

***What Was Ours* Premieres on *Independent Lens* Monday, January 16, 2017 on PBS**

About the Filmmakers



Credit: Matt Lankes

Mat Hames (Director/Producer) is an Emmy Award-winning independent filmmaker based in Austin, Texas. His feature documentary, *When I Rise*, about African American mezzo-soprano and civil rights icon Barbara Conrad, premiered at SXSW and internationally at HotDocs, and was featured on *Independent Lens*. After playing in ten festivals in the US, the UK, and Canada, the film was nominated for an IDA Documentary Award. Prior to *When I Rise* (2011), Mat directed the 2008 documentary *Fighting Goliath* for Robert Redford's Sundance Preserve. It was an official selection in 12 film festivals, awarded the Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award for Best Documentary Short at the Red Rock Film Festival, and the Golden Sun at the Barcelona Festival Internacional de Cinema del Medi Ambient. In 2006, Mat was knighted by the King of Belgium for drawing attention to the efforts of the Belgian Resistance during World War II in his first PBS film *Last Best Hope*. In 2014 Mat's short doc, *Austin Revealed*, played as part of the Faces of Austin SXSW Showcase. He's the co-founder of Alpheus Media, a film company in Austin, and directs documentaries about Internet culture for comedy and gaming site Rooster Teeth, including *Connected* and *The World's Greatest Head Massage*.



Credit: Matt Lankes

Beth Hames (Executive Producer) is co-owner and executive producer at Alpheus Media in Austin, Texas. She has been producing documentaries, non-profit films, and commercial productions for the past two decades. Beth's most recent film, *A Fighting Chance*, was broadcast on PBS in 2012 and follows five families living in poverty. Beth served as producer for the PBS films *Last Best Hope* and *When I Rise*, which premiered on *Independent Lens*, and the Sundance Channel's *Fighting Goliath*. Another career highlight has been raising awareness about issues facing cancer survivors by capturing hundreds of their stories for the LIVESTRONG Foundation. Beth also produced the Emmy-winning 13-part series, *State of Tomorrow*, which aired on PBS stations across Texas in 2007. Beth's next project is a six-part series called *Power Trip: The Story of Energy*.



Credit: Virginia Moore

Jordan Dresser (Co-Producer and Subject) is a journalist and member of the Northern Arapaho tribe. He was recently appointed Native American Fellow at one of the oldest museums in the U.S., the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. In 2015, Jordan received a master's degree in Museum Studies from the University of San Francisco. *What Was Ours* is Jordan's first feature film. His knowledge of reservation culture and history provided an essential and invaluable contribution to the success of the film.