



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Adrianna Paidas

646-762-8704 adrianna.paidas@beckmedia.com

Jamedra Brown
Fleischman, ITVS

415-356-8383 jamedra.brown@itvs.org

For downloadable images, visit pbs.org/pressroom

“WHEN CLAUDE GOT SHOT” DOCUMENTARY GRAPPLES WITH COMPLEXITIES OF GUN VIOLENCE AND HEALING IN ITS AFTERMATH, PREMIERES ON PBS’S INDEPENDENT LENS MAY 9, 2022

Directed by Award-Winning Filmmaker, Brad Lichtenstein, the Film Follows Three Strangers Tragically Bound Together Through Gun Violence and a Five-Year Journey Navigating a Flawed Justice System on the Way to Recovery and Forgiveness

(San Francisco, CA) March 30, 2022—While visiting his hometown of Milwaukee, father of three and aspiring attorney Claude Motley is shot in the face by 15-year-old Nathan King during a carjacking gone wrong. Two nights later, King attempts to rob Victoria Davison, who fires her gun in self-defense, partially paralyzing King from the waist down. For the next five years, “When Claude Got Shot” follows the story of these three strangers brought together by a weekend of gun violence.

Lauded by *The Hollywood Reporter* as “consistently engaging and frequently provocative,” “When Claude Got Shot” premiered at the 2021 SXSW film festival and is set to make its broadcast debut on INDEPENDENT LENS, the award-winning PBS documentary anthology series presented by ITVS, on May 9, 2022, at 10:00 p.m. ET ([check local listings](#)).

At the center of this story is Motley and his arduous recuperation, physically and emotionally, as he persists through multiple surgeries, catastrophic health care bills, and trauma. Over the course of his journey, Motley finds himself torn between punishment for King and the injustice of mass incarceration that disproportionately affects Black men and boys.

While Motley’s narrative is the focal point of the film, filmmaker Brad Lichtenstein also narrows in on King and his family as they navigate the criminal justice system and face the prospect of decades of imprisonment. Meanwhile, Davison struggles with the emotional repercussions of shooting a 15-year-old boy. With these interwoven narratives, the documentary provides an intimate and complex perspective on crime, community violence, and justice, leading up to a profound face-to-face meeting between Motley and King.



1435 Folsom Street
San Francisco CA 94103
T. 415 356 8383
F. 415 356 8391
pbs.org/independentlens

“We hope this deeply personal story inspires audiences to rethink crime and punishment in this country,” said Lois Vossen, executive producer of INDEPENDENT LENS. “There is often not a clear path to recovery or justice for those whose lives have been forever changed by gun violence, and this documentary exposes the many inequities in our criminal justice system, particularly for Black communities.”

“I am grateful to my very close friend, Claude, who opened himself up to sharing this story despite the pain and uncertainty he was going through,” said director Brad Lichtenstein.

“When Claude Got Shot” is included in INDEPENDENT LENS’s ongoing Stories for Justice initiative, a public media partnership to spotlight films about systemic racial inequities across America and aims to spark community conversations about justice reform.

Visit the [“When Claude Got Shot”](#) page on INDEPENDENT LENS for more information about the film.

About the Filmmakers:

Brad Lichtenstein (Producer/Director)

Brad Lichtenstein won two duPont Awards for the Al-Jazeera America series “Hard Earned” and for his film “Ghosts of Attica.” His first virtual reality films, “Across the Line” and “Ashe ’68” premiered at Sundance, and “Ashe” was nominated for a Sports Emmy. His recent films include “Messwood,” (Participant), which premiered at the 2021 DocNYC film festival, and “American Reckoning,” which premiered in January of 2022, on PBS/Frontline. “As Goes Janesville” (INDEPENDENT LENS) was nominated for a News & Documentary Emmy, and “Wisconsin’s Mining Standoff” premiered on Al-Jazeera America. He executive-produced the radio/podcast and print series “Precious Lives.”

Santana Coleman (Co-Producer & Impact Campaign Advisor)

Based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Santana Coleman has been a content creator since 2013 and a vivid storyteller since a child. With a B.A. in media studies, Santana enjoys any opportunity to create content that aims to empower, uplift, and inspire the Black community. Co-producer of the feature-length documentary, “When Claude Got Shot,” she currently serves as the film’s Impact Campaign Advisor at The League. Along with a creative partner, Santana is the co-creator of the comedy television series, “Black Girl Training.” Currently she is in pre-production of short film, “The Last Week,” where Santana will serve as writer, director, and producer in her directorial debut.

371 Productions

Brad Lichtenstein founded 371 in 2003 after working in New York as a documentary filmmaker for over a decade, producing and directing for Lumiere Productions, Bill Moyers, and Frontline. Brad has built a company that produces premium content across multiple platforms, and prides itself on a commitment to stories that might not otherwise be told and lifting up the voices and careers of women and filmmakers of color.

Stick Figure Productions

Since its formation in 1999, Stick Figure has developed and produced television series, feature documentaries, commercials, digital content, and short films for platforms such as HBO, ESPN, Fox Searchlight, HULU, Netflix, Amazon, National Geographic, E!, Showtime, Refinery29, PopSugar, AOL, Discovery, IFC, PBS, Bravo, AMC, VH1, History, Lifetime, BBC, A&E, and more. Founded by award-winning filmmaker Steven Cantor, Stick Figure's accolades include a best documentary Oscar nomination, numerous Emmy nominations and wins for best documentary, Special Jury Prize at Sundance, and best feature film at the LA Film Festival, as well as official selections at TIFF, Berlin, Telluride, Venice, SXSW, and more. Whether profiling Amish teenagers or famous athletes, bail bondsmen, gypsies, or rock bands, Stick Figure brings its unique ability to build characters and artfully reveal tension to every project they undertake.

Credits:

Director

Brad Lichtenstein

Producers

Steven Cantor
Brad Lichtenstein
Jamie Schutz
Santana Coleman (co-producer)

Executive Producers

Snoop Dogg
Sally Jo Fifer
Lois Vossen
Leslie Fields Cruz
Geralyn Dreyfous
Ted Chung

**About INDEPENDENT LENS:**

INDEPENDENT LENS is an Emmy® Award-winning weekly series airing on PBS Monday nights at 10:00 p.m. ET. 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, Acton Family Giving, 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 and on Twitter [@IndependentLens](https://twitter.com/IndependentLens).

About ITVS:

ITVS is a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization that has, for over 25 years, funded and partnered with a diverse range of documentary filmmakers to produce and distribute untold stories. ITVS incubates and co-produces these award-winning films, and then airs them for free on PBS via our weekly series, INDEPENDENT LENS, as well as on other PBS series, and through our digital platform, OVEE. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The National Endowment for the Humanities: American Rescue Plan, Acton Family Giving, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and Wyncote Foundation. For more information, visit itvs.org.

###



1435 Folsom Street
San Francisco CA 94103
T. 415 356 8383
F. 415 356 8391
pbs.org/independentlens