

ARTWORK BY PATRICK ATKINSON

# THE ADDICT'S WAKE

A DOCUMENTARY FILM OF HOPE

One small, tight-knit community delivers piercing insight and critical perspective to an issue that impacts the nation.



## The Film

*The Addict's Wake* delivers piercing and empathetic insight into one of the most serious health crises impacting our nation: **the opioid epidemic**.

Brown County is a charming, tight-knit community but behind the scenes it's a community at war—battling an addiction crisis that is killing its best and brightest. The devastating fight happening in Brown County is a reflection of the **estimated 100,000 overdose deaths** in America just last year — each one sending families and loved ones drowning in its epic wake.

The film provides a revealing look at the second-by-second panic of overdose and the slower burn of despair affecting nearly every family, classroom, and workplace. Yet in powerful tones, *The Addict's Wake* finds hope growing to galvanize **a community refusing to be defeated**.

Filmed over two years, we see a community searching for answers, and finding each other. A family's grace, an emerging leader, a life saved. *The Addict's Wake* weaves an **intimate story of hope, redemption, and a way forward**.



*There's a simple, undeniable honesty that radiates from every frame of *The Addict's Wake* that draws you in and makes you want to understand the world around you better.*

**RICHARD PROPES**  
THE INDEPENDENT CRITIC



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# The Message

A battle against opioid addiction is gutting our nation emotionally and financially. It is leaving behind devastated, hollowed out families, traumatized students in our schools, hundreds of billions in health costs and lost productivity, and overwhelming the legal system. Winning this fight is critical to every person in America.

Yet, what often leads to addictive behavior is highly misunderstood, and often harshly judged. *The Addict's Wake* breaks down the pain, trauma, and brain chemistry that drive some of the worst elements of addiction in an effort to grow empathy and understanding.

Through testimony of those living through and surviving addiction and its painful wake, the film reveals how elevating our common humanity and reducing shame and stigma can spark a change that ripples far beyond any one community.



*Your stories are real and raw. However, the movie's ability to project hope is also so unique and heartening.*

**CAROLYN THURSTON**  
RETIRED GUARDIAN AD LITEM

## JEROME ADAMS

2020 U.S. SURGEON GENERAL

"We must continue to highlight stories like this in order to lower stigma, provide treatment and make sure we have prevention programs in schools at an early age. I loved the example in the film."

**FACT:** For the first time, there has been a drop in life expectancy in the United States and according to the CDC the spike in overdose deaths is directly correlated.

## SCOTT SUTHERLAND

BROWN COUNTY SHERIFF

"We worked with this documentary team because we wanted to show people what's working and what's not in the fight against addiction."

**FACT:** The Office of the Surgeon General estimates the economic impact of addiction at over \$500 billion *each year* in health care and criminal justice costs and lost productivity to the American economy.

## DR. LAURA HAMMACK

K-12 SUPERINTENDENT

"The documentary evidences that recovery is possible through powerful testimonies of relentless hope and inspiring forgiveness."

**FACT:** We are averaging 280 overdose deaths each day. Over 11 every hour. An American is twice as likely to die from an overdose than from auto accidents or gun violence combined.

## VISION FOR DISTRIBUTION

*The Addict's Wake* is a film that will be seen nationwide with the goal of helping our communities to heal from our addiction crisis. As a critical national issue there is tremendous desire by leaders in healthcare, law enforcement, education, and mental health to see success stories that reveal paths to recovery. Our approach to releasing the film includes:

- **Film Festivals:** Engaging geographically diverse audiences and national media.
- **Conferences:** Presenting to aligned gatherings on the subject matter.
- **Schools:** Availability for education and impact in high schools and colleges.
- **Recovery Treatment Centers:** For use in modeling successful outcomes.
- **Sponsored Private Screenings:** For Insurance Companies, Health Corporations, etc.
- **Virtual Events:** For Advocacy, Grassroots and Community leadership.
- **Quarterly public theater screenings:** For general public awareness building.
- **Streaming:** Via Amazon, Hulu, Netflix or similar streaming services.

## THE TEAM

### MICHAEL HUSAIN DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Michael Husain is a multiple Emmy-Award winning documentary director and producer. His work has been featured on A&E, Discovery Networks, PBS, ESPN, VH-1, HGTV, History Channel, NBA TV, ABC, CBS and more. Family struggle with mental illness motivates his passion for telling the story of the human costs of addiction.

### LISA HALL EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/PRODUCER

With a background in non-profit leadership, fundraising, and experience working with women in incarceration, and deep personal connections in Brown County, Lisa Hall believes deeply in the message of *The Addict's Wake*. She created the concept for the film and opened doors in the community to give voice to the struggle she has witnessed first-hand.



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PRODUCTIONS

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