

# Behind The Scenes With Common On The Set Of Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise

[youtube id="08pLATICKq8"] Rita Coburn Whack introduced Common and Maya Angelou and she is also the co-producer of *American Masters-Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise*. PBS will air the documentary Tuesday, February 21st at 8PM EST. The film will be released on DVD that day and Digital HD on February 22nd. The above clip is a quick look at behind the scenes of the documentary which is the first ever about Angelou. Her words, rare images and never seen before footage are intertwined into the piece.

Filmmakers Bob Hercules and Rita Coburn Whack trace Angelou's story from her childhood in the south, her days as a dancer and actress to her poem for Bill Clinton's presidential inauguration. Oprah Winfrey, Cicely Tyson, Alfre Woodard, Quincy Jones, Hillary Clinton, Valerie Simpson, Diahann Carroll, John Singleton and Louis Gossett Jr. are all interviewed.

*Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise* debuted at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival to critical acclaim. It has screened at several worldwide film festivals and won 17 awards on three continents.

American Masters has launched a yearlong online campaign, #InspiringWomanPBS honoring Dr. Angelou's principles of community engagement, artistic expression, and academic success. People can share stories of extraordinary women in their lives via text, image or videos on the American Masters website(<http://pbs.org/americanmasters>) or Twitter, Tumblr and Instagram using hashtag #InspiringWomanPBS.

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# Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise Documentary Trailer

[youtube id="0Se7rkK76x4"] *And Still I Rise* is a documentary about the late Dr. Maya Angelou. The late author, poet and civil rights activist passed two years ago and the film is a chronicle of her life and work. Common, Hilary Clinton, Cicely Tyson and Alfre Woodard are some of the people who appear in the film and talk about Angelou's influence. Angelou's own words are used to help narrate the film that will air on PBS in the Winter of 2017. *And Still I Rise* is currently playing at the [Gene Siskel Film Center](#) in Chicago.

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## MK Asante-My Victory Feat. Maya Angelou

"My Victory" is from the forthcoming soundtrack to MK Asante's 2013 award-winning memoir, *Buck*. The music is produced by J.Dilla and it's from his [Rebirth Of Detroit Instrumentals](#). Maya Angelou's vocals are lifted from [The Black Candle](#) which is a 2008 documentary about African-American culture and Kwanzaa directed by Asante. *THE BUCK: ORIGINAL BOOK SOUNDTRACK* will be released to the public for free in the Fall.

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# R.I.P. Maya Angelou

[youtube id="Jq0qo50LSZ0"]

Poet, author, civil rights activist and professor Maya Angelou passed today at her home in North Carolina. Angelou became famous after the 1969 publication of her first autobiography, *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*. She would write a total of 7 memoirs, 3 books of essays and several books of poetry. In the '60's she worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as the Northern Coordinator of SCLC and she also helped Malcolm X with his Organization of Afro-American Unity briefly before he was murdered. Angelou, who received several honorary doctorates, taught at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she held the first lifetime Reynolds Professorship of American Studies. In 1993 she read "On The Pulse Of Morning" which was commissioned President Bill Clinton at his inauguration. Before she became an author with the help of her friend James Baldwin, she was a dancer and nightclub singer. Angelou's observations on race, America and humanity were respected by her peers and successive generations. Her high profile friendship with Oprah Winfrey gave her a bit of celebrity and kept in the mainstream most recently with Winfrey's Master Class series. Dr. Angelou was just as cognizant of hip-hop as she was the blues and several rappers and entertainers from the hip-hop generation respected her and flocked to her home in North Carolina. At different points in her long career as a wordsmith she also worked as a film producer, television producer, playwright and film director.