



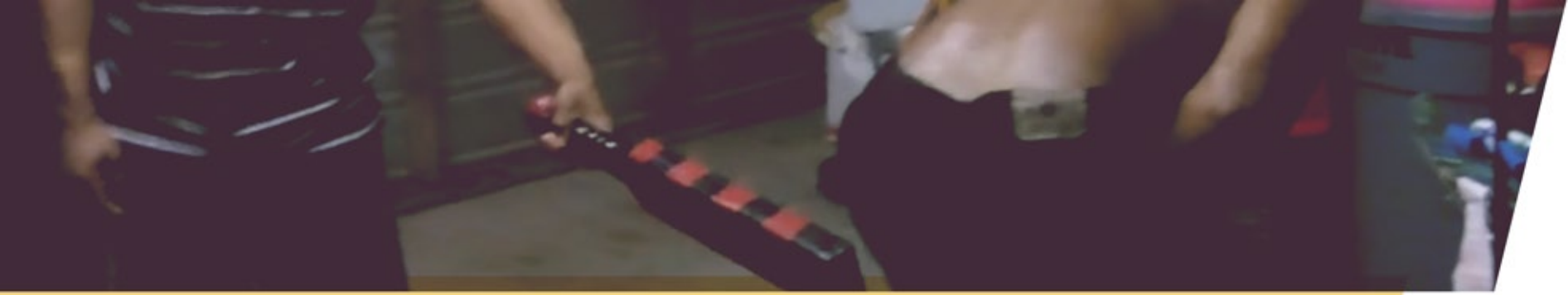
# HAZING

A Byron Hurt film

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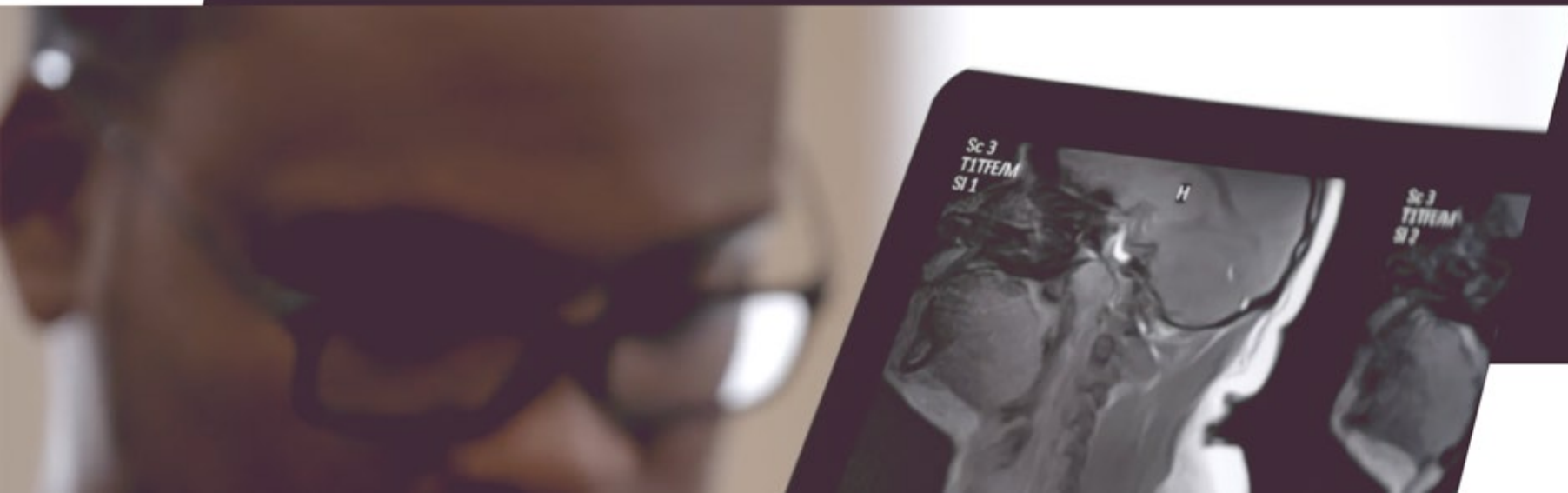
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# SYNOPSIS OF HAZING

If you think hazing is a trivial college problem, think again. In **HAZING**, award-winning filmmaker, Byron Hurt, lifts the veil on secret, underground rituals that are often dehumanizing, abusive, and sometimes, deadly. Byron, a member of a fraternity, places hazing culture under the microscope to discover a world of toxic masculinity, violence, sexual degradation, binge drinking, denial, and institutional coverups.





