Oscar-Nominated Documentary “Heroin(e)” Tackles the Opioid Crisis [VIDEO]

The film follows three women leading the fight against heroin and prescription painkiller addiction in Huntington, West Virginia.

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A film about the opioid crisis in the United States has been nominated for best documentary (short subject) at the 90th Academy Awards, airing this Sunday. “Heroin(e)” is directed by Elaine McMillion Sheldon and follows three women leading the fight against heroin and prescription painkiller addiction in their town, Huntington, West Virginia, Business Insider reports.

Sheldon’s film reveals the personal, social and medical challenges the nation is facing in the American opioid epidemic through the lens of a small town that suffers an overdose rate 10 times higher than the national average. The director, a native West Virginian, followed the state’s first female fire chief, a drug-court judge and a street missionary to construct her narrative.

Available for streaming on Netflix, the documentary premiered last summer at the Telluride Film Festival in August 2017 (the streaming service also produced the film) and is considered to be the frontrunner for the Academy Award for Documentary Short Subject.

Sheldon told Business Insider: “I’ve seen a lot of media come out of my home state that’s really focused on the use and abuse and oftentimes the victim side of the story. We wanted to try and find a story that was around solutions and the inner resilience that people have to overcome this problem.”

To read the full interview, click here.

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