



Hot Chicken, Fair Chance

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(New York, NY) – **The Marshall Project** has launched **ViewFinder**, a new vertical that will feature visual commentaries and mini-documentaries offering fresh perspectives on the criminal justice system.

“Hot Chicken, Fair Chance,” The Marshall Project’s first **ViewFinder** project, takes us inside a popular Columbus, Ohio restaurant that hires formerly incarcerated people to do everything from work the fryer to run the back office.

Directed by award-winning filmmaker Katie Galloway, the mini-documentary vividly illustrates both the barriers that the formerly incarcerated face reintegrating into society and the difference employment can make to their chances for successful re-entry. Even more, “Hot Chicken, Fair Chance” highlights how employees with criminal records can be an asset, rather than a risk, to a company.



“Fair chance employment is not a warm and fuzzy charitable strategy, but a business strategy,” says Hot Chicken Takeover’s founder Joe DeLoss. “We’re building a business that’s growing rapidly so we hire high character, high hustle, just high capacity people.”

For those who have spent time in prison, finding gainful employment is among the greatest challenges. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, more than 650,000 people are released from prison each year and it’s estimated that between 60 and 75 percent of them remain jobless year after their release.

A small but growing number of businesses are embracing fair chance hiring practices and some are spreading the word: those with records are often among the most dedicated and hardworking employees anywhere. “Hot Chicken, Fair Chance” shows how a community-minded restaurant’s inclusive hiring practices are “just good business.”

The Marshall Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization that seeks to create and sustain a sense of national urgency about the U.S. criminal justice system. For more, visit themarshallproject.org. Follow us on twitter and instagram @marshallproj

KATIE GALLOWAY is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and investigative reporter whose work explores the intersections of institutional power, civil & human rights and political activism. **THE RETURN** (2016), the third in a trilogy of films on the American justice system, follows the release of thousands of “lifers” after an unprecedented reform. **BETTER THIS WORLD** (2011) tells the story of two young men from Midland, Texas, charged with domestic terrorism after being radicalized by an older activist/mentor & FBI informant. **PRISON TOWN, USA** (2007) looks at the impact of the incarceration boom on rural America through Susanville, California, a town with more prisoners than free people. Galloway co-founded **THE RETURN PROJECT** and recently founded the production company **BIG PICTURES**, where she is in production on the film **THE PUSHOUTS**.

Galloway produced and reported an award-winning trio of films on the justice system for PBS FRONTLINE in the late ‘90s: **SNITCH**, about the government’s use of informants in the drug war, **THE CASE FOR INNOCENCE** about the difficulty of getting innocence claims heard post conviction in the US justice system and **REQUIEM FOR FRANK LEE SMITH** about the first person posthumously proven innocent after dying on death row. Her short films have run in New York Times Op-Docs (**A RIDE HOME FROM PRISON** and **THREE STRIKES OF INJUSTICE**), in The Intercept’s Field of Vision (**ERIC & ANNA**) and a series on non-violent offenders serving life for Mother Jones. **HOT CHICKEN, FAIR CHANCE** is her first piece for The Marshall Project. For more info visit bigpicturesfilm.com * thereturnproject.com * thepushouts.com



Help Spread the Word

The first step in tackling the unemployment crisis afflicting the formerly incarcerated is to raise awareness that the crisis exists in the first place—and that the solution could be good for business. Amplify this short but powerful documentary on your social media channels. Below you'll find sample posts for twitter, facebook and instagram. Be sure to include the link!

TMP LINK: <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2017/07/10/hot-chicken-fair-chance>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/TheMarshallProject.org/videos/1943997035815715/>

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/MarshallProj/status/884383445643915265>

Note: If you'd like to republish a still from the film, please be in touch with TMP's multimedia editor Celina Fang for high-resolution images and permission at cfang@themarshallproject.org or (212) 803-5222.

Sample Twitter Posts:

- Video: @ChickenTakeover serves up Nashville-style hot chicken... and a fresh start for formerly incarcerated people. <http://bit.ly/2sWt8PV>
- New doc from The @MarshallProj + @KatieGalloways shows how @ChickenTakeover makes fair-chance employment a reality. <http://bit.ly/2sWt8PV>
- The @MarshallProj kicks off its brand-new ViewFinder documentary series with this @KatieGalloways' film: <http://bit.ly/2sWt8PV>
- Fair-chance employer Hot @ChickenTakeover offers formerly incarcerated people jobs — and a clean slate. <http://bit.ly/2sWt8PV>



- Employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated people can be scarce. @Chicken Takeover wants to change that. <http://bit.ly/2sWt8PV>

Sample Facebook Posts:

- This restaurant serves up Nashville-style hot chicken... and a fresh start for formerly incarcerated people. Watch the film by [The Return's](#) Katie Galloway here. https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=5JaeRNSNUro
- Here, one of Hot Chicken Takeover's formerly incarcerated employees, Joseph Greene, explains the benefits behind the restaurant's fair-chance ethos. Watch the full film at @TheMarshallProject.org. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2017/07/10/hot-chicken-fair-chance?ref=hp-1-111#.XNKrHd8kL>
- At Hot Chicken Takeover, success is about more than slinging tasty Nashville-style hot chicken. It's about giving formerly incarcerated people a fair chance at employment — and rebuilding their lives. Watch their stories at @TheMarshallProject.org. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2017/07/10/hot-chicken-fair-chance?ref=hp-1-111#.XNKrHd8kL>

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Katie Galloway, Joe DeLoss, and any other character featured in the film, please contact:

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