



Film

Screenings

CCASA FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2013

How this Guide works

The Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) Planning Committee selected films and designed this guide in order to help facilitate community and/or campus discussions about sexual violence across Colorado during SAAM.

To hold a film screening in your community or on your campus, select a movie from this list. Films in this Guide are available in the CCASA Lending Library. All are educational films that do not require permission to screen in educational settings. Contact CCASA staff if you have specific questions about the screening permissions.

This Guide is designed to help facilitate a film screening event. The “Overview” and “Introduction Ideas” sections are designed to help with introducing the film to your audience. The “Discussion Questions” are designed to facilitate discussions following the viewing of the film. You may want to allow 20-30 minutes for a discussion period.

The films were selected because of the range of topics they address as well as the varied lengths and genres. These films are documentaries that run from 25 minutes to one hour. As you select a film, consider the topic as well as the length that will be best for your audience, factoring in the additional time for discussion.

When you screen any of these films, be sure to **acknowledge the impact** they may have on the audience, especially survivors who are present. Identify the advocates in the room at the onset of the event, and let the audience know about your agency’s services in case someone needs to talk at any time during or after the film screening.

Follow-up! Let CCASA know how your film screening goes. What were your successes and what could we do to make your screening even better next year?

The Films

BOYS AND MEN HEALING (ONE HOUR)

HEALING NEEN (54 MIN)

THE LINE (24 MIN)

BOYS AND MEN HEALING

Overview

Boys and Men Healing is a documentary about the epidemic of sexual abuse of boys, the impact on individuals, families, and society, and the importance of male survivors healing and speaking out to end child sexual abuse.

Introduction Ideas

- Thank the audience for their attendance and interest in ending sexual abuse.
- Provide an agenda for your community's event (e.g., film viewing, community discussion, etc.).
- Be sure to prepare the audience for the nature of the documentary, specifically the types of stories that will be shared and emphasize the truth of each account, in addition to the fact that all of the men in the film are **non-offending** male survivors of child sexual abuse.
- Consider sharing statistics regarding childhood sexual abuse and the sexual abuse of boys.

Discussion Questions

*A main point of providing a community viewing of **Boys and Men Healing** is to introduce communities to various types of sexual assault, specifically childhood sexual abuse of boys.*

The following discussion questions can be used as a guide to assist you in facilitating a discussion with the attendees of your community event.

1. How would you describe our society's *feelings* about sexual abuse? What about childhood sexual abuse?
2. Why do you think males are less likely to report sexual abuse?
3. Are there any additional stigmas contributed to an individual's gender?
4. Do you stereotype sexual predators as males or females? Why?
5. What was your takeaway message from this documentary?
6. How do you *define* sexual abuse?
[Discuss both the verbal and physical aspects]
7. What is a bystander?
8. Is a bystander responsible for intervening when a sexual assault is being committed? Why or why not?
9. What should bystanders do to assist the victim of a sexual assault?
10. What steps can you take to help educate others about the role of bystanders?

HEALING NEEN

Overview

Tonier “Neen” Cain experienced chronic homelessness, sixty-six criminal convictions (mostly related to drug addiction and prostitution offenses), and a cycle of incarceration that seemed difficult—if not impossible — to break. The film chronicles her journey toward healing with trauma-informed care.

Introduction Ideas

- Thank the audience for their attendance and interest in ending sexual violence.
- Provide an agenda for your community’s event (e.g., film viewing, community discussion, etc.).
- Consider sharing statistics regarding childhood sexual abuse. The Darkness to Light website (www.darkness2light.org) is an excellent website for this information. Statistics on sexual abuse within incarceration and research on percentages of individuals within Department of Corrections that experienced trauma prior to incarceration may also be helpful. See www.justdetention.org for additional information/resources on this topic.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you define “trauma-informed” care?
2. How and why did Neen use drugs (primarily crack cocaine) to “self-medicate” or “treat” her trauma from both childhood and adult sexual abuse?
3. Neen now travels around the U.S. as an inspirational speaker/trainer on trauma-informed care. In the film, she meets with a small group of women who are incarcerated to discuss exposure to trauma. In this setting, one participant (in her late thirties) disclosed childhood sexual abuse for the first time. Why do you think she was able to finally verbalize the abuse in that setting?
4. This film addresses self-inflicted harm or self-mutilation as a means to express trauma.
 - a) Why do you think survivors of sexual abuse may engage in these activities?
 - b) What are some appropriate responses for a client or even a friend who may be engaging in this type of behavior?
5. This film addresses the concept of intergenerational cycles of violence.
 - a) Why do you think that sexual abuse and domestic violence often become apparent throughout generations within a family?
 - b) Why and how was Neen able to break this cycle within her own family?
6. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study is an ongoing collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente. The study found adverse childhood experiences are the main determinant of the health and social well-being of the nation.
 - a) What child abuse prevention initiatives are going on in your community?

