

RUST documentary film premieres on PBS **Tuesday, May 18, 2021** **Check Local Listings**

How to break the chains of poverty in U.S. Inner Cities



Credit: Bongiorno Productions

NEWARK, NJ; APRIL 12, 2021 – In 86 minutes, **RUST** documentary film presents the history of Rust Belt poverty, detailing industrialization and deindustrialization, and racism and mass incarceration, using the city of Newark, New Jersey as a microcosm. It explores solutions to inner city poverty through the voices of scholars, economists, physicians, activists, and the community.

RUST is the third documentary by Emmy-nominated, award-winning filmmakers Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno in their 3Rs Trilogy on Urban America, following the success of critically acclaimed, award-winning, national PBS broadcast **REVOLUTION '67** (2007) on riots/rebellions of the 1960s www.Revolution67.com and **THE RULE** (2014) www.TheRuleFilm.com on urban school reform.

Eminent historians and economists chronicle the historic rise and fall of U.S. industrialization which, coupled with the aftershocks of slavery and failed government policies, left cities with abandoned factories and the human rust of deep persistent poverty. The history of racism in America is traced, beginning with slavery, then morphing into the Black Codes, Convict Leasing, and, ultimately, mass incarceration. Physicians explain the “Science of Poverty” and the toll of poverty on a community’s health. Activists cite how government-sponsored jobs and social insurance programs of the 1930s and beyond mobilized the country to economic recovery and should be resurrected today. A boot camp for the recently incarcerated provides what citizens need to successfully reenter society. A formerly troubled teen (documented in **THE RULE**), who became a college graduate and is now a social worker, offers proof of the need for counseling in inner city schools. The historic settlement houses of Jane Addams show how compassionate progressivism can alleviate poverty, although they were marred by segregation.

RUST offers a comprehensive “textbook” examination of poverty and racism in U.S. inner cities and presents time-tested solutions. To tell its tale, **RUST** is accented by archival visuals, cinéma vérité footage, music, and filmmaker Jerome Bongiorno’s bold animation to illustrate the film’s events and statistics.

RUST film website: <http://www.bongiornoproductions.com/RUST/Rust.html>

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RUST is produced by Bongiorno Productions in association with KTWU, Topeka, KS.

About Bongiorno Productions

Bongiorno Productions is the Newark, NJ-based film company of Emmy-nominated, award-winning, husband and wife filmmakers Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno. The Bongornos create acclaimed documentary, fiction, and museum installation art films that are widely distributed. For more info, visit: www.BongiornoProductions.com

About PBS

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