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***Independent Lens* Wins News and Documentary  
Emmy® Award for *The Homestretch***

(San Francisco, CA) September 22, 2016—*Independent Lens* is pleased to announce that the series has been honored with a News and Documentary Emmy® Award from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS). *The Homestretch*, directed by Anne de Mare and Kirsten Kelly, was the winner for Outstanding Business and Economic Reporting - Long Form. The film follows three smart and ambitious Chicago teens who brave frigid winters, high school pressures, and homelessness as they fight to stay in school, graduate, and build a future. It premiered on *Independent Lens* on April 13, 2015.

“We are delighted to have been honored by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with a News and Documentary Emmy® for *The Homestretch*,” said *Independent Lens* Executive Producer Lois Vossen. “It’s a great testament to our talented filmmakers who continue to break new ground with documentaries that have a lasting impact on our viewers and our society.”

*The Homestretch* was part of American Graduate: Let’s Make It Happen, a public media initiative made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to help local communities across America keep more students on the path to graduation. The film is a co-production of Spargel Productions and Kartemquin Films.

Visit *The Homestretch* page on [Independent Lens](http://Independent Lens), which features more information about the film.

**About CPB**

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government’s investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of nearly 1,500 locally owned and operated public television and radio stations nationwide. CPB is also the largest single source of funding for research, technology and program development for public radio, television and related online services. For more information, visit [cpb.org](http://cpb.org) and follow us on Twitter [@CPBmedia](https://twitter.com/CPBmedia), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CPBmedia) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cpb). Black Rock, it is understood that it might be necessary to focus an entire year on just keeping a student in school and trying to understand the challenges they face before expecting academic progress. Realistic preparations for the work force and life’s responsibilities outweigh planning for higher education: these students can pursue a college education only if they first know how to support themselves.



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### **About American Graduate**

[American Graduate: Let's Make it Happen](#) was launched in 2011 with 25 public media stations in high need communities to spotlight the high school dropout crisis. Today, more than 125 public radio and television stations in over 48 states have partnered with over 1,700 community organizations and schools, as well as Alma and Colin Powell's America's Promise Alliance, Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Education, Alliance for Excellent Education, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Newman's Own Foundation. With primetime and children's programming that educates, informs and inspires, public radio and television stations are important resources in helping to address critical issues facing today's communities. According to a report from the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Education, American Graduate stations have told the story about the dropout crisis in a way that empowered citizens to get involved, and helped community organizations break down silos to work more effectively together.

### **About *Independent Lens***

*Independent Lens* is an Emmy® Award-winning weekly series airing on PBS Monday nights at 10:00 PM. The acclaimed series features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by Independent Television Service, 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](http://pbs.org/independentlens). Join the conversation: [facebook.com/independentlens](https://facebook.com/independentlens) and on Twitter [@IndependentLens](https://twitter.com/IndependentLens).

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