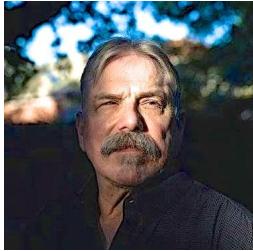


TOWER Premieres on INDEPENDENT LENS
Tuesday, February 14, 2017 on PBS

TCA Panelists



John "Artly" Fox (Participant) went to the University of Texas campus expecting something very different from the war zone that he, along with friend James Love, wandered into. For more than an hour, Fox watched as fellow students succumbed to the sniper's shots. After watching Claire, the first victim, writhe helplessly in the sun, he was spurred into action, running with Love onto the open quad, risking everything to pull her to safety. Fox remained in Austin and through the years has been reluctant to talk about his experiences that day.



Claire Wilson James (Participant) was an 18-year-old freshman when she was shot on the campus of the University of Texas. Eight months pregnant at the time, James lost her unborn child as well as her boyfriend Tom Eckman. Conscious throughout the 90-minute shooting, she became the focal point for many of the eyewitnesses that day as she lay in the center of the campus waiting for help. Thanks to several fellow students who risked their lives, James survived, eventually becoming a schoolteacher and adopting a son.



Keith Maitland (Director/Producer/Editor) was drawn to the story of the Texas Tower shooting when he first heard about it from an eyewitness — his seventh grade history teacher. A graduate of the University of Texas, Maitland began research for *TOWER* after the 40th anniversary of the shooting in 2006 and began production on the film in 2012. Maitland is the director of the ITVS-funded, Emmy-nominated film "The Eyes of Me," a year in the life of four blind teens. The film was broadcast on INDEPENDENT LENS and was honored with a Barbara Jordan Media Award by the State of Texas. In addition to documentary features, commercials and TV series, his credits include seven seasons with NBC's "Law & Order" as an assistant director. Maitland is a graduate of the Directors Guild of America Trainee Program and the PBS Producers Academy.



Ramiro "Ray" Martinez (Participant) was off-duty when he heard about the shooting on the noontime news. The then 29-year-old patrolman donned his uniform and headed toward campus, committed to help out wherever he was needed. He had no way of knowing that he'd end up ascending the Tower's top floors, becoming the first to engage with the sniper, ending the siege. In the years since the shooting, Martinez went on to become a decorated DEA Agent, Texas Ranger and eventually Justice of the Peace.



Lois Vossen (Executive Producer of INDEPENDENT LENS) is responsible for commissioning new films, programming the series, and working with filmmakers on content, editorial, and broadcast issues. INDEPENDENT LENS films have received 13 Emmy Awards, including two Primetime Emmys, 16 George Foster Peabody Awards, five Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Journalism Awards and seven Academy Award nominations. The series was honored with the 2013, 2014 and 2015 International Documentary Association (IDA) Award for Best Continuing

Series. Previously, Vossen was Associate Managing Director of the Sundance Film Festival and Sundance Labs. She has served on the jury at SXSW, DOC New Zealand, Toronto International Film Festival, Palm Springs International Film Festival and the New Orleans Film Festival, among others.

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