

**CIRCLE UP**  
**a film by Julie Mallozzi**  
**Timecode Script**

<b>TC</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPT</b>
00:00:15	Newscaster (Steve Sbraccia)	Investigators tell us there was total chaos and confusion among the occupants when they arrived. Whoever forced their way into the apartment did so by kicking in the front door.
00:00:34	Clarissa Turner	This is what I have of my son... that's where the hole enlarged in my baby's head from them shooting him.
00:00:46	Shana Turner	In my enraged powerlessness I swore to myself that when I saw that girl again on the city streets we both claimed as our own I would dig my fingers into her eyes, cross her jaw with my fist and pierce her supple flesh. I spit fire to her cheek, wishing her to feel the agony that had enraptured me.
00:01:07	Janet Connors	Revenge, justice, forgiveness and accountability and what do they all have to do with one another, if anything?
00:01:16	Luis Otero	I don't know, I consider revenge my own justice 'cause like after I got stabbed, it's just like, I don't know, damn, I just lost two of my friends to these people. I just don't want to know I went down for being peaceful.
00:01:29	Ismael Fortunato	Like it doesn't matter, I attack who I attack, you know? And like, uh, and like, I feel bad sometimes for stuff like that, that I think of doing, stuff that I might do in the future, but it's just like I can't, I can't lose another friend. I can't.
00:02:25	Janet Connors	My name is Janet Connors, I am the mother of three children. I've lived in Dorchester all my life. I umm...I lost my then 19 year old son to..to homicide. Umm, when he was killed in his apartment on Columbia Rd. So, umm...I had to make some meaning out of it. If you believe that everything happens for a purpose, it's really hard as a mother to think what could possibly have been the purpose, umm, for my son to have been murdered.
00:03:09	Shana Turner	Oh, sorry ma.
00:03:12	Janet Connors	S'all right.
00:03:24	Janet Connors	Wow!

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00:03:30	Shana Turner	This one is cute because, uhh, it's "The Neighborhood." "My neighborhood is the best neighborhood. I belong here. Some of us have known each other since we were babies. We played together while our mothers had tea or sat together outside on the front steps. I'm glad I came back to live at my mother's house 'cause of the neighborhood. It's not about choosing mom or dad, I love them both. I'm older now. I need to make my own decisions, start taking care of myself in some ways. It's about me and the neighborhood and the way it feeds me. It's about my friends. It's about growing up and growing on."
00:04:18	Janet Connors	Joel as a little child, he was kind of timid. And umm, I can remember him having little floaties on his arms, and a little tube around his waist, and still he's holding onto one end of a scarf and I'm holding onto the other, and then suddenly, he was eleven years old and jumping off some ten foot tower into a lake. Umm...
00:05:41	Shana Connors	So, my little brother Joel, I call him my little brother but really he was huge. He was, like, 6-- 6 foot 5, had size 13 sneaker. He was a really sweet personality. You know, he was very mellow, very calm. Because of his size, oftentimes people made assumptions about his personality. When you're a big boy, uh.. you know, a young man, people try to challenge you. As we got older and you see things happening around you, you see people getting, you know, jumped and stabbed and arrested and it was just too dangerous. You know, like I just was afraid for his safety.
00:05:27	Janet Connors	Shana and Joel both moved out in the fall of 2000. I thought, "Oh, good. He's movin' outta the neighborhood. He's stretchin'...and as it turns out, you know, uhm.. Joel was selling weed and one of his friends was selling other things, um... OxyContin...um... so it wasn't the kind of move that I had thought it was really. My last words to him were right in this doorway over here. I told him that I loved him. And he said, "I love you too," and then he left.
00:06:09	Shana Connors	It was 6:00 something p.m. I was just getting off of work and I was on the train. When I tell you I had a out-of-body experience on that train that I've never had before or since. It felt so surreal. It left me feeling like I was gonna learn something just really tragic.

