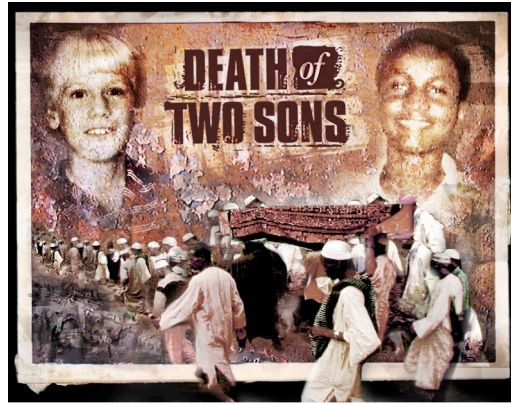


A Yimbe Production

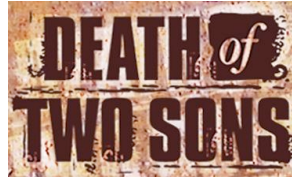


*Directed by Micah Schaffer
Produced by Alrick Brown*

*Two Lives.
Two Tragic Deaths.
One Story.*

Contact: Jay Simmons, The J. Arts Group
(p) (917) 678-7175 / (310) 499-1582 (e) TheJArtsGroup@gmail.com

Contact: Jay Simmons
The J Arts Group
T: 917 678 7175
E: TheJArtsGroup@gmail.com



Synopsis

41 Shots

On Feb. 4, 1999, four New York City Police officers killed African immigrant Amadou Diallo on his own doorstep in a hail of 41 bullets. The inhumanity of Amadou's death outraged African-Americans, so often the victims of such violence themselves, and people of all ethnicities took to the streets in protest.

And yet, despite all the publicity, how many of those marching in Diallo's name could tell you what his native language was or place Guinea on a map?

Two Lives

Jesse Thyne knew Amadou's history better than any other American. An exuberant Peace Corps volunteer from Pasadena, CA, Jesse was assigned to Amadou's home village in Guinea, West Africa. He'd been "adopted" by members of Amadou's family and lived in their house. While Amadou sold hats and gloves on a New York City street corner to save money for college, Jesse was learning to speak the local language and teaching Guinean children math.

When Amadou died, people in Guinea turned to Jesse for an explanation. Jesse was present at Amadou's funeral, where he sat with the Diallo family and served as a translator for American journalists.

Two Tragic Deaths

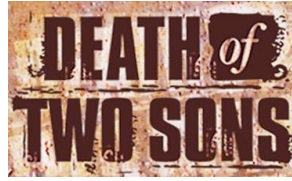
In January of 2000, almost a year to date after Amadou's death, Jesse was killed in a brutal car accident on a Guinean highway. The taxi driver responsible for Jesse's death spent three years in a Guinean prison – a harsher-than-usual punishment. Amadou's killers walked free.

Jesse's death, like Amadou's, was used as a rallying cry against endemic problems. While thousands of Americans protested Amadou's death, thousands of Guineans came together to march for road safety awareness in a country notorious for reckless driving. Like Amadou, Jesse was repatriated to his home soil for burial. Both families had premonitions and dreams foreshadowing the deaths of their sons, and both deaths had a profound spiritual impact on their nation's religious communities.

One Story

Death of Two Sons follows the life histories of Amadou and Jesse as their dreams led them to each other's home countries. The film looks at the religious, social and political implications of their deaths, raising painful and difficult questions about race and global disparities of justice. Beyond examining the broad societal aspects of these events, the film leads us to a very personal truth: that the loss of any human life is equally tragic. *Death of Two Sons* shows the common humanity shared by these young men, their families, and their nations.

Contact: Jay Simmons
The J Arts Group
T: 917 678 7175
E: TheJArtsGroup@gmail.com



Press Quotations

"...Moving..." "...Stunningly shot..."

"...never allows the exposition to overwhelm the visual aspects of the storytelling..."

