HBO's TRANSHOOD Debuts November 17

Filmed over the course of five years in Kansas City, **TRANSHOOD** is an inspiring chronicle of the lives of four young people and their families as they each navigate growing up transgender in America's heartland. Debuting TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, the documentary offers a long-range insight into the unique journeys of four transgender youths (ages 4, 7, 12 and 15 at the start of filming) as they redefine "coming of age" and share personal realities of how gender expression is reshaping their American families. Moving and thought-provoking, the film explores how these families struggle and stumble through parenting, and how the kids are challenged and transformed as they experience the complexity of their identities.

Directed by Sharon Liese, produced by Sasha Alpert, and executive produced by Kimberly Reed, **TRANSHOOD** captures the nuanced and authentic stories of four courageous families. While every journey is different, they share their honest and varied experiences as the young people display incredible resilience, facing rejection from their peers, body dysphoria and escalating political rhetoric that strives to invalidate LGBTQ+ lives. All the while, the older kids navigate the minefield of adolescence. Sharing their most vulnerable moments, the parents reveal their ambivalence, doubts and missteps as they too transform over time.

Amid the politically and religiously conservative Kansas City community between 2014 and 2019, the parents grapple with their own adjustments to parenting while often facing resistance from extended family.

Through intimately shot verité footage of these families, **TRANSHOOD** takes us into the lives of:

Jay, who we first meet at age 12 and matures markedly both physically and emotionally throughout the film, struggling with a painful "outing" by his peers. He starts hormone blockers and while his mother is supportive of that step, they argue about their differing views around the very personal issue of disclosure.

Avery, who is 7 years old when the film begins, is eager to help change the world for other trans kids and, with her parents' support, becomes a high-profile advocate, and National Geographic even features her picture on the cover of their issue on gender. Over the years, Avery grows wary of being in the public eye and makes her feelings known as she decides to pursue a different course.

Leena, who we meet at age 15, takes her family and best friend on an unexpected emotional journey as she becomes increasingly uncomfortable with adolescence. As Leena deals with the disappointment of her first love and works towards becoming a fashion model, she also experiences her personal goal of gender confirmation surgery when she turns 19.

Phoenix, who is a self-proclaimed "girl-boy" at 4 years old and later identifies as a girl but ultimately identifies as male by age 7. As Phoenix's gender fluidity impacts the entire family, parents Molly and Zach struggle with their marriage and differing views on how to be the best parents to Phoenix.

Others featured in the film include pediatric endocrinologist Dr. Jill Jacobson, gender affirmation surgeon Dr. Marci Bowers, and others.

HBO Documentary Films' **TRANSHOOD** is directed by Sharon Liese; producers, Sasha Alpert and Sharon Liese; executive producers, Kimberly Reed, Jonathan Murray, Gil Goldschein; co-producer, Samantha Hake; supervising editor, Dava Whisenant;

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director of photography, Ty Jones; original music, Nathan Halpern, Chris Ruggiero. For HBO: executive producers, Nancy Abraham, Lisa Heller; senior producer, Sara Rodriguez.