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00:06:28	Janet Connors	<p>There was this loud, loud, loud, loud, loud knock on the door and, I...um...came out and it was my son David. And his friend Timmy. And they...they told me that Joel had been stabbed. And I asked if he was all right, and David said, "No, he's dead."</p> <p>His friends stayed with him...um...they called 911. They were receivin' instructions. They actually were stuffing towels in his wound. Um.. but because he was stabbed in his heart it was just – he bled out.</p>
00:07:47	Janet Connors	<p>All of Joel's friends were out here. There were kids on my front porch and my backyard, sitting everywhere. They were curled up in fetal position. They were all sobbing.</p>
00:08:03	Shana Turner	<p>And we were talking about who did it. And we knew which group of young people it was. We didn't know which individual. But we knew this because they had some kind of beef with, you know, some of my brother's friends or whatever. So we we we just knew. Like a lot of times, you know, you're treated as though if you don't get revenge you're a coward, or if you don't get revenge, you are just allowing these people to just come in and just treat you like a ragdoll. That's a hard pressure to not internalize.</p>
00:08:54	Jacklyn Berry	<p>I'm reading this poem. Um...yeah...I'm reading through this but I remember. I was sitting next to you after his funeral and I wrote that in like three minutes 'cause I was just so hurt.</p>
00:09:11	Janet Connors	<p>"Now is the time for raised fists, freedom fights against the evils that begat this. These tears represent my sorrow. And this pain reaches deep like an arrow. In my heart's heart you shine. Peace to you mine and the other kind."</p>
00:09:29	Martin Ward	<p>I mean I'm not gonna really deny anything, like we weren't fucking perfect angels. Of course when it happened people wanted to take revenge. That's only natural and uh...the way that we were, I don't know, I speak for myself, like I was angry, real angry. I would have probably wished the worst on them and wanna do harm. And um...you know it sucks.</p>

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00:10:10	Shana Turner	Like the people – like, the lawyers and whatnot were saying things about my brother that made it seem like he deserved to die. He didn't matter. They actually said, "Oh well you know he was selling drugs and you know when you live that life you have to live with what happens." And it was like crazy, what are you talking about? You're just feeding the jury these... these images so that they can erase you know, what just happened. So it was never a matter of innocence, it was never a matter of were they even present. That was always established. But the truth was that the jury had been fed all these images to just devalue my brother's life and to just call it as though you live by the sword, you die by the sword.
00:11:09	Janet Connors	I can still hear myself screaming in the hallways of the courthouse. "He got away with murder! He got away with murder!" I hear this door slam. But it was like this door silenced me. "Shut up! You're not supposed to cry now. You're not supposed to scream. The court has decided." So I knew that I had to make my own justice.
00:11:46	Female student in hoodie	And he actually died...[unintelligible]... somebody came in and shot him...
00:11:52	Janet Connors	Oh wow...and he was a relative of yours or...
00:11:54	Female student in hoodie	Yeah, he's my first cousin.
00:11:56	Janet Connors	Thank you
00:11:57	Female student in hoodie	Thank you
00:11:59	Male student	I really like how you took on the hate.
00:12:08	Female student	(Unintelligible)
00:12:10	Janet Connors	Thank you
00:12:12	Janet Connors	I bet you do. I know a lot of you do. I know a lot of you do.

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00:13:05	Janet Connors	<p>"Who are these monsters?" I remember writing in my journal. I mean, Joel's heart was ripped open. It was, like, ripped open. They shredded my boy's heart. And then a couple of days later I went in to my journal and I wrote, "We' re not lookin' for monsters. We're lookin' for other young people. We're lookin' for human beings. If I think of them as monsters, I let them off the hook. 'Cause monsters are only doin' what monsters do. Monsters hurt people. If I hold them in their humanity then I hold them accountable."</p>
00:13:53	"AJ"	<p>I got 10 years. I was 21. April 2003 we got sentenced. And I remember, I didn't sleep that whole night. That first night in Concord. I slept on the top bunk. And I'm thinking to myself, fuck. The problem was, I never thought I'd go home again because I thought I'd end up killing someone in jail. You know, I thought it was going to be that bad. And I sold drugs in prison. I got into fights. And I went to the hole and I got out of the hole. I had so much time to do, being in the hole was a part of the game.</p>
00:14:38	Janet Connors	<p>And I also decided, that because they were getting out and coming back to community, I wanted to meet with them. Because I wanted to let them know they have a life to still live. And the only way they can make amends to me – 'cause they can't bring my son back – the only way they can make amends to me is live to live their life in a good way, to be in our community again in a good way. To not keep doing that same old dirt because that garbage gets dumped on us again.</p>
00:15:18	"AJ"	<p>They woke me up like 7:30/8:00 in the morning, one of the case workers was downstairs. He said, "I have to talk to you." And I said, "What the hell did I do? Do I got warrants or something? Or are they charging me with something else?" He goes, "No, no, no come down and get dressed, come down and talk to me." And he said, "Uhh...the victim's mother wants to meet you."</p>