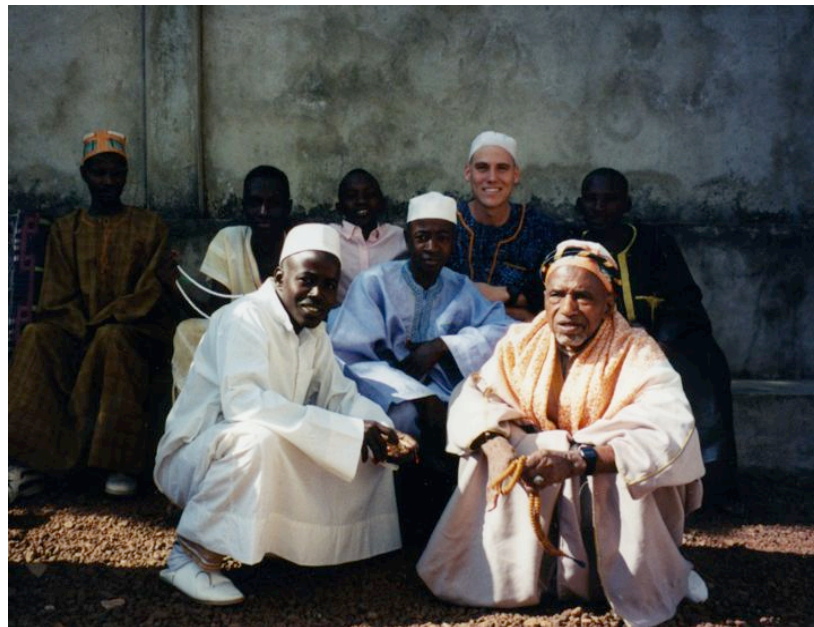
- Variety Magazine

"The film shows Diallo as a whole person, not just as a symbol of a police shooting in New York City."

- About.com

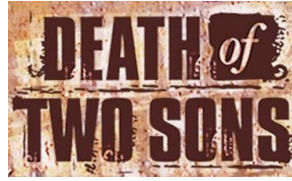
"The work... reminds us that before we are Guineans or Americans or any other nationality, we are first and foremost human beings."

- Black Star Journal



Jesse Thyne with Amadou Diallo's grandfather and other relatives in Guinea, West Africa

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The J Arts Group
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E: TheJArtsGroup@gmail.com



Filmmaker Biographies



Producer Alrick Brown, Kadiatou Diallo (Amadou's Mother), and Director Micah Schaffer
Urban World Film Festival, June 24 2006.

"There is a real human story behind the vestibule and the 41 shots. You told that story."

– Kadiatou Diallo

"You were the only ones who asked the Guineans how they felt about Amadou's death."

– Kadiatou Diallo

Micah Schaffer, Director



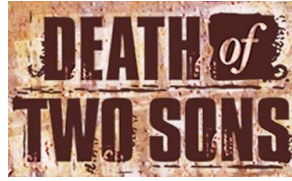
After studying history and anthropology at Stanford University, Micah worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guinea, West Africa. While attending the Pan-African Film Festival (FESPACO), he was inspired to become a filmmaker. Upon returning to the United States, he directed and shot several short documentaries, including "Yahya," the story of a white American who converted to Islam while living in Brooklyn. "Death of Two Sons" was Micah's first feature documentary as director. He also recently co-produced "Iron Ladies of Liberia," a BBC documentary about Africa's first female president. Micah is currently pursuing his MFA in fiction filmmaking at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Alrick Brown, Producer



Alrick holds an M.Ed. from Rutgers University and an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the arts, and was one of four filmmakers featured in the hit IFC Documentary series "Film School," produced by Academy-Award nominee Nanette Burstein. A writer and teacher, Alrick has found his calling directing and producing narrative films and documentaries on social issues affecting the world at large. For over two years he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cote d'Ivoire. Alrick's collective work has screened in over thirty national and international film festivals and has received numerous awards. He recently completed post-production on his latest short film, "Us: A Love Story." Alrick is pre-producing a feature documentary, "From Waxx to Digital," directing music videos, and writing a feature screenplay, a thriller entitled "The Shadows."

