

NEWS RELEASE



Maryland Public Television

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For immediate release

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NOTE: Interviews with Producer Adam Oberfeld are available upon request. In addition, production photos and other assets are available for download from MPT's Dropbox [HERE](#).

Maryland Public Television to premiere *Real Stories of Addiction and Hope* on September 22

Debuting during National Recovery Month, hour-long documentary focuses on individuals' struggles and recovery from addiction

OWINGS MILLS, MD – [Maryland Public Television](http://MarylandPublicTelevision.org) will premiere the documentary *Real Stories of Addiction and Hope* on Monday, September 22 at 9 p.m. on MPT and the [MPT livestream](#). A preview can be found <https://bit.ly/3VcMTxz>.

Concurrent with its broadcast debut, MPT will also present a special one-hour livestream of the program on its [YouTube channel](#). There, viewers will be able to watch the full program and engage in a live Q&A chat with Behavior Health System Baltimore Director of Special Populations Daniel Jarvis. With more than 25 years of providing services in the areas of substance abuse, homelessness, permanent housing, and criminal justice, Jarvis helps expose individuals to resources that provide them with skills and knowledge to take part in their recovery.



A co-production of Obie Productions and MPT, *Real Stories of Addiction and Hope* explores the lives of 11 individuals through their most difficult moments. In the grip of a continuing illness, drugs became more important than their own wellbeing or the welfare of their families. However, they survived and built new identities for themselves and freedom in everyday living. Through their experiences, they learned recovery would not have a finish line, but would be a lifelong process.

Among the individuals profiled are:

- **Desiree**, who was a teenager when she began using drugs to lessen the pain of her experiences.
- **Joe**, who was incarcerated as a young teen and used drugs to help him feel something he otherwise could not.
- **LaTonya**, who, before being introduced to crack cocaine, was abused as a child and was introduced to alcohol and smoking by her mom.
- **Wayne**, who came to believe that being in jail was the best way to stay sober and off heroin.

These individuals' powerful stories are supplemented by clinical insight into the reality of substance abuse, addiction, and recovery.

All 24 local jurisdictions in Maryland have reported opioid-related intoxication fatalities in the last year, and hospital emergency department visits for non-fatal, opioid-related overdoses continue to rise. [A yearlong investigation](#) published by *The Baltimore Banner* and *The New York Times* revealed an unprecedented overdose crisis gripping Baltimore, with thousands of deaths that exceed both motor vehicle accidents and firearms.

Major underwriting support for this program was provided by Michael Silberman and Family, and the film was produced in cooperation with [Behavioral Health System Baltimore](#). Viewers can find more information at mpt.org/addiction/.

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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.

About Obie Productions

A seasoned producer, director, cinematographer and editor, Adam Oberfeld has worked on a variety of projects, including long-form television programs, commercials, live events, infomercials, corporate videos, websites, and social media campaigns. A multiple Capital Emmy® Award winner, Oberfeld is a passionate and personable film and video expert who immerses himself fully into customized projects. Involved from conceptualization to completion, he helps clients develop authentic, meaningful work with the target audience in mind to craft effective, creative, informative, watchable content that achieves results.