



# PLAN C

1 hour 33 minutes

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# PLAN C

With a controversial visionary at the helm, a grassroots network fights to expand access to abortion pills across the United States keeping hope alive during a global pandemic and the fall of Roe v. Wade.



## SHORT SYNOPSIS

The abortion pill, which safely and effectively ends a pregnancy up to 12 weeks, has been approved by the FDA since 2000 and yet few have heard of it. PLAN C follows Francine Coeytaux, a public health specialist and the co-founder of the grassroots organization Plan C, as she and her team fight to expand knowledge of, and access to, the abortion pill across the United States. The film reveals the pipelines they built, the criticism they faced, and the hope they have for the future.





## LONG SYNOPSIS

PLAN C documents the work of determined women in the United States expanding access to medication abortion by any means necessary.

The abortion pill, RU486 or "Mifepristone," used in conjunction with "Misoprostol," safely and effectively ends a pregnancy up to 12 weeks according to the World Health Organization. It has been approved by the FDA since 2000 and yet few Americans have heard of it.

Meet FRANCINE COEYTAUX. Francine has been working in public health for decades. She successfully fought for Plan B to be available over the counter. She explains that few people know about the abortion pill because access has been so severely, and unnecessarily, restricted. In 2014, Francine and her partners founded the organization they call Plan C, with the goal of spreading the word about this alternative to procedural abortion.



In the spring of 2020, when COVID hit, everything changed. Francine issued a call to arms not only to “abortion doctors” whose clinics were closed, but also to family physicians. Five people responded. They became the first medical providers to mail pills to patients from inside the U.S. But telemedicine - even during a pandemic - threatened the mainstream clinic model. A medical director of an independent clinic in Alabama said that her cost of doing business is increasing, that she has to overcharge for medication abortions in order to keep the doors open for procedural abortions and other reproductive care. If she closes, where will her patients go?



The film follows providers and access advocates who devised creative ways to follow the “letter of the law.” If doctors must dispense directly from a clinic and patients can’t get to a clinic, especially in rural areas, they asked, “What if we bring the clinic to them?” The team organized mobile vans to serve as clinics. Patients were texted directions that sent them to an unmarked van in a parking lot. It’s like an illicit drug drop for a pill that’s safer than Tylenol. The van never visited the same place twice. Some patients drove for hours. In small towns, off the highway, they waited their turn in their cars, and ran to the van when texted, to grab their white bag. This is what legal dispensing looks like when mailing is not allowed.





By the fall of 2021, Texas's draconian ban on abortion after the 6th week of pregnancy went into effect. Abortion support networks were more strained than ever. Francine traveled to west Texas to spread the word about pills by mail. She and a new member of the team visited college campuses putting stickers in bathrooms that read "Need to be Unpregnant?" The stickers have a barcode that, when scanned, goes straight to information about ordering the pills. Francine organized a mobile billboard to be driven throughout the south and southeast: "Missed Period? There's a pill for that." But while Francine got louder, Texas advocates were forced to pull back in order to avoid being sued by some vigilante for "aiding and abetting" an abortion.



When the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision was leaked in May 2022, everyone planned for what now seemed inevitable: Roe would be overturned, and abortion would be outlawed in at least nineteen states. Francine enlisted an anonymous distributor to send pills to patients in red states as part of Plan C's harm-reduction work. Pills were and continue to be shipped to states where telemedicine has become illegal, and abortion is criminalized. From Plan C's perspective, no matter where you live, you should be able to receive pills in a matter of days – and if patients have to resort to off-shore providers, it can take weeks. Distribution is risky business in the US: direct action that may have dire consequences for those involved.

The United States is more divided today than ever about many things, including abortion. As blue states work to protect and expand access, red state politicians work to criminalize it. What is the responsibility of those in blue states to support their red state neighbors – and what are the risks? Who gets criminalized and who stays safe? Who will support birthing people and their providers despite the risk and who is left to fend for themselves? Who will die, and who will live, and who will choose?



***"Moving and urgent."***

- THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

***"Plan C, the Powerful Film That Rallied Abortion Activists at Sundance."***

- THE DAILY BEAST

***"At once a depressing portrait of modern America and a testament to the courage of abortion activists, Plan C is a vital, must-see documentary"***

- FLICKERING MYTH

***"I was rocked and it will rock your world too. Destined to be talked about, argued about and litigated for years PLAN C is a must see especially if you have any women you love in your life."***

- UNSEEN FILMS

***"Amid fear and turbulence of dire threats to abortion, reproductive rights, Plan C documentary is testament of hope, resilience...The profound sense of humanity permeating through the footage is gripping and heart touching but the advocates' pragmatic and resolute mindset keeps Plan C from descending into a sense of hopelessness and instead becomes a statement of resilience."***

