



The Garden

Director: Scott Hamilton Kennedy, USA, 2008, 80 minutes

The fourteen-acre community garden, at 41st and Alameda in South Central Los Angeles, is the largest of its kind in the United States. Started as a form of healing after the devastating L.A. riots in 1992, the South Central Farmers have since created a miracle in one of the country's most blighted neighbourhoods. Growing their own food. Feeding their families. Creating a community. But now, bulldozers are poised to level their fourteen-acre oasis.

The Garden follows the plight of the farmers, from the tilled soil of this urban farm to the polished marble of City Hall. Mostly immigrants from Latin America, from countries where they feared for their lives if they spoke out, we watch them organize, fight back, and demand answers.

Why was the land sold to a wealthy developer for millions less than fair-market value? Why was the transaction done in a closed-door session of the LA City Council? Why has it never been made public? And the powers-that-be have the same response: "The garden is wonderful, but there is nothing more we can do."

If everyone told you nothing more could be done, would you give up?

The Garden has the pulse of verité with the narrative pull of fiction, telling the story of the USA's largest urban farm, backroom deals, land developers, green politics, money, poverty, power, and racial discord. The film explores and exposes the fault lines in American society and raises crucial and challenging questions about liberty, equality, and justice for the poorest and most vulnerable among us.

Academy Award Nominee, Best Documentary Feature

Winner, Sterling Award for US Feature, SILVERDOCS Documentary Festival

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Scott Hamilton Kennedy's debut documentary, *OT: our town* won awards at film festivals around the world. In its theatrical release, *OT* garnered rave reviews and was selected for several 'best of' lists. *OT* was also honored by being 'short listed' for an Oscar nomination and was nominated for Best Documentary at the Independent Spirit Awards.

Scott began his career in music videos, making several number-one videos including Jimmy Cliff's remake of "I Can See Clearly Now." His most recent film, *The Garden*, was nominated for an Oscar in 2009. Scott is developing his narrative feature script *Up River*, an urban adventure movie set on the L.A. River. He is also in post-production on a reality series entitled *Fame High*.

COMMUNITY PARTNER

