

The SOUTHERN DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

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Contact: Becca Walton, rwalton@olemiss.edu

NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM EXPLORES CONFLICT OVER MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI – The [Millsaps Institute for Civic and Professional Engagement](#) will partner with the [Southern Documentary Project](#), an institute of the [Center for the Study of Southern Culture](#) at the University of Mississippi, to screen a new documentary film on the state flag on Monday, November 6 at 6pm in the Gertrude C. Ford Academic Complex, Room 215. The film, *Flag Flap Over Mississippi*, is by Rex Jones and explores tensions around the divisive Mississippi state flag. A discussion of the film will follow, with professor of political science Kenneth Townsend of Millsaps moderating a discussion with artist Laurin Stennis, creator of a new flag design, and Mississippi State Senator John Horhn. The screening and discussion are free and open to the public.

Flag Flap includes interviews with Mississippians who discuss the state's continued use of a flag which includes the Confederate battle emblem. While the Legislature selected the design in 1894 at the height of white supremacist violence and the codification of Jim Crow, some consider it a symbol of pride in the sacrifice of ancestors who fought in the Confederate army. The film explores these perspectives within the context of the current political environment.

View a trailer for the film at <https://vimeo.com/233884994>, and learn more about the film at flagflap.com.

The film includes interviews with several Mississippians, including Bertram Hayes-Davis, great-great-grandson of Jefferson Davis, local Civil War historian Starke Miller, attorney and Judge Carlos Moore, artist Laurin Stennis, Episcopal Bishop of Mississippi the Rt. Reverend Brian Seage, and DeBorah Simpson, flag activist.

Filmmaker Rex Jones says, "The discourse over the 1894 Mississippi state flag often becomes so contentious that the debate quickly devolves into a shouting match. *Flag Flap* was conceived as a filmic conversation between all sides that will hopefully generate more civil discussion in the public sphere."

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ABOUT REX JONES

Short Version

Rex Jones is an award-winning documentary filmmaker who joined the Southern Documentary Project at the University of Mississippi in July 2011. His works have been broadcast on PBS, chosen as official selections of film festivals throughout the country, and won multiple awards from various organizations.

Long Version

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Rex Jones is an award-winning documentary filmmaker who joined the Southern Documentary Project at the University of Mississippi in July 2011. Rex, a Hickory, Mississippi native, is an MFA graduate in Science and Natural History Filmmaking from Montana State University and also holds a BS in Computer Engineering and an MBA from Mississippi State University. His works have been broadcast on PBS, chosen as official selections of film festivals throughout the country, and won multiple awards from various organizations. Two recent feature films, *LA FRONTERA* and [LONGLIFE: THE HEART OF PINE](#), were broadcast on numerous PBS stations nationwide. *BEAUTIFUL JIM* won the Programmers' Choice Award at the 2014 Crossroads Film Festival, *A TIME TO ALL THINGS* won the 2014 Heritage Award in Preservation Education from the Mississippi Heritage Trust, and *A PICKUP LOAD OF PIGS* won awards from multiple conservation organizations. Rex is also the co-author of *LECILE: THIS AIN'T MY FIRST RODEO*, which is the winner of the 2016 Will Rogers Medallion Award for Excellence in Western Literature – Biography & Memoir.

ABOUT THE [SOUTHERN DOCUMENTARY PROJECT](#)

The Southern Documentary Project is an institute of the [Center for the Study of Southern Culture](#). SouthDocs, with a staff of professional filmmakers, produces short and feature length documentary films on a range of topics, from the southern environment to music to historical films like the Emmy-winning *Toughest Job: William Winter's Mississippi*.

The academic mission of the Southern Documentary Project is to train the next generation of storytellers. As an institute of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, SouthDocs teaches and mentors undergraduate and graduate students in the Southern Studies academic program, as well as the recently-launched MFA in Documentary Expression. SouthDocs students engaged in community-based documentary work in towns throughout Mississippi.