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POV's 'After Tiller' Goes Inside the Lives of Doctors Performing Late Abortions, Monday, Sept. 1, 2014 on PBS

*Film Sheds Light on Complexities of Patients' Difficult Decisions and the Moral
And Ethical Dilemmas of Physicians*

"*After Tiller* does viewers the great service of providing light where there's usually only heat, giving a human face and heart to what previously might have been an abstract issue or quickly scanned news item."

—Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post*

FACT SHEET

National Dates: Martha Shane and Lana Wilson's **After Tiller** has its national broadcast premiere on **Monday, Sept. 1, 2014** at 10 p.m. (check local listings) on the award-winning PBS series **POV (Point of View)**. The film will stream online from Sept. 2 – Oct. 1, 2014.

The Film: **After Tiller** is a portrait of the four doctors in the United States still openly performing third-trimester abortions in the wake of the 2009 assassination of Dr. George Tiller in Wichita, Kansas—and in the face of intense protest from abortion opponents. It is also an examination of the reasons women seek late abortions. **After Tiller** presents the complexities of these women's difficult decisions and the compassion and ethical dilemmas of the doctors and staff who fear for their own lives as they treat their patients.

After Tiller, an Official Selection of the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, is an Oscilloscope Laboratories film.

Online: POV's website for **After Tiller** – <http://www.pbs.org/pov/aftertiller/> – offers a broad range of exclusive online content. Watch the full film online for free for a limited time following the broadcast (Sept. 2 – Oct. 1, 2014), learn from the filmmakers in an extended video interview, find out what's happened since the cameras stopped rolling, and download a discussion guide and other viewing resources.

Filmmaker Bios: [Martha Shane \(Co-director/Co-producer\)](#)

Martha Shane is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker. She co-directed, produced and co-edited the feature documentary *Bi the Way*, which had its premiere at the SXSW film festival in 2008 and debuted on MTV's LOGO channel in 2009. She worked as a freelance editor, producer and cinematographer for projects ranging from a short documentary about a community health center in post-Katrina New Orleans to an experimental film about the Japanese writer Osamu Dazai. **After Tiller** is her second feature documentary. She is currently co-directing *The Mystery of Marie Jocelyne*, a feature documentary that unravels the mysteries surrounding alleged con artist and former film festival director Marie Castaldo. Shane graduated from Wesleyan University in 2005 with a bachelor of arts in film studies.

Lana Wilson (Co-director/Co-producer)

Lana Wilson is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker. **After Tiller** is her feature documentary debut. She was previously the film and dance curator for Performa, the New York biennial of new visual art performance, where she curated and produced performances by Canadian filmmaker Guy Maddin, French choreographer Boris Charmatz and many others. She has organized film retrospectives including *Not Funny: Stand-Up Comedy and Visual Art* (2011), *The Polyexpressive Symphony: Futurism on Film* (2009) and *Dance After Choreography* (2007), which she presented in Europe and at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Anthology Film Archives. She curated the film series *Performance Now* for Wesleyan University (2011), co-curated and produced the film *Futurist Life Redux* (2009) and edited the book *Performa 09: Back to Futurism* (2011). She is currently developing several documentary projects. Wilson holds a bachelor's degree in film studies and dance from Wesleyan University, where she graduated with honors.

Filmmakers'
Statement:

"Reality is complicated. Yet when it comes to the abortion issue in America, we are often presented with two very different, black-and-white versions of what is right and what is wrong—no exceptions granted," say Martha Shane and Lana Wilson. "As a result, the national's shouting match over abortion has become increasingly distanced from the real-life situations and decisions faced by those people most intimately involved—the physicians and their patients.

"It was for this reason—and with a desire to shed more light, rather than more heat, on this issue—that we decided to go inside the lives of the last four doctors performing third-trimester abortions in America with **After Tiller**. We discovered that they recognized the moral and ethical complexity of doing this work better than anyone—in fact, they struggle with the issues at the heart of this debate every day. We chose to limit the scope of our film because it allowed us to tell much deeper and more intimate stories, and yet as the film evolved, we began to recognize that many of the doctors' personal moral and ethical struggles were reflected in the larger national debate over abortion.

