

Local writer to be featured in upcoming documentary

By Brianna Stephens
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The life story of local writer and artist Cherie “CD” Collins will be featured in an upcoming documentary.

Jean Donohue of Media Working Group Inc., based in Cincinnati, Ohio, is the producer/director of the documentary, “Native Daughter.” Fred Johnson is the associate producer.

Local filming for the documentary took place last week.

Donohue said she met Collins several years ago, has followed her published works and spoken word with music and finds her inspirational.

“(The documentary) is the story of an artist who has come through a difficult time,” Donohue said. “It’s just a story that has not been told yet.”

Collins grew up in Mt. Sterling and still maintains strong roots here, Donohue said, even though she lives part-time both here and in Boston.

She added Collins’ life story is reflected in her works. Those experiences, including a gas line explosion she was involved in as a child, and how they have shaped her life and her works will be discussed in the documentary.

“Even with the worst of circumstances, people can survive,” Donohue said of Collins’ experiences. “They can be creative and productive citizens and artists. It’s not easy, it’s hard work.”

Being the feature of the documentary, Collins said she “feels a little exposed,” but the experience is wonderful with the filmmakers.

She added she thinks the filmmakers believe she has a story worth telling because of the adversity she has faced, her continued growth and the connections she still has with Mt. Sterling.

The documentary will be finished within 12 months, Donohue said, and it will appear at screening events, film festivals and other events.

She added the Kentucky Foundation for Women, the Ohio Arts Council and other private donors have helped keep the project ongoing.

Donohue said she hopes to release it around the same time as Collins’ upcoming book.

“The Big Little Town” is a book of personal essays that will feature stories of Mt.



Photos courtesy Jean Donohue

Local filming for a documentary featuring Cherie “CD” Collins took place last week. The documentary is titled “Native Daughter” and will discuss Collins’ life story and experiences.

Sterling, Montgomery County and Kentucky, Collins said.

She added she only writes about the places and people she loves, and the stories represent the people and the rich diversity here.

“I think it’s important to tell stories that come out of our culture,” Collins said. She added those stories serve as a counter narrative to what can be seen in mainstream media

today when it comes to rural communities.

She expects her book will be published within the next year.

She is also working on a compact disc of spoken word with music titled “Camargo Rain.”

For more information about Collins and her works, go to www.cdcollins.com.

Mt. Sterling Advocate • Oct. 31, 2019 • Page A7