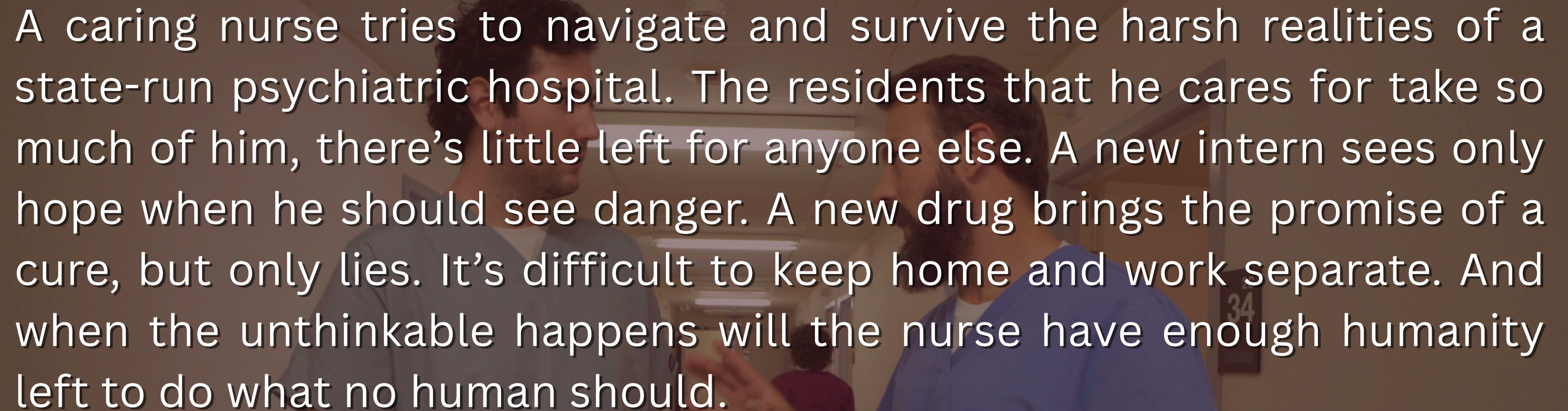


A PLACE WHERE GOOD PEOPLE DO BAD THINGS FOR THE  
RIGHT REASONS



[WWW.NTLSTUDIOS.COM/WARD-D](http://WWW.NTLSTUDIOS.COM/WARD-D)