- THE UTAH REVIEW

**COSMOPOLITAN:**

February 1, 2023: *"This Documentary About the Fight for Abortion Information and Access Is One of the Best Movies of the Year"* by Daniel Joyaux

<https://www.cosmopolitan.com/entertainment/movies/a42706957/plan-c-abortion-documentary-director-interview/>

**JEZEBEL:**

January 25, 2023: *"'Plan C' Documentarian Kept Her Cameras Rolling As Abortion Access Dried Up"* by Rich Juzwiak

<https://jezebel.com/plan-c-documentary-1850031491>

**VARIETY:**

January 19, 2023: *"How 'Plan C' Director Tracy Droz Tragos Plans to Make Noise About Abortion Access at Sundance Film Festival"* by Rebecca Rubin

<https://variety.com/2023/film/features/plan-c-documentary-abortion-sundance-film-festival-1235493193/>



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I first met Francine Coeytaux in 2018, we formed an immediate bond. Sipping tea, petting her cat, and pausing to greet the neighbors, Francine doesn't look like a leader in the abortion access movement or an advocate for civil disobedience, but she is both. A social scientist by profession, she is an entrepreneur and a dissident. And she is powerful. She knows her history and she is tired of reproductive choice being withheld from women - especially in the United States.

In the four years since I met Francine, the United States has seen significant upheaval: the pandemic and the resulting prevalence of telemedicine; RBG's death and Amy Coney Barrett's appointment so soon thereafter; Trump's stacking the Supreme Court with conservative justices - all leading to where we are now with Roe v. Wade overturned and abortion bans in effect in an increasing number of states. Francine is ready to get loud.

When I made ABORTION: STORIES WOMEN TELL (2017-HBO), I focused on the experiences of ordinary people in their everyday lives. My emphasis was on clinic access and the passage of laws that increasingly restricted and denied that access. In many parts of the country, even though Roe had not yet been overturned, clinic access was so bad it might as well have been.

Since then, as a result of my many conversations with Francine, my mindset has changed from fear to hope. While accessing clinics and doctor-provided procedural care will always be vitally important, telemedicine and self-managed care are game-changing alternatives. If folks are able to access abortion care at home, the challenge of accessing a clinic and the gauntlet of protestors on the sidewalk outside become irrelevant, and the draconian state laws, with their threats of criminal prosecution, cease



being so scary. And it makes sense. Men can get Viagra® delivered in discreet packaging directly to their home - why can't abortion pills arrive the same way? Doctors treat patients by teleconference and all manner of medications are sent through the mail - why not the abortion pill that is safe, effective, and approved by the FDA and the WHO?

With its release, PLAN C will be a powerful addition to the national conversation about what is at stake when people are denied medical care and forced to carry pregnancies to term regardless of the circumstances or the consequences. I hope audiences will learn something they didn't know about the abortion pill - what it is, how it works, and that it is in widespread use throughout the world. I hope audiences, regardless of their personal beliefs, will recognize the injustice of criminalizing health care decisions that are intensely personal and should be left to the patient and the provider - and the absurdity of so tightly regulating a medication that is safe and legal. I also hope audiences will take heart in knowing that there are people like Francine who are working tirelessly to be the change they want to see. And maybe, just maybe, some of them will be motivated to join the fight.

- Tracy Droz Tragos

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## STARRING:

### **FRANCINE COEYTAUX**

Francine Coeytaux, MPH, is a women's health advocate and public health specialist with extensive experience in the development and evaluation of reproductive health programs. A founder and co-director of Plan C, she is best known for her work on new reproductive technologies including emergency contraception, medical abortifacients ("Plan B") and microbicides. Ms. Coeytaux is a founder of the Pacific Institute for Women's Health, a co-founder of the Pro-Choice Alliance for Responsible Research, and a co-founder of Plan C. Previously, she was an associate at the Population Council in New York responsible for the development of the Council's reproductive health activities in sub-Saharan Africa. She has served as a consultant to many organizations including Ipas, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Health Organization and currently sits on the Board of Directors of EngenderHealth and the Center for Genetics and Society.



In addition to her international experience, Ms. Coeytaux has worked for many years in California and throughout the United States. She was one of the founding members of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, based in Washington DC, and she contributed to the creation of Planned Parenthood's first adolescent outreach programs in San Francisco in the 1970s. She served on the State of California's Advisory Committee on Human Cloning and, in 2011, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Public Health Association.

Ms. Coeytaux is a citizen of France and of the United States. She speaks French and Spanish fluently, has lived in Tunisia, Peru, Nicaragua, Switzerland and the United States, and has worked extensively in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. She has a BA from Stanford University and an MPH from UCLA. The proud parent of 30-year-old twins, she lives in Los Angeles with her husband, David Glanzman.



