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SILENCE ON THE STREETS

DOCUMENTARY
UNIVERSITY
MEDIA KIT

How the illicit opioid and fentanyl crisis impacts inner city communities

Last updated: 4.10.26



Brown University
University of Pennsylvania



THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

Wesleyan University

Goldey-Beacom College



University of Delaware



University of Connecticut



University of Rhode Island



Southern Connecticut State University

Goldey-Beacom

Delaware Technical Community College

Gateway Community College



Cecil College

CECIL COLLEGE

(as of 2026)

About the Project

In the fall of 2022, Rob Lawlor ([NEHIDTA](#)), Anna Gasinski ([CDC Foundation](#)), and Sharece Sellem-Hannah ([Vintage Soul Productions](#)) convened to address the rising number of overdoses affecting predominantly Black and Brown inner-city communities across the nation. Rob Lawlor, who had previously participated in a panel discussion for the play, [Matthew Rising](#), developed by Sharece in 2019/20, highlighted how the play's themes urgently needed to be communicated to a broader audience, potentially through film. By the winter of 2023, Rob, Anna, Sharece, and [Film Haven](#) collaborated to produce the documentary, "Silence on the Streets," which features participants from across Connecticut's high overdose areas such as Hartford, New Haven, Norwich, New London, and Meriden.

Synopsis: [Silence on the Streets, How the Illicit Opioid and Fentanyl Crisis Impacts Inner Cities](#) is a new documentary film, crafted by award-winning playwright and community advocate, Sharece Sellem-Hannah. It delves into the complex journey of addiction from the perspective of Connecticut inner-city Black, Latino/a/x, and Indigenous community members. Through personal narratives and expert insights from fields including addiction, trauma, psychology, prevention, and harm reduction, the documentary sheds light on the unique challenges faced by individuals from inner cities and their paths to recovery.

Length: 90 minutes

Note: There are some references to violence, death, sexual abuse and overdose that may be triggering.

...lived experience and expert insights from fields including addiction, trauma, psychology, law enforcement, prevention, and harm reduction are featured in the film.



This film was created on behalf of the [Connecticut Overdose Response Strategy \(CT-ORS\)](#) Team with funding from the [Office of National Drug Control Policy](#) and support from the [New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas \(HIDTA\)](#), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [the CDC Foundation](#), and [Alliance for Prevention & Wellness](#), a program of BHcare.



Goals

The intention of this project is to use this documentary as a **prevention, awareness** and **education** tool for all communities and for those who work closely with the populations represented in this film.

To date, screenings have been hosted by universities, Department of Corrections, faithbased organizations, behavioral health organizations, harm reduction organizations, and more.



Trailers



Trailer 1



Trailer 2

BREAKING THE SILENCE ACROSS THE NATION

Since 2023, Silence on the Streets has been presented across the country through a national screening tour engaging a wide range of communities and institutions.

