This feature documentary focuses on the small Caribbean island of Barbados; not for its white-sand beaches and turquoise sea, but for something more painful and harrowing - its deep-rooted relationship to the barbaric practice of Trans-Atlantic chattel slavery.

The film's architecture is generated from the writings and life experiences of Esther Phillips, the Poet Laureate of Barbados. Phillips, whose family history goes "all the way back," details her life as it is juxtaposed with the history of a region that has enormous world influence. The small country of Barbados is considered by most historians as ground zero for the formation and proliferation of Trans-Atlantic slavery.

While there have been many books and programs created about this subject matter, none have taken this particular approach. Through the lens of a strong and brilliant artist, Phillips' poetry brings with it another dimension for the audience to process. One understands more deeply, the brutally painful reality of slavery as practiced in Barbados and the wider Caribbean.

Phillips' writing style is both accessible and deeply fervent. Her words and manner allow the audience to go beyond facts and static information and enter a realm of humanity that only art forms like song and poetry can convey.

Beyond its foundation in historical fact that is supported by some of the most credible intellectuals, *Esther's Song* is a tapestry of art forms with its blending of poetry, story-telling, cinematography and fine art. The composition of the original score is careful and deliberate. All components woven into this film are designed to provoke audience awareness and insight and engender compassion.

Esther's Song is a story of contrasts between the realities of shameful, abhorrent societal behavior, and the possibility of reconciliation and forbearance.

In addition to the aforementioned main plot, a powerful, contemporary sub-plot exists. Richard Drax, who lost his seat in the recent British Parliamentary elections, owns Drax Hall, the first slave plantation in Barbados and a disturbing reminder of the horrific past. The Drax family were pioneers in the slave trade and this notorious location is a blood-stained symbol of that past. It is speculated that thousands of human bones lie beneath the ground of that plantation.

The prominent politician has been questioned many times about the moral quandary of maintaining this land passed down from his notorious fore- fathers, but has always skirted the issue. It is the goal of the filmmakers to bring this issue toward a brighter light, create awareness, and possibly even influence a change that might bring this tainted land back to the country in an offering of apology and restitution.

This sub-plot also speaks to the complicated and somewhat controversial matter of reparations that spans far beyond the borders of the small island of Barbados.

This film is a non-profit enterprise. Please contact filmthatdoc@gmail.com for more information.