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ITVS BRINGS HOME TWO PEABODY AWARDS FOR DOCUMENTARIES “WRITING WITH FIRE” AND “MISSING IN BROOKS COUNTY”

*Wins Mark 47th Peabody Award for
Leading Documentary Co-Producer
and Distributor for Public Media*

*“Missing in Brooks County” Streaming on
the PBS App through June 15*

(SAN FRANCISCO, CA, May 9, 2023) — [ITVS](#) announced today that Academy Award®-nominated “Writing with Fire” and acclaimed documentary “Missing in Brooks County” have been honored by the Peabody Board of Jurors with awards in the Documentary category. As the leading documentary co-producer and distributor for public media, ITVS premiered both films in 2022 on its flagship PBS series [INDEPENDENT LENS](#), which continues to serve as a public broadcast home for thought-provoking documentaries and docuseries. These recognitions mark 47 Peabody Awards in total that ITVS has brought home since its inception 35 years ago.

“Writing with Fire” chronicles the inspiring story of the fearless journalists who run *Khabar Lahariya*, India’s only newspaper run by Dalit (“low caste”) women. In the midst of a crowded, patriarchal news landscape, these women take it upon themselves to cover their country’s inequities with unflinching determination. Filmmakers Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh spent four years in India’s Uttar Pradesh state capturing the journalists of *Khabar Lahariya* as they travel around rural India—from inside people’s homes to police stations, to the frontlines of major government elections—and report on abuses of patriarchy and government malfeasance.

The film has received numerous award recognitions and critical acclaim since its world premiere at Sundance Film Festival in 2021. “Writing With Fire” was nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Documentary Feature category, making Thomas and Ghosh the first Indian filmmakers to be nominated in that particular category. The film was also nominated for an International Documentary Award (IDA) in the Best Feature category.

“Missing in Brooks County,” an ITVS-co production funded through Open Call, focuses on personal stories at the Mexico-U.S. border. The film chronicles families whose loved ones have disappeared after crossing the border, and the work of community activist Eddie Canales, who is often the last hope to try to bring those missing back home. With migrant deaths along the Mexico-U.S. border continuing to climb, the timely film from filmmakers Jeff Bemiss, Lisa Molomot, and Jacob Bricca turns a humanizing lens on the law enforcement agents, human rights workers, and activists who come face to face with the life and death consequences of a broken immigration system.

Nominated for Best Political Documentary at the 2021 Critics Choice Documentary Awards, “Missing in Brooks County” shines a much-needed light on the community activists and families in Brooks County, Texas, as they work to find and protect migrants traveling through the deadliest entryway into the U.S.



"We've always been proud to play a critical role in supporting public media's commitment to present stories that serve the public interest—now, we're all seeing how vital that is in a functioning democracy," said INDEPENDENT LENS Executive Producer Lois Vossen. "We're honored to work with resourceful, compassionate, and courageous filmmakers who balance investigative reporting and cinema verité filmmaking. The people-centered stories they tell allow audiences to connect with issues in a humanistic way and the results are ripples of understanding and change, here and around the world."

The winners of the 83rd annual Peabody Awards will be announced on Tuesday, May 9, and then celebrated on Sunday, June 11, at a ceremony at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. This will be Peabody's first in-person ceremony since 2019, and the first time ever in its history that the awards ceremony will take place in Los Angeles.

Visit the "[Writing with Fire](#)" and the "[Missing in Brooks County](#)" pages on INDEPENDENT LENS for more information about the films.

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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