



presents

# MAVERICKS

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# Mav·er·ick

/'mav(ə)rik/

an unorthodox or independent-minded person.

# MAVERICKS

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"HEART IS WHAT DRIVES US AND DETERMINES OUR FATE. THAT IS WHAT I NEED...A PASSIONATE HEART. I NEED MAVERICKS, DISSIDENTS, ADVENTURERS, OUTSIDERS AND REBELS, WHO ASK QUESTIONS, BEND THE RULES AND TAKE RISKS." - **ISABEL ALLENDE**

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# MAVERICKS

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MAVERICKS is a **6-part docu-series** exploring the peerless, uncommon and unorthodox lives of American women whose lives break the stereotypes of how women live in 21st century America despite pressures to conform.

**VIEW PROJECT →**

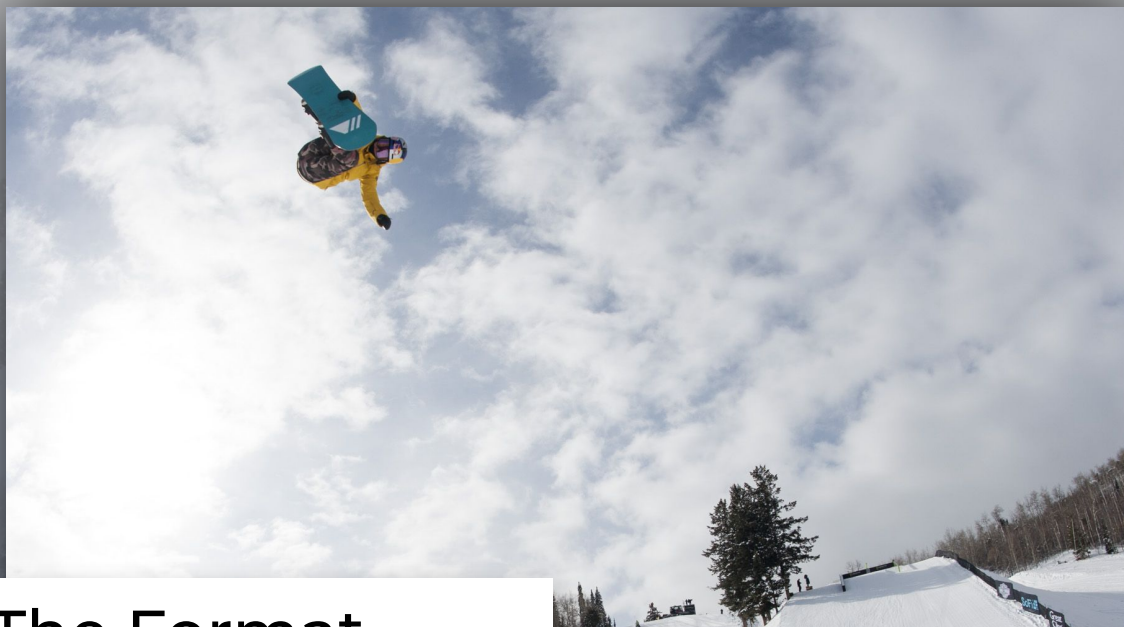


## Overview

What is the heart of being American? Freedom. Independence. Exceptionalism. The courage to take risks and start anew. It's why so often the people who illustrate those qualities are called MAVERICKS-- independent individuals who forge a path on their own, often unafraid or unbowed by potential consequences. But what is the image of the quintessential American maverick? Usually men like James Dean or John Wayne or Steve McQueen. Yet in our modern times, American mavericks are just as easily women of all races, ethnicities and social classes who are living with the transcendent freedom and bravery mostly ascribed to men, especially in a world that tells them they should be one thing, while their hearts and souls tell them that they can be so much more. They are the Air Force rescue pilot from Nevada who risks her life and limb for service in dangerous far flung locales; or the Mexican-American cowgirl from Texas who wrangles cattle with the same love and skill as any male on the range. They are the 19-year-old Asian American snowboarder who recently won a gold medal in the Olympics, rivaling the speeds and skill of anyone and defies the image of Asian women as docile or quiet. They are Black and Native American women , gay and transgender, all exhibiting American ideals of bravery and independence, authentically living their lives in the most remarkable and exhilarating ways. They are embedded in the fabric of 21st century America and they have something to say.



