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**Denali Tiller's Powerful Documentary *Tre Maison Dasan*
Premieres on *Independent Lens* Monday, April 1
on PBS and PBS.org**

**Moving Portrait of Three Unforgettable Young Boys – Tre, Maison, and
Dasan – Each Struggling to Grow Up with a Parent in Prison**



Credit: Jon Gourley

(San Francisco, CA) — Told directly through the children's perspective, *Tre Maison Dasan* is an up-close and unfiltered look at the lives of three Rhode Island boys, each navigating childhood and adolescence with a parent behind bars. Each boy faces the pressure of growing up in a society that often demonizes their parents, provides little support for their families, and assumes “the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.” Produced and directed by Denali Tiller, *Tre Maison Dasan* premieres on *Independent Lens* Monday, April 1, 2019, 10:00-11:00 PM ET ([check local listings](#)), and will also be available simultaneously for online streaming at pbs.org.

An estimated one in 14 American children is growing up with a parent in prison, and *Tre Maison Dasan* follows three of these children and their families. Tre is a charismatic but troubled 13-year-old who hides his emotions behind a mask of tough talk and hard edges. Maison is a funny, charming, hyper-articulate 11-year-old whose Autism Spectrum Disorder presents itself through his ever-active mind and deep love for those around him. Dasan, the youngest of the boys, is a shy and sensitive six-year-old full of curiosity and empathy. Although their parents are incarcerated for serious crimes, their strong and caring relationships with their children shatter stereotypes about those behind bars and remind us of the plight of the over 1.7 million American children growing up with an incarcerated parent.

"As Tre, Maison and Dasan taught me about their worlds, I recognized that there was a need for a film that allowed children to speak for themselves, to elevate their voices in a way that fully represented their lives as they experience them," says filmmaker Tiller. "Through this participatory process, the audience is led through the ups and downs of life itself — an experience that is both riveting and personal, hilarious and heartbreaking, and values the complexity and nuance of these boys' different realities."



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Visit the [Tre Maison Dasan](#) page on *Independent Lens*, which features more information about the film.

About the Filmmakers

Denali Tiller (Producer/Director) is an artist and filmmaker. Following her work directing and producing *Tre Maison Dasan*, Denali is now working on a large-scale, multi-sectoral impact campaign for the film, engaging communities affected by incarceration across the US and in Europe. In 2015, Denali was named one of 110 “Filmmakers to Watch” by *Variety*. She has associate-produced short content in Uganda, Ghana and Tanzania with the US Agency for International Development, and has taught at Alvarez High School and the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. As a director, Denali is passionate about exploring new perspectives on systemic issues, empowering youth and women, and how we raise boys in America.

Rebecca Stern (Producer) is a director and producer living in Brooklyn, NY. Along with being the producer of *Tre Maison Dasan*, she is co-producer of *Netizens*, a documentary delving into the effects of online sexual harassment (Tribeca 2018), and the director of *Well Groomed*, a documentary about the dog grooming world (SXSW 2019). She was the associate producer of *the bomb*, an innovative installation and film experience which closed the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival and opened the 2017 Berlin Film Festival and premiered on Netflix. Previously, Stern was the production coordinator for the Academy Award-nominated documentary *Cartel Land*, and managed the development and implementation of film campaigns with the leading impact firm Picture Motion, including *Food Chains* (2016 BritDoc Impact Award).

CREDITS

Directed and Produced by	Denali Tiller
Produced by	Rebecca Stern & Craig Pilligan
Co-Produced by	Susan MacLaury & Albie Hecht & Sarba Das
Executive Produced by	Andrew Freiband & Patty Quillin
Co-Executive Produced by	Andrea van Beuren
Edited by	Carlos Rojas Felice
Cinematography by	Jon Gourlay
Original Score by	Gil Talmi
With Music by	Tre Janson, Dasan Lopes & Maison Teixeira

Tre Maison Dasan is produced in association with Pilgrim Media Group, Shine Global Inc, Chicken and Egg Pictures, and Sustainable Films.

About *Independent Lens*



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Independent Lens is an Emmy® Award-winning weekly series airing on PBS Monday nights at 10:00 PM. The acclaimed series, with Lois Vossen as executive producer, features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by ITVS, the series is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people, with additional funding from PBS, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more visit pbs.org/independentlens. Join the conversation: [facebook.com/independentlens](https://www.facebook.com/independentlens) and on Twitter [@IndependentLens](https://twitter.com/IndependentLens).

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