



PLAY AGAIN

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Bullfrog Community Screening & Discussion Guide

Roll out the red carpet! Use your PLAY AGAIN film screening as an opportunity to build community and spark debate about how too much “screen time” and a disconnection from nature can affect you and your family . This guide offers some background information plus helpful tips and discussion questions for an informative and rewarding screening. **Good Luck!**

For additional resources, visit playagain.bullfrogcommunities.com/plag_resources

About PLAY AGAIN

At a time when children play more behind screens than outside, PLAY AGAIN explores the changing balance between the virtual and natural worlds. Is our connection to nature disappearing down the digital rabbit hole? This emotionally moving and humorous documentary follows six teenagers who, like the “average American child,” spend five to fifteen hours a day behind screens. PLAY AGAIN unplugs these teens and takes them on their first wilderness adventure - no electricity, no cell phone coverage, no virtual reality.



About the Director

Tonje Hessen Schei is a Norwegian filmmaker who has been working with independent documentary film since 1996. She is the director and producer of the award-winning documentary INDEPENDENT INTERVENTION (2006). She worked for ENG (Electronic News Group, LA) on All Power to The People! (1997). Other productions include Texas and the Death Penalty (1997). She is the co-founder of Ground Productions, an independent documentary production company based in Portland and Norway.

ready to watch!

Here are some ideas and best practices to help make your community screening of PLAY AGAIN a success!

- 1. Publicize Your Event!** This is the most important step because it not only tells the world what you're up to, but it lets the Bullfrog Community team know what your plans are so we can help you publicize your event. Visit playagain.bullfrogcommunities.com/plag_screenings to register your PLAY AGAIN screening. When you register your event, additional online publicity tools become available.
- 2. Visualize Your Goal!** What do you hope to achieve with your screening of PLAY AGAIN? Your goal could be a lively post-film discussion with your audience on outdoor resources in your community. Or, perhaps you want to discuss action on having more outdoor education programs offered in your school? Or, maybe you want to motivate members of your community to simply go outside and PLAY!
- 3. Where To Host?** Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating a community film screening of the size you anticipate: churches, town halls, private homes and even high schools have been venues for many successful community screenings.
- 4. Find A Partner!** Give some thought to who is already working on outdoor education in your community. Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Speak on a panel discussion after the screening? Some potential partners include: schools, playgrounds, nature centers, museums, environmental centers, college & university outdoor clubs, outdoor supply stores, camps, and garden centers.
- 5. Invite A Guest Speaker!** Guest speakers and panels are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. Contact local non-profit representatives, teachers, professionals, outdoor educators or camp directors who have expertise or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend and participate in a discussion or Q&A session. The filmmakers are available to appear in person or via Skype for a Q&A. [Contact Bullfrog Communities](#) if you are interested.
- 6. Engage Your Audience!** Included in this guide is a section called Ready to Act!, which links to relevant resources online and can be used as a hand-out at your screening. It will help your audience know what they can do in their own lives to limit the time they spend watching TV, using the internet, or playing videogames, and engage with and enjoy nature instead.
- 7. Spread The Word!** Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing the film screening to people in you community. Sending emails, creating event notifications on Facebook or Meetup, using Twitter, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. Find the PLAY AGAIN screening poster, discussion guide (includes handout), and press photos on playagain.bullfrogcommunities.com/plag_resources to help publicize your event around town.
- 8. Tell Us How It Went!** We would love to know how your PLAY AGAIN screening went! Visit playagain.bullfrogcommunities.com/plag_discussion to tell us about your event. Where was it held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? Your feedback will help others in organizing their own successful events and will energize the Bullfrog ENVIRONMENT Community as a whole.

ready to talk!

After watching the movie, your audience will be excited to discuss the issues raised by PLAY AGAIN. Here are some questions that will help get people talking!

1. What experience in nature have you had that you wish every child could have? Why?
2. Do your own children, or children of people you know, have fewer experiences in nature than you or your friends did at their age?
3. Name five reasons for children spending less time outdoors and more time using electronic devices, watching TV, or using the internet.
4. Where in your community can you experience nature? Are these places recognized and/or protected by your community?
5. Are there outdoor institutions and organizations in your community that help children and their families get outside? List them.
6. Have our neighborhoods become so over-regulated -- i.e., restricted by community codes, etc. -- that we have come to perceive outdoor play as essentially unsafe?
7. Why isn't outdoor education required in schools? Do you think outdoor education should be a top priority in public schools?
8. How do outdoor play and outdoor education impact kid's personal and social skills (e.g., self-esteem, cooperation, teamwork)?
9. How do outdoor play and outdoor education foster students' stewardship of the environment and their appreciation of the importance of the wise use of natural resources?
10. What do you think about Bill McKibben's statement that nature allows us to not be the center of everything? How might the overuse of electronics and media enforce a "me"-centered attitude?
11. Do you think a lack of interaction with the natural world can affect our commitment to protecting the environment from harm by things like pollution and suburban sprawl?
12. Are there any wild places that have special meaning to you? Can you explain why?
13. What can we do about the issues illuminated in PLAY AGAIN? Share the READY TO ACT handout and visit playagain.bullfrogcommunities.com/plag_resources for additional ideas and resources.

ready to act!

handout

Share this handout with your
PLAY AGAIN screening audience!

1. Environmental planners are inspiring communities to transform asphalt playgrounds of the past into green spaces for better learning, eating, playing and connecting. Encourage your school or parks department to bring green playgrounds to your community!
2. If your local institution of higher learning does not belong to the President's Climate Commitment, call the school's president, write a letter to the school paper, or ask a participating school to make a plea to the president. www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/
3. Visit the No Child Left Inside website (www.nclcoalition.org) for the latest updates on this important bill. Email the committee working on the bill and tell them you support the inclusion of the No Child Left Inside Act (H.R. 2053) in the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
4. Make use of local resources with your children. There could be nature centers, environmental centers, playgrounds, gardens, national parks, nature preserves, hiking trails and campgrounds in your community. In urban areas, you will find rivers, creeks, parkland, ovals, patches of bush, bike paths, swimming pools, and so forth.
5. The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights is a list of activities that communicates at one glance the vision of the Leave No Child Inside initiative by the Chicago Wilderness Initiative. Post it on your refrigerator door and check off the items as your child completes them! www.kidsoutside.info/billofrights.php
6. Create your own Wildlife Challenge Course! Visit 1.usa.gov/pQdSU9 for ideas and instructions.
7. Arrange screenings of this film with other groups in your community that need to be brought up to speed on this issue. playagain.bullfrogcommunities.com/
8. Sign petitions at www.bullfrogcommunities.com/bc_take_action and share in the discussion about PLAY AGAIN and environmental issues in your community. playagain.bullfrogcommunities.com/plag_discussion
9. Join the Bullfrog ENVIRONMENT Community at www.bullfrogcommunities.com/bc_environment and find other films to educate your community about joys of the outdoors.