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ITVS BRINGS HOME TWO PEABODY AWARDS FOR “PHILLY D.A.” AND “MR. SOUL!”

Wins Mark 45th Peabody in 34-Year History for Leading Documentary Co-Producer and Distributor for Public Media

(San Francisco, CA) June 7, 2022 — [ITVS](#) announced today that critically acclaimed docuseries “Philly D.A.” and documentary “Mr. SOUL!” have been honored by the prestigious Peabody Board of Jurors with awards in the Documentary category. As the leading documentary co-producer and distributor for public media, ITVS premiered [“Philly D.A.”](#) and [“Mr. SOUL!”](#) on its flagship PBS series [INDEPENDENT LENS](#), which continues to serve as a public broadcast home for thought-provoking documentaries and docuseries.

“Philly D.A.,” an INDEPENDENT LENS original series that premiered in April 2021, takes viewers inside the Office of Philadelphia District Attorney, led by the unapologetic reformer-turned-D.A. Larry Krasner. Throughout the groundbreaking eight-part docuseries, filmmakers Ted Passon, Yoni Brook, and Nicole Salazar bring viewers behind the scenes, giving them a vivid, firsthand look at a district attorney’s office attempting to transform the future of mass incarceration, the culture of prosecution, and the fundamental meaning of justice.

The lauded docuseries was recently awarded a 2022 duPont-Columbia Award and Best Breakthrough Nonfiction Series at the 2021 Gotham Awards. In addition, the companion web series to “Philly D.A.,” called [“The People v.”](#), was awarded the Webby Award this year for Best Video Series for Public Service & Activism.

While “Philly D.A.” sheds light on the fight for criminal justice reform, the award-winning documentary “Mr. SOUL!” celebrates a revolutionary time in American culture and entertainment as it highlights the pioneering PBS series and first Black variety show “SOUL!” and its trailblazing producer and host Ellis Haizlip. Filmmaker Melissa Haizlip—Ellis’s niece—portrays in detail why the series, which ran for five years starting in 1968, cemented itself as not only a vehicle to celebrate African American artistry, community, and culture, but also as a platform for political expression and a powerful force in the fight for social justice. The film made its television debut on INDEPENDENT LENS in February 2021.

A Critics Choice Documentary Award winner for Best First Documentary Feature in 2021, “Mr. SOUL!” also received an IDA Documentary Award for Best Music Documentary and the Audience Award for Best Feature at AFI Docs, among others.



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“We are so incredibly proud of these two projects—one a deeply embedded portrait of an instruction that is paramount when it comes to enacting change within the U.S. criminal justice system, and the other an exquisite look at a one-of-a-kind creative visionary, and his truly important cultural creation,” said INDEPENDENT LENS Executive Producer Lois Vossen. “Public television is a thoroughly apt home for this docuseries and this film, as both are meant to inspire viewers through cultural and political expression.”

Since its inception in 1988, ITVS has funded more than 1,400 films and series, many of which have made their television debut on INDEPENDENT LENS. Of those documentaries, 45 have been honored with a Peabody Award. Those winners, which remain relevant and impactful today, include not only “Philly D.A.” and “Mr. SOUL!,” but also “Hale County This Morning, This Evening”; “How to Survive a Plague” by David France; Bob Hercules and Rita Coburn Whack’s “Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise”; “Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart: Lorraine Hansberry” by Tracy Heather Strain; Marco Williams and Whitney Dow’s “Two Towns of Jasper”; Leslee Udwin’s “India’s Daughter”; and “The Invisible War” by Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering.

The Peabody Awards honor the most powerful, enlightening, and invigorating stories in television, radio, and digital media. Each year, Peabody Awards are bestowed upon a curated collection of 30 stories that capture society’s most important issues—known as the Peabody 30. Honorees must be unanimously chosen by the Peabody Board of Jurors, a diverse assembly of industry professionals, media scholars, critics, and journalists who each bring a unique perspective of what constitutes a story that matters.

The winners of the 82nd annual Peabody Awards were announced during a multiday virtual celebration from June 6 through June 9.

Visit the “[Philly D.A.](#)” page on INDEPENDENT LENS for more information on the docuseries, and the “[Mr. SOUL!](#)” page for more information on the film.

Visit the INDEPENDENT LENS [website](#) for more information.

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, Action 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 on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram at @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.

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