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The J Arts Group
T: 917 678 7175
E: TheJArtsGroup@gmail.com



BROADCAST HISTORY

WNET-Channel 13 New York (PBS)
"REEL NEW YORK" Series
August 2, 2007

FESTIVAL HISTORY

Urban World/VIBE Film Festival
June 23-24, 2006

San Francisco Black Film Festival
June 8, 2006

Denver Pan-African Film Festival
April 28-29, 2006
Winner, Audience Award

Brooklyn Arts Council Film Festival
April 29, 2006

ImageNation Film Festival
Sept. 2, 2006

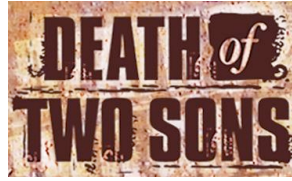
Hot Springs International Film Festival
Sept. 21-25, 2006

Leeds International Film Festival
Nov. 3-7, 2006
Winner, Audience Award

New York African Diaspora Film Festival
Nov. 25, 2006

FESPACO Pan-African Film Festival
Feb. 24-March 3 2007

Contact: Jay Simmons
The J Arts Group
T: 917 678 7175
E: TheJArtsGroup@gmail.com



Festival History (Cont'd)

African Film Festival at Lincoln Center
New York, NY, April 6-11, 2007

Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival
Martha's Vineyard, MA, April 6-11, 2007

Real Life Documentary Festival
Accra, Ghana, June 2-8, 2007

Real Life Pan-African Documentary Film Festival
Accra, Ghana, June 2-8, 2007

DOCS DF International Film Festival
Mexico City, Sept. 27-Oct. 6, 2007

Montezuma International Film Festival
Montezuma, Costa Rica, November, 2nd, 2007

Cascade Festival of African Films
Portland, OR, Feb. 12, 2009

EDUCATIONAL, INDUSTRY, AND COMMUNITY SCREENINGS

HBO Screening Room
New York, NY, May 1, 2006

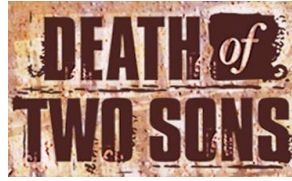
Bronx Community College
Bronx, NY, November 17, 2006

All Saint's Church (Jesse Thyne Memorial)
Pasadena, CA, January 7th, 2007

University of California, San Diego
January 5, 2007

The Riverside Church (Amadou Diallo Memorial)
February 2nd, 2007

Contact: Jay Simmons
The J Arts Group
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E: TheJArtsGroup@gmail.com



Educational, Industry and Community Screenings (Cont'd)

The Trans-Africa Forum

Washington, DC, Feb. 8, 2007

City College of New York

April 11, 2007

Ragtag Theater/University of Missouri

Columbia, Missouri, September 22, 2007

Roxy Theater/University of Montana

Missoula, Montana, April 27th, 2007

Saint John's University

Queens, NY, September 19, 2007

Silverbowl Theater

Juneau, Alaska, November 10 2007

California Polytechnic/Lineage Dance Center

Pasadena, CA, January 12, 2008

Montclair State University

Montclair, NJ, February 27th, 2008

Maysles Cinema

New York, April 10, 2008

Suffolk Community College

Selden, NY, April 29, 2008

United States Embassy, Conakry, Guinea

August 3, 2008

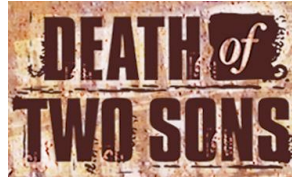
Suffolk County ACLU

Feb. 22, 2009

University of Arizona, Tucson

February 23, 2009

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T: 917 678 7175
E: TheJArtsGroup@gmail.com



