

LIKE ANY OTHER KID

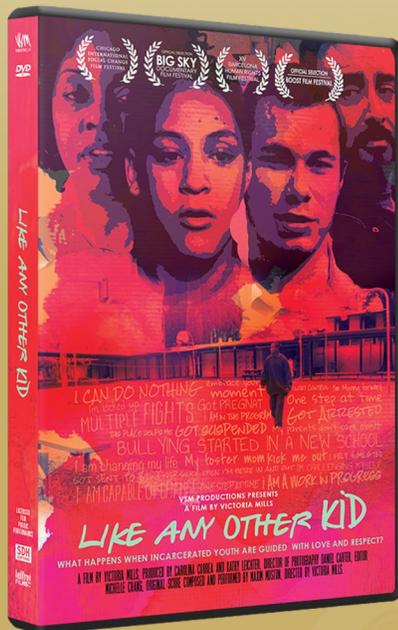
Use your screening of **LIKE ANY OTHER KID** as a tool for educating your community about juvenile justice reform and alternative approaches to rehabilitation. This guide offers some background information, helpful tips & discussion questions for an informative, rewarding screening. **Good Luck!**

what you'll find inside!

- about the film & filmmaker
- ready to watch! screening guide
- ready to talk! discussion guide
- ready to act! handout

About the film

LIKE ANY OTHER KID provides a rare glimpse into the inner-workings of one of the most promising developments in juvenile justice reform: the use of non-punitive, therapeutic programs to change behavior and help youth re-enter their communities. Following the intimate relationships between incarcerated youth and staff in three unique facilities across the country over the course of three years, the film shows how these programs work. Based on the Missouri approach, where love and structure — instead of punishment — are used, these programs guide and teach youth how to take responsibility for themselves.



About the filmmaker

Victoria Mills is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and full-time, practicing psychoanalyst. Previous film directing credits include *Mothers and Daughters: Mirrors That Bind* and *Hidden Battles*. As an analyst with 30 years experience, Victoria has worked extensively with adolescents, people of different cultures, and those who have experienced trauma. She is a training analyst, teacher, lecturer, and member of the International Psychoanalytic Association and the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. In conjunction with her films, she leads workshops with universities, national organizations, and grass-roots community groups.



ready to watch!

Ideas and best practices to help make your community screening 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 http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/like_any_other_kid to register and get the word out about your upcoming screening. You can also email us at info@bullfrogcommunities.com if you need help getting started!

2. Visualize Your Goal! What do you hope to achieve with your screening of LIKE ANY OTHER KID? What kind of public action do you want to take? Your goal could be to generate a lively post-film discussion about how to treat youth better or differently, learn to tell your own experience of being in a program, next steps that could be taken in your community to support youth returning to their communities, find resources on addressing how to impact and change the juvenile justice system, etc.

3. Where To Host? Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating an in-person community film screening of the size you anticipate: downtown movie theaters, churches and synagogues, town halls, community centers, public libraries, school auditoriums, university and college venues, warehouses at a business and outdoor screenings at parks and playgrounds, and even private homes have been venues for many successful community screenings. Virtual screenings can be hosted on <https://streaming.bullfrogcommunities.com>, or by using a customized screening room on Vimeo.

4. Find A Partner! Give some thought to who is already working on this issue in your community. Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Participate in a panel discussion or Zoom meeting after the screening? Some potential partners could include: youth facilities, probation departments, family courts, universities and colleges, student groups, high schools, faith-based organizations and institutions, museums, human rights and social groups, small-business owners who might be interested in employing youth and other organizations concerned about the treatment of youth in their communities.

5. Invite A Guest Speaker! Guest speakers and panelists are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. When people are engaged and thinking about the issues they will stay engaged long after the screening has passed. For potential speakers, contact local advocates, experts in working with youth, system-involved youth, judges, attorneys and law enforcement, leaders of community organizations that serve youth, and teachers and professors who have expertise or insight into the issues raised in the film, and local journalists writing on these topics. If you're interested in having Director Victoria Mills or someone featured in the film speak at your screening, please email info@bullfrogcommunities.com

6. Engage Your Audience! Use this discussion guide to engage your audience. Included in this guide is a section called Ready to Talk! with a few suggested discussion questions to get the conversation started, and a section called Ready to Act!— which can be used as a handout — listing additional resources for further investigation about key issues raised in the film.

7. Spread The Word! Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing your film screening to people in your community. Sending emails to a contact list, creating event notifications on Facebook, Instagram, Eventbrite or an online community calendar, using Twitter to announce your event, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. In addition to this guide, you can find and download a screening poster and press photos at http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/like_any_other_kid that can be used to help publicize your event.