FEATURING



ELISA WELLS, CO-FOUNDER PLAN C



DOCTORS & MIDWIVES WORKING WITH AID ACCESS and PLAN C

Interviews on request



ROBIN MARTY,  
CLINIC MANAGER, WEST ALABAMA WOMEN'S CENTER  
AUTHOR, Handbook for a Post-Roe America

DR. TORRES, WEST ALABAMA WOMEN'S CENTER



FEATURING (CONT.)



DR. AMAON, MEDICAL DIRECTOR, JUST THE PILL



FRANCES MORALES, CLINIC DIRECTOR, JUST THE PILL



CARRIE BAKER, LAWYER and JOURNALIST



LORETTA J. ROSS, ACADEMIC AND ACTIVIST



FARAH DIAZ-TELLO, SENIOR COUNSEL · IF/WHEN/HOW



DR. REBECCA GOMPERTS, FOUNDER, AID ACCESS & WOMEN ON WEB

## PRODUCTION TEAM

### **TRACY DROZ TRAGOS - Producer & Director**

Tracy Droz Tragos is a writer, filmmaker, and mother of two, drawn to issues involving women, inequality, and rural America. Tracy's documentary work includes *Rich Hill*, which won the Grand Jury Prize for U.S. Documentary at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival, *Abortion: Stories Women Tell* and *Be Good, Smile Pretty*, an Emmy Award-winning documentary about the grief and healing of survivors of the Vietnam War. Tracy is currently editing her long-form documentary *Sarah* as well as developing her first narrative film, *The Macrobiotic Stoner*, as a 2021 Sundance Documentary Directing and Screenwriting Fellow.

### **JESS JACOBS - Executive Producer**

Jess Jacobs is an award-winning actor, writer, producer and abortion-rights activist. She has screened at Cannes, SXSW, Tribeca, SIFF and beyond. Her work can be found on Hulu, Topic, Paramount+, Starz and others, and featured in publications ranging Huffington Post, Cosmopolitan, Teen Vogue and Forbes. Her feature screenwriting debut is in post-production. Jess co-founded Invisible Pictures, was named one of Real Leaders Magazine's 100 Visionary Leaders, and received the Future is Female Award from ICFP.

### **MEREDITH RAITHEL PERRY - Editor**

Meredith Raithel Perry is a filmmaker based in the San Juan Islands in Washington State. Meredith has edited provocative feature documentaries such as *The Hacker Wars* (2014), and *The Milky Way* (2014) as well as the narrative feature films, *Camp and Mississippi Requiem*. Meredith holds an MFA in Directing from CalArts (2009). When not working in LA, Meredith cuts from an edit bay in a cozy barn loft on her 28 acre homestead.

### **BETH KEARSLEY - Associate Producer & Additional Editing**

Beth Kearsley is an assistant editor, editor, and associate producer with an interest in documentaries involving women, environmentalism, and music. She began her career assistant editing on independent features after graduating with an HBA in film and media arts from The University of Utah. Beth's work includes *Bitterbrush* (Telluride 2021), *What Comes Around* (TIFF 2022), and *Free Chol Soo Lee* (Sundance 2022). She is currently a 2022-2023 Karen Schmeer film editing fellow.

### **ALEJANDRA VASQUEZ - Associate Producer & Field Producer**

Alejandra Vasquez is a Mexican-American director and producer. She directed the short films *When It's Good, It's Good*, supported by If/Then Shorts and Latino Public Broadcasting, and *Folk Frontera*, winner of the SXSW Jury Award for Best Texas Short. As a producer, she recently worked on *Us Kids* (dir. Kim Snyder) and *Matangi/Maya/M.I.A* (dir. Steve Loveridge). Alex's directorial debut feature film is premiering at Sundance 2023, *Going Varsity in Mariachi*.

## PRODUCTION TEAM (CONT.)

### **DEREK HOWARD - Director of Photography**

Derek Howard is a cinematographer and director whose collaborations have led to screenings at Venice, Toronto, Sundance, Telluride, Tribeca, SXSW, IDFA, DocNYC, NYFF, HotDocs, True/False, Vision du Reel, and many others. Derek has participated in the IDFA Summer School, IDFAcademy, Reykjavik TransAtlantic Talent Lab, and the Berlinale Talents program. Derek shot second camera and assistant directed Victor Kossakovsky's Oscar shortlisted *Vivan Las Antipodas* and *Aquarela* and more recently shot Emelie Mahdavian's debut feature *Bitterbrush*.

