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RED HOOK JUSTICE



**Airing May 24,
2005 at 10:00 pm on PBS'
Independent Lens Series**
(check local listings for confirmation)



In 2000, an experimental court opened its doors in Red Hook, Brooklyn—a neighborhood plagued by a cycle of unemployment, poverty and crime. The Red Hook court is at the center of a legal revolution—the community justice movement. Instead of jail time, offenders are sentenced to job training, drug counseling, community service. But it's no easy way out. If they fail, they face longer jail time. **RED HOOK JUSTICE**'s film crew was allowed exclusive access at the court for nearly two years, capturing vérité scenes of intake interviews in the Center's holding cells, court proceedings, community meetings, and other day-to-day workings of the Justice Center.

Individuals profiled in the film include: Anthony and Michael, orphaned teen brothers who fight to resist the pull of the streets; Letitia, a heroin addict who struggles to kick the habit when she gets pregnant; Leroy, a court officer who grew up in the Red Hook housing projects; Brett, a dedicated Legal Aid attorney who wonders if the new court helps or hurts his clients; and Judge Calabrese, who takes a hands-on approach with defendants. The story of **RED HOOK JUSTICE** resonates far beyond Brooklyn. When the Red Hook court opened, it was the first and most ambitious of its kind—today there are nearly three dozen courts like it opening around the United States.

RED HOOK JUSTICE was produced by Meema Spadola of Sugar Pictures in association with the Independent Television Service (ITVS), with funds provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The film can be purchased from First Run / Icarus Films – 800.876.1710 or mailroom@frif.com. Additional purchase information can be found at www.frif.com.



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More people are leaving prisons across the country to return to their families and communities than at any other time in our history. Nationally, over 600,000 individuals will be released from state and federal prisons this year, a fourfold increase over the past two decades. From a number of perspectives, the issue of how people fare after they exit the prison gates has received renewed attention. Many will have difficulty managing the most basic ingredients for successful reintegration—reconnecting with jobs, housing, and their families, and accessing needed substance abuse and health care treatment.

RED HOOK JUSTICE is one of the documentaries featured under the umbrella effort called The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. The campaign will expand public awareness and dialogue, provide media-based resources, and work in partnership with key organizations engaged in local initiatives to strengthen families and neighborhoods. The campaign will facilitate discussion and decision making about solution-based reentry programs that foster public safety and support healthy communities.



Critical to the success of the campaign will be its focus on issues that are of primary concern to policy leaders, faith- and community-based organizations, and public television stations; and that can lead to desired outcomes. Public safety gains are typically measured in terms of reduced recidivism. Reintegration outcomes would include increased participation in social institutions such as the labor force, families, communities, schools, and religious organizations. Both financial and social benefits are associated with successful reentry.

Online outreach resources for **RED HOOK JUSTICE** include a discussion guide and commentary by the producer and can be found on the Reentry Web site (www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/redhook.htm). The REENTRY NATIONAL MEDIA OUTREACH CAMPAIGN is funded by a generous grant from



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