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00:15:48	Jon Wilson	I met together with each of them once a month for about a year. So on the day of the Victim-Offender Dialogue at the prison, um.. this is— this is the first Victim-Offender Dialogue case in Massachusetts. You know, the department is nervous, the facility staff are nervous, the victim services director is nervous. We are all nervous in a way. So she's waiting, and so I sit with him for a few minutes. And he was sweating and trembling.
00:16:16	"AJ"	She could friggin' crucify me. I'll let her yell at me. I won't fight back. And I'll be done with it. But I said, "I won't say sorry...unless I feel it, unless it's in me that I'm sorry, I can't say it to her."
00:16:37	Janet Connors	And it's not that I didn't go in there angry. I did bring my anger too. But I also brought – I brought pictures of Joel from the time he was a baby all growin' up, to the last picture of him and I together, the last pictures we had of him...
00:16:55	"AJ"	<p>I remember sitting across the table from her. I think I shook her hand when I first met her. And I don't think I looked in her eye. And I had nothing to say. She told me about herself. She told me her hurt. And I remember going back to the unit thinking to myself, whoof, glad that's done. And a month after that, I was in the hole again. For drinking and getting high on my birthday... The hell do I care?</p> <p>And it wasn't till three or four years after that conversation that I looked at the transcripts while I was in the hole again. And something hit me. It was right here in black and white, this conversation happened and this woman took a chance on you. And what the fuck are you doing? And I got it. I know why you came to see me. And I remember just waking up in the middle of the night and writing her a letter in the dark.</p>

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<b>TC</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPT</b>
00:18:10	Janet Connors	"Dear Ms. Connors, How are you? Hopefully all is well for you and your family upon the arrival of this letter. I've been thinking about you a whole lot these past few days so I thought I that maybe I could write to give you a little update on how I'm doing. I'm a better person in 2010 than I was in 2001, a lot of that has to be attributed to you. I'm not sure I'd see much reason to be a better person if you simply wished the worst for me.  You once gave me a tiny piece of your forgiveness. I'll do everything I can to earn it all, bit by bit. I hope this letter isn't an intrusion, it isn't meant to be a dash back into your life. I had things that I had to say and I thought that you should be the first to hear the. My very best to you. Ms. Connors. "
00:19:26	Janet Connors	Ooooh, that felt good!
00:19:30	Charmise Galloway	How are you?
00:19:31	Janet Connors	I'm all right, Charmise. How are you?
00:19:33	Charmise Galloway	Good.
00:19:36	Unknown male participant	What's good? What's good? You good?
00:19:45	Clarissa Turner	We're gonna open this circle. So I just wanna um, pass the talking piece and we know whoever has the talking piece that it's all about that person being able to speak and feel comfortable. And feel empowered to speak and everybody else has to listen. 'Cause sometimes when someone say something, they can spark off something in us and we all just wanna jump in. But then when we jump in, it shuts that other person down. So just to allow them to say what they need to say. There's no rush, no time limit, we don't gotta be cutthroat. We can just be ourselves today and be free.
00:20:28	Carla Sheffield	I'm having such a hard time. Such a hard time. I miss my son something bad. I'm just so frustrated with trying to get justice for my son. But I know if I don't fight then it's never gonna happen. Right is right and wrong is...wrong is wrong.
00:21:06	MaryAnn Berryman	My low is... I gotta have my daughter.. is gonna get arrested next week and uhh... I'm worried about the kids because I don't want DSS to get them. Um.

