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UNCONVENTIONAL NUN SHARES HER END-OF-LIFE JOURNEY IN “SISTER ÚNA LIVED A GOOD DEATH,” PREMIERING FEBRUARY 5

JANUARY 4, 2024

Helping Others in Her Community Prepare for the Unknown, Even as She Was Dying of Cancer, Sister Úna Inspired People to Live into Their Death

(San Francisco, CA) January 4, 2024— A wisecracking Catholic nun with stage IV cancer teaches others to live fully until death in “Sister Úna Lived a Good Death,” set to premiere on INDEPENDENT LENS on February 5, 2024. The documentary follows the final months of Sister Úna Feeney of Sisters of Social Service—a social justice-defending “leader of the misfits” and unconventional Catholic nun—thriving with terminal cancer and teaching her community to live into their death.

“Sister Úna Lived a Good Death” will debut on PBS’s INDEPENDENT LENS on February 5, 2024, at 10 p.m. (check local listings). The film will also be available to stream on the [PBS App](#).

Directed by Par Parekh and produced by Ali Hart, this tender and uplifting documentary takes us through the end-of-life journey of Sister Úna Feeney, a Boston-born, SoCal-raised Irish Catholic. She chooses to approach her death with as much originality as she did her life, planning her own funeral, checking off final adventures from her bucket list, and teaching her community to embrace dying with curiosity and humanity.

“Death is such a taboo topic in our society, but Sister Úna somehow makes it palatable,” said director Par Parekh. “When we met her in 2018, we were instantly charmed by her mischievous smile and irreverent humor, and knew we needed to share her powerful message with the world. The movie really is a celebration of life, community, and connection—the things Sister Úna valued the most.”

“Sister Úna teaches us so much, not only about preparing for our own deaths, but also how to show up for others who are dying. I hope viewers feel empowered to live and die more intentionally, and I have no doubt they’ll fall in love with Sister Úna, just like we did,” said producer Ali Hart.

Sister Úna Feeney, of the Sisters of Social Service, spent her life eschewing stereotypes. With a great sense of humor, she cursed like a sailor, smoked Camels, and wore plaid flannels like a uniform—the raconteur was a rule-breaker and feminist long before it was cool. Úna was the self-proclaimed “leader of the misfits” and her special skill was making kids, particularly LGBTQ youth, feel okay to be their authentic selves. Filmed through her hospice care, Úna got her final wish of making sure her approach to life and death could inspire generations to come.

“‘Sister Úna Lived a Good Death’ is an inspiring story about an incredible woman brave enough to embrace and dance with death,” said Lois Vossen, INDEPENDENT LENS executive producer. “Úna’s candor, light, and fight will have everyone view death differently as she teaches that there is beauty and laughter through all stages of life.”

“Sister Úna Lived a Good Death” received Open Call funding from ITVS. Visit the [“Sister Úna Lived a Good Death”](#) page on INDEPENDENT LENS to learn more about the film.

About the Filmmakers

Par Parekh, Director

Par Parekh has held many filmmaking roles—director, writer, producer, editor, and cinematographer. He co-wrote and produced Benh Zeitlin’s “Glory at Sea,” and was named one of 25 Screenwriters to Watch in 2020 by Austin Film Festival. He made his narrative directorial debut with the short “The Happy,” which premiered at SeriesFest in 2019.

Ali Hart, Producer

Ali Hart has nearly two decades of experience using entertainment for social impact as a comedy, documentary, and impact producer. She produced the short doc “American Haze” for Sundance Now, and the 5-part web series “Spotlight California” for billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer. Earlier in her career she developed films for Court TV.

CREDITS

Director	Par Parekh
Producer	Ali Hart
Executive Producers	Sally Jo Fifer Lois Vossen Stanley Nelson Marcia Smith

ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS

INDEPENDENT LENS is an Emmy® Award-winning PBS documentary series. With founding executive producer Lois Vossen, the series has been honored with 10 Academy Award nominations and features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by ITVS, INDEPENDENT LENS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts. Stream anytime on the PBS App. For more visit pbs.org/independentlens.

ABOUT ITVS

Independent Television Services (ITVS) is the largest co-producer of independent documentaries in the United States. For more than 30 years, the San Francisco nonprofit has funded and partnered with documentary filmmakers to produce and distribute untold stories. ITVS incubates and co-produces these award-winning titles and premieres them on our Emmy Award-winning PBS series, INDEPENDENT LENS. ITVS titles appear on PBS, WORLD, NETA, and can be streamed on various digital platforms including the PBS App. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, Wyncote Foundation. For more information, visit itvs.org.

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