

SYNOPSIS

Based on true events in the midst of the 2000 election, *AMERICAN VIOLET* tells the astonishing story of Dee Roberts (critically hailed newcomer Nicole Beharie), a 24-year-old African-American single mother of four young girls living in a small Texas town, who is barely making ends meet on a waitress' salary.

On an early November morning, while Dee works a shift at the local diner, the powerful local district attorney (Academy Award® nominee Michael O'Keefe) leads an extensive drug bust, sweeping her Arlington Springs housing project with aggressive military tactics. Police drag Dee from work in handcuffs, dumping her in the squalor of the women's county prison. Indicted based on the uncorroborated word of a single and dubious police informant facing his own drug charges, Dee soon discovers she has been charged as a drug dealer.

Even though Dee has no prior drug record and no drugs were found on her in the raid or any subsequent searches, she is offered a hellish choice: plead guilty and go home as a convicted felon, with an attendant loss of her federal and state rights, or remain in prison and fight the charges, thus jeopardizing the custody of her children and risking a long prison sentence.

Despite the urgings of her mother (Academy Award® nominee Alfre Woodard), and with her freedom and the custody of her children at stake, she chooses to fight the district attorney and the unyielding criminal justice system he represents. Joined in an unlikely alliance with an ACLU attorney (Tim Blake Nelson) and former local narcotics officer (Will Patton), Dee risks everything in a battle that forever changes her life and the Texas justice system. *AMERICAN VIOLET* also stars Emmy Award® winner Charles S. Dutton and Xzibit.

Samuel Goldwyn
SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS



NICOLE BEHARIE **TIM BLAKE NELSON** **WILL PATTON** **MICHAEL O'KEEFE**
XZIBIT WITH **CHARLES DUTTON** AND **ALFRE WOODARD**

WHEN LAW IS WITHOUT ORDER

AND JUSTICE IS FAR FROM JUST

ONE WOMAN MUST TAKE A STAND

AMERICAN VIOLET

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Talluride Film Festival

OFFICIAL SELECTION
South By Southwest
FILM FESTIVAL

AUDIENCE AWARD
BEST FEATURE FILM
Mill Valley Film Festival

SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS AND UNCOMMON PRODUCTIONS PRESENT "AMERICAN VIOLET" NICOLE BEHARIE TIM BLAKE NELSON WILL PATTON
MICHAEL O'KEEFE XZIBIT WITH CHARLES DUTTON AND ALFRE WOODARD. WRITTEN BY SUSAN SHOPMAKER. PRODUCED BY CAROLINE ESELIN-SCHAEFER. DIRECTED BY JENNIFER NASH
EDITED BY TEDDY CASTELLUCCI. COSTUME DESIGNER NANCY RICHARDSON, A.C.E. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CURTIS CLAYTON AND TERILYN A. SHROPSHIRE, A.C.E. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MONROE KELLY AND STEVE YEDLIN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DEBRA LONGO MIRIAM MARCUS ELIZABETH O'KEEFE WITH JAMES MARK DONOVAN. PRODUCED BY JENNIFER EPLETT SEAN REILLY TOM R. CAMP. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PETER NEWMAN
PRODUCED BY BILL HANEY. WRITTEN BY BILL HANEY. DIRECTED BY TIM OSNEY. PRODUCED BY Samuel Goldwyn
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