



CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES

CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROJECTS

NEW YORK, N.Y. (January 15, 2106) – Chicken & Egg Pictures announced today they are supporting two additional projects focusing on criminal justice in the United States, joining a cohort of films currently supported by the organization that address the issue. **6X9: AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT** and **COLLEGE BEHIND BARS** will both receive grants from the organization.

The Guardian's **6X9: AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT** (Francesca Panetta and Lindsay Poulton) is the first virtual reality project supported by Chicken & Egg Pictures. It is being funded through the organization's new Impact & Innovation Initiative, which empowers women filmmakers to explore the new world of immersive and digital storytelling through online and interactive shorts, web series, and other cross-platform projects aimed at creating social impact.

COLLEGE BEHIND BARS, directed by Lynn Novick, looks at a group of incarcerated men and women who are taking advantage of the Bard Prison Initiative to pursue a college degree while serving their sentences.

Chicken & Egg Pictures recognizes the magnitude of the criminal justice and mass incarceration crisis in the United States, and over its ten years has supported numerous films that address the issue from multiple perspectives.

6X9 and **COLLEGE BEHIND BARS** join five current projects supported by Chicken & Egg Pictures that focus on various aspects of criminal justice, both in the United States and around the world. These projects include **COCAINE PRISON** (Violeta Ayala), **THE RETURN** (Kelly Duane de la Vega and Katie Galloway), **OUT OF MIND** (Kristi Jacobson), **SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE INCARCERATED** (Denali Tiller), and **SOUTHWEST OF SALEM** (Deborah S. Esquenazi).

"We're very proud to be putting our support behind these projects that tackle one of the most pressing issues in the United States today," said Chicken & Egg Pictures Executive Director Jenni Wolfson. "Even though the U.S. represents just 5% of the world's population, we are responsible for 25% of inmates around the globe. Chicken & Egg Pictures believes firmly in the power of film to expose the systematic injustices surrounding mass incarceration, inhumane conditions, and miscarriages of justice. These storytellers address this matter with humanity, innovation, and

purpose, ensuring that it stays at the top of our national conscience and contributes towards lasting change.”

Two new projects were also awarded Chicken & Egg Pictures production grants: LAST CALL, directed by Lana Wilson (AFTER TILLER), and SURVIVORS, directed by Anna Fitch, Arthur Pratt, and Banker White.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANTEES

6X9: AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Director: The Guardian—Francesca Panetta and Lindsay Poulton

Right now, more than 80,000 people are locked in a 6-by-9-foot concrete box. They have no human contact. Every element of their environment is controlled. The sensory deprivation causes severe psychological damage. It changes them—they become invisible. Participants will enter their world.

COLLEGE BEHIND BARS

Director: Lynn Novick

COLLEGE BEHIND BARS tells the untold story of a small group of incarcerated men and women in New York State struggling to turn their lives around in a rigorous and highly effective liberal arts college degree program—the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI). Through their stories, the film will shine a light on the fundamental relationship between incarceration and education, put a human face on America’s criminal justice crisis, and challenge conventional wisdom about the human potential for emotional, moral, and intellectual transformation. COLLEGE BEHIND BARS is a production of Skiff Mountain Films, in association with Florentine Films.

PRODUCTION SUPPORT

LAST CALL

Director: Lana Wilson

A remarkable Japanese Buddhist priest uses a range of unorthodox methods to help desperate men and women re-discover the will to live. But when a health crisis puts him at serious risk, can he live by the same advice he gives out?

SURVIVORS

Directors: Anna Fitch, Arthur Pratt, and Banker White

Through the eyes of Sierra Leonean filmmakers, SURVIVORS presents a portrait of their country during the Ebola outbreak, exposing the complexity of the epidemic and the socio-political turmoil that lies in its wake. The film chronicles the

remarkable stories of Sierra Leonean heroes during what is now widely regarded as the most acute public health crisis of the modern era.

ABOUT CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES

Chicken & Egg Pictures supports women non-fiction filmmakers whose artful and innovative storytelling catalyzes social change. Chicken & Egg Pictures envisions a world in which women non-fiction filmmakers, representing a range of diverse experiences and backgrounds, are fully supported to realize their artistic goals and vision, build sustainable careers, and achieve parity in all areas of the film industry.

Chicken & Egg Pictures was founded in 2005 by Julie Parker Benello, Wendy Ettinger, and Judith Helfand. Since inception, Chicken & Egg Pictures has awarded over \$4 million in grants and more than 5,200 hours of mentorship to over 200 films. Films supported by Chicken & Egg Pictures have won numerous awards, including Oscars and Emmys; they have shifted deeply entrenched attitudes; and they have changed policy on a variety of critical human rights and social justice issues. Chicken & Egg Pictures is a project of the Tides Center, a non-profit public charity. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>.

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