About Storycast

**Indie Lens Storycast** is a new, free, subscription-based docuseries channel on YouTube that showcases stories by indie makers that reflect the funny, strange and dynamic world we live in. Developed by ITVS, this online partnership between the Emmy® and Peabody Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*, and the Webby Award-winning PBS Digital Studios, features a range of topics, from robot-building girls to dads navigating the waters of fatherhood. By expanding content offerings and experimenting with new formats, Indie Lens Storycast’s goal is to spark conversations vital to communities across America with digital-savvy audiences.

Indie Lens Storycast will have substantial support behind it: The PBS Digital Studios network has more than 12 million subscribers and has generated more than one billion lifetime views, and together partnered with the Independent Lens brand, recognized as a worldwide leader in documentaries showcasing the diverse and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers.
Lois Vossen

Executive Producer Lois Vossen, who has been with Independent Lens since its inception as a primetime series on PBS, is responsible for commissioning new films, programming the series, and working with filmmakers on editorial and broadcast issues. Independent Lens films have received 13 Emmy Awards, 16 George Foster Peabody Awards, five Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Journalism Awards, and eight Academy Award nominations. The series was thrice honored with the 2013, 2014, and 2015 International Documentary Association (IDA) Award for Best Series. Previously, Vossen was Associate Managing Director of the Sundance Film Festival and Sundance Labs. Currently she represents the documentary branch on the Television Academy Board of Directors. She has served on the jury at Shanghai Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, SXSW, DOC New Zealand, and Palm Springs International Film Festival, among others.


Brandon Arolfo

Brandon Arolfo is senior director, PBS Digital Studios, where he oversees content development, operations, budgets, and sponsorship and collaboration with PBS stations.

Karim Ahmad

Karim Ahmad is senior producer, Indie Lens Storycast, overseeing the development and distribution of the docuseries. Ahmad manages ITVS's entire digital content portfolio.
The Iron Maidens (or “Fe Maidens”) are an all-girls competitive robotics team at Bronx Science High School—and one of the only all-female teams in the country. Follow these bright young ladies through “build season” as they design, build, and test their robot in a national competition. A revealing exploration of these fearless trailblazers and their connections to one another, Iron Maidens demonstrates how their combined efforts lead them to excel at solving problems no one expects them to. Maybe now people will stop saying “they’re pretty good at this—for girls.”

Filmmakers

Adrienne Becker is Co-Founder of Killer Content, Inc, a media and technology company producing award-winning, multi-platform entertainment with a curated group of storytellers and brands. Former entrepreneur-in-residence at Creative Artists Agency, partner at The Media Farm, and CEO of DailyCandy, Inc. she’s also served as SVP at The Nielsen Company and InterActive Corp. Adrienne holds an M.A. in Communications from the Annenberg School, University of Pennsylvania, and a B.A. with Honors in Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis. She writes for The Huffington Post and sits on the Boards of the Made In New York Media Center, Youth+Tech+Health, the Story Pirates and the B-Stem Project with Women In Technology.

Amber Guyton is a Producer and Marketing Director for Killer Films Media in New York City. Prior, as Director of Marketing & Communications at luxury womenswear brand HONOR, Amber developed brand standards and digital presence, implementing targeted, data-driven marketing campaigns and live activations, supported by aggressive media strategy. Prior to HONOR, Amber held roles in production and brand development at Macy’s Merchandising Group, Robert Marc Eyewear and Adidas Group. She has consulted for brands including Tressemé, Spring Studios, Conde Nast, CMH Records and Laughing Lotus Yoga Studios and is a proud advocate for the equality and educational advancement of women and girls.
Emmy-nominated filmmaker Nicole Opper and Kristan Cassady are a queer Bay Area couple who plan to adopt a child and decide they want to form their family by adopting from foster care. This comedic docuseries chronicles their journey into the foster care system to become fost-adopt parents, bumbling through a bureaucratic maze in order to learn everything they can. Sometimes the waiting is the hardest part, but at least Nicole and Kristan have a sense of humor about the rollercoaster of emotions they are riding.