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00:21:34	Seraphina Taylor	Like yourself, I just go... I just continue to go, just keep it moving, keep it moving, so that I don't stand still too long and let it hurt me. 'Sause that's the pain of a mother and a son there that's never gonna go away. At the end of the night it sometimes gets a little hard because being there for everybody else... I know this might sound a little selfish, but sometimes when the nighttime comes and you're in that room by yourself, the first thing you think about is where are they and who's there with you then?
00:22:13	Janet Connors	We're gonna do a round on like, what's one thing that gives you hope one way you take care of yourself.
00:22:16	Clarissa Turner	Say it.... say it.. There you go.
00:22:13	Janet Connors	So we're gonna one more round, so that we can end on a positive Spirit. What's one thing that gives you hope and what's one way you take care of yourself?
00:22:32	Carla Sheffield	I've started meditating because there's just so much stuff in my head I need to organize so that I can proceed. Um. And what's he other thing? What gives me hope? My underlying determination to get justice for my son. That gives me hope. And uh...
00:22:55	Clarissa Turner	So we can say one word to close us out, and I'mma say love.
	Clarissa Turner	Marquise was 24 years old when his life was taken. Two days after Thanksgiving. We had a beautiful Thanksgiving together. That Monday evening before he left, he was going to visit his son and we was on the front porch. He was waiting for his ride. He kept saying "I love you, Mommy". And I was like, "I love you too, baby. I'll see you tomorrow." My tomorrow never came.  Instead, Tuesday evening, I get a knock at my door. The Boston Police, coming and telling me my son's life was taken. And I couldn't believe it. You know, not my son. Not Marquise. I know he didn't bother nobody, he didn't have no issues with nobody.



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00:24:02	Clarissa Turner	<p>In court and in the newspaper clipping it says they took his life because they thought he was a threat. He lost his life because someone thought that he was a threat.</p> <p>I remember going to the morgue, asking the lady, "Where is he?" And she goes, "Oh, he's downstairs in the basement." And I said, "He's down there by himself?" And she was like, "Yes." And I was like, "Is someone gonna be down there with him? I don't want him to be by himself. Do you all have a sheet over his face?" She was like, "Yes." I said, "Can you take it off? He needs to breathe."</p>
24:50	Chardanney Dozier-Turner	<p>I felt paralyzed. Like I really felt stuck in the moment. I felt like that night would never end. I felt like that pain was gonna last forever.</p> <p>Two years after my brother died, I tried to end my life because I felt like, I wanted to just be with him again.</p>
00:25:13	Television Preacher (TD Jakes)	In fact, the Bible says be anxious, for nothing. To be anxious to have have anxiety about something that hadn't even happened yet. Some of you are so worried about the threat of trouble and the threat of what might happen, what could happen.
00:25:33	Rakim McNair-Turner	I don't accept certain things being as simple as its said.
00:25:36	Clarissa Turner	You have no choice.
00:25:38	Rakim McNair-Turner	<p>That's the problem. You realize you don't have control of anything. You feel small, you know what I'm saying? Like really. That's why I get upset because I'm trying to dictate what's going on in my life and its not based on what I want, its based on what happens. You have to only adapt.</p> <p>The one time you can be happy and then its taken from you in an instant. You know what I'm saying? There's just no answer, you know? It's like trying to solve a mystery without actually trying to find clues. You're just moving through and hoping every day takes you to something different, to know the situation. But not really solving the problem.</p>

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00:26:25	Rakim Shows Memorial	That's the spot he holds for now.  Um, it started off as my brother's memorial. And then I ended up putting my grandmother's obituary to the top left, and then my neighbor, he's right there next to my brother's picture at the bottom. And I guess anyone else who's kind of in my life and ends up in this position I put the obituaries in there too.
00:27:41	Janet Connors	I was a kid who was sorta in trouble, but I wasn't a bad kid. You know, I got in trouble in school kinda thing, I struggled with my grades. I did drink, as a teenager. All of us drank, all of us did. We were taking like, black beauties, amphetamine pills, I snorted crystal meth a couple of times. So I was nineteen when I got pregnant with David.
00:28:16	Janet Connors	When I was a single mother with my son David and was on welfare, you know, I went to a welfare rights meeting. First about my own story, my own situation, but then realized that it wasn't just about me.  When something difficult happens in your life, it's never just about you. Its always bigger than ourselves. I guess that brings it to that restorative justice principle of, you know, we are all profoundly interconnected. And to use that interconnectedness to try to promote some change in the world.
00:28:02	Donna Finn	Yeah, we've been through some stuff together. And we learned a lot of lessons from it. That we all have to learn a little differently if we want to live in peace. It's really that simple.
00:29:15	Janet Connors	You might go to your first meeting because you don't know how you're gonna pay your bills and you don't have no food in your fridge but then you learn that it's about, you know, its about advocating for everyone's rights. True justice, you know?
00:29:35	Janet Connors	Larry and I met doing community work. He was running a prison busing program and I helped out with it.
00:29:46	Larry Turner	Thirteen years ago, my nineteen year old son, Joel James Turner, was murdered in his own apartment. What we need is jobs, not jails.
00:29:59	Shana Turner	Jobs not Jails!