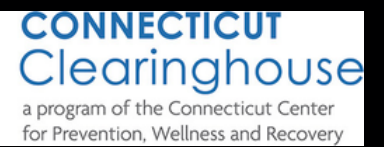
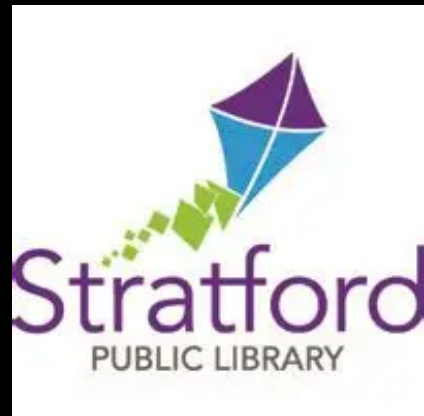
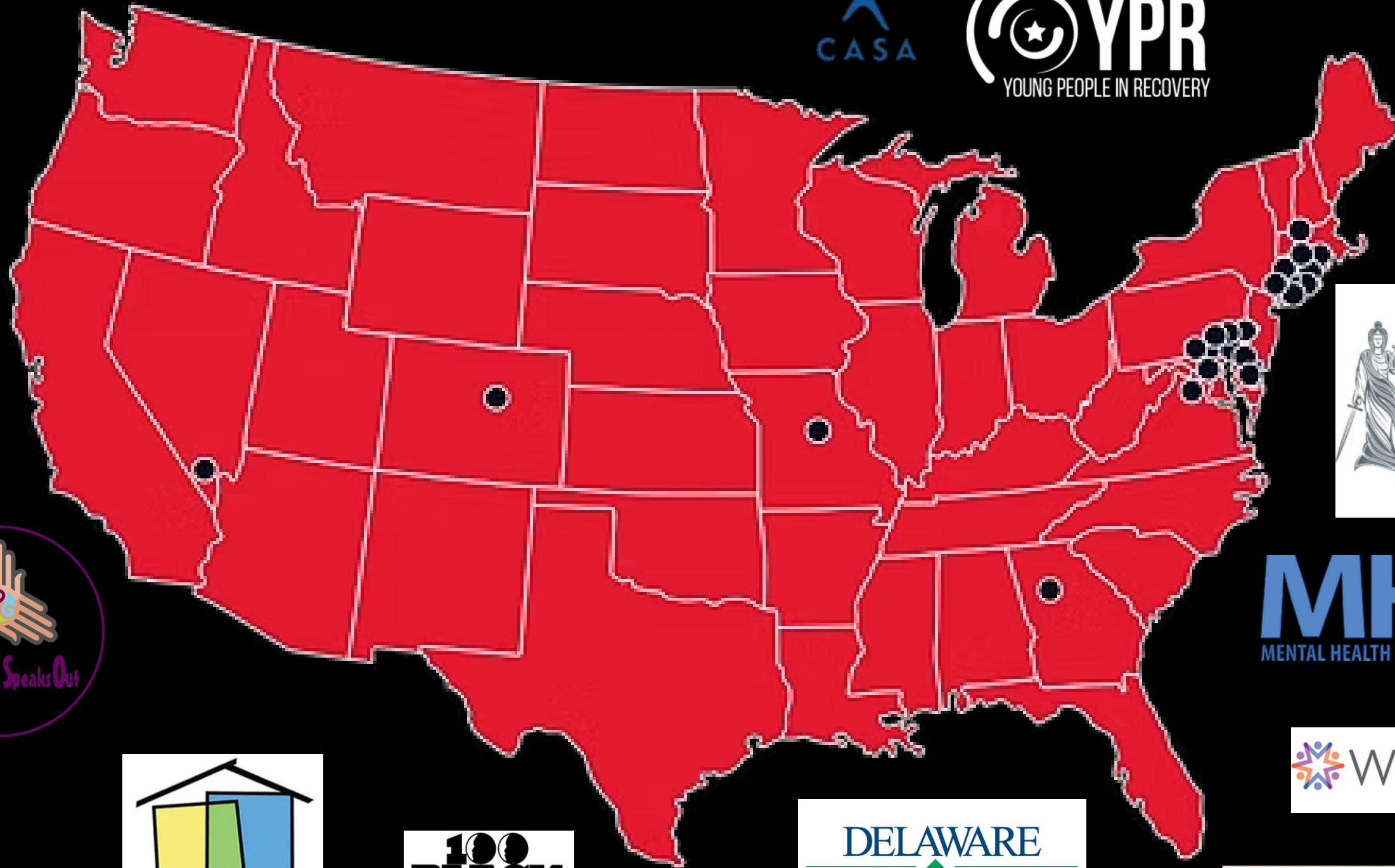
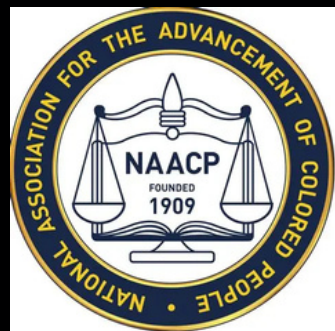
The film has been shown in partnership with public health organizations, recovery programs, universities, law enforcement, and Departments of Correction—creating space for dialogue, education, and community-based response to the opioid crisis.