### **EMILY TOPPER - Director of Photography**

Emily Topper was born and raised in Baltimore and earned an MFA from University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. Her work includes the 2015 Emmy winner for Best Documentary, *After Tiller, Miss Americana: Taylor Swift* (2020), *Rebel Hearts* (2021), *Framing Britney Spears* (2021), and *Light and Magic* (2022).

### **NATHAN HALPERN - Music by**

Nathan Halpern is an Emmy-nominated composer, named a 'Composer to Watch' by Classic FM and Indiewire. He scored three films premiering at Sundance 2022: *Emily The Criminal* (Roadside Attractions / Vertical Entertainment), *Watcher* (IFC Films), and *Martha Mitchell Effect* (Netflix). *PLAN C* is his fourth collaboration with director Tracy Droz Tragos, beginning with Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner *Rich Hill*.

His score for acclaimed psychological thriller *Swallow* (IFC Films) was named "a highlight of the film" (Indiewire) and received a Hollywood Music in Media nomination for "Best Original Score" (Horror). He composed the scores of two films from Barack Obama's 2018 Best Films of the Year list: Chloe Zhao's *The Rider* (Sony Pictures Classics) and the Oscar-nominated *Minding The Gap* (Hulu). Halpern's score for *The Rider* was featured at #3 in Vulture/New York Magazine's 10 Best Movies Scores of The Year.

### **TYLER BOUDREAX - Music Supervisor**

Tyler Boudreaux is a Music Supervisor, Radio DJ and Radio Producer, born and raised in Los Angeles. She's worked on music for television shows, including the new seasons of "Little America" on Apple TV+, "Joe Pickett" on Paramount+, "Waco" on Paramount+, and the new show "Demascus" on AMC+. Tyler hosts a weekly music program on KCRW every Thursday night, produces culture programming for KCRW, and produces two weekly talk radio shows on KPFK and KBLA.



A Dinky Pictures Production

In Association With  
XTR, Lismore Road Productions

a film by Tracy Droz Tragos

Executive Producers **Jess Jacobs, Dr. Holly Corn & Jonathan Kaufelt,**  
**Kopcho Reproductive Justice Fund, Margaret Munzer Loeb,**  
**Kathryn Everett, Bryn Mooser, Tracy Droz Tragos**

Co-Executive Producers **Tracy & Evan Segal, Monika Parekh, Ruth Ann Harnisch**

Impact Producer **Jess Jacobs**

Co-Producers **Nancy Blachman, The Case for Her, Erin Samuelli**

Contributing Producers **Chicken & Egg Pictures, Dr. Sophia Yen, Lisa Shields**

Associate Producers **Beth Kearsley, Alejandra Vasquez**

Music by **Nathan Halpern**

Director of Photography **Derek Howard, Emily Topper**

Edited by **Meredith Raithe Perry**

Produced and Directed by **Tracy Droz Tragos**

Made with support from  
**The Utah Film Center**



## FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

**January 19 - 29** - Sundance Film Festival, Park City, Utah

**March 2 - 5** - Athena Film Festival, New York, New York

**March 9 - 15** - SXSW, Austin, Texas

*"This film is so important to us at this moment in our home state. We often explain that part of the reason we stay here is to fight for what's right and seeing the women in your film do that is so powerful. I've seen way more than my fair share of docs on this topic and this is beyond powerful. It transcends and moves into a space of relatability, universality, and inspiration that is very hard to do. Even though it's weird to say when this issue is looming so large, congratulations on such a wonderful and effective film."*

**March 22 - 26** - The Martha's Vineyard Film Festival, Massachusetts

**March 22 - April 1** - The Cleveland International Film Festival, Cleveland, Ohio

*"So grateful for this film and to be able to share this with Cleveland – we need it!"*

**April 13 - 16** - Denver Film's Women + Film Festival, Denver, Colorado

**June 9, June 10** - Dead Center, Oklahoma City, OK

**June 21** - TRUST WOMEN AND rePROFILM, Wichita, KS Kansas

**June 24** - TRUST WOMEN AND rePROFILM, Los Angeles, CA

**June 24** - Nevada City Film Festival - Nevada City, CA





## OUTREACH

We also have many **"Day of A"** community events happening during the week of 6/21 - 6/27 - along with private screenings around the country (to honor the one year anniversary of Roe falling).

We have developed a virtual tool kit including **downloadable discussion guide**, **#PLAN C movie social media tools**, **and, coming soon, a 52-minute educational version** to help organizations use the film and support the movement.

We welcome requests for educational and community non-profit screenings: [plancmovie@gmail.com](mailto:plancmovie@gmail.com).

Please go to [www.plancmovie.com](http://www.plancmovie.com) for future news and more details about PLAN C's upcoming fall 2023 theatrical and streaming release.