# Log Line

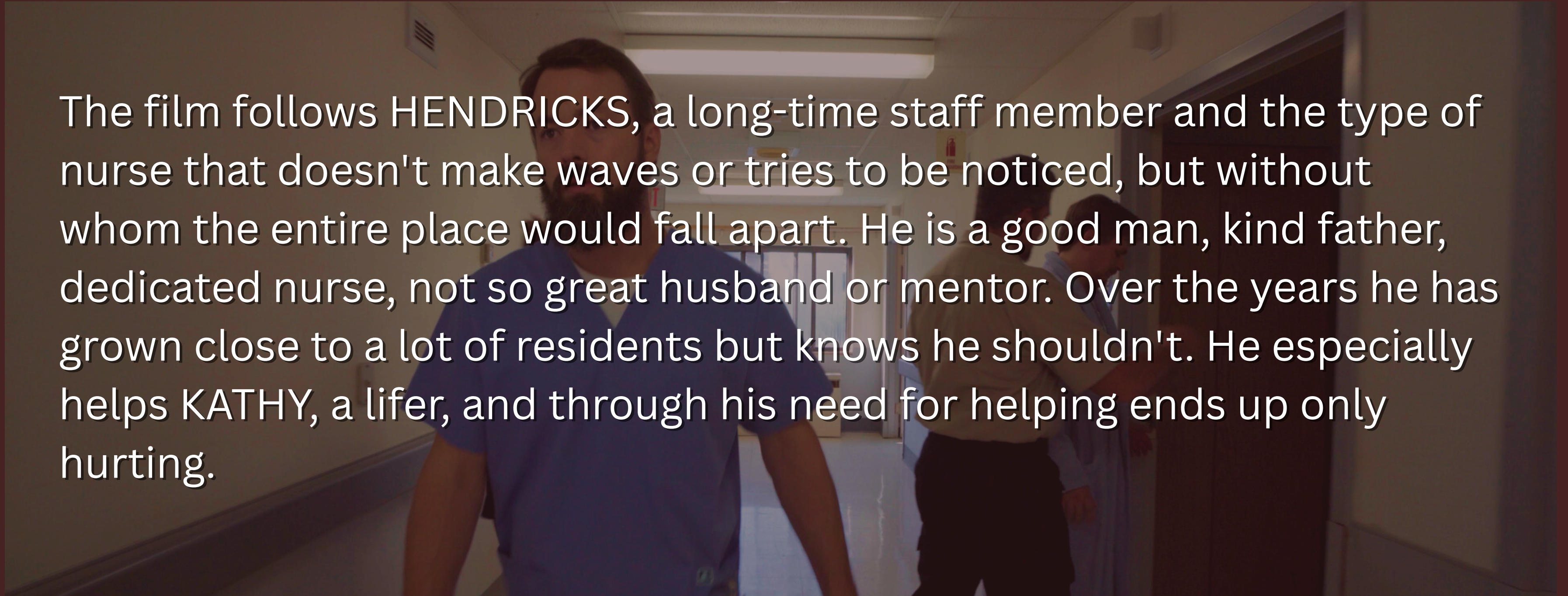


A caring nurse tries to navigate and survive the harsh realities of a state-run psychiatric hospital. The residents that he cares for take so much of him, there's little left for anyone else. A new intern sees only hope when he should see danger. A new drug brings the promise of a cure, but only lies. It's difficult to keep home and work separate. And when the unthinkable happens will the nurse have enough humanity left to do what no human should.

Ward D is a place where good people do bad things for the right reasons, or so they think.

# Plot Synopsis

The film follows HENDRICKS, a long-time staff member and the type of nurse that doesn't make waves or tries to be noticed, but without whom the entire place would fall apart. He is a good man, kind father, dedicated nurse, not so great husband or mentor. Over the years he has grown close to a lot of residents but knows he shouldn't. He especially helps KATHY, a lifer, and through his need for helping ends up only hurting.



# Season Outline

**Hendricks** is a long-time nurse of a state-run psychiatric ward. He is a caring compassionate human in a world of daily chaos and heavy air. He recently moved to 'Days' to spend more time with his daughter, and less time with his wife.

But 'Days' comes with challenges. Summoned to the Administrator's office he's introduced to **Weeks**, a fresh-faced intern with a newly minted diploma. Hendricks has been tapped to mentor, something he desperately does not want or enjoy.

