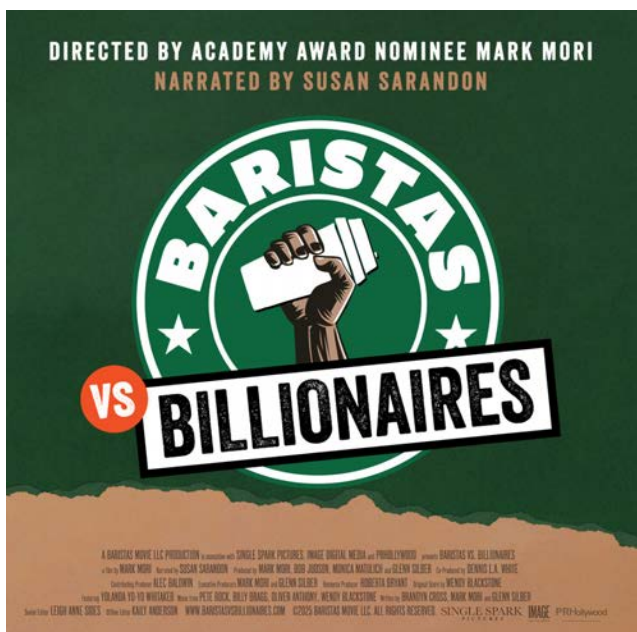
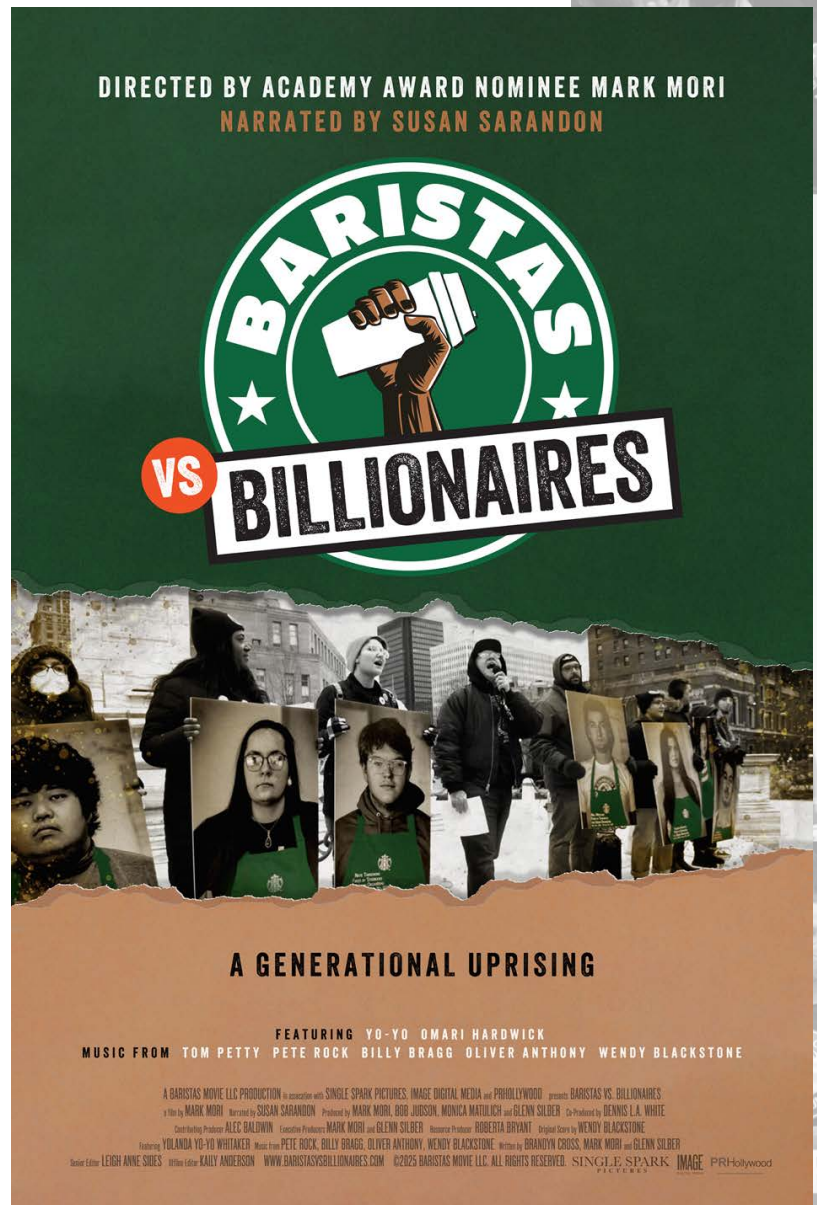
- Hosting a screening at your school, union, community center, or organization
- Spreading the word about the film on social media and helping us reach new audiences
- Contributing to our outreach and impact fund
- Connecting us with educators, journalists, or influencers who care about workers' rights

Visit <https://www.baristasvsbillionaires.com/> or contact us at mark.mori@gmail.com to get involved.



