

Synopsis of

AFENI

By Adam Bailey

In April of 1969 Afeni Shakur along with 20 other Black Panthers were arrested in late night raids under false charges concocted by undercover cover police connected to COINTELPRO. Bail was set at a record breaking \$100,000 in an attempt to keep the Panthers silent and behind bars. Afeni, who had joined the Black Panther's as a solitary type, a high school drop out who enjoyed working alone as one of NYC's first female letter carriers, becomes the person who takes the Panther's coalition building the most to heart. She ends up creating the networks needed to get her comrades out from behind bars, speaking truth to power. She also acts as her own attorney during the trial, allowing her to face the undercover cops who had caused her violent arrests and besmirched her name. The trial is arduous and includes many twists and turns, but it is mostly long as the state tries to wear down the defendants. Three years after the arrests, a very pregnant Afeni Shakur is finally free after winning her case. Her actions help inspire other activities to come together and expose COINTELPRO. Soon, she gives birth to her son, who she gives an indigenous name, so that he will always be reminded that his struggles are not something that will be his alone, not something solitary, but shared. He is named after the Peruvian King and revolutionary Túpac Amaru II.