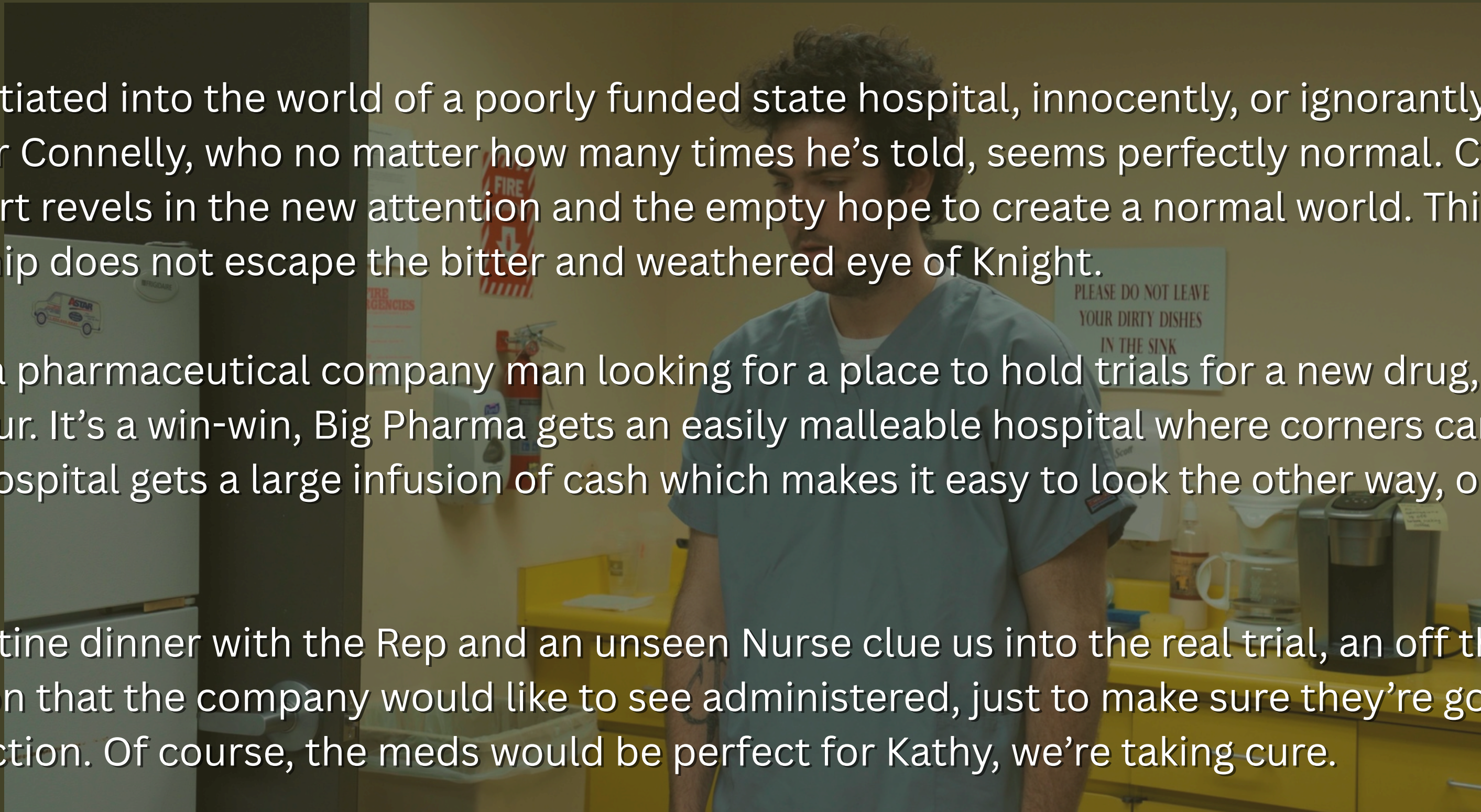
We meet the staff, **Perez**, Head Nurse, fierce Latina and secret keeper. **Knight**, a veteran Nurse, but without the warmth or understanding of Hendricks. The residents, the old man and his dog, sadly there is no pet. **Connelly**, who is perfectly normal, as long as she stays on her meds. **Kathy** is a constantly restrained, violent resident born addicted to crack, who never had a chance. **Hendricks** has a soft spot for her and knows it is wrong.

# Season Outline

Weeks, initiated into the world of a poorly funded state hospital, innocently, or ignorantly, begins to care for Connelly, who no matter how many times he's told, seems perfectly normal. Connelly for her part revels in the new attention and the empty hope to create a normal world. This quiet relationship does not escape the bitter and weathered eye of Knight.

A visitor, a pharmaceutical company man looking for a place to hold trials for a new drug, takes the guided tour. It's a win-win, Big Pharma gets an easily malleable hospital where corners can be cut and the hospital gets a large infusion of cash which makes it easy to look the other way, or not at all.

A clandestine dinner with the Rep and an unseen Nurse clue us into the real trial, an off the books medication that the company would like to see administered, just to make sure they're going in the right direction. Of course, the meds would be perfect for Kathy, we're taking cure.



# Season Outline

Things seem to be smooth, Weeks and Connelly fall deeper into themselves, making it hard to hide. Kathy, being pilled by Hendricks, is out of restraints and seeing clearly for the first time in years. Hendricks home life is steady, but tenuous. It's nothing but a slippery slope.

