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FIVE-PART DOCUSERIES “DALLAS, 2019” PREMIERES AS AN *INDEPENDENT LENS* TWO-NIGHT EVENT ON JANUARY 3 AND 4 ON PBS

A Five-Week Observation of the City of Dallas and Its People That Studies the Complexities of Society and the Human Experience, “Dallas, 2019” Captures the Pulse of a City and the People Who Work and Live There, All Trying To Build a Better Future

(San Francisco, CA) November 19, 2024—The five-part docuseries, “Dallas, 2019” will premiere as a two-night event on INDEPENDENT LENS on January 3 and 4, 2025. A cross-section of life in Dallas the year before the pandemic hit, the series follows the harried lives of public representatives, city workers, community organizers, and diverse citizens as they confront the challenges of natural and human-caused disasters, the school system, the legal system, cycles of incarceration, and community organizing. Fault lines emerge between those who follow the law, those who make the law, and those who battle against the law. “Dallas, 2019” captures the pulse of a city, within a state and a country in crisis. What will the future of Dallas look like?

“Dallas, 2019” airs on PBS’s INDEPENDENT LENS on January 3 and 4, 2025, at 10 p.m. (check local listings). The film will be available to stream on the [PBS app](#).

“Dallas is often at the center of political discussions because Texans are passionate about their city and communities, said Director and Executive Producer Darius Clark Monroe. “However, the stories shared in this film will resonate with Americans in communities all over the country. I’m grateful to bring this film to a wider audience with the support of INDEPENDENT LENS, offering insight into our civic community on a more personal level.”

The docu-series is an intimate study of a society in all of its complexity. These stories of individuals and of the collective reveal how citizens are socialized, how communities are formed, and how a city endeavors to become fairer and more effective. The series explores nuances within a reality that can be both fraught and profound, examining aspects of society, the nation, and the human experience.

“Dallas, 2019” received funding from ITVS’ Series and Special Projects initiative. Visit the [“Dallas, 2019”](#) page on INDEPENDENT LENS to learn more about the series.

EPISODE DETAILS

Episode 1

Airdate: January 3 at 10 p.m. ET (check local listings)

Synopsis: Tornadoes. Mass shootings. Environmental racism. The stark North-South Dallas economic divide. Dallas residents and city workers like City Manager T.C. Broadnax respond to the causal effects of natural and human-caused disasters while navigating a city in crisis.

Episode 2

Airdate: January 3 at 11 p.m. ET (check local listings)

Synopsis: Dreaming of a brighter future through the eyes of three people: a graduating high school student prepares to navigate the real world; Dallas Superintendent Michael Hinojosa reflects on sacrifices he's made in his career for a failing system; and Dallas County Sheriff Marian Brown looks for respect while questioning the future of law enforcement amidst a seemingly endless cycle of incarceration.

Episode 3

Airdate: January 4 at 10 p.m. ET (check local listings)

Synopsis: Three spirits with longstanding Texas roots struggle with their place in the world: a transgender woman working at an LGBTQ organization lives her full truth; a Dallas County court commissioner has given 40 years of his life to his work but questions his role and identity; and the director of Health and Human Services wrestles with his new role while reflecting on his Asian American roots.

Episode 4

Airdate: January 4 at 11 p.m. ET (check local listings)

Synopsis: Meet a criminal district attorney bringing reform to an ineffectual yet functional incarceration system; a judge navigating the stress and expectations of upholding laws adversely affecting the very communities she comes from; the unapologetic owner of the largest bail bonds company in Dallas; and a community organizer with a mighty voice and warrior spirit.

Episode 5

Airdate: January 4 at 12 a.m. ET (check local listings)

Synopsis: Featuring intimate stories of those working and living on the front lines—the chief medical examiner, a Parkland hospital employee, an auto body shop owner, and a high school senior—who all in their own ways make Dallas what it is, the final episode of “Dallas, 2019” poses the question: What does it mean to be alive?

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Darius Clark Monroe, Director/Executive Producer

Darius Clark Monroe is a documentary and fiction producer/director. Monroe’s films grapple with the innumerable experiences and environments that shape our psyche and behavior, oftentimes investigating fear, vulnerability, spirituality, and media through varied visual techniques and instruments.

Seth Gordon, Executive Producer

Seth Gordon has directed and produced several critically acclaimed documentaries, including “King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters” and the Academy Award-winning film, “Undeclared.” Gordon has directed several studio feature films and television pilots. He is currently directing an action comedy for Netflix that he also co-wrote, “Back in Action.”

Alon Simcha, Executive Producer

Alon Simcha is a producer of award-winning content across film, documentary, music video, digital, and broadcast advertising. His collective film and documentary work has screened at NYFF, MoMA’s New Directors/New Films, Slamdance, and Festival du Nouveau Cinéma. He is a graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

Crystal Isaac, Story Producer

Crystal Isaac is an Emmy® Award-nominated producer with more than a decade of experience in the documentary and news industry. Her work covers a broad range of issues including education, poverty, race, gender, sexuality, and criminal justice. You can see her work on HBO, CNN, BET, STARZ, PBS, and Paramount+.

Akil Gibbons, Story Producer

Akil Gibbons is an award winning, Emmy Award-nominated film director and producer whose film works have debuted at Sundance and aired on HBO, BET, CNN, VICE, The Daily Show, Netflix, Paramount+, TIME Studios, and Roc Nation, via his production company CoINTEL Productions (CoINTELPRO).

Director Darius Clark Monroe

Created by Seth Gordon
Darius Clark Monroe

Executive Producers Seth Gordon
Darius Clark Monroe
Alon Simcha
Noland Walker
Carrie Lozano
Lois Vossen

Story Producers Crystal Isaac
Akil Gibbons

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, Park 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 non-profit 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



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