- b) In your experience, do you think our society is prevention-oriented, or do we tend to be more “reactive” when addressing issues like sexual abuse?
7. This film also addresses sexual abuse during incarceration. Survivors of sexual abuse behind bars experience the same emotional pain as other rape victims. The absence of confidential counseling places prisoner rape survivors at high risk of developing serious long-term problems, like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and alcohol and other drug addictions. Moreover, the high rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections in detention place incarcerated survivors at great risk for infection. What support services are available and accessible in your community when Survivors are released from Corrections?
 8. The CCASA Advocacy and Crisis Line Training Guide states, “Believe that the survivor possesses considerable strengths that can be mobilized in the service of healing.” How does this film build about the idea of empowerment-based or asset-based advocacy?
 9. At the closing of the film Neen states, “As long as you have breath in your body, there is hope.” How can you integrate this message into your work with survivors of sexual assault?

THE LINE

Overview

A one-night stand far from home goes terribly wrong. A young woman is raped. And as she struggles to understand what happened, she decides to make a film about the relationship between her own experience and the tangle of political, legal, and cultural questions that surround issues of sex and consent.

Introduction Ideas

- Thank the audience for their attendance and interest in ending sexual violence.
- Provide an agenda for your community's event (e.g., film viewing, community discussion, etc.).
- Consider sharing statistics regarding non-stranger and alcohol-facilitated sexual assault. Be clear with the audience that the language of "the line" is not to mean that sexual violence happens because there is not a clear "line." **No matter what "line" was drawn or crossed, it is NEVER the victim's fault that the assault happened. It is the OFFENDER and their actions and choices that cause the assault to take place.**

Discussion Questions

1) In the film, Nancy says, "I got a different sort of sexual education. And I watched it religiously." Where do young people in the United States learn about sex? What do they learn? How is this education different from the education of women who grew up in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s?

2) Consent means to permit or agree. In the sexual context it is both complicated and simple. Slogans like "no means no" and "yes means yes" are meant to use clear language to talk about wanting or not wanting a sexual act or acts. For example, viewers of THE LINE have defined "their lines" or consent in the following ways:

- o *It Changes. Please Ask. Please Listen.*;
- o *Undefined, but not unclear*;
- o *Well above "consent"*;
- o *Ask me everytime. It changes...*;
- o *I'm not sure, but I'll know when you cross it*; and
- o *When I say stop. That's not maybe, that's stop.*

From these examples, you can see that people experience consent as clear, but not fixed in time and space, depending on mood, context, partner, or any set of internal or external factors. What other factors might affect how people define how they communicate consent and non-consent?

3) In the film, lawyer and victims' advocate Brett Sokolow says, "consent to one form of

sexual activity isn't consent to every other form." What are the implications and possible ramifications if one assumes that consent to one form of sexual activity is consent to every other form?

4) What are ways that women internalize victim blaming? What does the statement "she put herself in that situation" mean? How does this statement relate to a culture of victim blaming? **Remember: No matter what "line" was drawn or crossed, it is NEVER the victim's fault that the assault happened. It is the OFFENDER and their actions and choices that cause the assault to take place.**

5) In the film, NFL Quarterback Don McPherson critiques the fact that women are positioned to be responsible for preventing rape. Most men don't rape, in fact, 90-94% of men don't rape and never will. But rape affects all of us. How does living in a "rape culture" negatively affect men?

6) There is a growing movement of men working to end men's violence against women. One strategy they have is to engage bystanders. The majority of men don't rape, but many men stand by and let it happen. This bystander intervention movement aims to hold men accountable – not intervening in a direct sexual assault, but intervening in problematic situations. This can be shutting down sexist jokes, or intervening if you see someone being taken advantage of when under the influence.

- What are some ways you can you put the bystander approach into practice in your life? How can you challenge language and images that you see that perpetuate rape culture?
- What might some of the barriers men face when trying to challenge sexist behavior?
- How can coaches, teachers, athletes, and entertainers use their influence to challenge men's violence against women?

7) In the closing scene, Nancy discusses finally being able to define her personal "line" and finds it empowering for her. What do you think happens for a victim whose "line" is not respected? Does having a "line" necessarily mean consent will be respected?