Hendricks learns from his daughter that the other man Mommy brings over when he goes to work doesn't play games as well as Daddy. His own infidelity is pressing on him. Weeks is caught being far too intimate with Connelly, and Knight threatens to report. Kathy, admits that the voices that went away with the new meds, are starting to whisper again.

Weeks distants himself from Connelly right before her meeting to become an outpatient, a rejection she doesn't take well.

A drunk Hendricks and very drunk wife, fight over her infidelity, his reluctance to apply for promotion, and provide them, well really Her, with a better life.

# Season Outline

Kathy goes silent, but the voices still scream

Knight turns her back on Kathy, and Kathy does what the voices tell her

The voices stop

That night the room is quiet, just Kathy and Hendricks. She pleads for help. Hendricks begs forgiveness. His penance – to make sure Kathy's pleads are answered. No one will see, no one will know, she will be free

He won't

# Characters

## Hendricks

Staff Nurse at the State Psychiatric Hospital. A lifer, but in a good way. Married to Allison, father to Sophia. Although not bitter, he probably didn't think this is where he would be at this stage in his life. He is a caring nurse, a good father, but a not-so-great husband. There is nothing he wouldn't do for the people under his care. The problem is that, for him, the ends justify the means, and that doesn't always end well.

## Perez

Head Ward Nurse at State Psychiatric Hospital. She is powerful, passionate, and stubborn. She keeps the Ward running, but not textbook and not always smoothly. She has learned to make do with the limited resources of a State Hospital. She has a strong family tilt, and it is why her relationship with Hendricks is charged, for good and bad, but never brings baggage to the Ward.

## Connelly

Patient of the Ward. She is perfectly 'normal' as long as she's on her meds and life contains very little stress. The veneer is razor thin. Underneath she is troubled, a cutter, and goes dark very quickly. She probably had an uneventful childhood, but puberty brought with it changes in chemistry and that brought her psychosis to the top.

# Characters

## Weeks

Recent Graduate of Nursing. Did the usual light rotation at a clean for-profit psychiatric Outpatient. Assumed that was common. Very excited to start his career and to help others. Truly believes he can make a real difference, as do all 20-year-olds. He is very kind and is somewhat blind to the realities or dangers that are around him. Was not prepared for the ugliness of a state institution.

## Kathy

Permanent Resident of the Ward. She came out of the womb addicted and life was downhill from there. She is the kind of patient that you want to feel sorry for but after five minutes there are no words, and you feel horrified that she even exists. She is one of the tens of thousands in this country that spend their whole lives locked up with no hope, but she has Hendricks and buried deep is something.

# Tone

Ward D is real in the way ER and Hill Street Blues brought audiences into a world never seen before. Behind the shiny waiting rooms and video monitors of private places of care. These are the places that no one wants to believe or acknowledge exist.

There is nothing pretty or brushed on. It's clean but dirty, poorly lit, full of people that have no where else to go and family that have given up or look away. Staff that care and are desperate to help, but are hindered by budget, animosity, and exhaustion.

Unlike the current thinking in series, there are no beautiful people having beautiful problems in beautiful places. The hardship at work carries over into their homes. When life is hard, it's hard everywhere. Real people with real problems trying to survive.

## Production Team



**Writer, Producer, Director**

**Peter Galipeau** formed NTL Studios in 2010. He has been an actor and filmmaker for thirty years.

His first film, *I Hate David Mamet*, is a ten-minute single shot following two has-been actors playing a game of one upmanship.

*Yule Log: The Making of a Christmas Legend* was an idea that came after seeing one too many “making ofs” from the then ubiquitous DVD.

