



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SINCE ITS SEPTEMBER PREMIERE, BYRON HURT'S HAZING FILM GARNERS NEARLY 1.5 MILLION VIEWS ON PBS' INDEPENDENT LENS**

Brooklyn, New York - - Award-winning filmmaker **Byron Hurt**, founder and CEO of God Bless the Child Productions, announced today that *Hazing* has garnered nearly 1.5 million views on PBS' Independent Lens according to ITVS. Audiences tuned in online via PBS's website, PBS's video app, as well as via the television broadcast, which premiered nationally on September 12, 2022.

Hurt reflects on the Neilson rating report: "I am grateful for the nearly 1.5 million people who have already turned in to watch *Hazing*. These numbers seem to suggest that this subject matter has resonated with people from all walks of life nationwide. The most important thing I wanted to accomplish with this documentary was to create a deeper level of awareness about the hazing culture while simultaneously honoring the families and survivors. We didn't know what to expect regarding viewership because of the nature of the film but I'm glad that people decided to watch the film for themselves." Hurt adds: "Because there's still time to watch the documentary, I hope that even greater awareness about this topic will encourage people to be proactive in helping to eradicate hazing culture in the United States. Though it might not be easy, there's still time and space to have discussions with family and friends about how to create new and healthier ways to form bonds with one another...without hazing. I hope even more people will join the conversation."

*Hazing* streams on the PBS Video App until Sunday, December 11, 2022. It is also available to watch until December 11, 2022, via the PBS website: <https://bit.ly/watchhazingfilmpbs>.

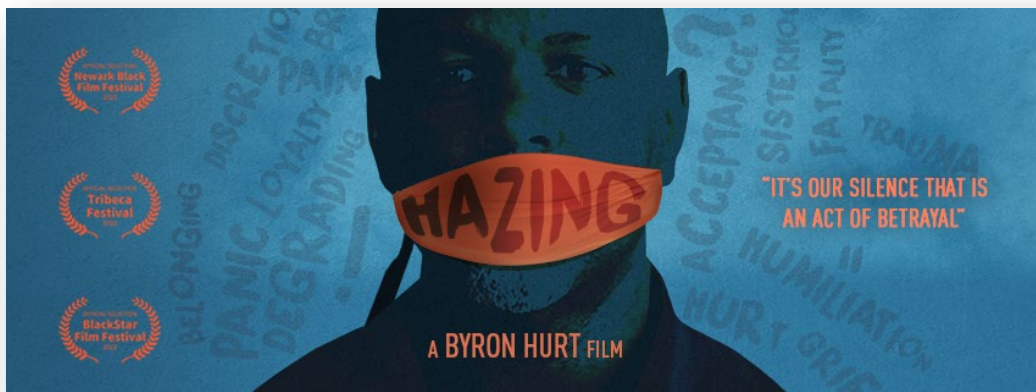


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**PRESS RELEASE:** *Hazing* Garner's Nearly 1.5 Million Views  
on PBS's Independent Lens | November 28, 2022

Since the PBS broadcast of *Hazing* in September, Hurt has screened the film at several film festivals nationwide, including the Tribeca Film Festival, the Newark Black Film Festival, BlackStar Film Festival, Milwaukee Film's Culture & Communities Festival, Double Exposure Investigative Film Festival, The Centre Film Festival, The Virginia Film Festival, The Queen City Film Festival, DOCNYC (panel only), the Health in Focus Film Festival, and the African Diaspora International Film Festival.

**ABOUT HAZING** | *Hazing* is a widespread, far-reaching practice fueled by tradition, secrecy, groupthink, power, and the desire to belong in fraternities and sororities on college campuses across the U.S. Filmmaker Byron Hurt embarks on a deeply personal journey to understand the underground rituals of hazing, revealing the abusive lengths college students will go to fit in.



The documentary explores acts of hazing as a practice that occurs in many membership organizations including fraternities and sororities, some of which have anti-hazing policies.

**ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS** | **Byron Hurt** is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, writer, activist, and adjunct professor at Columbia University. His acclaimed documentaries *Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes* and *Soul Food Junkies* premiered on PBS's *Independent Lens*. Byron's latest film *Hazing* premiered at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival and will air on *Independent Lens*.

**Natalie Bullock Brown** is an award-winning producer, an assistant teaching professor in interdisciplinary studies at North Carolina State University, a 2021 Rockwood Institute JustFilms Fellow, and a proud member of the Documentary Accountability Working Group.

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