

*"What I liked about the film: it showed me how vulnerable kids can be. It reminds me how optimistic they are, how smart. And how much they need you, how much they need that other person to be there for them and give them that pat on the back. I'm not gonna sit here and lie - I cried through most of the picture. To me it's a very important documentary. It showed me I got a lot to give back. It shows that we don't have much time."*

-Father to a 7 year old girl, 2 weeks into re-entry after being incarcerated for 3 years



# Tre Maison Dasan

IMPACT, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND ENGAGEMENT  
END-of-MONTH SUMMARY, OCTOBER 2018

Director: Denali Tiller

Producer: Rebecca Stern

Executive and Impact Producer: Andrew Freiband

**October** marked the beginning of the first phase of our impact and engagement project, in which we brought the film to as many partners, prospective collaborators, stakeholders, constituencies, and audiences as possible to learn about the various responses and potential applications of TMD and its supplemental materials. Research conducted and knowledge gained during this phase will now allow us to develop the most complete, effective set of accompanying guides and workshops possible for the larger-scale rollout of 2019.

October was "See Us Support Us" Month - dedicated to raising the visibility of children of incarcerated parents (COIP). This year's See Us Support Us focus was on visiting, and throughout the month, we worked in tandem with the Osborne Association and the NY Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents to raise the profile of COIP, and ensure that TRE MAISON DASAN (TMD) could be a catalyst for substantive conversations around the importance of visiting and child-parent relationships, awareness-raising, and the start of a deeper cultural shift toward acknowledging and remediating the rippling effects of mass incarceration on families and communities.

To start off *See Us Support Us* Month, TMD was screened as part of a **multi-sector day-long convening hosted by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, the Osborne Association, and Basilica Hudson**, a unique arts and culture venue in Hudson, New York. The film played to an audience that included formerly incarcerated people, social workers, educators, law enforcement, case managers, judges, lawyers, and more.



*Maison onscreen at Basilica Hudson*

Following the screening, we **developed structured breakout discussions and workshops**. Drawing from audience responses to the film, these small groups began to pivot from critical thinking toward creative, proactive interventions in the present systems of incarceration, separation, and family trauma. With a rich trove of responses, recordings, notes, and brainstormers, we look forward to presenting a full impact report on this event, and expanding the model of creative workshops to activate future screenings in new ways.

October was also an incredibly busy time on the film festival circuit, and everywhere the film went, we filled theaters with local community organizations, stakeholders, and prospective partners, or held additional community screenings to supplement the film festival events.

First, TMD made its **international premiere at Raindance Film Festival** in London, where it was named **Best Feature Documentary of 2018**, and seen by researchers at the Prison Reform Trust, Prison Advice and Care Trust, Children Heard and Seen, and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. Immediately after accepting the festival award, we then held a special screening at Birkbeck, University of London, at the Institute for Criminal Policy Research, for Masters students, faculty, and researchers. It was a tremendous demonstration of the appeal and importance of the film outside of the US, and we're excited that it resulted in immediate chemistry, and outlines for continued collaboration with the ICPR - including new models meant to also explore the issue of documentary sustainability. Our whirlwind outreach around Raindance also resulted in a new MOU with Safeground UK, which will be bringing TRE MAISON DASAN to prison facilities across the UK during November and December, and delivering full impact report-backs on the responses garnered during Safeground's arts-based therapeutic workshops using the film.

Back in the US, TMD screened at the:

- **Louisville Festival of Film**, where the audience included Kentucky Youth Advocates and Covington Charities Jail and Prison Ministry



*The TMD Team with staff from the Indiana Dept of Children's Services*

•**Heartland International Film Festival in Indianapolis**, where the film was a **finalist for Best Documentary**, the team (including Susan MacLaury from co-producing partners **Shine Global**, along with Dasan and his mom Stephanie) was featured for the **Heartland Social Impact Panel**, and screening audiences that included **PACE Indy**, the **Indiana Dept of Children's Services (DCS)**, **Indiana Dept of Community Corrections**, **Indiana Youth Institute**, **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute**, and the **Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council**. We're excited to continue working in Indiana with all the enthusiastic support from these organizations, as well as new friends at **Craine House**, who were so moved by the film and inspired by the possibilities of using it in their work.

•**Ridgefield International Film Festival**, where it was introduced by Emily Keating, Director of Education at the **Jacob Burns Film Center**, and where Stephanie and Dasan conducted the Q&A. During Ridgefield, we also initiated impact engagements with the **Connecticut Children with Incarcerated Parents Initiative**, and the **Community Foundation for Greater New Haven**.

In separate community engagements, Director Denali Tiller presented the film to students and faculty at **Roger Williams University School of Law** in Rhode Island. She was also a panel moderator at the Osborne Association's *See Us Support Us* Month closing event at **John Jay College of Criminal Justice** in New York City, and presented a scene from the film to the audience there. Tiller also presented a scene from the film and discussed community engagement possibilities at a meeting of the **Library Directors of the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services**, from which numerous individual library screening requests have already emerged across the state.

And finally the month ended in the Bay Area, where the cutdown for the April 2019 national broadcast on PBS/ITVS *Independent Lens* took place over three days. Besides holding a kickoff planning meeting with ITVS' **marketing, audience engagement, and impact staff to discuss broadcast-associated impact plans** (stay tuned for this exciting rollout strategy in

November), we also spent those three days in Oakland and San Francisco holding numerous pilot engagement screenings, including:

- for the **San Francisco Human Rights Commission**, hosted at the African American Arts and Culture Complex, and for an audience including staff members from the **Alameda County Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership**, and the **San Francisco Unified Schools**

- at the **San Francisco District Attorney's Office** in the SF Hall of Justice, with a tremendous turnout of prosecutors, staffers, and lawyers

- at the **San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center** for *three different classes* full of incarcerated youth in the cinema studies program, where **Tre** video-chatted in and had a powerful discussion with the incarcerated youth there about the film, their shared experiences and the challenges of decision making under difficult circumstances.

- for the full complement of three gathered cohorts of **Project WHAT!**, a remarkable service, support, and training program for children of incarcerated parents, part of the **CommunityWorksWest** organization.

All of these screenings included surveying, talkback, discussion, and response-capture, providing us with a motherlode of data, knowledge, and insights to now inform **the first generation of TMD viewing guides, curricula, and workshop models**. Stay tuned for impact reports from all of these pilots.

And finally, speaking of impact reports, the first two - from our pilot engagements with **CASA Essex County** and with **The Doe Fund** in New York City - are complete and are being shared with those partners, full of insight not only into the audience responses to the film, but also analysis of how TMD and its expanded engagement models can provide its partner organizations with rare institutional and systemic insight, analysis, and qualitative data that can help us together to push beyond the conversation, and into re-shaping the landscape in which we're all working.

A busy November is upon us, beginning with festivals in North Carolina and New York City, and lots of news forthcoming on the impact and engagement front. Stay connected for regular updates, and as always we are grateful for your ongoing support!

**-The TRE MAISON DASAN TEAM**

