

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE****CONTACT**

Caitlin Jaynes, MPRM
323-648-8507
cjaynes@mprm.com

Aisha Almada, ITVS
415-356-8383
aisha.almada@itvs.org

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INDEPENDENT LENS EXPANDS ITS SUPPORT ON SHORT-FORM DOCUMENTARIES AS IT UNVEILS FALL SLATE PREMIERING SEPTEMBER 16 ON PBS

The Flagship ITVS Anthology Series Line-up Includes a Look at American History Through an Animated Musical, Up-And-Coming Comedic Talent, and the Electoral College

(San Francisco, CA) August 19, 2024— INDEPENDENT LENS, the Emmy® Award-winning PBS documentary anthology series presented by ITVS, today announced its fall lineup featuring long-form documentaries while also bolstering its short-form documentary offerings, aiming to enhance the viewer experience by catering to diverse content preferences and expanding the series' impact across all platforms. The INDEPENDENT LENS season will launch on September 16, 2024.

"INDEPENDENT LENS is committed to reaching young and diverse audiences and we're doubling down on streaming, with a renewed focus on producing and presenting digital series and shorts," said Lois Vossen, INDEPENDENT LENS executive producer. "Our fall 2024 slate includes feature-length docs and a variety of short-form programs that will premiere on PBS YouTube, the PBS app, and PBS Passport."

The fall slate will premiere on September 16 with the first short-form doc "Wild Hogs and Saffron," exploring an unlikely friendship between an Iranian American man and a childhood friend, and the previously announced documentary film "One Person, One Vote?," on September 30 about the U.S. Electoral College. "The History of White People in America" will follow on October 7 to examine how the social construct of skin color has defined race in the United States. Continuing on November 11, honoring Veterans Day, is the Marine Corps veteran's mental health story "Make Peace or Die: Honor the Fallen." "United States of Comedy," a short following emerging voices in comedy, will close the fall season on November 12.

 ITVS

1435 FOLSOM STREET
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94103
T. 415 356 8383
F. 415 356 8391
PBS.ORG/INDEPENDENTLENS

- **WILD HOGS AND SAFFRON - September 16** - A wild hog hunt in the Ozarks leads to an unexpectedly vulnerable dialogue between Iranian American filmmaker Andy Sarjahani and his childhood friend Bubba as they navigate a polarized world. As their paths diverged in the increasingly anti-Middle Eastern years after 9/11, Andy's journey of self-examination tries to reconcile his two worlds.
- **ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE? - September 30** - "One Person, One Vote?" examines the Electoral College, the uniquely American and often misunderstood mechanism for electing a president. At a time when many Americans question democratic institutions, the film provides an unprecedented look at its inner workings. The documentary follows four presidential electors in Colorado during 2020. Among them are Derrick Wilburn, a Republican activist and founder of the Rocky Mountain Black Conservatives; Polly Baca, a Mexican American Democratic Party elder; Patricia McCracken, a student and first-time voter affiliated with the Green Party; and Kit Maclean, a humorous yet bona fide elector for Kanye West. Their motivations range from noble to unconventional, and each arrives with a distinct vantage point.
- **THE HISTORY OF WHITE PEOPLE IN AMERICA - October 7** - Through the entertaining and engaging lens of musical animated shorts, The History of White People in America examines how skin color has come to define race in the United States. Viewed collectively, these shorts capture what it means to be American—that "us" and "them" are constantly redefined, that racial history deserves contemplation and that Americans are bound by rich differences in experience and identity.
- **MAKE PEACE OR DIE: HONOR THE FALLEN - November 11** - U.S. Marine Corps veteran Anthony Marquez returned from Afghanistan deeply wounded and riddled with survivor's guilt. His unit, 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment, lost 17 men on their 2011 deployment to Sangin. Upon returning home, Anthony made it his mission to help the Gold Star families find healing, and in doing so, attempt to heal himself.
- **UNITED STATES OF COMEDY - November 12** - "United States of Comedy" gives context to emerging voices in comedy from culturally diverse communities throughout the United States, showcasing artists' stand-up sets along with visuals from their hometowns and their families. Sharing insights into their formative years and their

creative exploration allows rising comedians to engage with audiences, in ways both intimate and introspective. While their jokes still strike a chord with audiences from all walks of life, knowing their particular stories gives a personal framework for their comedy and a finer appreciation of how they've honed their craft.

All films will be available for streaming on the [PBS app](#) on premiere day. Visit the INDEPENDENT LENS [website](#) for more information.

ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS

INDEPENDENT LENS is an Emmy® Award-winning PBS documentary series. With founding executive producer Lois Vossen, the series has been honored with 10 Academy Award nominations and features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by ITVS, INDEPENDENT LENS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, Park Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts. Stream anytime on the PBS app. For more visit pbs.org/independentlens

ABOUT ITVS

Independent Television Services (ITVS) is the largest co-producer of independent documentaries in the United States. For more than 30 years the San Francisco non-profit has funded and partnered with documentary filmmakers to produce and distribute untold stories. ITVS incubates and co-produces these award-winning titles and premieres them on our Emmy® Award-winning PBS series, INDEPENDENT LENS. ITVS titles appear on PBS, WORLD, NETA, and can be streamed on various digital platforms including the PBS app. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Park Foundation, Wyncote Foundation. For more information, visit itvs.org

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