8. Tell Us How It Went! Visit http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/like_any_other_kid to tell us about your event. Contribute to the film’s discussion page (if available) to help other student groups, universities, non-profits, congregations and community groups further the discussion and put on successful screening events of their own. Where was your screening held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? What did you discuss? Your feedback will help others to organize their own events, and will energize Bullfrog Communities as a whole. Feel free to reach out to the filmmakers at vsmproductions@gmail.com. They would love to hear how your event went, as well.

ready to talk!

Your audience will be excited to discuss the issues raised by LIKE ANY OTHER KID. Here are some questions that will get people talking.

- 1.** Why do you think the film is called “Like Any Other Kid”?
- 2.** What surprised you about what you saw in the film? Why?
- 3.** What did you notice about how the staff worked with youth? What worked? What didn’t?
- 4.** How did the relationship with staff members impact their growth?
- 5.** How do you think other people view these kids? How does that impact how they view themselves?
- 6.** Is there anyone in the film that you related to? Why? Why not?
- 7.** How do these kids’ desires, hopes and dreams compare to yours? How are they similar? How are they different?
- 8.** What internal conflicts or struggles were these kids dealing with?
- 9.** What challenges do you think these youth will face on the outside as they reintegrate back into their community? How can families and community leaders facilitate and support the process?
- 10.** Did the film change your thinking about incarcerated youth? If so, how? If not, why?
- 11.** How have you personally been impacted by the juvenile justice system? Hint: try to think broadly...
- 12.** What would a just juvenile justice system look like? What elements would it include? What would it not have?
- 13.** How can organizations and/or communities work to better support youth and families? What would you need to do so individually and collectively as an organization?
- 14.** How do we as a community empower our youth? What options and alternatives do we give them for success? What else can we do?

ready to act!

Using LIKE ANY OTHER KID as a place to start, there are many ways to empower youth and their families. Some ways are:

- Know your rights. Connect with community groups who can help you understand and identify appropriate police procedures. Learn more at <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights>
- Talk about the film: what you felt, saw, and thought, and why you would recommend it to others.
- Engage youth in your community. Are there youth programs you can become part of or support?
- Participate in state and local elections. Sherriffs, judges, and prosecutors wield immense control over the lives of youth, and you can help to elect people who have youth's best interests in mind.
- Find out who in your community is in charge of budgeting for youth programs, policing, and schools, and hold them accountable by making your voice heard, sending emails, making phone calls. These actions matter!
- Learn more about the juvenile justice system, how youth are treated, and the ways people across the country and world are envisioning a new just and equitable society. Please see below for additional information about groups who are active in this space.

WEBSITES

Anti-Recidivism Coalition — <https://antirecidivism.org>

The Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) works to end mass incarceration in California.

Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network — <https://www.aiynetwork.org/>

The Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network (AIYN) is an interdisciplinary collaborative that provides exceptional arts programming in order to build resiliency and wellness, eliminate recidivism, and transform the juvenile justice system.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters — <https://www.bbbs.org/>

Since 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential. As the nation's largest donor- and volunteer-supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 5 through young adulthood in communities across the country.

BronxConnect — <https://bronxconnect.org/about/>

BronxConnect is a community and faith-based program that offers alternative-justice, cure violence, and re-entry programs to help communities build from within.

Brooklyn Friends — <https://brooklynfriends.org/>

Brooklyn Friends is a Preschool through 12th grade independent Quaker school located in the thriving Downtown Brooklyn neighborhood.

CASES — <https://www.cases.org/about/mission/>

The mission of the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (CASES) is to increase public safety through innovative services that reduce crime and incarceration, improve behavioral health, promote recovery and rehabilitation, and create opportunities for success in the community.

Californians for Safety and Justice — <https://safeandjust.org>

Californians for Safety and Justice (CSJ), a project of the Tides Center, is a nonprofit working with Californians from all walks of life to replace prison and justice system waste with common sense solutions that create safe neighborhoods and save public dollars.

Campaign for Youth Justice — <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/>

The Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ) is a national initiative focused entirely on ending the practice of prosecuting, sentencing, and incarcerating youth under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system.

Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings — <https://www.cceas.org/>

CEEAS directly operates educational programs for system-involved youth and support efforts around the country to improve education in youth and adult correctional settings.

Children's Aid Society — <https://www.childrensaidnyc.org/>

Children's Aid helps children in poverty to succeed and thrive by providing comprehensive supports to children, youth, and their families in targeted high-needs New York City neighborhoods.

Children's Defense Fund — <https://www.childrensdefense.org/>

CDF provides a strong, effective and independent voice for all the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves, paying particular attention to the needs of poor children, children of color and those with disabilities.

