

THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER

Self-determination and Survival in the
Oldest Black Town in America

Produced and Directed by RYAN ROWE and DREW GRIMES
Executive Producer WALT WOLFRAM

A production of
THE NORTH CAROLINA LANGUAGE AND LIFE PROJECT

www.talkingnc.com

DESCRIPTION

The people of Princeville tell the story of their town, one of the first to be founded by freed slaves, and its against-all-odds survival.

SYNOPSIS

Settled by freed slaves in 1865 and incorporated in 1885, Princeville, NC is among the oldest town in the United States founded entirely by freed slaves. The first residents transformed a patch of unwanted swampland into a safe haven for resistance, self-expression and personal freedom. Weaving interviews with residents and historians with archival photographs, news footage, and music from area musicians, *This Side of the River* documents the people of Princeville's religious, political and economic self-determination. Princeville's survival through racial prejudice, economic hardships, and devastating floods is an illuminating, and previously untold, chapter of American history.

CREW & CREDITS

Walt Wolfram – *Executive Producer*
Drew Grimes – *Co-producer & Co-director, Videography, Editing*
Ryan Rowe – *Co-producer & Co-director*
Rudolph Knight – *Historical Consultant*
Cheryl Aldave – *Production Assistant*
Kristy D'Andrea – *Production Assistant*
James Sellers – *Production Assistant*
Kelly Grimes – *Production Assistant*
George Dickens, Jr. – *Production Assistant*
Charlotte Vaughn – *Production Assistant*

Music by George Higgs, George Dickens, LEGACY, and others.

Advisory board: Rudolph Knight, Yolanda Thigpen, Maggie Boy, Delia Perkins, Isabelle Baker, Kendrick Everette, Daisy Staten, Bobbie Jones

FUNDED BY

The College of Humanities & Social Sciences, NC State University
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National Science Foundation

QUOTES & TESTIMONIALS

“...heartfelt, exhaustively researched and ably executed”

- David Fellerath, Independent Weekly

“...does Princeville proud”

- Calvin Adkins, The Daily Southerner

“Princeville has made that journey from being buried in the sea and yet finding the courage and the strength and the perseverance to be resurrected.”

- Rev, Josph Lowery, SCLC co-founder

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

DREW GRIMES (Producer / Director) is a freelance videographer and multimedia designer with a Master of Arts In English, linguistics concentration. Other video productions include *Princeville Remembers the Flood* and *Celebrating Muzel Bryant*. He co-designed the ambitious Outer Banks History Center installation *Freedom's Voice: Celebrating the Black Experience on the Outer Banks*.

For more information: <http://www.drewgrimes.net/resume/>

RYAN ROWE (Producer / Director) received a Masters of Arts in English, linguistics concentration, and afterwards worked extensively with the town of Princeville to help define their community goals and secure the town's legacy. Other video productions include *Princeville Remembers the Flood*, and *Voices of North Carolina* (Associate Producer, AAE segment).

WALT WOLFRAM (Executive Producer) has pioneered the study of dialect and culture for more than three decades. Wolfram has published more than 20 books and more than 250 articles on American English dialects, and has served on the Advisory Board of the Children's Television Workshop. A prominent concern of Professor Wolfram involves the application of basic research findings to social and educational problems, and the effective dissemination of information on language variation and cultural diversity to the American public. This interest has included work on a number of TV documentaries, including the award-winning *American Tongues* (1986) and *Do you Speak American* (2005), as well as serving as Executive Producer for *The Ocracoke Brogue* (1997), *Indian by Birth: The Lumbee Dialect* (2001), *Mountain Talk* (2003), *Voices of North Carolina* (2005), *The Queen Family - Appalachian Tradition & Back Porch Music* (2006), *This Side of the River* (2007), *The Carolina Brogue* (2008), and *Spanish Voices* (forthcoming). Among numerous other honors, Wolfram received the Extension Excellence Award from North Carolina State University and the prestigious John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities from the North Carolina Humanities Council, both in 2008.

ABOUT THE NC LANGUAGE & LIFE PROJECT

The North Carolina Language and Life Project (NCLLP) is a part of NC State University's Humanities Extension, and is an umbrella organization for regional research, cultural preservation, and the production of educational documentary media for television and classroom.

The goals of the NCLLP are:

- To preserve the rich heritage of language variety in North Carolina as it reflects the different cultural traditions of its residents.
- To gather basic research information about language variety in order to understand the nature of language variation and change.
- To provide information about language differences and language change for public and educational interests.
- To use the material collected in research projects for the improvement of educational programs about language and culture.

THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER – DVD DETAILS



Distributed by The North Carolina Language & Life Project

USA • 2006 • 52 minutes

SPECIAL FEATURES

Princetonville Remembers the Flood (18 minutes) & Deleted scenes

CONTACT INFORMATION

The North Carolina Language and Life Project

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press photos available at www.talkingnc.com

video excerpts

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WddJZwcD1bw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikavjnaizeM>

NC Language & Life Project YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NCLLP>