



# HOLDOUT

A DOCUMENTARY SHORT by BRENT JOSEPH



**SYNOPSIS:** Filmed in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, *Holdout* is a portrait of an eccentric New Orleanian. Jimmy, a resident of the Mid-City neighborhood, refused to evacuate for the storm. Despite being surrounded by floodwaters for two weeks, he insisted on staying home to care for his family of 18 pets. With helicopters and gunshots just outside his window, Jimmy reflects on the death of his life long boyfriend who died exactly one year earlier.

**DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:** As a New Orleans native, I evacuated the day before Hurricane Katrina with 13 people in tow to my parents' house one hour north of the city. We spent two weeks in the dark heat listening to the catastrophe unfold on the radio until our power was restored. Throughout the ordeal, I kept hearing about the "holdouts," the people who refused to leave the city. They had the means to leave, but decided to stay anyway. I wondered what would keep a person in their house knowing that the worst possible scenario was possible. New Orleanians are deeply devoted to their city, but if there was ever a time to let go, this was it.

When my family and friends were trying to figure out what to do in the wake of the storm, I decided that I wanted to go into New Orleans and make a documentary about a holdout. I thought that it could provide insight into the attachments that define our sense of home. For days, I drove through every vacant neighborhood and couldn't find one person. They were hiding from the police and strangers like myself. Just as I was about to give up, I discovered that the water in my neighborhood was low enough for me to check on my own house. As I kicked open my water-swollen front door, the dogs next door starting barking and Jimmy, the main character from my film, came to the window. I asked him when he got back. He said, "I never left."



**A portrait of a New Orleans eccentric set against the stark, surreal landscape of a desolate Crescent City.**

PRODUCED, DIRECTED, PHOTOGRAPHED & EDITED  
by  
BRENT JOSEPH

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY: New Orleans native Brent Joseph has worked on both documentaries and fictional films for over ten years. He co-edited MTV's "True Life: I'm Living in Iraq," which won the 2005 Edward R. Murrow award for Best TV Network News Documentary. As an assistant editor, he worked on Larry Clark's *Bully*, Lodge Kerrigan's *Keane*, and David Fincher's upcoming film, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. In addition to *Holdout*, Joseph directed another short documentary about Hurricane Katrina entitled, *A Loud Color*. The film has screened at dozens of festivals, universities, and art centers from Los Angeles to Paris.

15 MINUTES, COLOR, STEREO, 2007

CONTACT:

jbrentjoseph@earthlink.net  
917.547.8343



WWW.HOLDOUTMOVIE.COM