

Reentry Campaign Documentaries

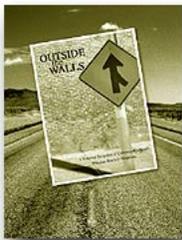


The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign raises community awareness as well as facilitates discussion and decision making about solution-based prisoner reentry programs that foster public safety and support healthy communities. Through funding from The Annie E.

Casey Foundation, Outreach Extensions continues to make enormous strides in building production and outreach assets and in creating media tools and resources that serve diverse audiences. The Reentry Campaign invites secular and faith-based community coalitions and organizations to join reentry efforts and approaches to working with former prisoners coming home and their families.

Programming for Policy Leaders Concerned About Public Safety

Outside The Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs (outreach video)



The *Outside the Walls* videotape showcases several reentry programs in each of six categories – education and employment; health; housing; family; public safety; and faith. The video profiles each program – presenting a description of services, highlighting partnerships and collaborations, and providing outcomes that document why the program is effective. In addition to staff and partners of the various reentry programs, diverse viewpoints are presented, including individuals who were formerly incarcerated, crime victims and their advocates, as well as policymakers, parole and probation departments, departments of correction, government agencies, and community leaders. Transcripts of the video as well as the companion resource guide are on the Reentry Web site

(www.reentrymediaoutreach.org). The resource guide contains briefing papers on the six categories as well as profiles of almost 100 reentry programs.

OMAR & PETE / PBS Broadcast September 13, 2005 on P.O.V.



Academy Award® nominated and national Emmy award-winning filmmaker Tod Lending (Nomadic Pictures) has created a feature documentary that explores the web of social and economic barriers that low-income African-American men face in the context of incarceration and release; and examine existing support structures, and those that are needed, to help former prisoners successfully reenter their families and neighborhoods. This compelling and highly personal film will challenge the public's perceptions, and reveal the individual, family, and community pathways

that can lead to social change. OMAR & PETE was broadcast as part of PBS' acclaimed P.O.V. series.

Community Excerpts from OMAR & PETE are available on the DVD of *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*.

REENTRY: LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE (outreach video, not for broadcast)

REENTRY: LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE documents the first-hand accounts of former prisoners who have made the transition from prison to the community, citing their struggles, successes, and failures. During this fifty-minute video, a diverse group of formerly incarcerated men and women speak openly and honestly about post-release issues related to housing, substance abuse, employment, education, and family. In addition, their children provide powerful, moving testimonials that reflect the emotional and psychological trauma they've experienced as a result of their parents'



incarceration. The program features in-depth interviews and analysis from educators, practitioners, and program directors on factors that are predictors for relapse, re-offending, and recidivism. The film was produced by Reentry Productions, Keith Thomas, executive director.

DEADLINE / DATELINE NBC Broadcast July 30, 2004

In 2002, a group of Northwestern journalism students discover that three Illinois death row inmates received wrongful convictions. As a statewide debate on capital punishment ensues, Governor George Ryan, a longtime death penalty advocate, is the only person capable of granting clemency to 167 death row inmates. With remarkable access to the clemency hearings and insightful interviews with key figures, DEADLINE delivers a taut, pulsing narrative that follows Ryan to his astonishing decision.



Also see GOD AND THE INNER CITY

Programming Related to Faith-Based Issues

To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith / outreach video

In an effort to engage and mobilize the faith community to work on the pressing challenges of reentry, the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign and The Annie E. Casey Foundation collaborated with the National Alliance of Faith and Justice to develop a new DVD/video. *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith* supports hands-on training through offering clear examples of faith-based practices and mobilization opportunities.



I Was in Prison and You Came to Visit Me / outreach video - 2006

Pastor Steve McCoy and Beaches Chapel Church near Jacksonville, Florida, began working with inmates at Lawtey Correctional Institution in November 2002. On March 1, 2003, a new all-volunteer Faith-Based Dorm was dedicated at the facility. Based on that dorm's effectiveness, on Christmas Eve 2003, Florida Governor Jeb Bush rededicated the 30-year-old, minimum-security state penitentiary as the nation's first entirely Faith-Based and Character-Building Prison. *I Was in Prison and You Came to Visit Me* chronicles the creation of this church-sponsored faith-based dormitory and its impact on the population of the entire institution. The 20 minute film is a message from one pastor to pastors and church leaders everywhere. It speaks to what they can do to assist prisoners in life-changing ways.