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00:30:37	Janet Connors	Hi baby!
00:31:33	Strong Oak Lefebvre	Once you come into the circle, you leave behind everything you were concerned about... yesterday, this afternoon. And you pledge to be fully present. And you're committing to be here in a good way.  Grandmothers and grandfathers of the East, we send our thoughts out, that we pledge in this place to tell the truth and see the world through the eagle's eyes. Because human beings are grounded, and we need the perspective of everyone to arrive at that big picture.
00:32:14	Michael Glennon	I think just being here and being with you, Oak, always gets me deeper into understanding the whole practice and I'm glad we're furthering this conversation that we've started. Because I don't think it's just about holding circles and holding restorative justice, it's a way of being.
00:32:38	Strong Oak Lefebvre	I really feel circles need to go out everywhere. It's the only non-hierarchical structure we really have. And what it takes to really be in a circle, to be simple. Like circle is simple but its really hard to do. And it's really hard to take away all the things we've learned about judgement and about conflict resolution, about whose voice gets heard more. And if people really embraced the concept of these circles in a deeper way, they'll find that it'll address the most deep and harmful situations. And even perhaps enhance prevention. Because if you adopt circles as a way of life from birth and beyond you'd have less violence period.
00:33:53	Ismael Fortunato	I just remember getting the call. Like, I was just sleeping. And five in the morning, six in the morning, I'm like holy crap, you know? I just couldn't believe... I was just in shock. I was just like, what's going on? You see somebody there every single day and they're gone, they're not there no more, you know? It was just like a pain here that didn't want to go away.
00:34:23	Ismael Fortunato	You know, being in school it seemed like, unbearable at times, you know? Like, it's just tough in order to like, oh focus on, like, you know, quadratic equations and stuff and PreCalc. You know, the trigonometry, when you're dealing like with all this violence and stuff. Because you just don't know what might happen. You could just be walking down the street and, boop, you're gone.

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00:34:56	Ismael Fortunato	I think that, you know, like everything that happened and with my friend dying, I think that it was me remembering and then me wanting to forget. I think that now its just anger. And I'm angry. And I don't ever wanna forget. I think that's just gonna be a feeling that I'm always gonna have. Like, I'm always gonna remember. Like, I don't ever wanna forget. You know?
00:35:27	Austin Baez	I don't know, maybe one day I'll learn, you know, how to start forgiving people. But, nah. I don't see it as something realistic.
00:35:39	Janet Connors	I just wish it was different reality for all of you. And I wish that the limited choices that seem so apparent, in terms of kill / be killed. You know, "going to jail is better than being killed," all that sorta stuff we've talked about over the weeks, is real. And I also know that there are other hidden choices and I hope that you can discover them.
00:36:05	Clarissa Turner	<p>When my son's life was taken and to find out the kids killed my son, they didn't even know my son. They did it because their "territory," their "hood," I was very angry. I was hurt, confused, overwhelmed. I mean just, I was spiraling out of control. I didn't know what to do. Now what? You know what I'm saying? My son's life was taken. Then I found out how they killed my son. My son was coming home to be with us and somebody walked up and put a gun to his head.</p> <p>So I remember going to court for the arraignment. And I'm looking at these two kids and I'm like, "Are you kidding me?" One's eighteen and one was twenty at the time. They're babies themselves. And they're walking out. One's trying to look all tough and walking, one's putting his head down. So I'm sitting there and I just got more angrier because they wouldn't look at me.</p>

