

Noonday Films
presents

A Shelter For Edith

By Elisa Stone Leahy and Matthew Leahy



24 min./USA/2021

Publicity contact:

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Synopsis

As the world grappled with pandemic isolation, Edith Espinal entered her third year of sanctuary in a Midwestern church. A SHELTER FOR EDITH sheds light on the solitary life of one undocumented woman and the threat that sent her indoors--not the pandemic, but the fear that ICE could tear her family apart.

Director's note (from Elisa Stone Leahy)

I first met Edith when she took sanctuary in our church in 2017. She has since become a close friend. As part of her advocacy team I have had the honor of learning from her steadfast commitment to justice, her passion for change and her unending strength in the face of a powerful and unjust system. We have hosted countless events, marches and protests where the community has shown up to show their support. I've slept in the church nursery with Edith, listening in the night for promised immigration raids under the Trump administration. I've traveled to DC to lobby congress for her and others in sanctuary. When her daughter graduated from high school, I was there, although Edith could not be. Her family has shown me what faith and hope look like in a dark world, and I am humbled that she allowed us to tell her story.

Director Biographies

Elisa Stone and Matthew Leahy formed Noonday Films ten years ago, filming and producing documentaries and commercial videos.

In 2018, Matthew co-directed and produced his first feature documentary, THE BRIDGE MASTER'S DAUGHTER. Set in the highlands of Peru, a father and master of a 300 year-old bridge weaving tradition struggles to maintain his culture as his daughter tries to escape it. The film is currently distributed by First Run Features and available to view on Kanopy.

In conjunction with that project, Noonday Films produced a video highlighting the Qeswachaka bridge for the National Museum of the American Indian exhibition, "The Great Inka Road: Engineering an Empire." The video is on display in Washington, DC and on the Smithsonian's online content from 2015-2020. Additional use of their bridge footage was broadcast on Discovery Science and TVPERU.

Elisa Stone and Matthew Leahy studied documentary filmmaking in Vancouver, BC and are now based in Columbus, OH.

The documentary they filmed and directed, Montana de Luz, (a film about a home in Honduras for children with HIV/AIDS) won the Crystal Heart Award at the Heartland Film Festival and is currently being distributed by Icarus Films.

Their short documentary, Old Radicals premiered at the Hot Docs festival in Toronto and won the DER Award in the International Documentary Challenge.

Credits

Directors/Producers - Matthew Leahy, Elisa Stone Leahy

Key Documentary Subject - Edith Espinal

Cinematography - Elisa Stone Leahy, John Thorne, Graciela Leahy

Editor - Matthew Leahy

Music - Tom Blosser, Alexandar Martin

Production Company - Noonday Films

World Premiere

New York Latino Film Festival - September 18, 2021 - 6pm