

# a most beautiful thing

## TO CELEBRATE THE RELEASE OF A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING, FILA DROPS SIGNATURE SHOE and PEPSI HOSTS A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING WEEKEND

On the heels of garnering a nomination for Best Sports Documentary at the 5th Annual Critics' Choice Documentary Awards, Mary Mazzio's highly acclaimed film, *A Most Beautiful Thing*, has now been celebrated with a limited-edition shoe from FILA. The signature FILA x "A Most Beautiful Thing" Tennis 88 was unveiled earlier this month on [Instagram](#), with a design that honors the subjects of Mazzio's film, members of the first African American high school rowing team in the United States. In addition to the signature shoe, Pepsi and the Miami Dolphins hosted a "A Most Beautiful Thing Weekend" December 3-6, which included a screening and discussion; a performance by one of the young hip-hop artists who worked on the film's soundtrack; and a 1000 meal give-away for families experiencing food insecurity.

*A Most Beautiful Thing*, which is narrated by Grammy and Oscar-winning artist **Common**, executive produced by NBA Hall of Famer **Grant Hill**, NBA All-Star **Dwyane Wade**, Grammy-winning producer **9th Wonder**, and directed by award-winning filmmaker and Olympic rower, **Mary Mazzio**, began streaming in September on Peacock, NBC's new streaming platform, and just this month **debuted on Amazon Prime**. Later this year, Amazon Music will drop a companion soundtrack produced by 9th Wonder with Anderson .Paak, Rapsody, J-Roc and other high-profile hip-hop artists.

The resonance of the film against the backdrop of the past year has been profound, with events and screenings hosted by members of Congress, the NAACP, professional sports teams, college and universities as well as key HBCU institutions, companies, and community groups. Mazzio, a former Olympic athlete herself, said "I'm so proud that the British, New Zealand, Australian, German, Dutch, Italy, French, Egypt, Turkish, Canadian and other Olympic teams are supporting the film and activating in profound ways, including the creation of new charitable organizations to support access." And corporate CEOs are now engaging in conversations with the film, digging into access and opportunity as well as the role and obligation of privilege.

"Every day, Americans of color face a long list of challenges and oppression, a list too long and too painful to recite here," said Executive Producer Grant Hill. "With the recent events that have transpired, it is even more meaningful to be a part of a project which shows young black men, in a positive, human, and hopeful way. The protagonist of the film, Arshay Cooper, and his extension of an olive branch to members of the



Chicago Police Department, moved me in deep and profound ways. He is a leader of his generation and his name will be one that soon everyone will know.”



**ABOUT ARSHAY COOPER** - *A Most Beautiful Thing* is based on Arshay Cooper’s award-winning self-published memoir, *Suga Water*, now republished by Flatiron under the title, *A Most Beautiful Thing*. Arshay has said, “*As the first black high school rowing team, we thought we were going to change the sport, just like Jackie Robinson changed baseball... but instead, the sport changed us. It saved my life...*” Seeking to share his experience with a new generation of young people, Arshay now travels the country putting students from under-resourced neighborhoods in boats on any puddle of water he can find. His teammates have become entrepreneurs and small business owners.



**ABOUT DIRECTOR MARY MAZZIO** - 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 socially impactful filmmakers. For her film *Underwater Dreams*, Mazzio collaborated with the White House and raised more than \$100 million dollars in public and private partnerships for STEM initiatives for underserved students. Her last film, *I Am Jane Doe*, elevated the voices of young sex trafficking survivors, catalyzing

bipartisan federal legislation signed by the President in 2018 as well as legislation abroad. All of Mazzio’s films are about ordinary people doing extraordinary things – defying expectations and challenging assumptions of who and what they can achieve.

**WEBSITE:** [www.AMostBeautifulThing.com](http://www.AMostBeautifulThing.com)

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

**LINK TO THE FILM:** The film is available on [Peacock](#) and [Amazon Prime](#).

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*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 and social justice initiatives with the NAACP.*