



Film Reviews

BEYOND BARS: Prison Women Speak

I loved BEYOND BARS: Prison Women Speak! The film was so moving, as well as heart-breaking and heart-warming. Keep doing this important work. Beyond Bars makes the world a better place!

Richie Reiter, Emmy Award Winning Composer, Cedar Grove, NJ

BEYOND BARS: Prison Women Speak is a compelling, gripping and heart-rending account of the personal trauma and life experiences that led five women to a life of crime and eventual incarceration. A must-see to understand the tragedy of brokenness and their strong determination to better their lives. It gave me a different perspective on the human conditions behind bars. This film offers hope and a beacon of light to currently incarcerated women and young female adults that may be at risk. Highly recommended!

Cathy Williams, Founder, Second Helpings, Kailua, HI

We are all engulfed in these same systems. This is why this documentary is so real, I have five siblings with relatable stories. I am indigenous and many of these women are indigenous. AMERICA needs an entire restructuring of every single system starting with our prison system and the root to that system, the education system. Thank you to the brave souls who shared in BEYOND BARS: Prison Women Speak. I appreciate each one of you. I appreciate the producers for taking the initiative! I look forward to more!

Pte Cante Win-Buffalo Heart Woman, Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota Indian Reservation, SD

I had the pleasure of going to see an amazing film, BEYOND BARS: Prison Women Speak. It was the first film by Tadia Rice, an amazing woman who has worked for years donating her time and expertise to the Women's Community Correctional Center, the only prison for women in the State of Hawai'i. Having worked so closely with these women Tadia's understanding of them allowed her to capture their essence: who they were, who they are now, and who they want to become. The audience learned how they came to be incarcerated and why so many women, especially of color, get arrested and incarcerated. Tadia's interviews with the many women she served in the prison program allowed us to gain a new perspective that clearly signaled how little we know about the subject. These women are turning their lives around, and it was so evident during the Q&A session that followed the film that the audience questions were endless. The theatre had to ask us to end the evening. It was heart rending to hear the women speak about their experiences and the many difficulties they face as they work to recover their lives and establish themselves in an unforgiving society. There are few opportunities for these women, and they need support. This film helps audiences become more aware of the faults in our prison system and encourages the public to seek changes.

Michele Rosenblum, Educator (Ret.), Honolulu, HI

BEYOND BARS: Prison Women Speak is a very good movie. I was aware the United States was amongst the highest percentage of persons in prison in the world, but had no idea the numbers of female incarnation was so high in Hawai'i. The statistics were shocking. The testimonials from the five women in the film was amazing. The stories of how they became incarcerated, and what they learned while being locked up really made me emotional. I connected with them and understood their point of view.

Shane Trout, Honolulu, HI