"The patients who came to these doctors were women from a huge variety of socio-economic and religious backgrounds, and they were racked with guilt, sadness, anger and even ambivalence. The reason so many patients agreed to participate in the film is because they never thought they would end up in such a desperate situation, and saw sharing their stories as the only way anyone could possibly understand.

"We hope that no matter where audiences stand on this issue, **After Tiller** will lead them to look at it in a very different way."

Film Subjects:

Dr. LeRoy Carhart served as Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years, and now works full-time providing abortions. He founded the Abortion & Contraception Clinic of Nebraska (ACCON) in Bellevue, Neb., with his wife of 50 years, Mary Lou Carhart, in 1992. Dr. Carhart was an associate physician at Tiller's clinic in Wichita from 1998 until Tiller's assassination in 2009.

Dr. Warren Hern is the director of the Boulder Abortion Clinic in Boulder, Colo. He founded his private practice in 1975. He began doing third-trimester abortions in 1982, and along with Dr. Tiller was one of the major experts in the field. Dr. Hern received his Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health and has also studied fertility and the use of contraceptives in Peru's Shipibo Indian communities for the past 40 years.

Dr. Susan Robinson is board-certified in obstetrics/gynecology. She has been doing abortion care exclusively since 2001. She has worked in private abortion clinics and for Planned Parenthood and has taught doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. From 2005 to 2009 she worked with Dr. Tiller in Wichita. She currently works with Dr. Shelley Sella under the auspices of Doctors Curtis and Glenna Boyd at Southwestern Women's Options in Albuquerque, N.M.

Dr. Shelley Sella is an obstetrician/gynecologist who worked as a home birth midwife in Santa Cruz, Calif., from 1987 to 1989. She has been providing abortions exclusively since 2000. From 2002 to 2009, she was mentored by, and worked with Dr. Tiller in Wichita. Following his assassination, his friend Dr. Curtis Boyd invited Dr. Sella and Dr. Robinson to work at his clinic in Albuquerque.

Outreach: POV works with educators, public television stations and national and community groups to present more than 650 free screenings nationwide. In addition POV and nationally recognized media educator Dr. Faith Rogow develop discussion guides for each film with background information to help event organizers facilitate conversations. The **After Tiller** discussion guide includes information on health and legal issues concerning abortion, prompts for dialogue and a list of educational resources. Education consultant Michele Israel has developed a lesson plan with free streaming clips designed for educators using the film to bring the issues into their classroom. Join POV's [Community Network](#) to borrow **After Tiller** for free from the POV Lending Library to host your own screening. Visit the [After Tiller Partner Toolkit](#) for everything you need to be involved with the film, from spreading the word to hosting a screening and discussion. For a list of upcoming screening events, visit www.pbs.org/pov/outreach.

Credits:

Directors/Producers:	Martha Shane, Lana Wilson
Executive Producers:	Regina K. Scully, Diane Max
Editor:	Greg O'Toole
Director of Photography:	Hilary Spera
Cinematographer:	Emily Topper
Written by:	Greg O'Toole, Martha Shane, Lana Wilson

Running time: 86:46

POV Series Credits:

Executive Producer:	Simon Kilmurry
Co-Executive Producer:	Cynthia López
VP, Programming and Production:	Chris White
Associate Producer:	Nicole Tsien
Production Coordinator:	Nikki Heyman

Festivals: Official Selection, Sundance Film Festival, 2013
Winner, Kathleen Bryan Edwards Award for Human Rights, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, 2013
Winner, Documentary Feature Award, Sarasota Film Festival, 2013
Official Selection, Sheffield Doc/Fest, 2013
Official Selection, True/False Film Festival, 2013
Official Selection, AFI Docs Film Festival, 2013
Official Selection, HotDocs Film Festival, 2013
Official Selection, San Francisco International Film Festival, 2013

Visit <http://aftertillermovie.com/> for a complete list of screenings and events.

Pressroom: Visit POV's pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom, for press releases, downloadable art, filmmaker biographies, transcripts and special features.

POV: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and now in its 27th season on PBS, the award-winning POV is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. POV has brought more than 365 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide. POV films have won every major film and broadcasting award, including 32 Emmys, 17 George Foster Peabody Awards, 12 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, three Academy Awards® and the Prix Italia. Since 1988, POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. Visit www.pbs.org/pov.

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