

Deciding a Murderer's Fate: 'Lindy Lou, Juror Number 2' Explores the Aftermath for Death-penalty Jurors

Documentary premieres on the POV series on PBS on Monday, July 16, 2018 and streams on pov.org

If you kill a murderer, do you become a murderer as well? Lindy Isonhood of Yazoo County, Miss., asks her granddaughter this question, while explaining the role she played on a capital jury. Although Lindy voted for Bobby Wilcher, a convicted murderer, to receive a death sentence, she found that the views she had once held on capital punishment changed drastically during the course of the trial and afterward.

Director Florent Vassault brings to light Lindy's struggle to understand her guilt

Pickens native named to UoA honors list

Thomas O Snyder Jr. of Pickens, was named to The University of Alabama President's List for spring 2018.

A total of 11,347 students enrolled during the 2018 spring semester at UA were named to the Dean's List with an academic record of 3.5 or above or the President's List with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).

The UA Dean's and President's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load

and sorrow in "Lindy Lou, Juror Number 2," debuting on the PBS documentary series POV and pov.org on Monday, July 16, 2018 at 10 p.m. (check local listings).

Lindy's experience shows how a civic obligation meant to last no longer than a few weeks can become an enduring burden. After two decades of self-reflection and internal conflict, Lindy seeks out the other jurors to learn how they were affected.

Throughout the film we are reminded of Lindy's conservative ideals, which once supported placing a murderer on death row. We see her grapple with the evolution of who she was to the outlier she is becoming in her community. Before his execution, she befriended the man she sentenced to death, which alienated friends and family.

In one instance, as she drives from house to house in Mississippi and Georgia to meet with her fellow jurors, Lindy mentions the federal police training she received in Marietta, Ga., and shows the two pistols that are kept in her car "It's a sad thing that you have to protect yourself these days," she says. (Lindy also served in the Mississippi Armed National Guard.)

Nearly all the jurors are

willing to share their honest feelings about the trial. Bill Wann (Juror 9), from the Jackson area, was surprised at the jurors who were eager to cast their vote so they could return to their normal lives. He recalls that some jurors didn't understand the

instructions. Although he feels the verdict was just, "we had to make a horrible decision. ... The real depression of it didn't sink in until we left and I got home." Another juror says that 20 years later, she has "done a 180 flip" and no longer believes in the death penalty.

Lindy, a Baptist, finds comfort in knowing that she is not the only juror have experienced a change of heart. "If this had to happen to just

make a few of us realize the significance of not just arbitrarily voting for the death penalty or saying that that's the only answer in a capital murder trial ... It's like chipping away at a big rock, and maybe that's the whole purpose of this."

"I thought this story would offer an opportunity to shift our vision of the death penalty from a vague and distant idea to something more tangible and complex," says

Florent, the filmmaker. "Jurors are an essential element of the criminal justice system, but no one knows how they feel after leaving the courthouse."

No matter where one stands on capital punishment, POV's Lindy Lou, Juror Number 2 encourages viewers to think beyond the sentence and to consider the emotional toll that such a decision takes on jurors.

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