

Newtown Premieres on *Independent Lens* Monday, April 3, 2017 on PBS

About the Filmmakers



Credit: Courtesy of Stefano Giovannini

Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and resides in New York City.

Kim A. Snyder (Director/Producer). *Newtown*, Kim Snyder's most recent film, premiered in competition at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival and was hailed in *Entertainment Weekly* as among the "Best of Sundance." Snyder's last feature documentary, *Welcome to Shelbyville*, was also nationally broadcast on *Independent Lens*. In 2007, Snyder co-founded the BeCause Foundation to direct and produce a series of socially conscious documentaries, which have won numerous awards with campaigns furthering the work of the social innovators they highlight. Her award-winning directorial debut feature documentary, *I Remember Me*, was theatrically distributed by Zeitgeist Films. In 1994, she associate produced the Academy Award-winning short film *Trevor*, directed by Peggy Rajski. Snyder graduated with a Masters in international affairs from the Johns

Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and resides in New York City.



Credit: Courtesy of Dean Kaufman

Maria Cuomo Cole (Producer) is the award-winning producer of *Newtown*, which premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. In her career, she has tackled such subjects as gun violence, homelessness, veterans' PTSD, domestic violence and sexual assault. Most recently, she executive produced *The Hunting Ground*, directed by Kirby Dick. This Emmy and Peabody Award-winning film has been lauded as a powerful investigation into the epidemic of sexual assaults on college campuses. In 2012, Cuomo Cole worked with the same film team, executive producing the 2014 Oscar®-nominated documentary *The Invisible War*. This groundbreaking documentary about the epidemic of rape and sexual violence in the U.S. military served as a catalyst for federal legislation and influenced federal policy reforms. Cuomo Cole's 2011 documentary *Living for 32*, about gun laws in America, was short-listed for an Academy

Award® and premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. In collaboration with national communities of gun violence survivors, faith leaders, political leaders and nonprofits, the film has served as a catalyst for awareness and advocacy on the subject of federal and state legislative reform across the country. Since 1992, she has led HELP USA, the national nonprofit leader in both homeless and permanent supportive service housing and employment programs for veterans, families and survivors of domestic violence.

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