

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE****CONTACT**

Adrianna Paidas
646-762-8704
adrianna.paidas
@beckmedia.com

Aisha Almada, ITVS
415-356-8383
aisha.almada@itvs.org

For downloadable images,
visit pbs.org/pressroom

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL DOCUMENTARY “SILENT BEAUTY” CONFRONTS CHILDHOOD ABUSE AND GENERATIONAL TRAUMA, PREMIERES MAY 15 ON PBS’S INDEPENDENT LENS

February 16, 2023

Filmmaker Jasmín Mara López Documents Her Story as a Survivor of Childhood Sexual Abuse, Confronting Her Family and Encouraging Others to Face Painful Truths

(San Francisco, CA) February 16, 2022 — For 24 years, journalist and filmmaker Jasmín Mara López suffered in silence as she endured sexual abuse by her grandfather, a Baptist minister. After disclosing her abuse to family members, López discovers she is not alone. In her poignant film “Silent Beauty,” the New Orleans-based director (“Deadly Divide: Migrant Death on the Border”) aims to end the cycle by confronting her family’s burdened history and addressing our society’s default to silence.

“Silent Beauty” premieres on PBS’s Emmy Award-winning documentary anthology series INDEPENDENT LENS on Monday, May 15, at 10:00 p.m. ET (check local listings). The film will also be available to stream on the PBS app.

Through family videos found in her grandfather’s archive, the film features footage that appears joyful on the surface, juxtaposed with voiceover narration that shares the complexities of her childhood. The revealing conversations and brave confrontations help catalyze the healing process for both herself and fellow survivors within the family.

A mosaic rooted in strength and empathy, “Silent Beauty” is a personal narrative that speaks to López’s experience growing up in a religious family with roots in Mexico and the United States, and explores the complicated journey for López and her family as they reckon with their trauma, fight for justice against their abuser, and find beauty in the healing process.

The deeply personal and cathartic film also tackles the stigma surrounding childhood sexual abuse, often exacerbated by culture, religion, and patriarchal structures, which can deter survivors from acknowledging their trauma. López encourages viewers to open a dialogue about these difficult topics and inspire survivors to come forward in order to break the generational pattern of abuse.

“My family and I made this film in solidarity with other survivors. To encourage healing but also acknowledge that every survivor has their own path to it. This was an artistic practice that contributed to my own recovery, and that of so many other survivors we met along the way,” said López. “Child sexual abuse is a public health issue that affects individuals and their families for the rest of their lives. My hope is that ‘Silent Beauty’ will reach them.”

“Silent Beauty” received Open Call funding from ITVS as well as funding from Black Public Media and Latino Public Broadcasting.

Visit the [“Silent Beauty”](#) page on INDEPENDENT LENS to learn more about the film.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER:

JASMIN MARA LÓPEZ

Jasmín Mara López is a journalist, audio producer, and filmmaker based in New Orleans, Louisiana. Born in the U.S. with familial roots in Mexico, her childhood was affected by issues experienced on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. This instilled in her a strong passion for immigrant rights, youth empowerment, and social change. In 2007, López founded Project Luz, a project that teaches youth in Mexico to document stories within their communities. In 2015, she was awarded the Society of Professional Journalists’s Excellence in Journalism Award for her documentary “Deadly Divide: Migrant Death on the Border.” She has garnered support for her work from the New Orleans Film Society, Chicken & Egg Pictures, Southern Documentary Fund, Sundance Institute, International Documentary Association, Firelight Media, Creative Capital, and others. She is currently a fellow of the Gotham/HBO Documentary Development Initiative.

CREDITS:**Director**

Jasmín Mara López

Producer & Editor

Sarah Garrahan

Cinematographer

Bron Moyi

Executive Producers

Lois Vossen

Sally Jo Fifer

Visit the INDEPENDENT LENS [website](#) for more information.

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, Action 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 on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram at @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.

#