



Tre Maison Dasan

IMPACT, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

APRIL and MAY, 2019

Director: Denali Tiller

Producer: Rebecca Stern

Executive and Impact Producer: Andrew Freiband

It's been a whirlwind! We are so happy to finally have a long overdue update on all that happened during and after the broadcast premiere of *Tre Maison Dasan* on PBS/Independent Lens!

Before we dive in, with all that's been going on human error sometimes makes us forget to include important engagements in these reports - and we missed a big one in March. So we'd like to begin this summary by recapping an incredible screening with 60+ attendees from state agencies and organizations at the **New England Fathering Conference** in Springfield, MA, co-sponsored by the RI Department of Corrections. Joyce Haskett - the inspiration for *Tre Maison Dasan* - was there to speak about her part in the film and her program, Levels of Response to Traumatic Events, which outlines the stages of grief and trauma that children go through when a parent goes to prison.



Joyce, Denali and TeLisa at the New England Fathering Conference

We left off March with Maison's presentation at the Project WHAT! Youth Summit, after which he and Denali rushed back to Providence for the broadcast premiere of *Tre Maison Dasan* on PBS/Independent Lens and the launch of the #NationalVisitingDays Campaign!



Denali celebrating the Independent Lens Premiere! It's on TV!!

Through PBS, the film reached **1,884,000 viewers nation wide**. More powerful than numbers, however, were the incredibly emotional and moving responses and feedback we received from viewers across the country. A few selections:

"This was the most powerful, impactful documentary I've watched year to date.... My heart absolutely broke for these children. This documentary took my prayer life to another level. I will never forget this or them" - Mary Lisa

"This film was incredible! I was so moved by these boys and what they have had to face. I saw my own childhood in them and felt their pain... I will never forget this film or these 3 boys!" - Gina Helpenstell

"I'm moved beyond words. It reignited some much needed hope and strength to keep doing what we are doing here. I am part of Oklahoma Messages Project. We work with families impacted by incarceration." - Alison Plum

While PBS viewers were watching the film on television, we stayed busy coordinating #NationalVisitingDays screenings with affected communities and allies across the country, kicking off with a premiere screening at West Warwick Public Library in Rhode Island, which Tre, Dasan and Stephanie joined for a Q&A.

Over the next 14 days, Tre Maison Dasan was screened for #NationalVisitingDays audiences in California, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Montana, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, New Mexico, Arizona, Maryland (and perhaps others we didn't hear about), bringing families and incarcerated parents together around a shared experience of watching the film, and bridging conversations about family, childhood and parenting between prisons and outside communities.



We screened the film for an audience of incarcerated men at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn during #NationalVisitingDays.

Denali and Andrew were able to attend one particularly powerful #NationalVisitingDays screening at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, with an audience of incarcerated men, about three quarters of whom were fathers. This audience in particular emerged with a sense of empowerment and agency, seeking to find support to improve the visiting policies at MDC, and recognizing clearly the benefits of a positive visiting experience for both families and incarcerated people. Not for the first time, we heard firsthand how issues of discipline, behavior, and facility wellbeing are directly affected by the degree of openness and supportiveness present in that facility's visiting programs and policies.

"This resonated with me - my son is 32 now - he once said something to me: 'I know you're there for us when we need you, but I just want to spend time with you.' I never looked at it from where he stood - he knew I loved him but this hit home; I tried to be the best father I could be through my incarceration but now I can see how my physical absence affected him, there's nothing you can do if you're not there."

"The film was amazing because I never got to see the aspect of how kids unpacked it - to actually see it was overwhelming and amazing and now I know how to take that and engage my daughter about it, she's 16 now."

#NationalVisitingDays concluded with a screening at the National Conference for Children of Incarcerated Parents, in Arizona for partners, organization and agencies from around the world committed to serving Children of Incarcerated Parents. Denali presented the film to a full house, and was able to attend several lectures from others working with children, youth and families. We were particularly excited about the friendship we build with POPS Clubs, an organization that provides in-school support groups during lunch for children experiencing parental incarceration. We are excited to be working on ways to use the film as a convening tool with POPS to bring their programming to more kids around the country.



Tre Maison Dasan screened for a full house at the National Conference on Children of Incarcerated Parents

May saw many screenings coming together off the back of our April broadcast, including Five Keys in San Francisco, Cherish our Children in Houston and Washington State's Children's Justice Conference.

We were also very excited to announce our community and educational distribution partner, TUGG Inc. With their help, we are ready to up the ante with community outreach and get the film in even more schools, libraries and organizations nation wide.

May concluded with the honor of receiving the Metcalf Award for Diversity in the Media from Rhode Island for Community and Justice! Dasan, Stephanie and Denali were there to accept the award and sit on a panel about representation and the importance of collaborative storytelling. Just a few of the judges' comments:

"There are not enough superlatives in the dictionary to cover my reaction to Denali Tiller's incredibly compelling film.... The subject matter is beyond thought-provoking and the presentation is of the highest quality."

"The documentary embodied the entire purpose of the Metcalf Awards.... Put a very human spin on a justice system we tend to view from a more clinical, removed standpoint."

"Strong and well-made documentary with a unique perspective... Through the filmmaker's extraordinary access and intimate yet respectful storytelling, I am drawn into these lives... this film lets the children take center stage. Unforgettable."

As always, we couldn't do this work without the support and guidance of you, our partners, friends, colleagues, and collaborators, and for that we thank you!

- The TMD Team



Denali, Dasan and Stephanie accepted the Metcalf Award for Diversity in the Media!