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00:37:05	Clarissa Turner	<p>And I remember something just lift me up. And I found myself walking up to the stand. And I'm like, "What is going on right now?" I walk past them. I look them both in their face. One kept looking down, the other one, trying to be hard, you know, looking at me. I look over to these kids, eye to eye. I said to them, "I forgive you." And then I looked over and said, "What did I just say? Why did I just say that?" But I felt every time I was saying something addressing him I was lighter. Like something was lifting off of me. I was feeling peace.</p> <p>So I said, "Prince Denis, I forgive you. José Macado, I forgive you." And I was staring them eye to eye. But that was the day that I freed myself. So forgiveness is so powerful. Never say what you can't do.</p>
00:38:09	Janet Connors	So, we'll see you next week.
00:38:23	Janet Connors	Trying to put on my "I'm fine," happy, grateful mask today, and just, couldn't get it to fit right for some reason. In the struggle, I dropped my mask and it broke. It shattered into a million pieces. I felt the whole rest of my body, my heart, my spirit broke when the mask broke. I seem to be unable to even pick up the pieces, nevermind try and put them back together again.
00:38:58	Shana Turner	Come on baby!
00:39:00	Janet Connors	Aww! Hey cutie pie! Hey cutie pie! Yeah, so...
00:39:10	Shana Turner	What are you doing tonight?
00:39:11	Janet Connors	Tonight, I think Debbie's gonna come over. Um, keep me company for a little while. You know, the 6:30 thing is like, bleeach. You know. So...
00:39:26	Shana Turner	I wrote something earlier. I'll read it to you.
00:39:28	Janet Connors	Okay.
00:39:31	Shana Turner	"Thirteen years since Joel was murdered. He was alive six years more than he's been gone. Makes time feel even more valuable. Now, thirteen years later, and a whole lot of living, amazing achievements, devastating betrayals, lots of growing, moments of total awe, anger, despair, and love I know how precious life is. I feel it all the time. Gifts, everyday, all the time."

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00:40:04	Janet Connors	I love you.
00:40:05	Shana Turner	I love you too.
00:40:18	Shana Turner	Its missing an ingredient, but its fine.
00:40:22	Janet Connors	I heard you say we were gonna have a feast tonight!
00:40:47	Clarissa Turner	Back when Marquis was a born, times were totally different. The community was very close-knit. Like, the streets and areas. Everybody came out, everybody played. If there was a cookout at one house, everybody came over. I've seen such a dramatic change. I feel like there is a lot of hurt and pain. I feel like people don't know what to do with this pain.
00:41:11	OpTimus Prime, Foundation Movement	Oh oh oh. Oh oh oh oh... You all come with us. Say, oh oh oh.
00:41:20	Ismael Fortunato	Its people that I've known all my life. And its just weird that a bunch of like, drama, like, hood situations and street situations make the community, just like...I don't know, just like dissipate.
00:41:39	Karen Pulido	It was the worst time. We'd talk about it all day and we'd think about it all night and not be able to sleep. You know what I'm saying? You can't dream anymore, that's what I'm trying to say. When you feel like you can't dream anymore.
00:41:50	Chardanney Dozier-Turner	Hurt people do hurt people. And I know what that feels like.
00:41:56	Ernesto "Eroc" Arroyo, Foundation Movement	I said fear is the enemy and hate is its nickname. Love is the remedy and jealousy's a sick game.
00:42:03	Shana Turner	We know what happens to your soul and your heart being stuck with substandard schools and poverty, the war on drugs, high rates of incarceration and lack of resources for grief counseling, substance abuse and general mental health. The easy death of human beings.

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**a film by Julie Mallozzi**  
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TC	SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPT
00:42:33	"AJ"	<p>I remember, I think it was in grade school, I thought that I had the perfect little family. And then I realized I had an alcoholic for a father and it was just a terrible environment because of that. Because it was an abusive relationship, an abusive household. And that's when we got evicted. I was probably like nine or ten.</p> <p>We stayed in the car for about a year. While we were homeless I remember selling drugs at a train station, at freaking eleven years old. I hated my dad. I hated the situation we were in. I just always thought, "I will never want for anything again. I will take, I will hurt people. So, fuck everyone right?"</p>
00:43:29	"AJ"	<p>January 2001, it was when OC, OxyContin, really hit the scene. And you made a ton of money off it. And ecstasy as big, and coke was big.</p> <p>Joel's house was robbed about three weeks earlier. And they walked out with ounces of coke and ecstasy and weed and pills and OxyContin. So we were talking and, well the kids had to re-up, right? They have to get more drugs to make up for the money that they lost. So let's go take it.</p> <p>Originally, I had the big knife. And he was like, "why don't we switch?" So, I took the smaller one. And it was supposed to be just one person at the house. Turned out there was about six or seven. And the minute we broke in the door, all hell broke loose.</p>
00:44:27	"AJ"	<p>I remember how scared I was after that. I remember flying down the hallway, and at that time Joel looked huge to me, because it was a long hallway. And I told him, "Just sit the fuck down."</p> <p>And he didn't, he threw a kick at me. And I jumped on Joel's back. I think. I'm not even sure how it happened. It was the fastest thing in the world. And he just ran into the knife. I think... I helped push him into the knife. And the minute I heard his voice, I knew he was dead.</p>
00:46:04	Janet	<p>This is it. He's been here long enough now moss is starting to come.</p> <p>And there is something about being here that just... It just sort of brings home the finality of Joel's life.</p>

