

Pressemeddelelse, januar 2019



# RBG

**Biografpremiere d. 14. februar**



I en alder af 84 år er den amerikanske højesteretsdommer Ruth Bader Ginsburg blevet et uventet populærkulturelt ikon. Hun har opbygget en imponerende juridisk arv og særligt blevet kendt for sit pionerarbejde i kampen mod kønsdiskrimination. Og i de senere år har hun gjort sig bemærket som humanismens vagthund, når vigtige menneskerettighedssager har skullet afgøres i højesteret. Men uden en egentlig Ginsburg-biografi har historien om den lille, rolige krigers vej til USA's højesteret været stort set ukendt for offentligheden – selv for nogle af hendes største fans – indtil nu.

Betzy West og Julie Cohens dokumentar **RBG** udforsker Ruth Bader Ginsburgs ekstraordinære liv, karriere og enorme betydning for kvinders ligestilling i dag.

Med venlig hilsen  
Reel Pictures

For yderligere information, kontakt venligst:

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## **Fakta om RBG:**

**Længde:** 98 minutter

**Sprog:** Engelsk

### **Holdet bag:**

**Instruktører:** Betzy West, Julie Cohen

**Fotograf:** Claudia Raschke

**Klipper:** Carla Gutierrez

**Musik:** Miriam Cutler

**Producere:** Betzy West, Julie Cohen

**Executive producere:** Amy Entelis, Courtney Sexton

**Koordinerende producer:** Alexandra Hannibal

**Assisterende producer:** Nadine Natour

**Assisterende klipper:** Grace Mendenhall

**Arkivproducer:** Renee Silverman

**Post Production Supervisor:** Katia Maguire

**Grafiske designere:** Kook Ewo, Ronan Guitton, Lauriane Bernat

**Distribution:** Reel Pictures

### **Medvirkende:**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Bill Clinton

Sharon Frontiero

James Steven Ginsburg

Jane C. Ginsburg

Gloria Steinem

m.fl.

### **Om instruktørerne:**

**Betsy West** er en prisbelønnet filmskaber, journalist og pædagog. Hun var executive producer på dokumentar- og digitalprojektet *Makers* (AOL & PBS, 2012), dokumentarfilmen *The Lavender Scare* (2017) og den korte dokumentar *4%: Film's Gender Problem* (Epix, 2016). Hun er leder hos Storyville Films, hvor hun co-producerede *Constantine's Sword* (First Run Features, 2007).

**Julie Cohen** har instrueret og produceret otte sangdokumentarer, herunder *The Sturgeon Queens*, som blev screenet på Berlin International Film Festival 2015 og 60 andre festivaler og vandt 10 publikumspriser, *American Veteran* (Freestyle Digital Media), som blev screenet på 20 festivaler og vandt Panavision Showcase Award for New York-filmskabere i 2017, og *I Live To Sing* (WNET), som vandt New York Emmy® Award for Best Arts Program i 2014 - én af tre New York Emmys®, hun har vundet siden 2012.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It was three years ago, January 2015, that we first had the idea of making a feature documentary about Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We had both, separately, interviewed the Justice for projects in the past, and had both admired her trailblazing work for women's rights. But that was before she had broken out as the octogenarian rock star "Notorious RBG," with millennials extolling her virtues on Twitter and Tumblr, stocking up on RBG tee-shirts and tote bags and, in extreme cases, getting tattoos—big, permanent, multi-color tattoos—of her face.

Talking about the RBG phenomenon one day, we turned to each other and said "we need to make a documentary about Justice Ginsburg *right now*."

A phrase we used in those early conversations was that RBG was "having her moment." What we didn't fully grasp then was how that moment was about to expand into something bigger and more important even as we were documenting her extraordinary life.

Working with a team of women in the top creative and executive roles, we began filming in June of 2016, doing our best to keep up with the Justice's hectic schedule. We filmed her in her office, on vacation with her family and working out with her personal trainer. We also began tracking down the dramatic stories of the clients she represented as a young lawyer arguing before the Supreme Court in the 1970's. At that time, it was perfectly legal to discriminate on the basis of sex. RBG's brilliant legal strategy resulted in five groundbreaking rulings that made great strides towards putting women and men on an equal footing before the law.

As women who began our careers in television news after RBG changed the world for working women, we couldn't help but think about how far we've come. And yet, over the course of making this film, a series of powerful men have been revealed as sexual harassers, highlighting how far we still have to go.

We took to heart Justice Ginsburg's approach to sexism and adversity. When, after graduating at the top of her law school class, she could not get a job, she remembered her mother's advice: anger is a waste of time. Eventually, she was able to use her formidable legal skills to fight for justice for women—a fight she has continued through five decades.

Justice Ginsburg's steadfast commitment remains, not only for gender equality but for democratic institutions that protect the rights of all citizens. No wonder she is a millennial icon.

Meeting RBG in person is a powerful experience. Her voice is soft, but her words are so clear and carefully chosen that you find yourself drawing closer, riveted. After Donald Trump's election, the most frequent reaction we got when we told people about the film was, "How is her health? Is she OK?" We want audiences to see for themselves the Notorious RBG in action — staying up late into the night crafting blistering dissents and doing the planks, squats and push-ups that keep her in shape to do the job she loves.