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## The Format



Each 45-minute episode of MAVERICKS, will take viewers to a new place around the country, doing deep dives into the life of an unexpectedly independent woman, ready to show us the adventure that is her life. In this era of #metoo and #timesup we will examine how her internal resilience and bravery helped her overcome those who doubted her will and ability to push through circumstances that would wither most men and women. Every episode will explore a woman's journey that is uncommon, unexpected, surprising and unique. MAVERICKS will be intentionally multicultural and diverse, exploring a cross section of ethnicities, races and sexualities. At each turn we will examine the sometimes dangerous circumstances that our main characters face, with no other desire to live her life with freedom and without fear. Over the course of each episode MAVERICKS will explore and examine the heart of these remarkable Americans, who some might from afar see and "ordinary" but are doing remarkable and transcendent things with their lives everyday in a way that is awe-inspiring, captivating and just want our complicated times demand. Each episode will be rooted in place and memory and will include these visual elements that will offer a cinematic feel to the series: impressionistic recreations shot in Super 8 film; archival audio and visual elements to examine our character's origins; intimate interviews and verité filmmaking shot with premium lenses that take the viewer into the moments that make these mavericks so unique.



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A woman wearing a white cowboy hat and a blue shirt is riding a dark horse in a rodeo arena. In the background, other riders and spectators are visible, though they are out of focus. The scene is set in a large, open arena with a dirt floor and metal railings.

## Why Now ?

*We are living in the age of the heroine-- diverse stories of women are finally coming from the shadows and into public view on the big screen and on television. And these stories, whether scripted or unscripted are showing women in their full humanity.. MAVERICKS is a series that connects to this moment and the culture's conversation about the complicated, surprising and sometimes unexplored ways in which women live in modern America. Each episode of MAVERICKS will be principally led by an all woman crew, adding a sense of intimacy and understanding to the creative team. These times demand a series that is about women and by women -- but for everyone.*



# Storytelling & Visual Language

Each episode of MAVERICKS will have a riveting, emotional and cinematic feel in which our main characters are tested and have to overcome real life obstacles. The episodes will be probing, thoughtful, reflective and insightful. This is a series that should let the audience *feel* the impact of life events that humanize our characters through a first-person lens allowing the viewer to connect to her personal journey.

To develop and illustrate this journey, MAVERICKS will use an array of filmmaking techniques:

## Intimate vérité

The series will use vérité footage of each character's contemporary life, illustrating her riveting and fascinating journey. With rare access, we will discover our characters' central driving focus, revealing what makes them tick-- and what makes them mavericks.

## Archival Footage

Each episode in the series will use still and moving archival footage to bring the audience into our characters' pasts, helping viewers understand the present lives of our subjects.. The use of this black and white, weathered footage will help diversify the images and add dimension to our visual language.



## Recreations shot on Super 8

To help highlight the many dimensions of our characters, we will use recreations shot on Super 8 film to highlight illustrate seminal past events. The grainy, edgy look of this technique will help connect the audience to the subjects' journey and diversify the visual language of each episode.



## Episode 1: GRIT

### FEATURING MAJOR CHRISTY WISE

The series begins by focusing on a U.S. Air Force rescue pilot, call sign "Clock" who has been deployed in some of the globe's most fractured war zones and participated in multiple highly dangerous missions, saving servicemen and allies who had come into harm's way. At barely 32 years old, she is already a Major and she leads an all male crew. She flies one of the most decorated planes in the Air Force. And that just scratches the surface of this true American patriot, who has the swagger of Steve McQueen but the athletic prowess of a world champion athlete. But what happens when a life altering event befalls her, endangering the life as a patriot, commander, officer and rescuer? Her life takes a tragic turn and this episode tells the riveting story of her comeback.

