

A STRATEGIC FILMS AND COPPER DOME IMAGES DOCUMENTARY PRODUCED IN COOPERATION WITH FLETCHER FILM PRODUCTIONS AND THE MINORITY FILM INSTITUTE



THE GOVERNORS

A SOUTH CAROLINA GUBERNATORIAL RETROSPECTIVE 1979-2025

STRATEGIC FILMS



• THE MINORITY FILM INSTITUTE



• FLETCHER FILM PRODUCTIONS



• COPPER DOME IMAGES

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THE GOVERNORS

A NEW DOCUMENTARY SERIES

LOGLINE

THROUGH THE LENS OF A SINGLE ICONIC PHOTOGRAPH, THE GOVERNORS UNLOCKS THE PERSONAL STORIES, POLITICAL LEGACIES, AND HISTORIC IMPACT OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S LIVING GOVERNORS, SHAPING A FOUR-DECADE NARRATIVE OF POWER, PURPOSE, AND PROGRESS.

SERIES CONCEPT

THE GOVERNORS IS A SIX-PART DOCUMENTARY SERIES EXPLORING THE LEADERSHIP JOURNEYS OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S LIVING GOVERNORS AS OF 2025. SPARKED BY A POWERFUL PHOTO CAPTURED BY RENOWNED STATEHOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER SAM HOLLAND AND A REFLECTIVE CONVERSATION WITH A FORMER HOUSE CAUCUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THIS SERIES REVEALS THE HUMAN SIDE OF POWER—HOW EACH LEADER ROSE TO OFFICE, GOVERNED THROUGH CHANGE, AND CONTINUES TO SHAPE THE PALMETTO STATE AND BEYOND.

EACH EPISODE PROVIDES AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT OF ONE GOVERNOR, CHRONICLING THEIR EARLY LIFE, RISE TO OFFICE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTROVERSIES, AND ENDURING LEGACIES. WITH EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS, ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE, AND UNTOLD STORIES, THE GOVERNORS CONNECTS PAST LEADERSHIP TO PRESENT ISSUES AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS.

EPISODE SUMMARIES

EPISODE 1: RICHARD RILEY - THE STATESMAN OF EDUCATION

From Greenville to the Governor's Mansion, Richard Riley led a movement that transformed South Carolina's public education system. As Governor (1979–1987), he championed the landmark Education Improvement Act, elevating standards and funding for students across the state. Later serving as U.S. Secretary of Education under President Clinton, Riley became a national voice for learning equity and reform.



EPISODE 2: DAVID BEASLEY - THE GLOBAL SERVANT

Elected to the South Carolina House at just 20, David Beasley became governor in 1995, pushing forward welfare reform and economic development. His moral courage was tested when he supported the removal of the Confederate flag from atop the Statehouse, a controversial but defining act. After office, he led the United Nations World Food Programme, earning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for humanitarian leadership.

EPISODE 3: JIM HODGES - THE EDUCATION REFORMER

Jim Hodges, South Carolina's 114th governor (1999–2003), revolutionized early childhood education with the First Steps initiative and launched the SC Education Lottery. He is also remembered for his pivotal role in removing the Confederate battle flag from atop the Statehouse dome in 2000 through the Heritage Act—a major symbolic and cultural shift in state history.

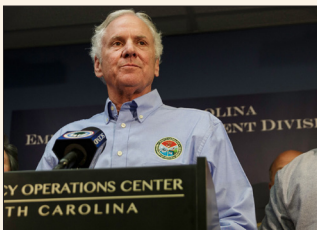


EPISODE 4: MARK SANFORD - THE FISCAL CONSERVATIVE

Mark Sanford brought a businessman's eye to government as Governor (2003–2011), advocating for limited government, spending restraint, and structural reform. A bold and often polarizing figure, Sanford's tenure reflects the political tension between principle and pragmatism. He later returned to Congress and remains a strong voice on national debt and accountability.

EPISODE 5: NIKKI HALEY - THE TRAILBLAZER

Breaking barriers as South Carolina's first female and Indian-American governor (2011–2017), Nikki Haley redefined leadership in the modern South. She is best known for steering the state through the aftermath of the 2015 Charleston church shooting and championing the removal of the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds. Her diplomatic rise continued as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and 2024 presidential contender.



EPISODE 6: HENRY MCMASTER - THE STEADY HAND

A career public servant, Henry McMaster has held nearly every major state office, becoming governor in 2017 and the longest-serving in state history by 2025. His leadership style combines tradition with continuity, navigating economic growth, education reform, and crisis management with a distinctly Southern resolve.

PRODUCTION NEEDS & FUNDRAISING GOALS

We are seeking **\$2.25 million** in total production and post-production funds for The Governors, covering:

- Documentary research and archival licensing
- On-location filming across South Carolina and Washington, DC
- Interviews with governors, family members, staff, journalists, and historians
- Post-production editing, scoring, and finishing
- Marketing, distribution, and impact screenings