

WOMEN TO WATCH



Melanie Jeffcoat | Vote of Confidence

Melanie was born in Watts, L.A. in the midst of the historical race riots—impeccable timing for a woman who would grow up to take an active role in voting rights education. After 10 years, Melanie stepped down from her role as a founding member and Associate Artistic Director of Circle X Theatre Company in California, moving South with husband, Jeff. “[In L.A.], I was around too many people like me,” she says. After her move, Melanie often felt like the odd woman out, seeing a disconnect between civic grievances and participation. “We’re out there telling people how to be a democracy, but we’re not walking the walk as citizens.” she says. “I started observing and questioning...I found a way to take my frustrations...and try to investigate.”

What resulted was the idea for a three-part documentary entitled *Show of Hands: The Legacy of Voting Rights in Alabama*. “My goal with this is to educate primarily. Entertain. Bother. Inspire.” Read more about Melanie’s film at birmingham.skirt.com.

Photo by Angela Karen