

a most beautiful thing

OPENS THEATRICALY on March 27, 2020 in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Boston, Miami, Philadelphia, Oakland, and Washington D.C.

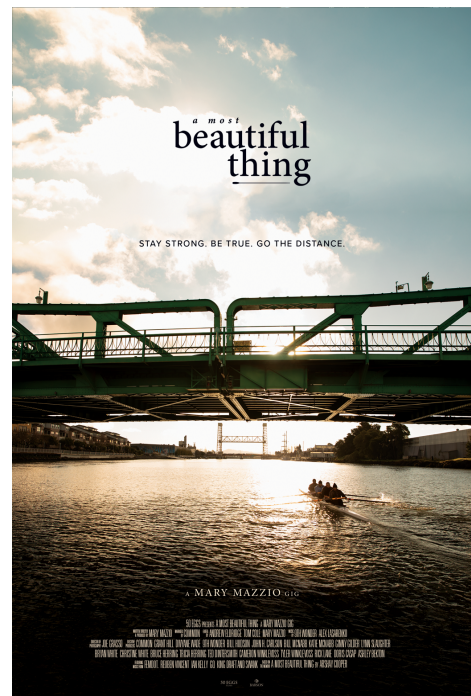
The documentary feature, *A Most Beautiful Thing*, narrated and executive produced by **Common**, a Grammy and Oscar award-winning artist, executive produced by Common along with NBA Stars **Grant Hill** and **Dwyane Wade**, and directed by award-winning filmmaker and Olympic rower, **Mary Mazzio**, chronicles the first African American high school rowing team in this country (made up of young men, many of whom were from different neighborhoods and rival gangs from the West Side of Chicago), all coming together to row in the same boat.

THE TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/384763863>

The film takes a deep dive into the backstories of these young men, examining the issues of trauma and violence. As the team's captain, Arshay Cooper, reflected, *"When we were on the water, we were in a place where we could not hear the sound of sirens or bullets, and that allowed us to shape a different vision for ourselves, of who and what we could become. And that was a beautiful thing."*



In the wake of the death of a coach, these young men decided to come back together, after 20 years out of the boat, to race once more. For their sons and for their community. In an extraordinary turn of events, Arshay reaches out to Chicago Police Department officers to join their team. What then transpires is unexpected for all involved.



THE SOUNDTRACK: The hip-hop soundtrack is produced by Grammy-winning producer **9th Wonder** and features original tracks by **femdot., Reuben Vincent, King Draft and Swank, Ian Kelly, GQ** and other hip-hop artists, with beats by **E.Jones, Kash,** and **Khrysis.**

ABOUT ARSHAY COOPER: *A Most Beautiful Thing* is based on Arshay Cooper's award-winning self-published memoir, *Suga Water*, which will be republished by Flatiron in July of 2020 under the title *A Most Beautiful Thing*. Seeking to share his experience with a new generation of young people, Arshay now travels the country putting at-risk students in boats on any puddle of water he can find. His teammates have become entrepreneurs and small business owners.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR - In all of her films, **Mary Mazzio** (an Olympic rower herself), explores the concept of overcoming obstacles, whether it is a fight for social change (*A Hero for Daisy, I am Jane Doe*) or issues of poverty and lack of opportunity (*Ten9Eight, Underwater Dreams*). Her mission of shedding light on compelling narratives of social significance has made her one of the country's most prominent filmmakers. For her film *Underwater Dreams*, **Mazzio** collaborated with the White House and together raised more than \$100 million dollars for underserved students. Her last film, *I Am Jane Doe*, elevated the voices of young sex trafficking survivors and catalyzed bipartisan federal legislation signed by the President in 2018. All of Mazzio's films are about ordinary people doing extraordinary things – defying expectations and challenging assumptions of who and what they can achieve.



50% of film screening profits from A Most Beautiful Thing will be donated to support inclusion efforts within the sport of rowing as well as trauma research.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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THE TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/384763863>

THE WEBSITE: www.AMostBeautifulThing.com

RUNNING TIME: 95 minutes