A JUSTICE THAT HEALS / Previously broadcast on PBS, 2000

On June 9, 1996, Mario Ramos graduated from high school. The next day, he murdered Andrew Young.



It was one of 90 homicides in Chicago that month. The events that followed were anything but typical. The murderer was a parishioner at a nearby church; his victim lived in the neighborhood. The parish priest and members of the community rallied around the murderer and his family – not to defend what he had done, but to defend his *humanity*. They also reached out to the victim's family, determined to arrive at a form of justice that would heal all concerned. Their extraordinary story offers an

approach to justice that moves beyond confrontation – and attempts to restore harmony to lives shattered by a terrible crime. Produced by Jay Shefsky, the one-hour documentary originally aired on WTTW in Chicago in April 2000.

GOD AND THE INNER CITY / PBS Broadcast June 22, 2003

This compelling story relates the battle for the souls of our cities and our youth being waged by faith-based groups in America's most troubled neighborhoods. Produced by Manifold Productions, this one-hour documentary features three moving stories about the leaders of faith-based groups that work hand in hand with local crime enforcement, social workers, and welfare bureaucrats to save youth and others from jail, drug dependence, and unemployment. The film zeroes in on the people these programs are trying to help in three different cities: Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. Some believe that these groups form a new social movement. Can their faith-based approach transform America's inner cities, reversing decades of failure and neglect?



Programming Related to Women's Issues

The Center for Young Women's Development / (outreach video)

This 15-minute outreach video documentary provides information on the programs and practices of the Center for Young Women's Development. *"All of the Center's programs have been designed with a holistic approach and recognizes that each young woman already has the experience and strength necessary to become a powerful leader and an agent for change."* The video can assist youth-serving or youth-directed organizations in developing local strategies to work with young women from the streets and the juvenile justice system, providing them with educational and employment opportunities and helping them build healthier lives and healthier communities. Produced by D.R. Lynes, Inc.



WHAT I WANT MY WORDS TO DO TO YOU / PBS Broadcast December 16, 2003

Part of public television's acclaimed P.O.V. series, this documentary offers an unprecedented look into the minds and hearts of women inmates of New York's Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. The film goes inside a writing workshop led by playwright Eve Ensler, consisting of fifteen women, most of whom were convicted of murder. Through a series of exercises and discussions, the women, including former Weather Underground members Kathy Boudin and Judith Clark, delve into and expose the most terrifying places in themselves, as they grapple with the nature of their crimes and their own culpability. The film culminates in an emotionally charged prison performance of the women's writings by acclaimed actresses Glenn Close, Marisa Tomei, Rosie Perez, Hazelle Goodman, and Mary Alice. It was produced by Madeleine Gavin, Judith Katz, and Gary Sunshine.



BORDERLINE / Broadcast on Free Speech TV, March 2006

BORDERLINE tells the story of Eunice Baker, a borderline mentally retarded woman who was sentenced to 15-years-to-life in prison for murdering three-year old Charlotte Kurtz, despite evidence that the death was accidental. After nearly five years in prison, The New York State Appellate Court recently reduced Eunice's sentence to criminally negligent homicide, and she was released on time served. From day one, Eunice was tried in the media and found guilty. Not until the midst of the trial were any articles printed that were sympathetic to her, though evidence supporting her innocence had surfaced. With no audio or video recording of Eunice's confession, jurors were forced to decide whether or not she possessed the intelligence to have understood her Miranda rights or realized that Charlotte was in danger.

Produced and directed by Slawomir Grunberg, Log In Productions.



PRISON LULLABIES / Broadcast on Free Speech, TV, March 2006

Filmed at Taconic, a medium security correctional facility located in the heart of Westchester County, New York, PRISON LULLABIES follows four women over a period of 16 months, from their time in prison, through their release, and to their reintegration into society. Pregnant at the time of their arrest for drug-related offenses, the women were given the rare opportunity to keep their babies with them while serving their sentences. They live with their babies on the nursery floor, separated from other inmates. PRISON LULLABIES is the first documentary to take an in-depth look at a nursery program and its long-term effects on the women who participate. Produced and directed by Odile Isralson and Lina Matta, Brown Hats Productions.



