

a film by Tamara Perkins

CLARISSA'S BATTLE

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Tagline

A single mother's fight for child care for all

Logline

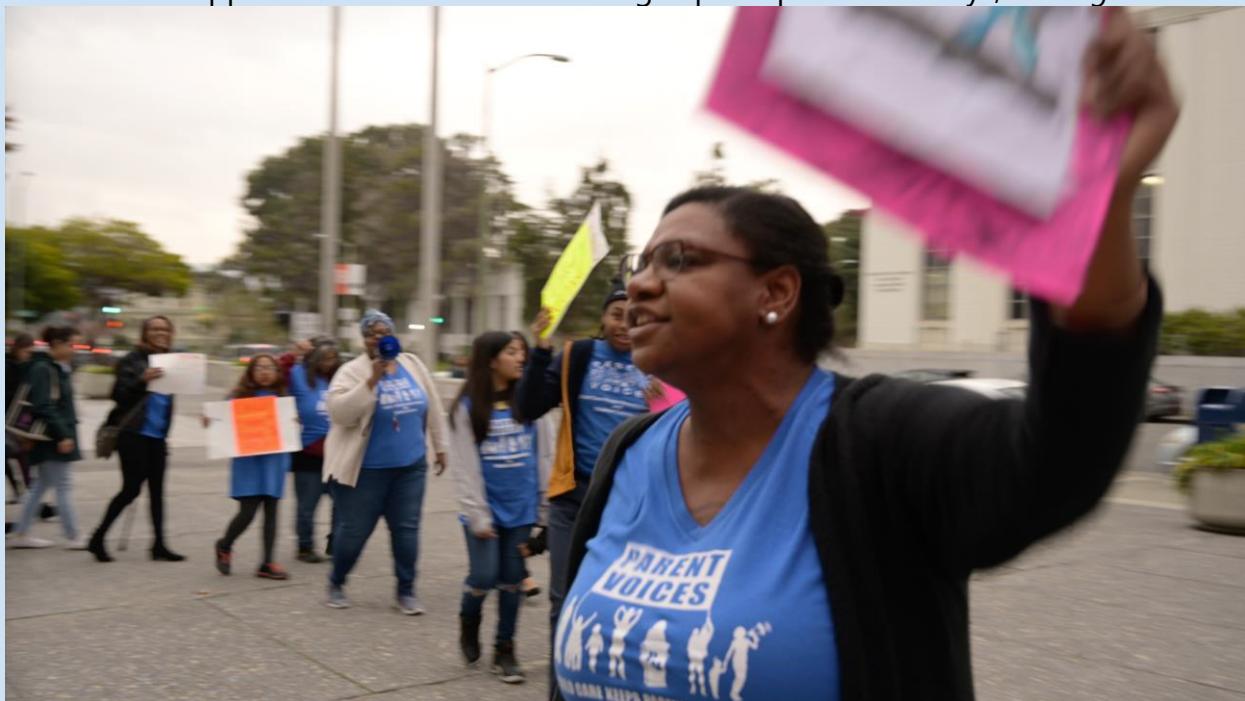
Social Justice Warrior Clarissa Doutherd leads a tenacious battle to build a coalition fighting for desperately needed child care and early education funding.

Synopsis

Single mother and activist Clarissa Doutherd is working tirelessly to build a powerful coalition. The coalition's goal is to make local, state and national leaders understand a desperate need shared by families, parents and children across the country, from low-income to middle. It's a need many families don't have in the United States; but for those who do, it is crucial. Clarissa's ambition is to make their voices heard loudly, plainly, and their desperation made clear.

What these families need is simple on the surface: child care and early education funds. Enough to allow parents to continue to work. Enough to keep families off the streets. Enough to give their children a chance at a productive, successful future. Providing these funds would benefit every citizen in every community - so why do people fight so hard to prevent it?

CLARISSA'S BATTLE is about more than a movement. It's about the tenacity of a woman who experienced the shock of financial insecurity after the birth of her son, and her determination to stop it from happening to anyone else. It's about the struggle experienced by millions of families unseen and unspoken of by their communities. It is about what happens when a woman rises to grasp her power and says, "*Enough.*"



CLARISSA'S BATTLE - Press Kit, February 2022

Filmmakers



Tamara Perkins (Director | Producer | Writer) is an award-winning filmmaker and changemaker focused on documentaries that inspire transformative change through dialogue, healing and advocacy through her company [Apple of Discord Productions](#). Perkins' films ([Life After Life \(2018\)](#), [Rebound \(2021\)](#), [Clarissa's Battle](#)) were each inspired by a personal connection to the subject matter and provide an often overlooked proximity in storytelling. As a national speaker, Perkins' repertoire spans from filmmaking to prison reform and human rights. She is a recipient of Evident Change's Media for a Just Society Award. Perkins' work has become a catalyst for change, learning and advocacy for some of our nation's most misunderstood and overlooked issues.

