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**Academy Award Nominee  
*Hale County This Morning, This Evening*  
Premieres on *Independent Lens*  
Monday, February 11 on PBS**

**Critically Acclaimed Film Offers a Richly Detailed Look at Life  
in Alabama's Black Belt**

**Online Streaming Begins February 12**

*"Pure cinematic poetry. . . poses a quietly radical challenge to assumptions about race, class and the aesthetics of filmmaking." — A. O. Scott, The New York Times*



*Credit: © IDIOM Film. Courtesy RaMell Ross.*

(San Francisco, CA; January 22, 2019) — An inspired and intimate portrait of a place and its people, *Hale County This Morning, This Evening* looks at the lives of two young African American men from rural Alabama over the course of five years. Daniel Collins attends college in search of opportunity while Quincy Bryant becomes a father to an energetic son in this open-ended, poetic film without a traditional narrative. Distilling life to its essence, the film invites the audience to experience the mundane and the monumental, birth and death, the quotidian and the sublime. These moments combine to communicate the

region's deep culture and provide glimpses of the complex ways the African American community's collective image is integrated into America's visual imagination. The directorial debut of award-winning photographer RaMell Ross, the film premieres on *Independent Lens* Monday, February 11, 2019, 10:00-11:30 PM ET ([check local listings](#)) on PBS. The film received an Oscar nomination today for Best Documentary Feature from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

In the history of documentary, Hale County is a mythical place. It's where Walker Evans and James Agee chronicled the lives of poor white sharecropping families in *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* in the 1930s. But today Hale County is different. While the current residents subsist with comparable economic hardship, the racial demographics of the region have shifted. The forgotten, isolated famous men in Hale County are now people of color. Largely disenfranchised, the African American population lives with unequal distribution of, and access to, resources.



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*Hale County This Morning, This Evening* allows the viewer an emotive impression of the historic South, trumpeting the beauty of life and the consequences of the social construction of race, while simultaneously offering a testament to dreaming despite the odds.

“We're excited to present a powerful new voice in documentary film, RaMell Ross,” said Lois Vossen, *Independent Lens* executive producer. “A photographer turned filmmaker, RaMell breaks form and uses subtle surprises to present a community, without agenda. With remarkable access to his subjects and his unconventional style he has created a film that gently gives us the time and space needed to wash away our judgments and recognize the deeply familiar moments of ordinary life. So much of what we see on television is sensationalized or politicized; the love and patience in RaMell's beautifully crafted portrait of a small town is quietly revolutionary.”

Visit the [Hale County This Morning, This Evening](#) page on *Independent Lens* for more information. The film will be available for online viewing on the site beginning February 12.

#### About the Filmmakers

**RaMell Ross (Director, Producer, Writer, Cinematographer, Sound Recordist, Editor)** earned a BA in both English and Sociology from Georgetown University and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. His photographs have been exhibited internationally and his writing has appeared in such outlets as *The New York Times*. He was part of *Filmmaker* magazine's “25 New Faces of Independent Film” in 2015, and a New Frontier Artist in Residence at the MIT Media Lab. In 2016, he was a finalist for the Aperture Portfolio Prize, winner of an Aaron Siskind Individual Photographer's Fellowship Grant and a Sundance Art of Nonfiction Fellow. In early 2017, he was selected for Rhode Island Foundation's Robert and Margaret MacColl Johnson Artist Fellowship. RaMell is currently on faculty at Brown University's Visual Arts Department. *Hale County This Morning, This Evening* is his first feature documentary. He met Quincy while teaching a GED program in Greensboro, Alabama, and Daniel while coaching basketball at the local high school.

**Joslyn Barnes (Producer, Edit Team).** Since cofounding Louverture Films with Danny Glover and partners Susan Rockefeller and Bertha Foundation, among the films Joslyn has been involved with producing are: the features *Bamako* (Abderrahmane Sissako), *The Time That Remains* (Elia Suleiman), *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* and *Cemetery of Splendour* (both by Apichatpong Weerasethakul), *White Sun* (Deepak Rauniyar) and *Zama* (Lucrecia Martel); and the documentaries *Trouble the Water* (Tia Lessin & Carl Deal), *The House I Live In* (Eugene Jarecki), *Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975* and *Concerning Violence* (both by Göran Hugo Olsson), *House in the Fields* (Tala Hadid), *Strong Island* (Yance Ford), *That Summer* (Göran Hugo Olsson) and the forthcoming *Angels Are Made of Light* (James Longley) and *Aquarela* (Victor Kossakovsky). In 2017, Barnes was the recipient of both the Cinereach Producer Award and the Sundance Institute | Amazon Studios Producer Award. In 2018, she was



nominated for an Academy Award for Documentary Feature and an Emmy Award for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking.

**Su Kim (Producer)** is a Korean American producer based in New York City. Entrepreneurial and creative, she is committed to crafting compelling stories and supporting independent filmmakers. Her films in release include the Sundance Film Festival premiere *Kimjongilia* (dir. NC Heikin), *Adama* (dir. David Felix Sutcliffe) supported by ITVS, and *Sound of Redemption: The Frank Morgan Story* (dir. NC Heikin). As a producer, she has been awarded a CPB/PBS Producers Workshop Scholarship as well as numerous grants from ITVS, the Sundance Documentary Film Program, NYSCA, Tribeca Film Institute and the US State Department. In 2014 she was selected along with five other women filmmakers as a Fellow for the Sundance Institute Women's Initiative. She is currently producing *One Bullet Afghanistan* (dir. Carol Dysinger), *Sansón and Me*, and *Lupe Under the Sun* (dir. Rodrigo Reyes).

#### CREDITS

Directed, Filmed, Edited and Written by  
Produced by

RaMell Ross  
RaMell Ross  
Joslyn Barnes  
Su Kim

Co-Writer  
Edit Team

Maya Krinsky  
Robb Moss  
Joslyn Barnes  
Maya Krinsky

Creative Advisor  
Original Music by

Apichatpong Weerasaethakul  
Alex Somers  
Scott Alario

Executive Producers

Forest Kelley  
Danny Glover  
Susan Rockefeller  
Bertha Foundation

#### About *Independent Lens*

*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](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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