

New Documentary Deadbeat Hits Apple TV To Fight Systemic Family Court Bias



N. Hollywood, California Jun 25, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - New York City Firefighter, Persian Gulf Veteran, and filmmaker **Louis Holmes** launched his highly-anticipated documentary ***DEADBEAT***, streaming exclusively on Apple TV. This powerhouse film arrives as an award winning documentary that pulls back the curtain on systemic bias and broken laws within the family court system, driven by high profile legal cases and global political testimonies. Dubbed a "Firefather" for his dual life putting out literal blazes across all five boroughs while fighting to extinguish systemic corruption in family court, Holmes delivers an uncompromising look at the uphill battle fathers face to remain in the lives of their children.

The core hook of the film dives straight into the war on fathers, chronicling the raw, emotional journeys of men navigating a complex legal landscape often characterized by wrongful accusations, false claims, meritless restraining orders, and deep-seated double standards. Driven by a system that critics argue promotes a destructive, never ending fatherless agenda, the film exposes the regulatory loopholes and structural hurdles designed to alienate fathers from their homes and families. Holmes was directly inspired to create the project following his own personal battles with parental alienation, alongside the explosive, high-profile Los Angeles court custody battles between media mogul 50 Cent (Curtis Jackson) and Daphne Joy, which brought national attention to the vulnerabilities fathers face in standard family law proceedings.

To provide deep cultural context, the documentary features extensive case studies that juxtapose raw, real-life father testimonies with high-profile news stories to illustrate how the legal system reacts to domestic disputes, spotlighting the legal, public, and media double standards surrounding highly publicized national events. The film incorporates critical case studies including the tragic Gabby Petito and Brian Laundrie missing persons case, the high-profile Florida criminal case of Instagram model Courtney Clenney, and the public legal battles surrounding recording artist Lady SB.

To provide comprehensive macro-level context to these personal stories, the film integrates critical supporting commentary, speeches, and legal insights from some of the most recognizable voices in American law, culture, and politics, examining the societal cost of fractured homes. Within these segments, Judge Judy Sheindlin offers sharp perspectives on family court gridlock, litigation ethics, and the manipulation of restraining orders. Former President Barack Obama utilizes pivotal past platform statements emphasizing the critical, irreplaceable necessity of fatherhood in the American family structure. Tech entrepreneur and political figure Vivek Ramaswamy provides commentary on the systemic, institutional incentives that systematically disadvantage traditional nuclear family units, while former President Bill Clinton reflects on historical welfare and child support enforcement architecture, showcasing how older policies evolved into modern systemic hurdles.

To ensure the film's visual and sonic gravity matched its urgent subject matter, Holmes collaborated with a premium, world class roster of elite Hollywood and New York post-production talent. Lensing the film is Kirill Slysh (Director of Photography), a New York-based cinematographer whose poignant, cinematic documentary framing was featured as an Official Selection at the Wildlife Conservation Film Festival. The project is edited by Maia Kimadze (Editor), a master of atmospheric narrative structure best known for editing regional thrillers and directing the psychological film *The Random Guest* starring Peter Greene.

The auditory landscape features an original score by Jonathan Bartz (Original Score Composer), a top-tier Los Angeles composer and orchestrator with studio tracking credits on massive blockbusters including Steven Spielberg's *The Fabelmans*, Marvel Studios' *Avengers: Endgame*, and Lucasfilm's *Star Wars* sequel trilogy. Bringing depth to the visual aesthetic is Chris DiBerardino (DI Colorist), a veteran post-production artist whose senior coloring work includes major streaming hits like Netflix's *Dirty Money* and HBO's *Torn Apart: Separated at the Border*. The sonic foundation was anchored by Jonathan Strickland (Sound Designer), a premium audio specialist whose television engineering and ADR mixing credits include Kevin Hart's premium comedy series *Lil Kev*.

Ahead of its exclusive global digital rollout on Apple TV, ***DEADBEAT*** has already generated significant critical acclaim and waves on the international festival circuit. The documentary feature has earned critical praise from independent juries, securing five industry awards including Best Documentary Feature at the prestigious Robinson Film Awards. ***DEADBEAT*** is available for streaming and digital purchase globally on Apple TV.

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