



out of sight

stop the stigma. start a conversation.



Brave Voice Films

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Short Synopsis: Out of Sight takes a close look at how our society treats adolescents suffering from mental illness. It addresses the idea that such issues are best kept out of sight.

Medium Synopsis: Out of Sight strives to shine a light on the plight of thousands of teenagers denied mental healthcare or discouraged from seeking it. It explores the stigmas surrounding adolescent mental health conditions and why so many young people are left alone and in the dark. It rejects the idea that these matters are best left out of sight.

Long Synopsis: Through a series of gripping interviews with adolescents, adult survivors, parents, and educators, Out of Sight probes why depression, self harm, and other mental illnesses are so frequently swept under the rug. It explores the ongoing conflicts sewn within families that often accompany mental health disorders, and the dangerous but very common consequences of denial of those conditions. Join us as we examine the cultural reaction surrounding mental illness in young adults and hear the stories of teen depression that are too often forced out of sight.



Specifications:

Run Time: 63 minutes
MPAA Rating: Not Rated
Aspect Ratio: 1.78:1
Sound: 5.1 and Lt/Rt Stereo

Format: 2K DCP, Blu-ray, DVD
General Release: May 2019
Language: English
Subtitles: English, Spanish, French

Director's Statement

Out Of Sight: Stop the Stigma, Start a Conversation began when Jessie Minor and I started a mission in 2012 to tell the stories of our peers' experiences coming to terms with depression and suicide ideation. Through our own peers and outreach on social media, volunteers gathered around our message, and we were overwhelmed by the loving support from the start. During production, we have all served various roles and worked with our tight-knit crew to reach completion. As a group of mainly college students we relied heavily on donations and our own fundraising efforts. The journey was not without setbacks: monetary, motivational and time constraints from intense academic schedules. Consequently, Out of Sight exists solely due to the passionate devotion of its volunteers.



As a first time director, this has not been an easy film to make. There have been days that are exceptionally trying, but there have also been constant affirmations that these are the stories that we have to share. The conversations that start after hearing these stories are important and potentially life changing. That's what has kept us going over four years of sleepless nights. This film has taken thousands of hours to make, and it only takes a single night of talking to audiences sharing their stories for the first time to make it all worth it. I'm so proud of our teamwork and the commitment of everyone involved. It is a great joy to finally see the film available to the public after spending several years screening it at festivals and universities across the country and internationally. - *Kyle Mahaney*



Production Team



Kyle Mahaney (Director and Producer) is a photographer and filmmaker from the Pocono Mountains. He serves as Director and Producer of the film, in addition to working in numerous production and post-production roles. Kyle has a B.A. in film production from DeSales University. He works as a post-production technician and editor in documentary and commercial productions.



Aimee Bender (Co-Director) discovered the project in college. She began working with the team in 2012 and filled the position of co-director in 2014. Aimee has battled mental illness all through her teen years and still works on maintaining and improving her condition. As someone who can relate to struggling teens, she hopes to find a way to both educate parents and their children about mental health awareness.



Jessie Minor (Co-Director) has recently graduated from Cedar Crest College with a B.A. in Theater. After hearing the concept for this film, it struck home and she joined the early production planning. She's always wanted to make a difference for those around her and hopes this film will serve as that opportunity. Jessie left the project in 2014 to pursue a career in the military.



Becca Tomlinson (Lead Editor and Composer) is a recent homeschooled high school graduate who joined the project in 2013, serving in a variety of roles including editor, composer, and assistant director.

Fighting depression herself, Becca jumped on the opportunity to help spread awareness of her struggling peers. Becca entered the project without prior film experience, but dove in bringing a number of skillsets, both musical and editorial, to the table. She also performs alternative-folk music under the name "Esse."

Production Team



Matthew Buonanno (Assistant Director) is a graduate of Drexel University with a M.S. in Bioengineering and Biomedical engineering. He became involved in Out of Sight through the involvement of peers and is hopeful it will provide the opportunity for a conversation that society desperately needs to have. Matt serves as both an assistant director and an associate editor on the film in addition to appearing as a subject. He is happy for any opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those who need it.



Sarah Tomlinson (Assistant Director) completed her education at Grove City College with a B.A. in French language studies. She is now married to her best friend and personal cheerleader and works as an assistant teacher in a nonprofit special needs classroom in central Michigan. She joined the project in 2013 as both an assistant director and associate editor after being interviewed herself.

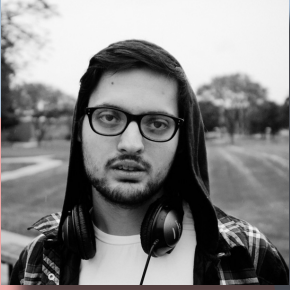


Anthony Vonelli (Assistant Director) has a B.S. in clinical psychology from DeSales University and a M.S. in Educational & Instructional Technology from Wilkes University. He became interested in the project after speaking to one of our directors about conducting an interview, and joined the film as an assistant director and assistant editor in 2013.



Laurel Wenson (Assistant Director) has a bachelor's degree in Human Services from Fitchburg State College. During school internships and subsequent jobs after graduation Laurel has worked in various counseling/therapy fields. She has done group and individual therapy sessions with various populations. Since she began homeschooling she has had a special calling to being a support person to teens battling with depression and dysfunctional families.