HOME VIDEO RELEASE

Passion River Films

Oct. 30, 2007

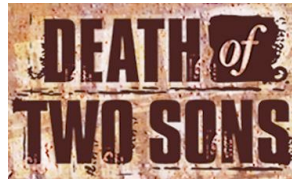
Netflix

October 30, 2007

Awards

***HBO Life Through Your Lens Emerging Filmmaker Award
Audience Award, Denver Pan-African Film Festival
Audience Award, Leeds Int'l Film Festival, United Kingdom***

Contact: Jay Simmons
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About The Life Through Your Lens Program

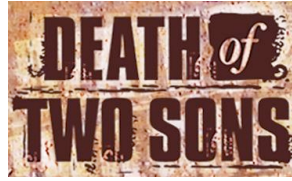


The "Life Through Your Lens" Grant was created to foster work by emerging filmmakers dealing with African-American themes or issues. Winners were selected by the Time-Warner Corporation and Harvard University's Department of African and Afro-American Studies

One winner in each of the categories of "Current News Documentary" and "General Documentary" was awarded a \$100,000 in-kind grant (\$25,000 cash and \$75,000 in production services) to be used toward the completion of their documentary film.

Death of Two Sons was chosen from a pool of over 500 applicants as the winner in the "General Documentary" category. In addition to the grant, the filmmakers received the mentorship and collaboration of HBO's award-winning staff.

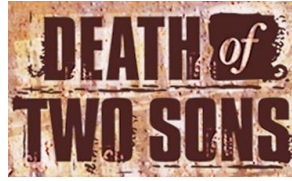
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Facts About the Story

- **Amadou Diallo** was born on September 2, 1975 in West Africa.
- **Jesse Thyne** was born on July 8, 1975 in Southern California.
- **Amadou Diallo** left Guinea for the United States in 1996.
- **Jesse Thyne** left the United States for Guinea in 1998.
- **Amadou Diallo** was killed on February 4, 1999 by four members of the New York City Police Department's elite Street Crime Unit. They fired 41 bullets, hitting him 19 times.
- **Jesse Thyne** lived in **Amadou's** home village of Diountou, Guinea, and was adopted as a member of the **Diallo** family.
- **Jesse Thyne** was killed in a car accident in Guinea on January 7, 2000.
- The four police officers who shot **Amadou Diallo** were charged with 2nd degree murder. On February 25, 2000 they were acquitted of all charges.
- The driver responsible for **Jesse Thyne's** death was charged with manslaughter. In March of 2000, he was sentenced to three years in prison, a harsher-than-usual punishment in Guinea.
- **Jesse** and **Amadou** never met.
- The **Thyne** family and the **Diallo** family have spoken, but never met.

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Facts About the Film and Filmmakers

- Initial funding was provided by the "Life Through Your Lens" Emerging Documentary Filmmaker's Grant, an award co-sponsored by the Harvard University Department of African and Afro-American Studies and HBO.
- 10% of profits for *Death of Two Sons* will be donated to the Amadou Diallo Foundation, a humanitarian fund created by **Kadiatou Diallo**, Amadou's mother.
- Producer **Alrick Brown** and Director **Micah Schaffer** met at New York University, the leading film school in the United States.
- Both **Micah** and **Alrick** were inspired to become filmmakers when they attended the 2001 **FESPACO** Pan-African Film Festival in Burkina Faso.
- Director **Micah Schaffer** served in Peace Corps in Guinea, West Africa from 1999-2001.
- Producer **Alrick Brown** served in Peace Corps in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa from 2000-2002.
- **Micah** recently co-produced a **BBC** documentary film about Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, Africa's first female president.
- **Alrick** is currently writing and developing several films, including "From Wax to Digital" and "Shadows."
- The *Death of Two Sons* UK/European premiere took place at the **Leeds International Film Festival** in November 2006. The film won the Audience Award.
- The *Death of Two Sons* African premiere took place at the **FESPACO** Pan-African Film Festival in Burkina Faso in February 2007.