

LUMPKIN, GA



A FILM BY

NICHOLAS MANTING BREWER

38 mins/ Color /2019 / English, Spanish, English Subtitles / USA



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AWARDS & SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Best Documentary Short – Reel East Texas Film Festival

Best Documentary Jury Award - Tolpuddle Radical Film Festival, Tolpuddle, England

Best Documentary Audience Award - Tolpuddle Radical Film Festival, Tolpuddle, England

Winner Best Cinematography Doc Short - Indie & Foreign Film Festival, New York, NY

Official Selection - CineCulture Fresno State Film Series, Fresno, CA

FILM FESTIVALS

Immigration Film Festival, Washington DC

Respect Human Rights Film Festival, Belfast, Ireland

United Nations Association International Documentary Film Festival, Stanford, CA

The Sarasota Film Festival, Sarasota, FL

Macon Film Festival, Macon GA

Indie Grits Film Festival, Columbia, SC

Society for Photography Education Film Festival, Cleveland, OH

NorthwestFest International Documentary Festival, Edmonton, CANADA

SYNOPSIS

In a fading Georgia town, a community recalls its dark past and faces a grim present. An undocumented immigrant, caught in legal limbo and facing deportation, contemplates his future. In the midst of it all, a massive, private immigration prison generates millions in profits. Where these stories meet, the hidden epicenter of America's immigration crackdown is revealed – a place called Lumpkin, GA.



DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

My home state of Georgia is a juxtaposition of beautiful landscapes with unsettling echoes of our national past from Native American Removal, to Slavery, Jim Crow and now immigration detention.

When I first learned about the 1800 immigrants detained at an ICE facility in the middle of the woods in Georgia, it kept me up at night. That was my indicator that I had something to say. Stewart Detention Center is notorious in the immigrant rights community and CoreCivic, the company that owns the detention center, is frequently criticized for its management practices.

Stewart Detention Center is located in Stewart County. Less than 3 miles away, sat the county seat, Lumpkin, GA. In everything I read, there was little beyond a passing mention of Lumpkin—a quiet rural town with barely 1000 people. It evoked a rather simple question: how did people there see the center?

The answer, however, is hardly simple. For the people in Lumpkin, it is often very painful. The town is among the poorest in the country, and has been for decades. Many residents cannot imagine their town surviving without the detention center next door. The memories and the communal ties they've built keep them there. Lumpkin and Stewart County are home for them.

The weight of Stewart Detention Center reverberates across Lumpkin. You can hear it in the chirping of cicadas and the faint wind. From the town's only immigration attorney to the county manager, everyone has an opinion on Stewart Detention Center. It forced them to make sense of what their home had become.

Every year over a million people come to this country in hope of making new homes for themselves and their families. For those detained at Stewart, the trauma of separation from loved ones and the likely prospect of deportation is devastating. For the men and their families, the present is painful. And the future is bleak because 98% of them will be deported.

What is happening at Stewart Detention Center is happening across the country. ICE has plans to utilize more privatized detention centers across the country. It is a choice that many county's across the United States will face.

"Lumpkin, GA" reveals the fragility of dreams of home in the midst of the ongoing immigration crackdown. But at its core, this a story about people trying to understand what it means to be home. The subjects in the film are asking these questions. As a result, I have asked myself these questions. I hope it does the same for you.

- Nicholas Manting Brewer

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Nicholas Manting Brewer is an award-winning documentary storyteller and film editor based out of Los Angeles, CA by way of Augusta, GA. His work has screened at several film festivals, including Sundance, South by Southwest, and the Cleveland International film festival. Nicholas earned his B.A. in Anthropology from New College of Florida and his MFA from the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. In 2018, Nicholas co-founded Standard Deviation Productions. He hopes to make films that connect people in an increasingly polarized world.



PRODUCTION CREDITS

A Standard Deviation Film

Director **Nicholas Manting Brewer**

Producer **Emily Grandcolas**

Director of Photography **Feixue Tang**

Editor **Michael Gil**

Composer **Luke McGinnis & Apartment Sessions**

Re-Recording Mixer **Peter Bawiec**

Sound Editor **Mercedes San Roman**