

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE****CONTACT**

Braden Jefferson, 42 West
301-919-7114
braden.jefferson@42west.com

Aisha Almada, ITVS
415-356-8383
aisha.almada@itvs.org

For downloadable images,
visit our [press page](#).

REVEALING DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHTING GROUNDBREAKING CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA JORDAN, “THE INQUISITOR,” PREMIERES ON INDEPENDENT LENS FEBRUARY 23

*A Portrait of the Life And Legacy of A Civil Rights Icon Featuring
Modern Day Interviews From Jasmine Crockett, Dan Rather, Sylvia
Garcia, Annise Parker, and Others*

(San Francisco, CA) December 10, 2025—A riveting documentary, “The Inquisitor” highlights the legacy of Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, an American politician, lawyer, educator, and public servant, whose ethical principles and interrogation skills served the United States at pivotal points in history, from the revision and extension of the Voting Rights Act to the 1987 Supreme Court nomination hearings of Robert Bork. Premiering February 23, 2026, on INDEPENDENT LENS, the feature documentary explores her life and legacy, unraveling how her sharp intellect and public influence transformed U.S. politics, while exploring the complexities of her private struggles that few ever knew.

Emmy® Award-winning filmmaker Angela Tucker (“Belly of the Beast”) beautifully guides viewers through the extraordinary triumphs of Jordan’s life whose commanding voice and uncompromising integrity reshaped American politics. Rising from segregation-era Houston to become the first Black woman from the South elected to Congress, Jordan emerged as a moral force during some of the nation’s most turbulent moments. Through archival footage, intimate testimony, and contemporary insights, Tucker reveals a woman of profound intellect and discipline who carried immense personal burdens behind the scenes.

“‘The Inquisitor’ chronicles Barbara Jordan’s moral clarity and offers us all a framework for uniting a divided America—an especially powerful message today when it feels like forces are trying to divide us into simplistic camps or ideologies,” said Lois Vossen, INDEPENDENT LENS founding executive producer. “Filmmaker Angela Tucker delivers a compelling portrait of one of

ITVS

1435 FOLSOM STREET
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94103
T. 415 356 8383
F. 415 356 8391
PBS.ORG/INDEPENDENTLENS

the great U.S. civil rights icons, and connects the past to our present in an exemplary way.”

During the impeachment hearings of President Nixon in 1974, Jordan was a 38-year-old junior Texas congresswoman. During a speech recognized for its political oratory, she reminded listeners of the constitutional agreement made for the collective experiment of democracy. With praise from both political parties, she earned the title of ‘inquisitor.’ Jordan’s political purpose then became clear—to compel people to ask hard questions and face the answers together. One week after this infamous speech, Jordan was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. At the height of her career, Jordan left politics but continued in public service as an educator and ethical guide for leaders such as Bill Clinton and Ann Richards.

While Jordan’s political legacy is the center of “The Inquisitor,” the film also looks at her personal life. Colleagues and friends, as well as the public, learned of her illness only after her death. The film examines how Jordan navigated race, gender, power, and privacy—insisting on constitutional principles in public while guarding her inner life from view—offering a timely portrait of leadership rooted in courage, restraint, and truth.

The ITVS co-production, “The Inquisitor,” premieres on PBS’s INDEPENDENT LENS on February 23, 2026, at 10 p.m. ([check local listings](#)). The film will also be available to stream on the [PBS app](#) and [PBS YouTube](#).

Visit the [“The Inquisitor”](#) page on INDEPENDENT LENS to learn more about the film.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Angela Tucker, Director/Producer

Angela Tucker is an Emmy Award-winning producer of “Belly of the Beast.” Past directorial work includes “All Skinfolk Ain’t Kinfolk,” “Black Folk Don’t,” and “(A)Sexual.” She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, a recipient of Film Independent’s Amplifier Fellowship, and The Chicken & Egg 2023 Award.

Trevite Willis, Producer

Trevite Willis is an independent producer and film festival founder. She co-executive produced “To Live and Die and Live,” and executive produced “The Forty-Year-Old Version.” She produced “The Inquisitor: The Barbara Jordan

Documentary." She has produced seven feature films, including "Cargo," "Blood Bound," "Maya and Her Lover," and "Children of God."

Moira Griffin, Producer

Moira Griffin is a producer based in Los Angeles, California. Her award-winning projects include "Slow Pulse," "Cap," and "Night Shift." Currently, she's producing Marshall Tyler's "The Prince of 7th Ave" (with Vogue Studios) and Angela Tucker's "The Inquisitor." Moira is a Film Independent Amplifier fellow. She has held positions at Fox and Sundance Institute.

Director	Angela Tucker
Producer	Trevite Willis Moira Griffin
Executive Producers	Carrie Lozano Lois Vossen Royd Chung

ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS

INDEPENDENT LENS is an award-winning documentary series that fosters understanding, seeks to build empathy, and encourages a more united society. Produced by ITVS, INDEPENDENT LENS documentaries have premiered on PBS for 25 years and streamed on YouTube, helping Americans foster deeper connections between communities and themselves. From the Oscar-nominated "I Am Not Your Negro" to the Peabody-acclaimed docuseries "Philly D.A." and the Emmy Award-winning "The Invisible War," INDEPENDENT LENS provides viewers with in-depth, nuanced storytelling reflecting the experiences of people from a variety of voices and communities.

INDEPENDENT LENS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting: a private corporation funded by the American People, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Acton Family Giving, Park Foundation, and Wyncote Foundation. Stream anytime on the PBS app or YouTube. Learn more at pbs.org/independentlens.



ABOUT ITVS

Independent Television Service (ITVS) is the largest co-producer of independent documentaries in the United States. For more than 30 years the San Francisco nonprofit has funded and partnered with documentary filmmakers to produce and distribute untold stories. ITVS incubates and co-produces these award-winning titles and premieres them on our Emmy Award-winning PBS series, INDEPENDENT LENS. ITVS titles appear on PBS, WORLD, NETA, and can be streamed on various digital platforms including the PBS app. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, Park Foundation, and Wyncote Foundation. For more information, visit itvs.org.

###



1435 FOLSOM STREET
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94103
T. 415 356 8383
F. 415 356 8391
PBS.ORG/INDEPENDENTLENS