

# THE FIVE DEMANDS

A film by Greta Schiller & Andrea Weiss

Executive Producer: Stanley Nelson

Icarus Films is pleased to announce its acquisition of exclusive distribution rights across all markets in the U.S. and Canada for THE FIVE DEMANDS, a film by Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss.

THE FIVE DEMANDS tells the dramatic story of the student strike that changed the face of higher education. As colleges brace for a Supreme Court ruling later this year rolling back Affirmative Action, the story of the City University of New York (CUNY) proves to be more salient than ever.

In April 1969, a small group of Black and Puerto Rican students shut down the City College of New York, an elite public university located right in the heart of Harlem. Fueled by the revolutionary fervor sweeping the nation, the strike soon turned into an uprising, leading to the extended occupation of the campus, classes being canceled, students being arrested, and the resignation of the college president. Through archival footage and modern-day interviews, we follow the students' struggle against the institutional racism that, for over a century, had shut out people of color from this and other public universities.

THE FIVE DEMANDS revisits the untold story of this explosive student takeover, and proves that a handful of ordinary citizens can band together to take action and effect meaningful change.

**Greta Schiller** (Producer/Director) is an internationally acclaimed documentary filmmaker and co-founder of Jezebel Productions. Her most recent film, *The Land of Azaba*, a closely observed documentary on ecological restoration, premiered in the 2020 Valladolid Film Festival in Spain. Her earlier films include such international favorites as: *Before Stonewall* (1984 Emmy Award, 2019 National Film Registry), *International Sweethearts of Rhythm* (PBS, 1986 Best Doc, Philadelphia Film Festival), *Paris Was a Woman* (1995 Audience Award Winner, Berlinale), and *The Man Who Drove with Mandela* (PBS, 1998 Best Documentary at Berlinale). She is a two-time Fulbright recipient whose work has screened at the most prestigious international film festivals over the last 35 years, making her one of the most respected, longest-producing independent filmmakers of her generation.

**Andrea Weiss** (Producer/Director) is an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker with a Ph.D. in American history. Most recently, she is Producer/Director/Editor of *Bones of Contention* (2017 Berlin Film Festival), a feature documentary delving into the historical memory movement in Spain and the unknown story of LGBT repression under the Franco dictatorship. Her other film credits include *Escape to Life: The Erika and Klaus Mann Story*, *Seed of Sarah*, *Paris Was a Woman*, *Before Stonewall*, *A Bit of Scarlet* and *International Sweethearts of Rhythm*, among others. An award-winning author as well, her work has been translated into French, Spanish, German, Korean, Swedish, Chinese, Japanese, Slovenian and Croatian. She is Professor of Film at the City College of New York, where she co-directs the MFA Program in Film.

**Stanley Nelson** (Executive Producer) is among the premier documentary filmmakers working today. His body of work has garnered every major award in the industry. He is a MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, was awarded an individual Peabody Award, the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Television Arts Sciences, and received the National Medal in the Humanities from President Barack Obama. His films include *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool* (2019), *Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities* (2018) and *The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution* (2016), which won the 2016 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Documentary Film.