

NEWS RELEASE



Maryland Public Television

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For immediate release

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NOTE: Additional program information, graphics, and production photos are available to download [HERE](#).

Maryland Public Television presents *Happy Campers* on June 23

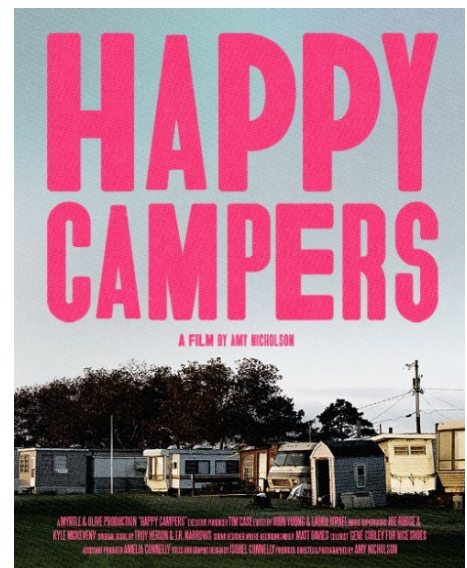
Documentary chronicles the final days of a working-class summer colony in a trailer park that happens to hold the secret to a happy life

OWINGS MILLS, MD – Maryland Public Television (MPT) will air the documentary *Happy Campers* on Monday, June 23 at 9 p.m. on MPT-HD and the [MPT livestream](#). The 78-minute film will also be available for MPT members with access to [MPT Passport](#) to view on-demand using the free [PBS app](#) following its broadcast premiere. A preview is available at youtube.com/watch?v=6mZuN4Pi4HA.

Produced and directed by Amy Nicholson, *Happy Campers* chronicles the final summer together for a small seasonal community of working-class families at Inlet View Campground in Chincoteague, Virginia. Every summer, these families enjoyed waterfront living in the scrappy trailer park off the Virginia coast. When their shabby Shangri-La is sold for luxury development, the residents face eviction and risk losing their neighbors. In the process, they reveal what it truly means to live a rich life.

A rough-around-the-edges family campground, Inlet View is nothing like the Hamptons. Its blue-collar residents chuckle about paying modest rent for a million-dollar view, but what makes them lucky is what they value.

According to Nicholson, beneath a few trailer park stereotypes lies an improbable utopia where anyone who makes it past the gate is welcome. People take food to their neighbors. They look out for each other's kids. They share everything from power tools to simple pleasures. Loneliness and isolation are inconceivable. Sadly, their self-created paradise has been sold to a developer, destined to become part of a portfolio of luxury getaways for "nice" families.



It was only a matter of time before the real estate industry caught up with Inlet View. The location is spectacular. Dolphins swim just offshore. Pelicans glide past stunning sunsets. Its assets read like a sales brochure. And yet, the real magic of the place is the people.

Over the decades, the campers and their trailers have grown deep roots. They brace for eviction and the loss of friendships that span generations. Inlet View is quite literally their last resort.

“Places like Inlet View get wiped off the map all the time without anyone knowing they existed, and a piece of America’s collective soul gets lost in the process. Being there for a short three years was life changing,” says Nicholson, a Baltimore native who has been visiting Chincoteague Island since childhood. “*Happy Campers* is my attempt to share my own revelations about what society loses when too much emphasis is placed on affluence, and to give voice to a community full of beauty and wisdom that doesn’t immediately seem like it would possess much of either.”

An encore broadcast of *Happy Campers* will air on Tuesday, June 24 at 2 a.m. on MPT-HD and the MPT livestream. The program will remain available to stream on-demand for two years.

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About Maryland Public Television

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) member offering entertaining and educational content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices via its [online video player](#) and the [free PBS app](#). A state agency operating under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission, MPT also produces local, regional, and national programming and frequently earns regional Emmy® awards for its work. MPT’s commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through its [Maryland Center for Media Literacy & Education](#) and [Thinkport.org](#). MPT’s year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources covering a wide range of topics. More information is available at [mpt.org](#).