— Betsy West and Julie Cohen

## FEATURING

### **Ruth Bader Ginsburg, U.S. Supreme Court Justice**

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born in Brooklyn, New York, March 15, 1933. She married Martin D. Ginsburg in 1954, and has a daughter, Jane, and a son, James. She received her B.A. from Cornell University, attended Harvard Law School, and received her LL.B. from Columbia Law School. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Edmund L. Palmieri, Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, from 1959–1961. From 1961–1963, she was a research associate and then associate director of the Columbia Law School Project on International Procedure. She was a Professor of Law at Rutgers University School of Law from 1963–1972, and Columbia Law School from 1972–1980, and a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Stanford, California from 1977–1978. In 1971, she was instrumental in launching the Women’s Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, and served as the ACLU’s General Counsel from 1973–1980, and on the National Board of Directors from 1974–1980. She was appointed a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1980. President Clinton nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and she took her seat August 10, 1993.

### **Jane and James Ginsburg – Children**

### **Clara Spera – Granddaughter**

### **Gloria Steinem – Colleague in the women’s rights movement**

### **Nina Totenberg – Correspondent, National Public Radio**

### **Lilly Ledbetter – RBG’s famous dissent in Ledbetter’s case led Congress to pass a law rectifying pay discrimination against women**

### **Sharron Frontiero and Stephen Wiesenfeld – Clients from cases in the 1970s**

### **Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik – Authors of “Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg” (2015)**

### **Bill Clinton – President who appointed RBG to the Supreme Court**

### **Ted Olson – Conservative lawyer who has argued numerous Supreme Court cases.**

### **Judge Harry Edwards – Former colleague on the U.S. Court of Appeals**

### **Senator Orrin Hatch – Republican ranking member of Senate Judiciary Committee during RBG’s confirmation hearings**

### **Eugene Scalia – Son of close friend and fellow Associate Justice Antonin Scalia**

### **Bryant Johnson – Personal trainer**

## **RUTH BADER GINSBURG - CAREER HIGHLIGHTS VICTORIES FOR GENDER EQUALITY:**

**Reed v Reed (1971)** Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote the brief in this early landmark women's rights case. Ginsburg and her team convinced the Supreme Court to strike down an Idaho law stating that "males must be preferred to females" as the administrators of estates.

**Frontiero v Richardson (1973)** In her first oral argument before the Supreme Court, Ginsburg and her co-counsel prevailed in getting the Court to overturn a discriminatory federal law. Ginsburg sought and won housing benefits for her client, a married woman in the U.S. Air Force, equivalent to what a married male airman would receive.

**Weinberger v Wiesenfeld (1975)** In this case, Ginsburg showed that men too suffer the consequences of laws that discriminate on the basis of sex. Representing the widowed father of a young son, she argued successfully that widowers should have access to the same child care benefits that widows do.

**Duren v Missouri (1979)** Following Ginsburg's powerful argument, the Supreme Court ruled that a Missouri law allowing women, but not men, to opt out of jury service was unconstitutional, denying defendants their Sixth Amendment right to be tried by a jury representing a cross section of their community.

**United States v Virginia (1996)** In her first women's rights case as a Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote the landmark majority opinion. With her 7-1 ruling, the Court struck down the male-only admissions policy of the Virginia Military Institute and concluded that government policies which discriminate on the basis of gender should be presumed unconstitutional.

**Sessions v Morales-Santana (2017)** Justice Ginsburg authored the majority opinion declaring unconstitutional a provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act regarding citizenship for children born overseas to unmarried parents when one was a U.S. citizen and the other wasn't. The ruling struck down the provision that gave a path to citizenship to the children of non-citizen mothers who had lived in the U.S. for a year, whereas the residency requirement for non-citizen fathers was five years. She wrote that the distinction between men and women in the law "is stunningly anachronistic."

## KEY DISSENTS:

**Shelby County v Holder (2013)** When the Supreme Court struck down a key provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, arguing it was no longer needed to prevent discrimination against African American voters, Ginsburg wrote a blistering dissent. The Court's decision, she wrote, was "like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet."

**Burwell v Hobby Lobby (2014)** Justice Ginsburg dissented from the majority opinion which allowed a family-owned business to decline to provide insurance coverage for contraception on religious grounds. "The Court, I fear, has ventured into a minefield" Ginsburg wrote, which could open the door to employers opting out of covering anesthesia, blood transfusions and antidepressants.

**Lilly Ledbetter v Goodyear (2007)** Justice Ginsburg's dissent in this case led to a new law with wide impact for American working women. The Court ruled that although Goodyear employee Lilly Ledbetter had been underpaid because she was a woman, she was not entitled to compensation because she waited too long to file her complaint. In her dissent, Ginsburg wrote that "The court does not comprehend or is indifferent to the insidious way in which women can be victims of pay discrimination." She continued, "The ball is in Congress' court." Sure enough, Congress soon passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act ensuring women who have suffered long term pay discrimination the right to sue.

**Bush v Gore (2000)** When the Court ruled to stop the recount of the disputed Florida vote in the 2000 election, effectively making George W. Bush President of the United States, Justice Ginsburg wrote in dissent. Using civil, technical language, Ginsburg argued that the majority was favoring the Republican Party at the expense of the well-established principle of states rights.

**Gonzales v Carhart (2007)** The Supreme Court ruled a Congressional ban on so-called "Partial Birth Abortions" did not violate the Constitution even though it provided no exception for procedures necessary to protect the health of the mother. In her forceful dissent, Ginsburg wrote that legal challenges for abortion rights "center on a woman's autonomy to determine her life's course, and thus to enjoy equal citizenship stature."