

# BLIND COLOR



A Jellyfish Smack Productions film by  
Isaac Brown and Ana Paula Habib

*Blind Color* is a documentary seeking to illuminate America's racial conditioning through the eyes of the blind. The film uses a combination of live action footage and animation to explore the encounters of various subjects--who are blind from birth--with race, color, beauty, and the visual world in general.

Discrimination is a present but intangible issue. In an attempt to give it a shape, we are pursuing this project to highlight discrimination as a taught behavior. Since discrimination is often determined by visual cues one is taught to look for, we are interested in hearing the stories of how the subjects were first exposed to physical differentiation and racism rather than their personal views on racism itself.

The film investigates many forms of discrimination, including those towards the blind community. To break stigma and preconceived notions currently existent in our society, the subjects we interview are productive independent individuals who happen to be blind but do not define themselves based on that.

In creating *Blind Color* we are taking an anthropological approach by interviewing subjects who are blind from birth on how they first learned about colors, beauty and race. The film documents the extraordinary accomplishments, experiences and perspectives of such subjects and presents them as a hybrid of live-action footage and animation. The audience witnesses the subjects living a productive life and sharing their stories while experiencing some of these stories as imaginative animations. We intend to interview a diversity of subjects, and match them to a different animator, creating a film with distinct accounts visualized by multiple styles of animations.

How blind people navigate the visual world and their experiences with colors and race are questions often left answered for many, creating false concepts regarding this community. *Blind Color* openly explores these topics stimulating conversations on discrimination and disabilities, which makes it engaging to audiences of all ages, races and abilities, including teachers and organizations that advocate for inclusion. Besides film festivals and television, we consider this film to be a great fit for museums and galleries since it has an interactive element: the animators of *Blind Color* will make their animation models available as installations so the sense of touch can be used to experience the film's animated scenes. Also, all visual materials will be made available in Braille, and we hope to eventually make the film available for free online so anyone can use it as a tool for social impact.

By choosing a community with no sight to talk about a subject based on visual cues, we hope to re-create the shape of racism and discrimination, resulting in new ways to view old issues. To achieve greater social and intellectual impact we will present these stories in an artistic format that has no imaginary boundaries (animation) with the intention of breaking the existent notions our society has on racism and the blind community.

## HISTORY AND PAST WORK

Jellyfish Smack Productions (JSP) is an award-winning Floridian production house that focuses on environmental and social issue documentaries. Our work includes educational and fundraising videos for nonprofits and community organizations, promotional videos for national companies, and over a dozen video field trips for Pearson--the world's leading PreK-20 educational publishing company.

JSP also creates feature-length and short documentaries—it released the award-winning documentary *Terra Blight* in 2012, and will be releasing *SiDiKi* in 2014.

*Terra Blight* is a feature-length documentary exploring America's consumption of computers and the hazardous waste we create in pursuit of the latest technology. It appeared in many publications--including *Hollywood Reporter* and *Variety Magazine*. It screened at festivals all over the world, won Best Science Communication Film at the Reel Earth Environmental Film Festival in New Zealand, and it received an outreach grant from the Fledgling Fund, which allowed us to take it on tour and screen at dozens of schools and universities around the US. The film had a national broadcast on Outside TV, it was picked up by Free Speech TV, and screened internationally on Russia TV. Both the World Bank and the US Department of State purchased rights to screen it internally, and it received an amazing review from Oscar winning director Jonathan Demme (*Silence of the Lambs*). *Terra Blight* is currently available on iTunes, Amazon, Xbox, and other major streaming providers.

Our latest film *SiDiKi* is a feature-length documentary celebrating the healing powers of dance and music told through the experiences of a man--who despite his physical limitations--found purpose in dancing. This inspiring film tells a personal story about determination and self-acceptance that challenges societies' preconceptions on those labeled as disabled. *SiDiKi* received a grant from Dance Films Association, and will be released later in 2014.

As trained documentary filmmakers, the crew of JSP values the subjects' story. During our years of experience, we have interviewed subjects on sensitive topics like violence, abuse, and sexuality. We have gained the skills necessary to create a safe and non-judgmental environment where our subjects feel comfortable to be themselves in sharing their stories and perspectives.

Samples of for-hire work (videos owned by hiring companies) and/or links to past films are available upon request. These sites showcase some of our work:

[www.terrabligh.com](http://www.terrabligh.com)

[www.gimmegreen.com](http://www.gimmegreen.com)

[www.jellyfishsmack.com](http://www.jellyfishsmack.com)

## THE CREW

**Isaac Brown** – Director and Producer

Isaac is an award-winning director with 11 national broadcast credits to his name. He holds a master's degree in documentary film production from University of Florida's Documentary Institute. His thesis film *Gimme Green* won over a dozen awards and screened at over 100

film festivals around the world. It was a national finalist for a Student Academy Award, and it received an Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' College Television Award. Isaac is a Florida Individual Artist Fellow; he directed *Terra Blight* and *SiDiKi*.

**Ana Paula Habib** – Director and Producer

A Lebanese-Brazilian award-winning filmmaker Ana Paula Habib holds a master's degree from the University of Florida's Documentary Institute and has a background in Anthropology. She produced *Terra Blight*, directed *SiDiKi*, and is the recipient of the 2012 Florida Individual Artist Fellowship. Ana lives in Florida with her husband and filmmaking partner, Isaac Brown, where she focuses on creating thought provoking films at award-winning Jellyfish Smack Productions.

**Brian Oakley** – Animation Director

Brian Oakley is an animator and educator in Jacksonville Florida. With a background in Traditional Animation, Stop Motion, and Graphic Design, he utilizes his industry experience and skills in educating new animators and artists. In the animation industry, Brian has worked on animated shows and commercials for national television. When not teaching, he spends his spare time developing animated ideas for television, as well as working as a freelance animator and designer.

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