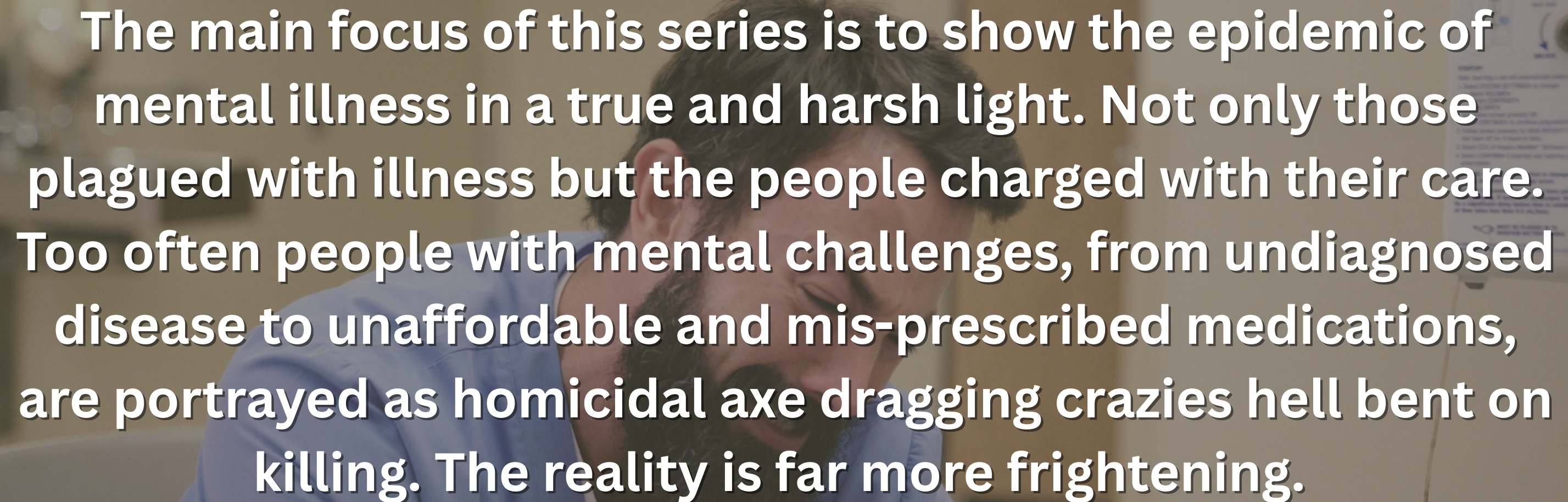
*Ward D* is a departure in both style and substance. The multiple Award Winning Film has been an Official Selection at the International New York Film Festival, East Village Film Festival, Triborough Film Festival, New Jersey Fourth Wall Film Festival, New York Long Island Film Festival, and New York CineFest.

## Production Team



**Christopher Nostrand** is an award winning independent filmmaker, video production company owner, and media instructor from New York's Hudson Valley. Christopher earned a Master of Fine Arts in Integrated Media Arts at Hunter College in 2016 with previous undergraduate degrees from SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Ulster. He currently operates Nostrand Productions LLC. His awards include Best Documentary Director at Harlem International Film Festival, Director's Choice at Black Maria Film Festival, The CINE Golden Eagle, six Telly Awards, three Communicator Awards, and more. Notable official selections have screened at Woodstock Film Festival, DOC NYC, and GI Film Festival.

# Goals

A man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a light blue shirt, is looking down with a somber expression. He is in a clinical or office setting, with a whiteboard and some papers visible in the background. The image is overlaid with white text.

The main focus of this series is to show the epidemic of mental illness in a true and harsh light. Not only those plagued with illness but the people charged with their care. Too often people with mental challenges, from undiagnosed disease to unaffordable and mis-prescribed medications, are portrayed as homicidal axe dragging crazies hell bent on killing. The reality is far more frightening.

# Creator Statement

The modern mental health system is overburdened. The uptick in illness, suicide, forced internment, has crushed an already collapsing and fragile structure. The things we now take for granted and live with: smart phones, social media, instant communication, all the wonderful pieces that are supposed to improve have also brought instant bullying, depression, anxiety, a never ending assault of opinions, a feeling of a world unreachable, closed off to everyone, and always better than you. We were barely holding ourselves above water, then the Pandemic.

Why me, I grew up without these issues, or so I thought. There was always that one kid, depressed, withdrawn, alone. We ignored them the same way as today. We were just as guilty. But having a child go through the issues of modern mental health has changed my conscience and view.

Why now? Because we are still far more comfortable seeing the crazy axe killer, than the human being pleading for help.