



**“A beautiful and necessary film” – Audrey Petty, Author, *High Rise Stories***

### **The Film**

Shot over 20 years, *70 Acres in Chicago: Cabrini Green* documents the demolition of Chicago’s infamous Cabrini Green public housing development. With its prime central location, Cabrini was hailed as a public housing triumph and demonized as an urban disaster. Beginning in 1995, it was demolished and then repackaged as a mixed income development, where, unsurprisingly, the former, largely black residents have been marginalized or driven away. *70 Acres* documents this upheaval, from the razing of the first buildings in 1995, to the clashes in the mixed-income neighborhoods a decade later.

Ronit Bezael first covered the subject in her celebrated 1999 short *Voices of Cabrini*.

### **Featured Residents**

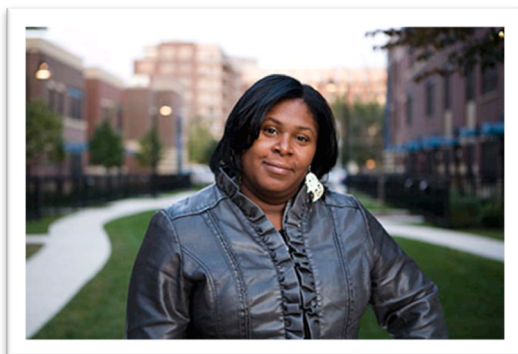
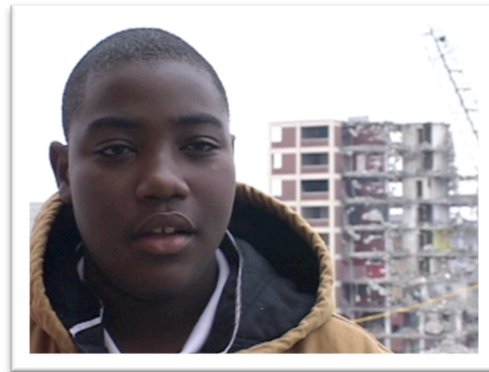


**Mark Pratt**

**“It’s hard watching your home being destroyed. I just pray and hope they replace it with something better for the people here.”**

**Raymond McDonald**

**“I stay in it, and I live in it. It’s home to me. I love Cabrini Green.”**



**Deidre Brewster**

**“We’re still standing, but a lot of people fell through the cracks.”**

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKER**

**Ronit Bezalel** has been creating social issue documentary films for over 25-years. Ronit began her career at the National Film Board of Canada, where she directed *When Shirley Met Florence* (1994). Her award-winning film, *Voices of Cabrini: Remaking Chicago's Public Housing* (1999), received a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Award to catalyze dialogue about affordable housing issues in Chicago neighborhoods. *Newsweek* magazine selected Ronit as one of the "Top 10 Women of the 21st Century" (Jan 8, 2001) for this work. Bezalel holds an MFA from Columbia College Chicago, and a BA from McGill University in Montreal.

## **THE TEAM**

Director: Ronit Bezalel

Executive Producer: Judy Hoffman

Writer/Editor: Catherine Crouch

Producers: Brenda Schumacher, Robyn Epstein, Mark Pratt, Madaliene Schalet

Composer: Duane Buford

Featuring: Deidre Brewster, Raymond McDonald, Mark Pratt, Tara Stamps

## **THE RESPONSES**

"*70 Acres* provides a front-row seat into one of the nation's emblematic affordable housing struggles. Students loved the film, and it will be staple of classroom use for years to come."

– Lawrence Vale, Dept. of Urban Studies & Planning, Mass. Institute of Technology

"The film provoked one of the best classroom discussions we've had in five years."

– Jerry Anthony, School of Urban & Regional Planning, The University of Iowa

"*70 Acres* is an invaluable teaching and learning resource for public policy, community development and urban sociology – it is already in my course program for next semester."

– Michael Darcy, Urban Research Program, Western Sydney University

"Speaks volumes about gentrification and the concept of 'mixed-income' housing. Joy, sorrow and anger exist above and below the surface, but *70 Acres* never forces one's response."

– Odie Henderson, *RogerEbert.com*

"A startling case study into the making and destruction of one of Chicago's most infamous public housing projects."

– Tony Binns, *RollingOut.com*

"...a valuable chronicle of the particulars of urban change"

– Ray Pride, *New City*

**For additional information, and to view the trailer, please visit:  
[70AcresinChicago.com](http://70AcresinChicago.com).**

**Ronit Bezalel**

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