Production Team



Graham Vasquez (Additional Editing) is an IT professional from Bethlehem, PA. He studied Computer Science at Northampton Community College and is passionate about integrating more technology into the arts, especially music. Graham brings a unique toolset to the table, aiding in score recording and production, and other post-production areas.



Alex Brown (Additional Editing) was inspired by Mahaney's tireless dedication and compassion to the project. Alex joined the team in 2014. He has volunteered to help in the gallimaufry of post-production since then. Alex was homeschooled, graduating in 2015, and is studying philosophy and theology at Saint Charles Seminary. He aims to become a Catholic Priest.



Emily Fantauzzo (Additional Editing) has a B.A. in Theology from DeSales University. She joined the project in the summer of 2014. Originally from Rochester, Emily has recently relocated to the Lehigh Valley where she now works in Catholic Education.



Chris Vasquez (Graphic Design) is an illustrator and letterer from Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. In his day job, he is a creative director at AWeber, an email marketing solutions firm. In the past, he has contributed to a diverse range of video content ranging from Super Bowl commercials to branded documentaries.

and many more dedicated volunteers.

Press

The Express Times: (12/27/14) “Bushkill Township student filmmaker releases documentary targeting depression, teen suicide. (...) Depression and self harm shouldn’t be swept under the rug. In October 2012, Kyle Mahaney, 21, a senior at DeSales in Upper Saucon Township and living in Bushkill Township, met up with childhood friend, Jessica Minor, of Allentown. The pair recalled stories about teen depression and suicide in their circle of friends who attended a weekly cooperative education program for home-schooled students. Minor herself also battled depression, according to the documentary.”

Lehigh Valley Style: (April 2015) “Depression is an invisible affliction, but a devastating one, affecting one in five teens with feelings of hopelessness and low self-worth that can interfere with every area of their lives. These symptoms are bad enough, but because of the stigma associated with mental illness, teens often find their suffering compounded by shame and guilt. Out of Sight, a documentary made by a team of local students and volunteers, aims to dispel that harmful stigma, shed light on the experiences of young people battling depression and increase the resources available to them. (...) Though the subject is sensitive, an opportunity to bring it into the light brought no shortage of stories, including that of Bushkill Township parents Jim Presto and Laurette Johnson-Presto, whose son committed suicide.”

Forwardian Arts Society: (7/26/15) “Although the film was presented as an unfinished work in progress, one could easily see the impressive cinematic skill and documentarian approach of those involved in the work. The issue of adolescent depression which often includes suicidal tendencies is presented in a series of personal stories that brings the very human emotions relating to the issue to the fore. This technique could have been easily overdone with the effect of jading the audience to the “Alright already” point but the filmmaker’s sense of cinematic language unveils the captivating effect of each person’s tale through the art of editing which sets a comfortable pace for the audience to follow and therefore maintains their unlabored attention. (...) It is hoped Out of Sight will be entered into film festivals and gain a great deal of recognition for its cinematic qualities and much deserved attention to the issue it conveys.”

Dr. Linda Van Meter (Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, East Stroudsburg University): (3/21/16) “This documentary is an important contribution about a behavior often hard to understand, and even more difficult for people to speak about. Through the use of interviews, Kyle Mahaney humanizes the subject and helps the viewer to develop an understanding of why people engage in non-suicidal self-injurious behaviors. Only when we can start to talk about the unspeakable can we move forward in reducing the stigma and shame associated with mental health disorders; Kyle has helped us to initiate a conversation about these important issues.”

Ken Rudolph (Member of Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences): “(...) informative and vitally important documentary...utilizing a series of interviews with a variety of recovering depressed people and involved care-givers. They are all well-spoken and impart with their personal stories some hard earned lessons for an intended audience of young people suffering and needing a helping hand. One sequence in particular, two parents that lost their attractive, football star son despite their own caring involvement, is heartbreakingly presented. The film is well edited, with an effective editing schema that provides a coherent narrative building to its hopeful conclusion...help is available. And a subtle, low-keyed original guitar score along with nicely designed graphics that present an overview of the problem all add to the professionalism of the presentation. (...) This is an instructive documentary that succeeds in being a helpful one for those young people (and their parents) who need desperately to watch it.”

Resources

Website: outofsightdocumentary.com

Studio Website: bravevoicefilms.com

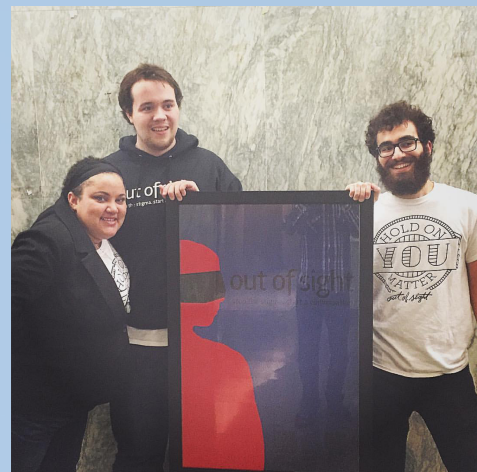
Twitter: twitter.com/outofsightdoc

Facebook: facebook.com/outofsightdoc

IMDB: imdb.com/title/tt2780220/

Trailer: youtu.be/siWczX4yy88

Guidelines for appropriate reporting on suicide and self-injury:
reportingonsuicide.org



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