**American Experience “Riveted: The History of Jeans”**

**TCA Panelists**

**Participants**

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Description automatically generatedTanisha C. Ford (Participant)** is Professor of History and Biography and Memoir at The Graduate Center, CUNY. She has written extensively on the cultural politics of modern social movements. Ford is the author of *Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and the Global Politics of Soul* (UNC Press, 2015), which won the OAH Liberty Legacy Foundation Award for Best Book on Civil Rights History; the critically acclaimed *Dressed in Dreams: A Black Girl’s Love Letter to the Power of Fashion*(St. Martin’s, 2019);and co-author (with Deborah Willis) of*Kwame Brathwaite: Black Is Beautiful* (Aperture, 2019). Her scholarship has been published in the *Journal of Southern History*, *NKA: Journal of Contemporary African**Art*, *the Black Scholar*, and *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*. She writes regularly for public audiences, with feature stories, cultural criticism and profiles in *The* *Atlantic*,*The New York Times, Elle*, *Aperture*, *The Root*,*Bitch*and*The Feminist Wire*. In 2019, Ford was named to The Root 100 Most Influential African Americans list for her innovative, public-facing scholarship. Her research has been supported by the Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard Radcliffe Institute, Ford Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the University of London’s School of Advanced Study. She is working on a new book-length study, *Our Secret Society: America’s Forgotten Black Philanthropists for Racial Justice*, which examines the webs of money, power and influence that financially bolstered the Civil Rights movement.​

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Description automatically generated**Emma McClendon (Participant)** is a fashion historian, curator and author based in New York City. Recent publications include *Denim: Fashion's Frontier* (Yale, 2016), *Power Mode: The Force of Fashion* (Skira, 2019) and *Yves Saint Laurent + Halston: Fashioning the 70s* (Yale, 2015). While Associate Curator of Costume at The Museum at FIT from 2011-2020, McClendon curated numerous critically acclaimed exhibitions, including *Denim: Fashion's Frontier* (2015) and *The Body: Fashion and Physique* (2017). Her work has been featured in *The New York Times, The Economist*, *CNN*, *Vogue*, *WWD, The Financial Times* and *The Wall Street Journal.* She currently teaches at Parsons School of Design and The Fashion Institute of Technology.She holds an M.A. (Hons) in Art History from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and an MA in the History of Dress from the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. She is currently completing her Ph.D. at the Bard Graduate Center for decorative arts, design history and material culture in New York City. Her research focuses on the power dynamics inherent in clothing with a particular interest in body politics, labor, technology and standardized sizing.

**Filmmakers**

**Anna Lee Strachan (Producer/Director/Writer)** is a filmmaker who specializes in bringing complex topics to life. She most recently directed the 2019 Emmy-nominated *The Violence Paradox,* a two-hour special investigating Steven Pinker’s book *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined.* She was also a series producer for PBS’s NOVA Wonders, a six-part series exploring the biggest questions on the frontiers of science, of which she directed and produced *Can We Build a Brain?* and *What are Animals Saying?* Previous work includes the critically-acclaimed *Memory Hackers* and the four-part miniseries *The Fabric of the Cosmos,* nominated for an Emmy in Outstanding Science Programming.

Strachan has a degree in neuroscience from Harvard University and an M.S. in science writing from MIT. Her first job was as a writer for NASA’s *Ask an Astrobiologist* web forum before joining NPR’s *Science Friday*. She got her start in television as an associate producer at GBH, where she helped create over 20 original programs for NOVA, including the Peabody Award-winning special, *Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial*. Since 2007, she has been a producer, writer and director on several NOVA films, notably *Is There Life on Mars?*, *What Are Animals Thinking?* and *Making Stuff Colder.*

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Description automatically generated**Cameo George (American Experience Executive Producer)** is an Emmy Award-winning producer, writer and journalist with more than 20 years of experience in documentary, broadcast television and digital content production. George has produced, developed and commissioned innovative programming at CNN, NBC News, ABC News and more. She was the senior producer of CNN’s groundbreaking series *Black in America* and *Latino in America* and the executive producer of the eight-hour PBS documentary series 16 for '16: The Contenders, which was also broadcast on the BBC. George joined American Experience from ABC News, where she was Head of Development for Longform projects, responsible for creating a pipeline of docuseries and feature documentary films across Walt Disney Television platforms, including ABC News, Hulu, National Geographic and Disney+.