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## Tre Maison Dasan (feature)

Director Denali Tiller / USA / 2018 / English / 93 min / Documentary / Ages 13+

*Tre Maison Dasan* is an intimate portrait of three boys growing up each with a parent in prison. Directly told through the child's perspective, the film is an exploration of relationships and separation, masculinity, and the added complexities of coming of age in America when a parent is behind bars.

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### SET THE STAGE | WORDS TO KNOW

- **INCARCERATION:** to put or keep someone in prison or jail
- **PROBATION:** the release of someone from detention or prison, subject to a period of good behavior under supervision

### FILM TERMS:

- **CHARACTER:** a person (may be an animal or anthropomorphic object) in a story
- **DOCUMENTARY:** a type of film that attempts to explain reality

For more film terms, refer to the PCFF Film Glossary ([pcffri.org/FilmHub](http://pcffri.org/FilmHub))

### TALK ABOUT IT | DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR BEFORE...

- What do you already know about prison and the criminal justice system in America? How did you learn this information? Have you ever known anyone with a family member in prison? How might this affect various family members?
- Think about how the ages of the boys in this film (Dasan, 6, Maison, 11, and Tre, 13) may play a role in their stories. Why do you think the director chose to focus on their stories?

### ... & AFTER FILM VIEWING

- At one point in the film, Tre says he's "nice on the inside but bad on the outside." What do you think he means by this? How is this idea conveyed over the course of the film?
- Which character did you relate to the most?
- What was the most powerful scene in the film for you? Why?
- One of the themes is the idea of unconditional love. How do you see this portrayed?
- How would you describe each boy's relationship with his parents?
- What are the similarities and differences among Tre and Maison's relationships with their fathers, and Dasan's relationship with his mother?
- What questions do you have after watching this film? What might you want to learn more about?

### RESOURCES:

- **Official film website** ([tremaisondasan.com](http://tremaisondasan.com))
- **RISE** ([riseonline.org](http://riseonline.org)): Organization providing scholarships and mentoring to children of people who are currently in or have been released from jail or prison.
- **OpenDoors** ([opendoorsri.org](http://opendoorsri.org)): Organization in Providence's Silver Lake neighborhood providing support to ex-offenders. Includes help with housing, financial education, employment and public assistance.
- **East Bay Community Action Program** ([ebcap.org](http://ebcap.org)): Offers resources to returning citizens to help them re-enter society.