Feature Films:

Rebound | Director, Producer | 2021 | PBS www.reboundwomen.org

Life After Life | Director, Producer | 2018 www.lifeafterlifemovie.com

SARA | Writer | 2020



Sara Maamouri is an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker and editor who has explored a diverse range of topics for over 20 years. Her work touches on social, educational, and political issues, from a teacher and students performing under extraordinary circumstances (*The Music's Gonna Get You Through*, 2010) to rebuilding a life in a former war zone (*Amal's Garden*, 2012). Her most recent films include *We Are Not Princesses* (2018) and the Peabody Award-winning film *The Judge* (2017). A multilingual

Tunisian educated in New York and California, Sara brings cultural sensitivity to her editing, production, and story development, creating impact-focused narratives to attract and engage rapidly evolving audiences. Currently, she is editing *Black Mothers* (scheduled to premiere Spring 2022), directed by Débora Silva Souza, and *Clarissa's Battle* (scheduled to premiere Spring 2022), directed by Tamara Perkins.

Films:

We Are Not Princesses | Producer, Editor | 2018

The Judge | Co-Producer, Editor | 2017

A Revolution in Four Seasons | Co-Producer, Editor | 2016

Twice Upon A Time | Editor | 2016

A Dangerous Idea | Co-Editor | 2016

Amal's Garden | Editor | 2012

In This Waiting | Editor, Line Producer | 2012

The Music's Gonna Get You Through | Editor | 2010

Additional Crew



Director of Photography | Associate Producer: CB Smith-Dahl
Founder, [Together Pictures](#)



Composer: [Omar Fadel](#)



Lead Animator: Abby VanMuijen
Founder, [Roguemark Studios](#)

Cast



Clarissa Doutherd (Protagonist, Advisor) is the executive director of [Parent Voices Oakland](#), a chapter of Parent Voices California. Clarissa has been a strong advocate for mothers like herself who were caught in the crosshairs of ineffective public policy. As a collaborative movement builder, Clarissa has forged deep partnerships with large local government agencies including the Alameda County Social Services Agency, Public Health, and Behavioral Health Services. After stepping into leadership as the co-chair on the Alameda County Early Childhood Policy Committee with First 5 of Alameda County, Clarissa led efforts to refocus the group to become a cross-sector collaborative, connecting community-based organizations, parents and service providers to advance innovative strategies for county-wide system change. As a leader and mentor, Clarissa works to elevate parent leadership in public policy.

Why Did We Make CLARISSA'S BATTLE?

Before Covid, the general public was unaware of the desperate need for child care and early education support and funding. It is no coincidence that this recent focus on child care and early education is inspired by a new awareness from parents who suddenly found themselves without jobs, child care or alternatives. The disproportionate number of women who have been forced to leave the workforce to care for their children helped stoke the flames.

These events did not take precedence over the dramatic reawakening (for some) and recognition (for many) of relentless systemic racism in the United States, demonstrated by worldwide protests spawned by the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and too many others. The power and significance of those protests can be attributed to the overwhelming significance of the Black Lives Matter movement, one of the most important social and political movements to occur so far in the 21st century. The ability of the movement to join large, disparate communities together has awakened many to the power of a purposeful coalition, something Clarissa Doutherd has long fought for and achieved in her work. CLARISSA'S BATTLE is a pertinent story of unity, community and determination, one of many we hope will be told in this new yet not-so-new reality.

The poverty and housing insecurities that affect these families are part of a long cycle of oppression, racism and forced insecurity. Early education, in addition to or in conjunction with child care, has the potential to end that cycle - many studies have identified early education as a key to increase a child's ability to thrive as an adult. Of course, the higher the quality of these essential services, the higher the cost, if adequate services can be found at all. Increased government subsidies would help alleviate the burden on mid- to low- income families who are currently forced to choose between housing, food, medicine or child care. Without this assistance, generations of parents and their children face an uncertain future.

The underpinnings of inadequate child care and early education are based in long-standing systematic racism, economic inequality and social injustice. Add the poverty and housing issues that affect these families and the oppression that feeds the cycle is obvious. The cycle of poverty and the prison pipeline, as one parent calls it, is fueled early on by a child's lost early education opportunities. Early education is the foundation for future education and employability, and without it children are far less likely to reach their human potential and break the cycle of oppression. Increased government subsidies would help alleviate the burden on mid- to low-income families who are currently forced to choose between housing, food, medicine or childcare. Without this assistance, generations of parents and their children face an uncertain future, as do our future communities.

For more information, please contact

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Clarissa's Battle**