

## WGBH PRESS RELEASE

October 2020

Keystone Docs is proud to present the World Premiere of Hemal Trivedi and Jonah Markowitz's BATTLEGROUND on WGBH October 16th, 2020. Produced/Directed by Hemal Trivedi and Produced/Co-Directed by Jonah Markowitz, BATTLEGROUND presents an intimate look at America's current political divide, as seen through the eyes of two grassroots political activists in the pivot counties of the Lehigh Valley, PA (that voted for Obama twice and then flipped to Trump in 2016).

In a political moment defined by partisan conflict, BATTLEGROUND explores the state of American democracy as seen through the eyes of two opposing grassroots political leaders. Tom Carroll is a Trump delegate, and a Tea Party Chairman. Greg Edwards is a Black pastor, and a progressive leader supported by Bernie Sanders. When their paths collide, we realize that they have much more in common than meets the eye. They come together to provide a framework for us to begin to heal our divide in America. Three years of filming led Trivedi and Markowitz to the realization that these leaders' primary struggle was not against each other, but against the political machines that controlled their respective parties. BATTLEGROUND is an antidote to the media echo chamber effect, which is marked by passion, but is often devoid of understanding.

Hemal Trivedi is a Mumbai and New York-based documentary filmmaker/editor, whose editing work has won an Academy Award, three Emmy Awards, and seven Emmy Award nominations. Her most recent feature, *Among the Believers*, premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and then travelled the world. It was nominated for an Emmy Award in Outstanding Documentary in Government and Politics, a Cinema Eye Award, and an Independent Spirit Award. It also won over 30 prestigious awards and honors. Other credits include *Outlawed in Pakistan* (editor, Emmy 2014), *Saving Face* (editor, Academy Award 2012), *Shabeena's Quest* (director/editor), and *Beyond Mumbai* (director/cinematographer/editor). Trivedi's work has been showcased in film festivals including Sundance, Berlin, Tribeca, IDFA, Full Frame and AFI venues including the United Nations and the US Department of State.

Jonah Markowitz is a photojournalist and filmmaker who focuses on character driven narratives that hold power accountable while capturing the beauty of a shared humanity.

He is a frequent contributor to the New York Times, where he conceived and executed one of NYT's largest visual pieces during the COVID-19 pandemic in NYC entitled: Transit Workers Were NYC's Pandemic Lifeline. Jonah's editorial clients include the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, VOGUE, USA Today, and Newsday, among others. His motion work has appeared on PBS, ESPN, Netflix, Tribeca Film Festival, DOC NYC, Fusion Network, and others.

56 minutes. Acquisition title.