

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### INDEPENDENT LENS DOCUMENTARIES RECEIVE 4 NEWS & DOCUMENTARY EMMY® AWARD NOMINATIONS, INCLUDING FOR “CODED BIAS” AND “MR. SOUL!”

(San Francisco, CA) July 28, 2022 — PBS’s award-winning documentary anthology series INDEPENDENT LENS, in association with ITVS, today announced four films released under its banner have been honored with News and Documentary Emmy® Award nominations, including Outstanding Science and Technology Documentary and Outstanding Business and Economic Documentary. Nominated projects include “Coded Bias,” “Cured,” Storm Lake,” and “Mr. SOUL!”.

These documentaries from INDEPENDENT LENS focus on topics including the ways technology propels racial inequality, the fight for LGBTQ+ equality, the importance of local journalism, and the rise of the first Black variety show.

“With every documentary we co-produce and present on INDEPENDENT LENS, our hope is that audiences re-examine complex issues affecting other people and communities,” said INDEPENDENT LENS Executive Producer Lois Vossen. “These much-deserved nominations recognize the filmmakers’ timeless work and commitment to fearless storytelling. We congratulate them and are extremely proud to showcase these documentaries that educate and inspire.”

About the INDEPENDENT LENS nominees:

- “Coded Bias”  
**Nominations:** Outstanding Science and Technology Documentary  
**Filmmaker:** Shalini Kantayya  
**About:** “Coded Bias” exposes prejudices and threats to civil liberty in facial recognition algorithms and artificial intelligence.
- “Cured”  
**Nominations:** Outstanding Research: Documentary  
**Filmmaker:** Patrick Sammon and Bennett Singer  
**About:** When homosexuality was considered a mental illness to be “cured,” LGBTQ+ activists fought back.

- “Storm Lake”  
**Nominations:** Outstanding Business and Economics Documentary  
**Filmmaker:** Jerry Risius and Beth Levison  
**About:** Inside the family-run newspaper keeping local journalism alive.
- “Mr. SOUL!”  
**Nominations:** Outstanding Sound  
**Co-Producer:** Black Public Media  
**Filmmaker:** Melissa Hazlip  
**About:** Explores the first nationally broadcast all-Black variety show on public television, Ellis Haizlip's SOUL!

Additionally, the ITVS co-produced film “The Neutral Ground” received a nomination for Outstanding Historical Documentary. The film was funded through ITVS’s Open Call initiative and premiered on POV.

For over two decades INDEPENDENT LENS on PBS has served as a public media’s home for thought-provoking documentaries, and is presented by ITVS, the leading independent documentary co-producer and distributor for public media. INDEPENDENT LENS and ITVS productions have received over 115 News and Documentary Emmy® nominations since inception.

The 43rd News & Documentary Emmy Awards virtual ceremonies will be presented in two individual ceremonies: News Categories on Wednesday, September 28th at 7:30pmEDT and Documentary Categories on Thursday, September 29th at 7:30pmEDT. The News & Documentary Emmy Awards will be presented live at the Palladium Times Square in New York City, and will be streamed live on NATAS’ dedicated viewing platform powered by Vimeo, available on the web at Watch.TheEmmys.TV and via The Emmys® apps for iOS, tvOS, Android, FireTV, and Roku (full list at apps.theemmys.tv).

#### **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](http://pbs.org/independentlens). Join the conversation: [facebook.com/independentlens](https://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](http://itvs.org).

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