Silence on the Streets has engaged students, faculty, and communities through:

- Screenings and panel discussions
- Classroom guest lectures in Human Services and related programs
- Facilitated dialogue on addiction, stigma, and systemic impact
- Residency and workshop opportunities



BREAKING THE SILENCE ACROSS THE NATION



BREAKING THE SILENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

“The CHC co-hosted the **Summit on the Opioid Epidemic**, held on September 12, 2024, hosted in collaboration with the Delaware Behavioral Health Consortium and UD’s Department of Communication. This event brought together community agencies, policymakers, and mental health advocates for a meaningful discussion on strategies to combat Delaware’s opioid crisis.

The event featured "Silence on the Streets," a powerful documentary portraying the experiences of inner-city Black, Latino/a/x and Indigenous community members struggling with addiction. It shed light on the unique challenges they, and their loved ones, face on their path to recovery.”



UD/BHC SUMMIT ON THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024
2:00-5:30 PM



**SHARECE
SELLEM-HANNAH**

Community Advocate
and Creator/Director of
Silence on the Streets



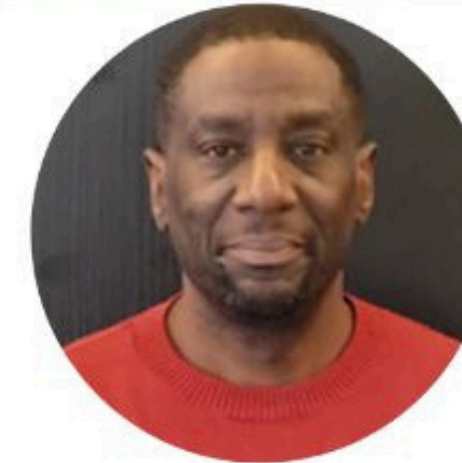
**PHILIP
RUTHERFORD**

CEO of
Black Faces Black Voices



**DARRYL "WOLFIE"
CHAMBERS**

Executive Director of the
Center for Structural Equity



**ANTHONY
JACKSON**

Mental Health Court Peer
Mentor, Mental Health
Association in Delaware

Sponsored By:



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION
CENTER FOR HEALTH COMMUNICATION**



“The event provided a unique opportunity to hear from community advocate and filmmaker Sharece Sellem-Hannah; Darryl “Wolfie” Chambers, Executive Director of the Center for Structural Equity; Phil Rutherford, strategy lead for substance use at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and CEO of Black Faces Black Voices; and Anthony Jackson, who recently joined the Mental Health Association in Delaware as a full-time mental health court peer mentor.”

BREAKING THE SILENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

“One of the primary missions of the **John Hazen White Center** is to foster university engagement in public service throughout Rhode Island...to mark the **30th anniversary of the Center**, we are bringing attention to this widespread public health crisis through the film screening [of Silence on the Streets] and panel discussion as well as key stakeholder meetings throughout that week. We see these events as providing public service to URI and Rhode Island in helping combat the opioid epidemic that is ravaging our communities.” - *Marc Hutchison, Director of the Center and professor of political science at University of Rhode Island*

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND





Booking the 45 Minute Version of the Film

The full 90 min version of *Silence on the Streets* is now available by request (no charge) to community organizations, universities, schools and agencies.



To receive the link to the 45 min version of the documentary, kindly [complete the inquiry form](#), outlining your intended use and event details. This form ensures that we can provide you with the necessary resources and support for a successful screening in your respective setting.

Should you have any additional questions or require further assistance, please feel free to reach out **Bobby Lawlor** at rlawlor@nehidta.org or **Anna Gasinski** at agasinski@nehidta.org.

We appreciate your commitment to enriching your community through meaningful and thought-provoking content.