Programming Related to Men's Issues

MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE: FATAL PERIL /

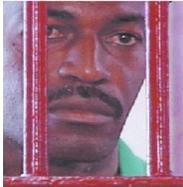
Distributed to local public television stations by American Public Television, May 2, 2004

Hudson River Film & Video produced a documentary about a violence prevention project in the San Francisco County Jail where 80 percent of its graduates did not return to jail after only four months of intense immersion. Twelve hours a day, six days a week, men who are violent offenders are involved in what is said to be the first restorative justice project of its kind – RSVP: Resolve to Stop the Violence Project. The documentary focuses on nine men of diverse ethnicities as they engage one another in deeply emotional encounter groups, and then follows the men when they return to their communities.



ROAD TO RETURN / Previously broadcast on PBS

Narrated by actor/director Tim Robbins, ROAD TO RETURN tells an emotional story of what happens when untreated and unskilled former offenders are returned to society. The film looks at New Orleans' Project Return, a 90-day program that helps former offenders to become self-reliant, law-abiding citizens. Offering group therapy, job training, and placement, Project Return was created by Tulane professor Dr. Bob Roberts and Nelson Marks, who served twelve years for bank robbery. Successful program outcomes include a lower than six percent recidivism rate for graduates. The one-hour film is written, produced, and directed by Leslie Neale and distributed by Chance Films.



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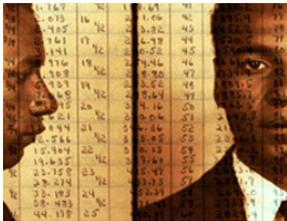
REENTRY: FROM PRISON TO HOME / Late 2006

This film follows parole and corrections officers who are addressing the high rate of African-American recidivism through the creation of a unique, culturally based program for inmates in the Oregon State correctional system. The aim of the program is to teach these prisoners how to reintegrate themselves into their communities without becoming entangled in the activities that led to their original incarceration. REENTRY: FROM PRISON TO HOME was produced by Jigsaw Films, LLC.



EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET: THE LIFE & WORK OF PIRI THOMAS / PBS BROADCAST APRIL 6, 2004

An incendiary mix of documentary, poetry, storytelling, drama, and performance, EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET explores the life and work of Piri Thomas, the 75 year-old Afro-Cuban-Puerto Rican author of the classic autobiographical novel *Down These Mean Streets* (1967). The film traces Thomas' path from childhood to manhood in New York City's Spanish Harlem, *El Barrio*, from the 1930's through the 1960's: his parents' immigrant experience, home life during the Great Depression, membership in *barrio* youth gangs, his struggle to come to terms with his mixed-racial identity, travels as a teen-age merchant marine, his heroin addiction, his notorious armed robbery of a Greenwich Village nightclub, his six years spent in prison, his emergence as a writer, and his ongoing work of forty-five years as an educator and activist empowering marginalized and incarcerated youths. A stylized, genre-spanning production, EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET includes rare archival footage and still photographs, contemporary verité documentary sequences, and provocative mixed-media artwork, as it examines Thomas' use of creative expression as a means of confronting poverty, racism, violence, and isolation. Pulsating with an original Latin Jazz score, EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET is a riveting portrait of a life lived through struggle, self-discovery, and transformation. Produced by When In Doubt Productions, Inc. in association with the Independent Television Service and Latino Public Broadcasting.



Also see OMAR & PETE

Programming Related to Youth and Children of Incarcerated Parents

XIARA'S SONG / June 19, 2005 on Cinemax



Like many girls her age, seven-year-old Xiara likes to make up songs, eat ice cream and play with her best friend. A real “daddy’s girl,” she’s pretty and independent, and dreams of being a superstar one day. And like ten million other American children, Xiara is the child of a prison inmate. Xiara idolizes her father, Harold – who is serving a ten-year federal prison sentence after a third-strike weapons possession conviction – from afar. But her mother tries desperately to keep her daughter from following him down the brutal and self-destructive path that led to his incarceration.