**Watch Episode 1: Grit →**  
<https://vimeo.com/354991371>

# The Storytelling Team



## MICHAEL MICHELE

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Michael Michele has won acclaim for her portrayals of strong and capable women on television and feature films over her 30-year acting career. She currently co-stars on the CW Network's reboot of the iconic 1980s drama *Dynasty*, as Dominique Deveraux, a role famously played by Diahann Carroll in the show's original run. Michele has also recently played in Lee Daniels' series *Star* on FOX, as Midtown Records owner Ayanna Floyd; and in Ava DuVernay's critically acclaimed OWN series, *Queen Sugar*, as Darlene.

As a veteran of both Hollywood and network television, Michele has also launched her own film and television production company, MIX66. The company's first project is the docu-series, *Mavericks*, which explores the unexpected lives of women across the world. The first episode of the series marks Michele's directing debut and explores the heart pounding story of a female rescue pilot in the United States Air Force.

A native of Evansville, Indiana, Michele's initial big break came in 1991 when she was cast in Mario Van Peebles's gritty urban drama, *New Jack City*; a year later she was a regular on the TV series, *Dangerous Curves* (CBS). Her performance in the mini-series, *Trade Winds* (NBC), soon led her to a recurring role on *New York Undercover*, as attorney Sandy Gill. She then landed a co-starring role on Darren Starr's splashy nighttime soap, *Central Park West*.

After appearances in a handful of feature films, Michele scored another major TV role as Detective Rene Sheppard in the Emmy-winning series *Homicide: Life On the Street*, which earned her a NAACP Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series nomination. She then turned in her badge to star in the top-rated hospital drama, *ER*, as Dr. Cleo Finch.

Michele's well-regarded work on that series boosted her stock in the film industry and she soon co-starred alongside Will Smith in the Oscar-nominated feature film, *Ali*. Later she went on star in the feature film *Dark Blue*, opposite Kurt Russell, and *How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days*, opposite Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson. She has also made guest appearances on *House* (FOX) and *The Following* (FOX) and has also recently been seen on CBS's *MacGyver & Blue Bloods*.

Michele is also the founder of The Roundtable ChitChat, a women's mentoring foundation, which mentors and empowers women throughout the United States. Michele resides in N.Y. with her 14-year-old son.

# The Storytelling Team



## CHRIS L. JENKINS

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Chris L. Jenkins is an award winning journalist, producer and executive producer whose work has covered politics, poverty and social policy over a 19-year career as a reporter and editor at The Washington Post and independent filmmaker.

As a Post editor, he supervised the paper's local political and criminal justice reporters, where he led award winning journalism on police involved shootings in the Washington, D.C. area and the rise of the Black Lives Matter Movement. As a reporter he covered immigration, social policy and politics, including the 2004 presidential election. He is also the co-founder and executive producer of "BrotherSpeak: Exploring the Lives of Black Men", an award winning 5-part short film series published on the Washington Post website, which is now being turned into a full length docu-series. As an independent filmmaker, his short films also include Rikers: Innocence Lost, and upcoming productions for ESPN and YouTube.

Chris has also recently served as the managing editor for The Root and was co-founder and editor of TheRootDC, The Washington Post's micro-site that focused on the Washington area's African-American community. In both those roles he oversaw staffs that covered the death of Trayvon Martin and its aftermath, the George Zimmerman trial, and the beginning of President Obama's second term.

Chris is the author of several award winning stories and productions, including journalism that explored how the 2008 recession disproportionately impacted African-American women; a short film he produced won the coveted "Diversity in Storytelling Award" at SeriesFest 2017. Chris also contributed to The Post's coverage of the Virginia Tech shooting massacre, which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news. Discussing his Post reporting, Chris has been on numerous news broadcasts including WAMU, WCVB and NPR.

# Potential Future Episodes

MAVERICKS explores the kaleidoscopic humanity of American women and their unexpected and uncommon stories.



## Haley Langland

is an Asian American Olympic snowboarder who made her first Olympic appearance at age 17 representing the United States in big air and slopestyle at the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang.

# Potential Future Episodes

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## Becky Hammon

is an assistant coach for the San Antonio Spurs of the National Basketball Association (NBA) , who became the first female assistant coach in NBA history. Defying the advice of her former coaches and peers, Hammon, who was born and grew up in the United States, became a naturalized Russian citizen in 2008 and represented the Russian national team in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

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MAVERICKS

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MICHAEL MICHELE  
CHRIS L. JENKINS

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