Filmmakers

Nicole Opper is an Emmy-nominated filmmaker who directed and produced the feature documentary *Off and Running*, an Audience Favorite at Tribeca and winner of ten international awards including Best Documentary at Outfest and Best Documentary Screenplay at Silverdocs. The film was nationally broadcast on P.O.V. in 2010. She received a Fulbright Fellowship to direct *Visitor’s Day* which is supported by New York State Council on the Arts, Chicken & Egg Pictures and ITVS. She’s also produced films for the Discovery Channel and Here TV, and was selected for *Filmmaker Magazine*’s annual “25 New Faces of Independent Film.” Nicole has taught filmmaking at Stanford University and San Francisco State University, among other schools.

Kristan Cassady began Suzuki violin in her public school. After graduation from Rutgers University’s Mason Gross School of the Arts, she worked as an educator and musician in and around the New York City area. She has played with ensembles including the London Symphony, Manhattan Chamber Orchestra, and *Saturday Night Live* as well as recorded and toured with such artists as Adele, Kanye West, and Stevie Wonder. Once she met Nicole, her orchestra management skills lead her to film producing, beginning with short films, as well as the feature-length documentary *Visitor’s Day*, and the web series *The F Word*.
A group of prominent socialites, running their own businesses while juggling the chaotic demands of family life: You think this only happens in Beverly Hills or Atlanta? Divas of Karachi subverts a familiar genre, showcasing a country that is foreign to most viewers. This docuseries mixing reality TV humor and cinema verité follows a group of Pakistani trendsetters. They’re fashion designers, wives and mothers, interior decorators, entrepreneurs, teachers, and philanthropists—sometimes, all at once. Divas of Karachi celebrates the humor, fun, and passion from a part of the world too often associated with conflict and tragedy.

Filmmakers

A Peabody-winning director and producer, Senain Kheshgi made the Emmy-nominated documentary The Diplomat (ESPN) and the award-winning Project Kashmir (Independent Lens). She has directed virtual reality films with Here Be Dragons (formally Vrse) for Facebook, Johnson & Johnson, Save the Children and The Annenberg Center for Photography.

Senain began her career as a journalist working with ABC News and CNN, and then producing projects with acclaimed directors Davis Guggenheim, Sophie Fiennes, James Longley and Morgan Spurlock. Her films have premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, International Documentary Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) and The Human Rights Watch Film Festival (NY and London). She is a three-time Sundance Fellow, and a two-time Tribeca All Access Fellow. Her films have received funding from Sundance, Cinereach, Fledgling Fund, ITVS, Catapult, CAAM and Tribeca Institute. Senain has served on panels and juries at Sundance, Hot Docs, Sheffield Doc/Fest, ITVS, CAAM, Film Independent, Docuweeks, and the International Documentary Association and has mentored filmmakers at the Firelight Filmmakers Labs.

Senain is directing a feature documentary in Pakistan, developing a feature film based on the true story of an American girl who becomes the queen of a Himalayan kingdom, and writing a series about her Muslim family running a bong shop in 1980’s Georgia. Senain also proudly serves on the Board of Directors of the International Documentary Association.
Pops tells three stories of African Americans from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds and regions deeply engaged in the beautiful struggle of fatherhood. A new father must balance his career as an avid YouTuber with his wife's postpartum depression; a formerly incarcerated writer strives to make a difference for others like him while being present for his toddler son; and a gay couple grapples with the challenges of guiding their adopted son into his teenage years. Each story, while very different, explores the universal themes of responsibility, nurturing, and love.

Filmmakers

Garland McLaurin is a Peabody Award-winning filmmaker; his love for storytelling comes from its power to artistically explore the complex and conflicting social and psychological layers of people and society. His web series Pops explores fatherhood for African American men, and was funded by ITVS Digital and National Black Programming Consortium.

He co-directed/produced the Peabody-winning documentary series, 180 Days a Year Inside an American High School and Hartsville that aired on PBS. He served as co-cinematographer on Wes Moore's Coming Back documentary series, highlighting veterans, and for award-winning documentary filmmaker Yoruba Richen's The New Black (Independent Lens), which explores the fight for marriage equality in the African American community. His other professional credits include: field producing on CNN's Black in America 4, producer/shooter for WAMU 88.5 American University/BET’s special Homecoming: The Killing of DJ Henry. Additional past digital media work includes work for Black Public Media, Time.com, NY Times video division and video editing at the National Geographic digital news division. He holds a BA in Radio-TV-Film from Howard University and an MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts graduate film school.