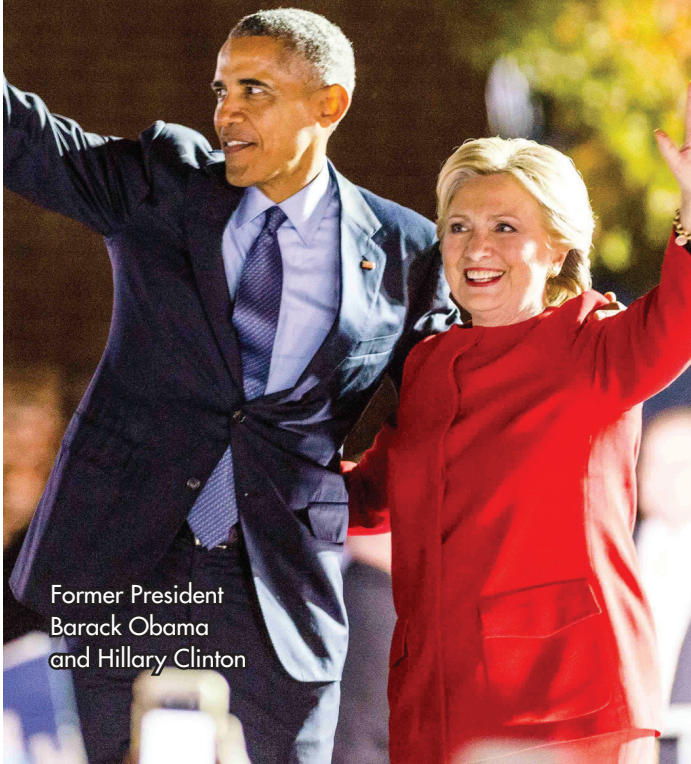


coverstory

BY GEORGE DICKIE



Former President
Barack Obama
and Hillary Clinton

Hulu's 'Hillary' profiles the woman, the public figure, the lightning rod

No matter your opinion of Hillary Clinton, you will feel like you know her a lot better after watching "Hillary."

Premiering Friday, March 6, on Hulu, the four-part documentary from director Nanette Burstein ("On the Ropes," "The Kid Stays in the Picture") offers an up-close-and-personal view of the former first lady, U.S. senator, Secretary of State and presidential candidate through intimate interviews with her, friends, family (including her husband, former President Bill Clinton), contemporaries (including former President Barack Obama), staff and journalists, as well as never-before-seen footage from her presidential campaign in 2016.

All the major events in her life and career – good and bad – are covered, including her time as first lady, her unsuccessful push for universal health care, her campaign for women's rights, Whitewater, her run for the Senate, appointment as Secretary of State, Benghazi, the email fiasco that undermined her presidential campaign and her husband's sexual misconduct with intern Monica Lewinsky and subsequent impeachment. In each case, Clinton is unflinching and candid in her accounts and only once, when discussing her husband's infidelity, does she get emotional.

Of course, it is important to bear in mind that this is all her side of the story but the documentary is nonetheless a fascinating portrait of a consequential woman, one who provokes strong opinions and emotions pro and con. And doing the film gave her another theory as to why that is, as she told a recent gathering of journalists in Pasadena, Calif.

"I became a kind of Rorschach Test for women and women's roles as soon as I burst onto the public scene when Bill was running for president," she says. "I'd lived more than 40 years before that, and I had no real understanding of what it meant to be thrust into this highest, brightest platform and try to live your life and kind of go along with what you'd always done."

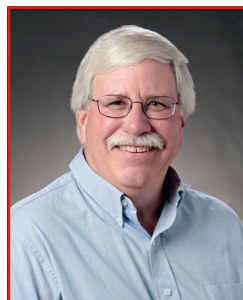
One rude awakening came when she spearheaded the Clinton administration's efforts for universal health care in the mid-'90s, when all the parties that would oppose it brought themselves fully to bear.

"Little did I know that it would create the most extraordinary backlash ...," she says. "And there's a scene in the movie, which I had forgotten until Nanette dug it up, of me being burned in effigy for wanting health care. So part of it was the timing that I came on the national scene, what I chose to do – which was extremely controversial – the fact that I was the sort of 'first first lady' of my generation and had been working ever since I was a young woman in the professional workforce."

"And you don't have to like everybody in public life," she continues. "You can not vote for them because of whatever reason you pick, so I'm sure there were personal reactions. But I think it was even more rooted in the time we were in and the kind of challenging impression that people had of me at that time and who I was and what I cared about and what I did."

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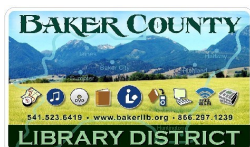
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