

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

Caitlin Jaynes, MPRM  
323-648-8507  
cjaynes@mprm.com

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

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## **CAMBODIAN AMERICAN BASKETBALL PRODIGY FACES INJURY, COLLEGE RECRUITMENT, AND TRIUMPH IN INSPIRING “HOME COURT” PREMIERING ON INDEPENDENT LENS, MARCH 24 ON PBS**

*Lisa Ling Executive Produces This Coming-of-Age Story Viewed  
Through the Eyes of an Immigrant Family and Set Against the  
Backdrop of High School Girls Basketball*

(San Francisco, CA) January 16, 2025—“Home Court,” which traces the ascent of Cambodian American teenager Ashley Chea, a basketball prodigy whose life intensifies amid college recruitment, injury, and triumph, premieres on INDEPENDENT LENS on March 24, 2025. Filmed over three years of Ashley’s high school career, “Home Court” is a coming-of-age story that relays the highs and lows of her immigrant family, surmounting racial and class differences, and personal trials that include a devastating knee injury.

The film opens in Ashley’s sophomore year of high school. She shuttles between her home in a lower-income neighborhood in Los Angeles and her private school, Flintridge Prep, while traveling to youth basketball tournaments and visiting colleges around the country. Ashley’s parents work long hours at their donut shop, so her coach, Jayme Kiyomura Chan, steps in where they cannot.

“‘Home Court’ is a universal American story of assimilation, perseverance, prejudice, and success,” said filmmaker Erica Tanamachi. “My hope is that all people can see themselves on screen in some way and feel empathy, sadness, joy, and triumph—and after watching the film, feel a little more at ease knowing they are not alone—for we are more similar than we are different.”

With the pressure of being one of the top basketball recruits in the country, tensions rise as Ashley navigates college offers and her family’s input. Meanwhile, she grapples with the task of leading her high school team, as well as being a leader in her community and the mounting responsibility to

represent her culture. The film culminates in the bittersweet moments of Ashley leaving for college with her family.

According to reports by [The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports](#), 0.7% of student-athletes playing NCAA women's basketball from 2012-2022 were Asian. At the professional level, there were three players of Asian descent in the WNBA in the 2022 season, and fewer in all previous seasons since the league's inception in 1996. Newly-founded WNBA team The Golden State Valkyries hired the league's first Asian American Head Coach, Natalie Nakase, for the 2025 season.

"Home Court" debuts on PBS's INDEPENDENT LENS on March 24, 2025, at 10 p.m. (check local listings). The film will be available to stream on the [PBS app](#).

"Home Court" is co-produced by the Center for Asian American Media and received Open Call funding from ITVS. Visit the "[Home Court](#)" page on INDEPENDENT LENS to learn more about the film.

#### ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

##### **Erica Tanamachi, Director/Producer**

Erica Tanamachi is an MFA Cinema graduate of San Francisco State University and a 2024 Wyncote Fellow. Her recent film "Winn" is on PBS's REEL SOUTH and won multiple awards including the 2023 Best PBS Short Documentary Award. She was producer for "Motherload" (2019), which won Best International Documentary from Hollywood North Film Awards. Erica's been directing, producing, editing, and shooting short, corporate, and commercial films for over 20 years. "Home Court" (2024) is her feature directorial debut.

##### **Jenn Lee Smith, Producer**

Jenn Lee Smith is a queer filmmaker and supporter of underrepresented narrative and documentary films such as "Mija" (2022) and "Pray Away" (2021). She was a part of Re-Present Media's Re-Take Oakland program and is the founder of Bewilder Films, a production company dedicated to amplifying underrepresented voices.

##### **Brandon Soun, Producer**

Brandon Soun is an emerging Cambodian American filmmaker and an Asian American Studies graduate of UCLA. His work highlights the Cambodian diaspora in America. Brandon was a 2022 Armed-With-A-Camera Fellow and

his short, “Conversations at the Register” (2022), won the Audience Choice Award at the 2023 Seattle Asian American Film Festival.

**CREDITS**

**Director**

Erica Tanamachi

**Producers**

Jenn Lee Smith  
Erica Tanamachi  
Brandon Soun

**Executive Producers**

Diane Quon  
Lisa Ling  
Carrie Lozano  
Lois Vossen  
Stephen Gong  
Donald Young

**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](https://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 PBS app. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Park Foundation, Wyncote Foundation. For more information, visit [itvs.org](https://itvs.org).

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