

POSTER CONTENT:

Sunne Side Productions presents a Timashion Jones film "Introducing... Marcus Belgrave"

Starring Wynton Marsalis, Wendell Harrison, Robert Hurst, Ray Parker Jr., Karriem Riggins, Don Was and Joan Belgrave

Executive Producer Donald Hicks

Cinematography by Jeremy Brockman

Produced by Brad Torreano

Written by Timashion Jones, Dave Sharp and Brad Torreano

Directed by Timashion Jones

INFO REGARDING DOCUMENTARY SUBJECT:

Logline

Marcus Belgrave made his reputation as a trumpet player with Ray Charles, Motown's Funk Brothers, and Charlie Mingus. Yet when he had the opportunity to leave Detroit for larger opportunities, he stayed behind to become a teacher and community leader, lifting up his city and his art form at the expense of his own fame.

Synopsis

Since his professional debut at the age of 12, Marcus Belgrave has played on some of the most important musical projects of the last 50 years, yet he hasn't received the recognition that many of his peers have, nor did he seek it.

Belgrave was born in Chester, Pennsylvania, where his musician father helped foster a love of music. He picked up the trumpet and found a mentor in '50s jazz legend Clifford Brown. He was chosen to join Ray Charles' touring band and recorded with Charles, saxophonist David "Fathead" Newman, and Charlie Mingus. Motown invited Belgrave to play on several major sessions in the early 60s, and he settled in the city of Detroit due to the reliable work. Motown left Detroit in 1972, taking much of its session work with it, but Belgrave stayed, getting involved in significant music education and mentorship programs, as well as the arts collective Tribe. Tribe contributed a vibrant black culture to the city, with a magazine and a record label that offered opportunities to musicians and writers who needed a stable outlet for their art.

Belgrave's mentorship resulted in major players in the jazz world such as Geri Allen, Kenny Garrett, James Carter, Regina Carter, Theo Croker and Endea Owens. He was invited to play in the inaugural Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, who in turn would send young musicians to train with Belgrave.

Belgrave passed in 2015 and was celebrated internationally by news outlets such as The Guardian and the New York Times. While perhaps a footnote to the average music fan, Belgrave's dedication to his craft and mentorship has allowed his legacy to live on in dozens of ways: in his city, his students, and his music.