Team Bios

New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program/CT-ORS



Executive Director, Robert F. Lawlor Jr., MS-ADPP, MS, BSCJ

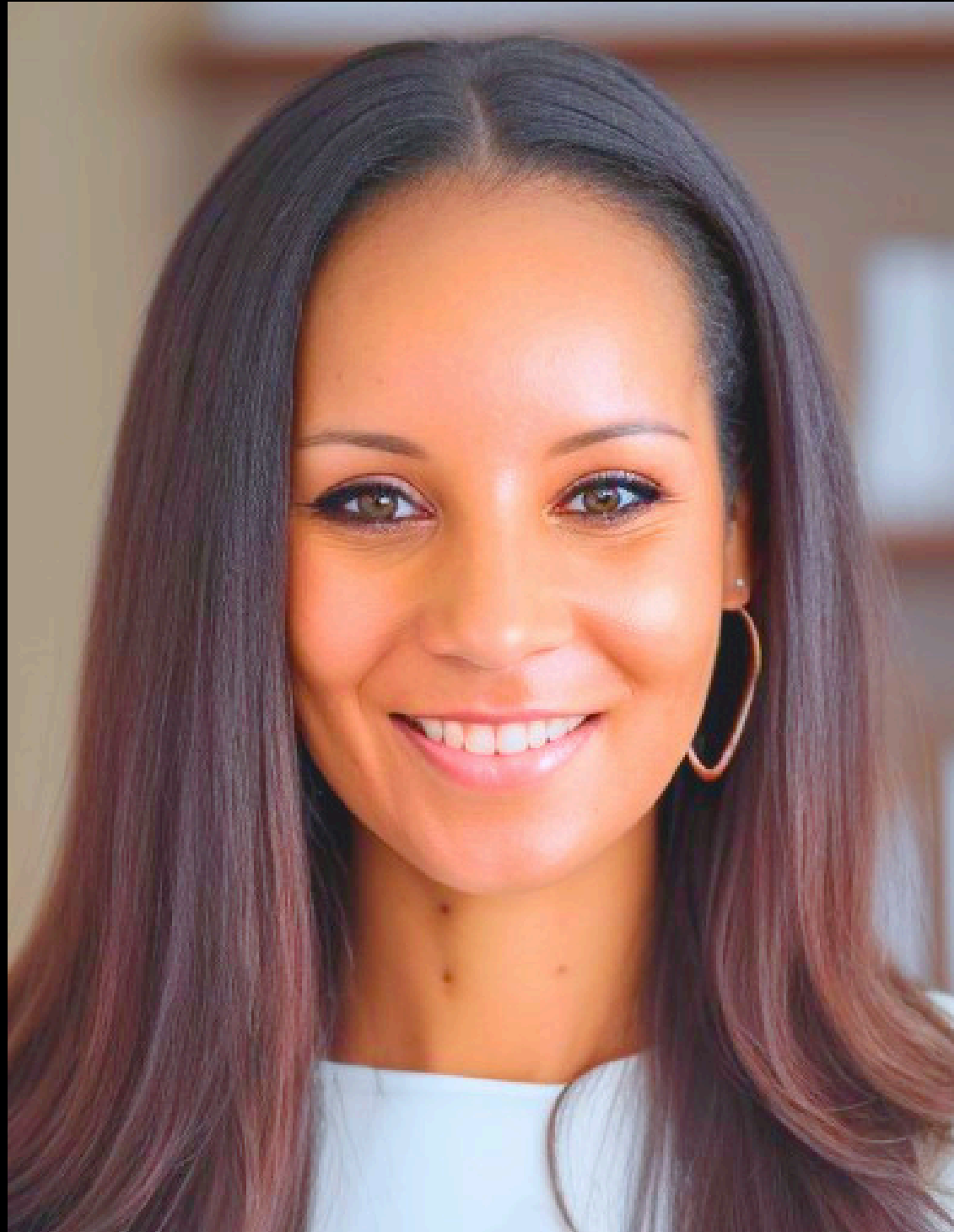
Robert F. Lawlor Jr. is a seasoned leader in law enforcement with a dedicated focus on addressing the addiction and overdose crisis. A graduate of Georgetown University with a Master's in Addiction Policy & Practice, Robert is uniquely positioned at the intersection of public health and public safety. Drawing on a law enforcement career and extensive experience with HIDTA and the Overdose Response Strategy, he has pioneered innovative approaches that blend health-focused interventions with law enforcement strategies. From launching Connecticut's HIDTA/CDC Overdose Response Strategy to driving impactful public health video campaigns, Robert's work exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to tackling addiction through collaboration and community-focused solutions.