Combining modern-day footage with family home movies, XIARA’S SONG finds the sadness, joy, anger, love, loneliness and fear in the haunted eyes of a precocious seven-year-old coming to grips with the fact that her father won’t be free until she’s 17. Producer and director Liz Garbus and producer Rory Kennedy are the co-founders of independent documentary production company Moxie Firecracker Films.

READING RAINBOW “Visiting Day”/ PBS Broadcast December 2004 & January 2005



READING RAINBOW, hosted by LeVar Burton, is a critically-acclaimed award-winning half-hour PBS series that turns children on to books and reading. The series targets 4-8 year olds, and is based on research that identifies these early years as the optimum time for children to learn to read, and to adopt positive reading habits, skills, and attitudes. In a new episode of READING RAINBOW,

“Visiting Day,” LeVar introduces a family separated by a prison sentence. The viewing audiences join the family for visiting day and find out what life is like for kids when a parent is incarcerated and what it’s like for a parent who can’t be at home with his family. READING RAINBOW has created a teacher’s guide with discussion questions to accompany the show.

CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND / Satellite feed to public radio stations, November 9, 2004

An hour-long program produced by David Freudberg, “Children Left Behind” is part of Freudberg’s weekly Humankind radio series. Part one provides background information on issues related to children whose parents are incarcerated. Freudberg talks to Chesa Boudin and Emani Davis, along with Bill Ayers, a professor of education at the University of Illinois, who is Chesa’s adoptive father. Chesa was 14 months old when his parents, members of the radical Weather Underground, were arrested in 1981. Emani Davis has a degree in sociology and works for an organization that serves children of prisoners. Part two presents community supports for children whose parents are incarcerated and the viewpoints of experts and practitioners. Reverend Dr. Wilson Goode, Sr. describes the Amachi Mentoring Program; Rachel Keller and Corey Monroe talk about programs offered by Community Works. Jeremy Travis, president of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, is also interviewed. Hear the full documentary on the Human Media Web site at www.humanmedia.org/. Distributed by Public Radio International.



JAIL HIGH SCHOOL / Broadcast November 9, 2004 on WTTW/Chicago



Before he was arrested for armed robbery, Dominick had no interest in school. But in the two years he's awaited trial at Cook County Jail, he's turned his life around. He enrolled at Consuella York Alternative High School, where he's one of 625 detainees who are continuing their education inside the jail. Dominick started getting good grades, earned a GED, and became a role model for other detainees. Now some social workers at the jail are working on getting him a college scholarship...but he can only use a scholarship if he can beat his case and get out of jail. JAIL HIGH SCHOOL was part of PBS station WTTW's *Chicago Matters: Our*

Next Generation, an award-winning, multimedia public affairs series focusing on youth in the Chicago metropolitan region and their relationship to society. JAIL HIGH SCHOOL was produced by Dan Protes, WTTW/Chicago.

Passport To Opportunity

P2O is a computer CD-ROM created for young people to explore issues related to juvenile justice and the positive and negative choices that influence their interactions with the criminal justice system. It takes a look at some of the sources for youth criminal activity, including poverty, violence, low self-esteem, lack of supports and resources, and peer pressure. It also profiles young men and women who discuss the community supports that allowed them to achieve success. Through music, personal testimony, quotes, essays, and questions for reflection, P2O presents the thoughts and feelings of youth for youth. Various young adults establish a platform for discussion. They offer thought-provoking queries on the opportunities and threats that face young people in America. *Passport To Opportunity* was produced by BILLLO Communications, a research, technology, communication, and production company.



Reentry Campaign Web site: www.reentrymediaoutreach.org

For more information, please contact Outreach Extensions:



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The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) is supporting the **Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign** as part of the Making Connections Media Outreach Initiative (MCMOI), which is designed and managed by Outreach Extensions. The purpose of this vital outreach effort is to link public television stations to local stakeholders, which serve various constituencies, as a means to strengthen youth and families and build effective communities.



The Annie E. Casey Foundation