

For Immediate Release

LIZ GARBUS' "XIARA'S SONG" TO AIR ON CINEMAX
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Documentary Paints an Intimate Portrait of a Seven-Year-Old's
Struggle to Maintain a Relationship with Her Prison Inmate Father

Los Angeles, CA May 24, 2005—Like most girls her age, seven-year-old Xiara likes to make up songs, eat ice cream and play with her best friend. A real "daddy's girl," she's pretty and independent and dreams of being a "superstar" one day. And like 10 million other American children, Xiara is the child of a prison inmate.

XIARA'S SONG brings us inside the world of a young child struggling to stay connected to her father as he serves a 10-year federal prison sentence for a third-strike weapons possession conviction. While Xiara idolizes Harold from afar, her mother tries desperately to keep her from following him down the brutal and self-destructive path that led to his incarceration. A verité documentary artfully combining present-day footage with the family's home movies, XIARA'S SONG finds the sadness, joy, anger, love, loneliness and fear in the haunted eyes of a precocious seven-year-old coming to grips with the fact that her father won't be free until she's 17.

While resisting the temptation to romanticize Harold, an alcoholic, womanizing domestic abuser who's been in and out of jail for Xiara's entire life, the film also reveals the gentle side of this handsome, charming rapper who finds inspiration in his deep love for his daughter. XIARA'S SONG is the story of Harold and Xiara's relationship, played out over monitored phone lines and supervised

monthly visits, and expressed through the songs they write and sing for one another.

“Xiara is a testament to the resiliency of the human spirit and the transcendent power of familial love,” says director and producer Liz Garbus. “At the same time, she is a painful reminder of the millions of unintended victims of America’s spiraling incarceration rates.”

Producer/director Liz Garbus is an Oscar-nominated, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker whose previous works include Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner *The Farm: Angola, USA*, *The Execution of Wanda Jean*, *The Nazi Officer’s Wife* and *Girlhood*. She has produced documentaries for HBO, Lifetime Television, A&E, Court TV, The Learning Channel, MTV and The Oxygen Network.

Producer Rory Kennedy has produced and/or directed award-winning documentaries for HBO, Lifetime Television, A&E, Court TV, The Oxygen Network and The Learning Channel, covering a variety of topics including the global AIDS crisis, human rights, domestic abuse, poverty and drug addiction. Her work includes the AFI Best Documentary-winner *American Hollow*, the Emmy-nominated series “Pandemic: Facing AIDS,” “A Boy’s Life” and most recently, “Indian Point: Imagining the Unimaginable.”

Garbus and Kennedy are the co-founders of independent documentary production company Moxie Firecracker Films.

XIARA’S SONG is directed by Liz Garbus and produced by Garbus and Rory Kennedy. The executive producer is Sheila Nevins. Supervising

producer is Lisa Heller; line producer is Julie Gaither. The cinematographers are Daniel B. Gold and Don Lenzer. It was edited by Eric Seuel Davies.