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**FAUBOURG TREMÉ: THE UNTOLD STORY OF BLACK NEW ORLEANS  
TO PREMIERE ON PBS  
DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

“FAUBOURG TREMÉ is a celebration of the venerable African American history of New Orleans ... passion for the subject infuses the film ... remarkable footage and charming interviews.” —*Variety*

“Flat-out brilliant ... arguably the most poignant film ever made about New Orleans.”  
—*The New Orleans Tribune*

(San Francisco, CA)—Faubourg Tremé is arguably the oldest black neighborhood in America, the origin of the southern civil rights movement and the birthplace of jazz. Long before Hurricane Katrina, two native New Orleanians, one black and one white—writer Lolis Eric Elie and filmmaker Dawn Logsdon—began documenting the rich, living culture of this historic district. Miraculously, their tapes survived the disaster unscathed. The completed film, **FAUBOURG TREMÉ: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans**, which critics have hailed as “devastating,” “charming” and “revelatory,” brims with unknown historical nuggets. Who knew that in the early 1800s while most African Americans were toiling on plantations, free black people in Tremé were publishing poetry and conducting symphonies? Who knew that long before Rosa Parks, Tremé leaders organized sit-ins and protests that successfully desegregated the city’s streetcars and schools? Who knew that jazz, New Orleans’s greatest gift to America, was born from the embers of this first American civil rights movement? Lolis Eric Elie, a New Orleans newspaperman, takes us on a tour of the city—his city—in what evolves from a reflection on the relevance of history into a love letter to the storied New Orleans neighborhood Faubourg Tremé. **FAUBOURG TREMÉ: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans**, executive produced by Wynton Marsalis and Stanley Nelson, will premiere on PBS in February 2009, a timely addition to the network’s Black History Month programming (check local listings).

Long ago, during slavery, Faubourg Tremé was home to the largest community of free black people in the Deep South and was a hotbed of political activism. Here, black and white, free and enslaved, rich and poor cohabited, collaborated and clashed to create America’s first civil rights movement and a uniquely American culture. The Tremé district was damaged when the levees broke as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Many Tremé residents are still unable to return home, and the neighborhood is once again fighting many of the same civil rights battles first launched here 150 years ago. **FAUBOURG TREMÉ: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans** celebrates the resiliency of this community and explores how it managed to carve out a unique and expressive culture and history that is still enriching America and the world.

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**FAUBOURG TREMÉ: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans** had its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York and won Best Documentary awards at the San Francisco International Film Festival, the San Francisco Black Film Festival, the Martha's Vineyard Black Film Festival and others. The film was executive produced by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer/musician Wynton Marsalis and Stanley Nelson (*Jonestown, The Murder of Emmett Till*); directed by Dawn Logsdon; co-directed and written by *Times-Picayune* columnist Lolis Eric Elie; produced by Lucie Faulknor, Lolis Eric Elie and Dawn Logsdon; with original music composed by Derrick Hodge (*Who the @\$% Is Jackson Pollack?*) and including tracks by Irving Mayfield, George Lewis, Bunk Johnson, Rebirth Brass Band, John Boutté, Glen David Andrews and Edmund Dede.

**FAUBOURG TREMÉ: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans** is a co-production of the Independent Television Service (ITVS), Serendipity Films, LLC, WYES-TV/New Orleans and Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB), in association with National Black Programming Consortium, with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

#### **About ITVS**

Independent Television Service funds and presents award-winning documentaries and dramas on public television, innovative new media projects on the Web, and the Emmy<sup>®</sup> Award-winning weekly series *Independent Lens* on Tuesday nights at 10 PM on PBS. ITVS is a miracle of public policy created by media activists, citizens and politicians seeking to foster plurality and diversity in public television. ITVS was established by a historic mandate of Congress to champion independently produced programs that take creative risks, spark public dialogue and serve underserved audiences. Since ITVS's inception in 1991, its programs have revitalized the relationship between the public and public television, bringing television audiences face-to-face with the lives and concerns of their fellow Americans. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people. For more information about ITVS, visit [www.itvs.org](http://www.itvs.org).

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