New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program/CT-ORS



Executive Director, Anna Gasinski, CPS

Anna is a seasoned public health professional specializing in primary prevention, overdose response, substance use, and suicide prevention. Prior to her current role, Anna served as a Drug Free Communities Prevention Coordinator for the Town of Stratford and a Prevention Specialist for Alliance for Prevention and Wellness, a program of BHcare, where she made significant contributions to health promotion and community coalitions. Anna holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Health from Southern Connecticut State University. She is a Certified Prevention Specialist, reflecting her robust expertise in the field. She has completed several notable programs such as CADCA's National Coalition Academy and Medication for Opioid Use Disorder project, as well as Foundations of Dialogue Education by Global Learning Partners. As an Adult, Youth and Public Safety Mental Health First Aid instructor, she utilizes her vast knowledge to educate individuals on how to respond in a mental health crisis and offer support to someone who appears to be in emotional distress. Anna is the current President of the CT Association of Prevention Professionals, a role that allows her to guide and inspire fellow professionals in the field of prevention. Anna serves as a subject matter expert providing technical assistance on the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' Evidence-based Workgroup and CT Alcohol and Drug Policy Council, including Prevention and Criminal Justice sub-committees.



Creator & Director, Sharece Sellem-Hannah, MS, MFA Candidate

Sharece Sellem-Hannah is a native of Hartford, Wethersfield, and New Haven, Connecticut, with extensive expertise in the fields of mental health and substance use disorder. Currently pursuing a Master's in Community Health & Prevention Science at the University of Cincinnati, she draws from her lived experience and professional background in human services to inform and inspire her creative work. As a peer educator for the Mental Health Association in Delaware, she leads community workshops focused on mental health awareness, stigma reduction, and promoting recovery resources. An award-winning playwright (2019 Dr. Floyd Gaffney National Playwriting Competition on the African American Experience), she uses theatre and film as advocacy tools to address critical social issues. Her cautionary play *Matthew Rising*, produced at Long Wharf Theatre in 2020, explores the challenges of a fictional family in inner-city New Haven grappling with poverty and the opioid crisis. This work is the inspiration behind ***Silence on the Streets***.

Assistant Director, Jacque Simone Brown, BS



Jacqueline Brown is a dedicated theater and film professional, serving as the Assistant Director for, *Silence on the Streets*. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theater Performance & Media Studies and is a seasoned & trained actor. As an actress she's worked in NY, VA, ATL, & CT. All three plays have been produced: one in a NYC festival on Broadway and one by Long Wharf Theater. As an educator Jacqueline has over a decade worth of experience in classrooms from K-12. Currently, Jacqueline is teaching film & drama at Neighborhood Music School in New Haven, CT. She is a New Haven native with a love and fire for the community. She's a recent recipient of the New Haven Artists Corp Grant and has successfully written, directed, & produced the first two episodes of a TVSeries titled HAVENtheSeries. You can watch the series on YouTube starting October 2024.



David Trapasso

David Trapasso is an educator, producer, and filmmaker. His journey started in 2009 in his high school video production class and continued through college where he acquired a degree in Communications. After graduation, David pursued a career in education and documentary filmmaking. His first feature film, *Sky So Blue*, was awarded 6 Best US Documentary awards along with numerous honorable mentions and official selections. David continues his passion for storytelling every day, whether it be in the classroom, providing value for Connecticut businesses or designing the next award-winning feature.



Andrew Breunig

Andrew Breunig is a U.S. Veteran, writer, marketer, and filmmaker with a passion for storytelling. His military experiences abroad have given him a unique perspective that Andrew finds instrumental to his storytelling process. Every client project is meticulously planned but always given enough room for creative flexibility. Andrew has won numerous awards for his writing and filmmaking work and loves building the Film Haven brand.

Let's break the silence on the streets.