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“WHEN CLAUDE GOT SHOT” WINS EMMY® AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL MERIT IN DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

Directed by Award-Winning Filmmaker Brad Lichtenstein and Executive Produced by Snoop Dogg, 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

Film Marks 27th Emmy® Award for Independent Lens

(San Francisco, CA) Sept. 3, 2022—“When Claude Got Shot,” from filmmaker Brad Lichtenstein, took home the Emmy® Award for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking this evening at the 74th Creative Arts Emmy Awards. This accolade marks the 27th Emmy® Award for a documentary that has made its television debut on PBS’s INDEPENDENT LENS.

Lauded by *The Hollywood Reporter* as “consistently engaging and frequently provocative,” “When Claude Got Shot” premiered at the 2021 SXSW Film Festival and went on to make its television debut on INDEPENDENT LENS in May 2022.

“When Claude Got Shot” follows three strangers tragically bound together by a weekend of gun violence, and a five-year journey to recovery and forgiveness. While visiting his hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 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.

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 desiring punishment for King and grappling with the injustice of mass incarceration that disproportionately affects Black men and boys. While Motley’s narrative is the focal point of the film, 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.



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“Frankly, I wish I never made this film because that would mean my friend, Claude, would never have been shot,” said director Brad Lichtenstein. “But reality is real, so I’m honored not just by this award, but by the trust Claude had in me and our 20 years of friendship—and I’m especially grateful that this recognition will further allow Claude to share his story and wisdom, as we all must try to radically reduce gun violence. I’m also deeply grateful to our team, especially co-producer Santana Coleman, EPs Snoop Dogg and Stick Figure, our editor Michelle Chang, DPs Colin Sytsma and Keith Walker, and my wonderful friend and composer, Vernon Reid.”

“INDEPENDENT LENS congratulates Brad and the entire team behind ‘When Claude Got Shot’ on this much-deserved recognition,” said Lois Vossen, executive producer of INDEPENDENT LENS. “This film sheds light on our flawed criminal justice system, and we hope, through this deeply personal story, audiences are inspired to rethink crime and punishment in this country.”

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

The 74th Emmy Awards will be broadcast live from the Microsoft Theater on Monday, September 12, (8:00-11:00 p.m. EDT/5:00-8:00 p.m. PDT) on NBC and will stream live for the first time on Peacock. The Creative Arts Emmy Awards take place at the Microsoft Theater over two consecutive nights on Saturday, September 3, and Sunday, September 4. An edited presentation will be aired Saturday, September 10, at 8:00 p.m. EDT/PDT on FXX.

Visit the [“When Claude Got Shot”](#) page on INDEPENDENT LENS for more information about the film and our impact page, www.whenclaudegotshot.org from our impact partners, The League.

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 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 the short film "The Last Week," where Santana will serve as writer, director, and producer in her directorial debut.

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.

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