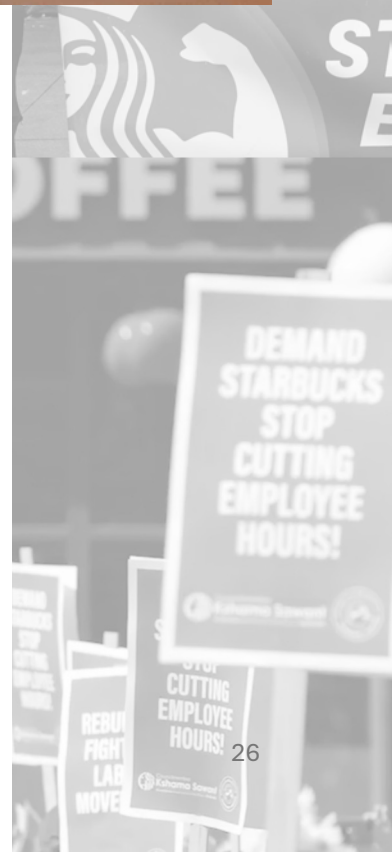
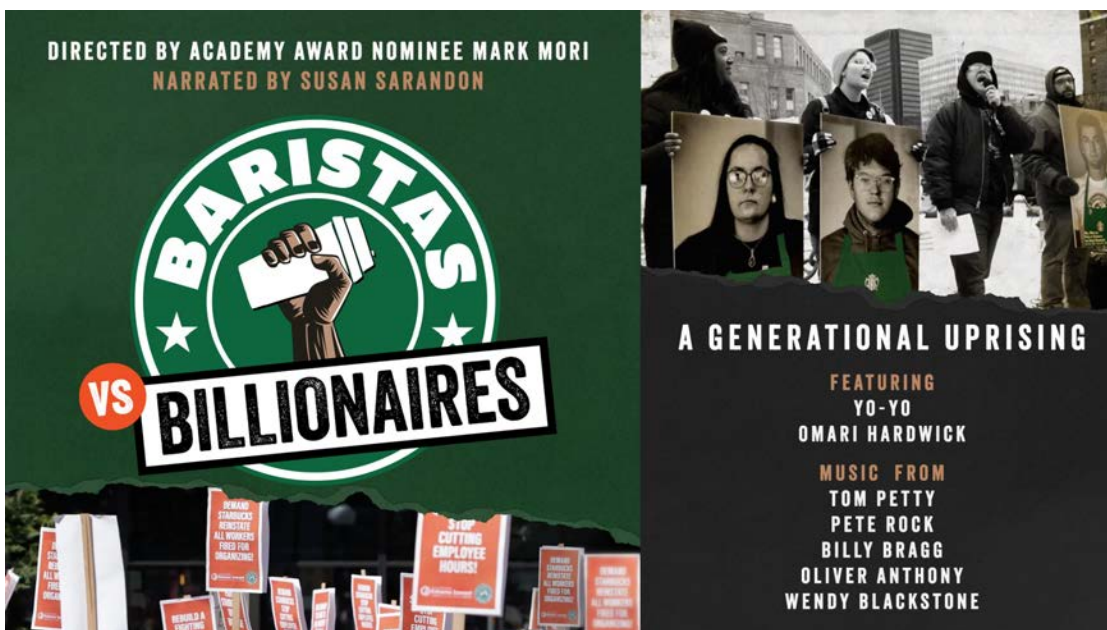


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BANNERS





VIDEO ASSETS

Trailer 1



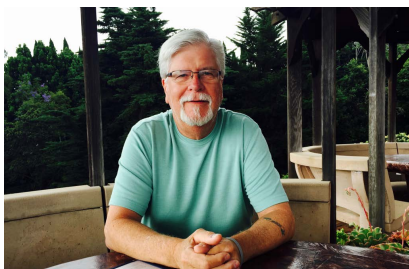
Trailer 2





STILLS

Crew



Photographer: Darren Tieste



STILLS

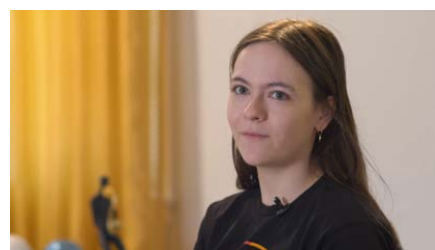
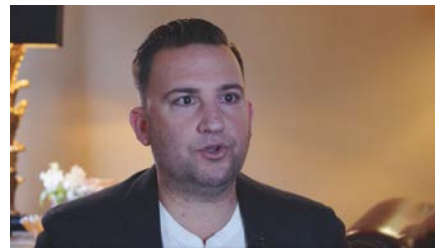
Behind the Scenes





STILLS

From Film





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