



**Critical Acclaim for P.O.V.'s "TRACES OF THE TRADE:  
A STORY FROM THE DEEP NORTH"**

By Katrina Browne

"A far-reaching personal documentary examination of the slave trade. . . . The implications of the film are devastating."

— **Stephen Holden, *The New York Times***

"A moving film."

— **Bill Moyers, "Bill Moyers Journal," PBS**

"In this year, the bicentennial of the federal abolishment of the slave trade, all Browne is asking is for people to think, talk and, perhaps, even acknowledge."

— **Annett John-Hall, *Philadelphia Inquirer***

"Here's a myth *Traces of the Trade* exposes: The South is to blame for slavery."

— **Geoff Edgers, *Boston Globe***

"What if you found out that your Rhode Island ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history? Spurred by this troubling discovery, Katrina Browne set off on an odyssey to make sense of this outrage and, maybe, to make some small amends."

— **Frazier Moore, *Associated Press***

"In a most unusual way, PBS is about to remind us of an anniversary this nation should never have experienced — and should not be allowed to forget. . . . *Traces of the Trade* is a stark reminder of how far this nation has come — and the distance it must yet go. . . ."

— **DeWayne Wickham, *Gannett News Service***

"Powerful is an inadequate word to describe the impact of Katrina Browne's *Traces of the Trade*. . . . [Her] clear-headed film represents an intense and searing call for national dialogue."

— **Kirk Honeycutt, *The Hollywood Reporter***

"*Traces of the Trade* moves seamlessly from a personal historical narrative to highlighting contemporary truths. . . . [It] is a serious and moving film that not only reveals the roots of our racial divide but also provides examples of actions taken to repair it."

— **Dedrick Muhammad, *Sojourners Magazine***

"This is more than one family's painful reckoning. This is the nation's story — one that strips away the North's heroic mantle by revealing a broad pattern of Northern complicity in the slave trade."

— **Cecelia Goodnow, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer***

"A stunning documentary. . . . *Traces of the Trade* is eye-opening and important, digging deeper than what may be comfortable into what stands in the way of race relations in this country."

— **Joanne Ostrow, *The Denver Post***

"A provocative new documentary."

— **Paul Davis, *Providence Journal***

“Browne must have known she had a heck of a story for her very first film project, because she went all-out. . . . Her film refuses to rush into the safe harbor of white guilt or to disown the illegal acts of the forefathers.”

— **Aaron Barnhart, *Kansas City Star***

“A work of poetic introspection. . . . *Traces of the Trade* simultaneously takes on an important subject and proves its maker’s mastery of the documentary form.”

— **Robert Levin, *amNew York***

“This documentary . . . has important things to say about the bone-deep American discomfort with our shared history.”

— **Joanne Weintraub, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel***

“The new season of P.O.V. starts with a wallop — Katrina Browne’s powerful film about her family’s complicity in the New England slave trade. It’s essential viewing, particularly in New England.”

— **Roger Catlin, *Hartford Courant***

“When filmmaker Katrina Browne followed the route her New England ancestors journeyed to trade molasses for humans in shackles, she thought she knew empathy. But she discovered that it could be more profound in the dungeon of an old slave fort in Ghana.”

— **Karen Shade, *Tulsa World***

“[Browne] faced her newly discovered past determined to make amends. Her first documentary film, *Traces of the Trade*, [is] about her family’s struggle with the sins of their ancestors and the ripple effects of those sins in the black community generations later.”

— **Jonathan D. Rubin, *Religion News Service***

“Katrina Browne is refusing to side-step that unsavory history. Instead she is facing it head on in a very public way . . . with her feature film.”

— **Nan Cobbey, *Episcopal Life***

“A remarkably insightful experiment that provokes honest dialogue among Americans about our collective involvement in slavery. . . . In today’s political climate . . . films like this can give us the push we need to speak to each other about the aftermath of slavery.”

— **Logan Del Fuego, *Bust Magazine***

“Part historical narrative, part chronicle of her clan’s efforts to grapple with their legacy, the film documents the journey of Browne and eight other DeWolfs as they retrace the Triangle Trade.”

— **Te-Ping Chen, *The Nation***

“As we gear up for Fourth of July celebrations, a glimpse into the still-raw wounds of slavery . . . is perhaps the best way to honor the professed democratic ideals of the founding fathers.”

— **John Adamian, *Hartford Advocate***

“*Traces of the Trade* and its accompanying book, *Inheriting the Trade*, are welcomed additions to a growing movement to bring about racial reconciliation.”

— **Ronda Racha Penrice, *Ebonyjet.com***

“The piercing personal and social introspection first-time filmmaker Katrina Browne conducts of her family history is a revelation because it’s far more than just a personal narrative.

*Traces of the Trade* is both psychology and history.”

— **Kam Williams, *RottenTomatoes.com***

"*Traces of the Trade* is an incredibly well executed and powerful film. It tackles an important discussion about race that most people would rather ignore. . . . Though not everyone may be able to trace their own lineage back to a family like the DeWolfs, the film makes the point that everyone can participate in a discussion about race."

— **Jessica Mosby, AlterNet**

"Homecoming pilgrimages back to Africa by black Americans whose ancestors were kidnapped into slavery . . . is not unusual. But that same kind of emotional and spiritual journey to Africa back through slave history by white Americans, certainly is. . . . A remarkable documentary."

— **Prairie Miller, Newsblaze.com**

"What [viewers] will find [in the film] are Americans who evolve from clumsy cowardice about our original sin, to the courageousness needed to move us forward."

— **Eugene Holley, Jr., TheBlackWorldToday.com**

"Yes, I know that broadcast date a little more than a week away — but we are publishing our review of the film right now because I urge you to consider inviting small groups from your congregation to watch this film — then discuss it at their next regular meeting."

— **David Crumm, ReadTheSpirit.com**

"Compelling viewing."

— **Richard Prince's Journal-isms, Maynard Institute**

"[The film] points out that the history of race relations in America has been drastically altered over the generations. In so doing, it points out many of the myths of our history. . . .

Make a point to view it."

— **Ray Ellis, Blogcritics.org**

"An incredibly well executed and powerful film. It tackles an important discussion about race that most people would rather ignore. . . ."

— **Jessica Mosby, The Women's International Perspective**