Columbia University Center for Justice — <https://centerforjustice.columbia.edu/>

The Center for Justice is committed to ending mass incarceration and criminalization, and advancing alternative approaches to justice and safety through education, research, and policy change. Its mission is to help transform the approaches to justice from being driven by punishment and retribution to being centered on prevention and healing.

Common Justice — <https://www.commonjustice.org/>

Common Justice develops and advances solutions to violence that transform the lives of those harmed and foster racial equity without relying on incarceration.

Community Connections for Youth — <https://cc-fy.org/about-us/mission/>

CCFY envisions a world in which incarceration is no longer a primary response to children who run afoul of the law. Recognizing that overreliance on the juvenile justice system is a harmful, ineffective, and costly, CCFY seeks to develop the capacity of communities to respond to youthful misbehavior.

Covenant House — <https://www.covenanthouse.org/>

Covenant House provides housing and supportive services to youth facing homelessness, helping young people transform their lives and put them on a path to independence.

EduColor — <https://www.educolor.org/resources/>

EduColor seeks to elevate the voices of public school advocates of color on educational equity and justice. EduColor is an inclusive cooperative of informed, inspired and motivated educators, parents, students, writers and activists who promote and embrace the centrality of substantive intersectional diversity.

Fathers and Families of San Joaquin — <https://www.ffsj.org/>

Fathers and Families promotes the cultural, spiritual, economic and social renewal of the most vulnerable families in Stockton, CA and the greater San Joaquin Valley.

Gang Rescue and Support Project — <https://graspyouth.org/>

GRASP is a peer-run, intervention program that works with youth who are at-risk of gang involvement or are presently active in gangs, helps families of gang victims, and serves as a youth advocate.

Harlem Children's Zone — <https://hcz.org/>

HCZ® has helped thousands of children and families by disrupting the cycle of generational poverty in Central Harlem through their innovative and effective programs.

Justice Policy Institute — <http://www.justicepolicy.org/index.html>

Justice Policy Institute is a national nonprofit organization that changes the conversation around justice reform and advances policies that promote well-being and justice for all people and communities. JPI is dedicated to reducing the use of incarceration and the justice system by promoting fair and effective policies.

Liberty Hill Foundation — <https://www.libertyhill.org/>

For more than 40 years, Liberty Hill Foundation has been Los Angeles' epicenter for social justice, incubating cutting-edge social movements, transforming neighborhoods, and empowering the leaders of tomorrow. Liberty Hill is committed to racial equity, LBGTQ rights, economic opportunity, and environmental justice.

My Brothers Keeper — <https://www.obama.org/mbka/>

President Barack Obama launched My Brother's Keeper in February 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps facing boys and young men of color and to ensure all youth can reach their full potential. In 2015 the My Brother's Keeper Alliance (MBK Alliance) was launched, inspired by My Brother's Keeper, to scale and sustain this mission. In late 2017, MBK Alliance became an initiative of the Obama Foundation.

Missouri Youth Service Institute — <http://www.mysiconsulting.org>

The Missouri Youth Services Institute (MYSI) is a not for profit organization created to assist juvenile systems in reform efforts.

National Association of Independent Schools — <https://www.nais.org/about/>

The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) is a nonprofit membership association that provides services to more than 1,900 schools and associations of schools in the United States and abroad, including more than 1,600 independent private K-12 schools in the U.S.

The Brotherhood/Sister Sol — <https://brotherhood-sistersol.org/>

Founded in 1995, The Brotherhood/Sister Sol (Bro/Sis) provides comprehensive, holistic and long-term support services to youth who range in age from 8 to 22.

The Color Change — <https://colorofchange.org/>

Color Of Change is the nation's largest online racial justice organization, with 1.7 million members. Its mission is to create a more human and less hostile world for Black people in America.

The Children's Village —

<https://childrensvillage.org/our-programs/residential-programs/juvenilejustice/>

Founded in 1851, The Children's Village work in partnership with families to help society's most vulnerable children so that they become educationally proficient, economically productive, and socially responsible members of their communities.

The New York Foundling —

<https://www.nyfoundling.org/what-we-do/our-programs/juvenile-criminal-justice/close-to-home/>

The Foundling's Close to Home program puts young people in the juvenile justice system on a new path by placing adjudicated juveniles in the homes of foster families that are specially-trained to support their needs.

The Marshall Project — <https://www.themarshallproject.org/>

The Marshall Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization that seeks to create and sustain a sense of national urgency about the U.S. criminal justice system.

ARTICLES & BOOKS

Borderlands- La Frontera The New Mestiza - Gloria Anzaldua

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion by Gregory Boyle

The Gift of Anger - Arun Ghandi

The Meaning of Freedom: And Other Difficult Dialogues, Angela Y. Davis

Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death and Redemption in an American Prison by Shaka Senhor