# TEAM

**Byron Hurt, Director,** is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, writer, and anti-sexist activist. His documentary, *Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and broadcast nationally on PBS' Emmy-award winning series Independent Lens. Byron's latest film, *Soul Food Junkies*, aired nationally on Independent Lens in January and April, 2013.

**Stanley Nelson, Executive Producer,** Emmy-winning MacArthur "genius" Fellow, is co-founder and Executive Director of Firelight Media, which provides technical education and professional support to emerging documentarians. He is also co-founder of the for-profit documentary production company, Firelight Films. His latest films include *Tell Them We Are Rising*, and *The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution*.

**Regina K. Scully, Executive Producer,** is the Founder and CEO of Artemis Rising Foundation, a philanthropic organization dedicated to developing and promoting Media, Education and the Arts that transform our culture. Regina is a three-time Emmy Award-winning and Academy Award-nominated producer of *The Invisible War*, the powerful 2012 film about the epidemic rapes of women and men in the military.







# TEAM

**Denise A. Greene, Producer**, is an Emmy and Peabody award-winner who most recently joined forces with the groundbreaking production team, TNEG, as a consulting producer on *Children of the Revolution: Growing Up on the Fringe*. Previously, Denise helped to launch Orlando Bagwell's company, Lakehouse, with its inaugural projects *NY Times-Op Doc: When Music Turns Deadly*, and the feature-length documentary, *Gil Scott-Heron (wt)*.

**Natalie Bullock Brown, Producer**, is an Emmy nominated film and television producer. She has produced videos documenting the 50th anniversary commemorations of the civil rights hallmark, Freedom Summer, and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She was an associate producer on Ken Burns' 10-part series, *JAZZ*, and is producer/director of her first feature length

documentary, *baartman, beyoncé & me*.

**Cinque Northern, Editor**, Cinque is a multi-talented filmmaker selected as one of Filmmaker Magazine's Twenty-five New Faces of Independent Film. His character driven films have received numerous awards and earned recognition in over a dozen film festivals including, The Hamptons, Urban World, and the Santa Barbara Film Festival. Learn more at [www.cinquenorthern.com](http://www.cinquenorthern.com).

**Bill Winters, Cinematographer**, Bill Winters graduated from the prestigious NYU Tisch School of the Arts film program with a concentration in cinematography. Bill shot the award winning documentaries, *Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes*, and *Soul Food Junkies*.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have long wanted to make a documentary about hazing culture but never felt courageous enough to address it. Hazing is a secretive, underground world. It is a taboo and controversial topic to reveal to the general public. However, after I learned about the death of Robert Champion - the Florida A&M University band member who was tragically killed by his fellow band members as a result of a brutal, traditional hazing ritual - I felt compelled to investigate the abusive system within hazing culture, illuminate its many complexities, and humanize victims and their families in a compelling documentary film.

As a filmmaker who is a fraternity member - someone who has been a victim and a perpetrator of hazing - I feel uniquely qualified to make this film. As I have done with my previous work, I will approach this subject with passion, sensitivity, nuance, diligence, and care.

My goal is to create a seminal film on this topic - one that will invigorate a robust national conversation about hazing, and will become a significant impact media tool that will lead to meaningful cultural change.

I am humbly asking for your support to help me finish this film project and launch an impact campaign. Please join the growing list of my esteemed funders by making a financial contribution to *HAZING*. Your support of this timely, relevant, and important film will help us cross the finish line.



# FUNDER'S STATEMENT

I had the pleasure of working with Byron on his two previous films, *Soul Food Junkies* and *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*, both of which premiered on Independent Lens to strong audience numbers and positive critical response. While doing publicity for *Soul Food Junkies* I asked Byron what topics he was considering for his next film. When he began talking about his approach to a film about hazing I was immediately on board. Byron is uniquely qualified to make a ground breaking, insider look at the culture of fraternities (and sororities) and the realities of hazing in those environments. He will explore why the controversial practice continues to be widely seen as a meaningful and legitimate rite of passage, despite mounting lawsuits, fraternity/sorority chapter suspensions, increased media coverage, serious injuries, arrests, and tragic deaths. Our shared goal is that he makes a nuanced, thoughtful, and yet unflinching portrait. My experiences working with Byron have been very gratifying. Everyone at Independent Lens looks forward to collaborating with him again on *Hazing*.

## LOIS VOSSEN

Executive Producer, INDEPENDENT LENS

