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Sunrise Tippeconnie

Director of Programming, deadCenter Film
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Dear Sunrise Tippeconnie,

My name is Jeff Hamilton, and I am the executive producer of *Post-Democracy Days*, a direct-cinema documentary capturing a moment of American cultural history as it unfolds.

As we discussed over our phone call this week, we are submitting the film for consideration at deadCenter with the hope of premiering it in Oklahoma City. This is an Oklahoma-based production with deep ties to the state and to OKC specifically. I, along with fellow film score producer Leon Genesis, am based in Oklahoma City, and our central subject, journalist Kaelan Deese, is an Oklahoma native and University of Oklahoma graduate. Kaelan works for the *Washington Examiner* in Washington, D.C., and the film follows him as he covers the criminal trial of Donald Trump in New York City. If selected, our team would be present and fully engaged throughout the festival.

As Kaelan embeds himself in the orbit of the trial, *Post-Democracy Days* introduces a group of eccentric New Yorkers whose lives revolve around celebrity prosecutions, media spectacle, and political obsession.

Directed by Stephen Joshua Martinez, the film employs a direct-cinema, ethnographic approach to examine how civic rituals are mutating in a post-democratic media environment. The project's observational style and focus on subcultures, performance, and power align closely with deadCenter's history of programming films that are formally adventurous, culturally urgent, and rooted in place.

What makes this film particularly authentic is its proximity to the moment and to its subject. Kaelan is not an outside commentator but a working journalist cutting his teeth in real time, navigating access, spectacle, and moral ambiguity as history is being made. We are currently submitting a sample of the first 15 minutes of the film (the sample includes a synthetic voiceover but the final-cut will be narrated by Kaelan Deese). The project is in post-production, with an expected completion of the full two-hour edit by the end of March. We believe *Post-Democracy Days* would strongly resonate with deadCenter audiences and reflect the festival's commitment to independent filmmaking driven by Oklahoma talent and perspective.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeff Hamilton