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<b>TC</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPT</b>
00:46:56	"AJ"	I'm sorry.
00:46:57	Janet Connors	I know you are. I know you are. And that means a lot.
00:47:05	"AJ"	I really am.
00:47:06	Janet Connors	I know you are.
00:47:08	"AJ"	I'm sorry.
00:47:09	Janet Connors	I know, I know, I know, I know.
00:47:29	"AJ"	I didn't mean any of this.
00:47:31	Janet Connors	I know.
00:47:35	"AJ"	It was just... just... stupid things. That carry such consequence and finality to everything. And in a blink of an eye it's just over. And it's real and it's... I never valued life. I didn't care about it. I never... I didn't care about mine, I didn't care about the next person's. I don't know, man. I'm just... I'm sorry.  Like, every day I think about it and I've almost come here many times.
00:48:34	Janet Connors	It was important to me that all of you valued Joel's life and the taking of it enough to appreciate your own. And to... to move forward in your own in a good way. For yourself, for your family, for our community



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<b>TC</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPT</b>
00:48:52	"AJ"	<p>When my dad died in '05 I think I was one of the last persons that they let go on furlough with a case like mine. I remember thinking, damn, I didn't even get to tell him it's okay. I'm all right now. It's all right. You know? I did okay. And now I think like, I've pulled it off. I've done all right with myself, and I've kept everything I've said I'd do. And like I look at my kids and I look at Angie and I'm obligated to three woman in my life, my wife, my mother and you. And I think all the time, just do good, be a good person.</p> <p>And when I get aggravated and tired and I don't want to be a good person and I want to be an asshole, I want to yell. But I can't.</p> <p>My life is centered around the death of somebody. And it blows my mind all the time.</p>
00:50:44	"AJ"	Janet, to me, is in a way, a guardian angel. She gave me a chance. You know. And I always told her, I would do anything you ever asked me to do.
00:51:02	Stephanie Diaz	Do you want their value cards, or do you just want to use these?
00:51:07	Janet Connors	Yeah.
00:51:14	Charmise	Hi, handsome.
00:51:16	Janet Connors	I'm glad you're here.
00:51:17	Luis Otero	How was the concert?
00:51:18	Charmise	Oh, I have pictures for you guys!
00:51:21	Janet Conors	So, I'm gonna read the opening for today. It's a Native American wisdom story. "One evening, a wise, old, Cherokee grandfather told his grandson about a battle that was going on inside of him. He said, 'My grandson, it is between two wolves. Everybody has two wolves inside of them. One is evil. He is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self pity, guilt. The other wolf is good. He is joy, peace, love, hope, compassion and faith.' The grandson thought about it for a minute, and then he asked his grandfather, 'Grandfather, which wolf will win?' And the grandfather simply replied, 'The one that you feed.'"

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<b>TC</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPT</b>
00:52:22	Ismael Fortunato	The poem was dope. I mean, I just liked the part when it talks about, like, feeding the wolves. So its like you can either feed the good wolf or the bad wolf, it all depends up to you whatever you want to do.
00:52:33	Clarissa Turner	In regards to that poem, it takes me back to choices. Um, you know, we come across obstacles and trials and tribulations in life. Just being aware of the decisions that we make how it can effect another.
00:52:51	"AJ"	My week has been a little crazy, it's been building up to right here, right now. This is my high for the week. I'm petrified, I'm not gonna lie. You guys got more courage than I do sitting here right now, trust me when I tell ya. As far as the poem goes, I was the bad wolf. I fed a bad wolf. One way will take you one way, and you find out what type of wolf you are at the end of it.
00:53:24	Ismael Fortunato	Its like, you're like brothers you know? I mean, I know if someone goes out and shoots Luis, I would be... there's no forgiving. I bear too much anger inside of me, you know? Like I tell Luis all the time, "Bro, I'm angry." I'm just an angry dude, you know?
00:53:54	Luis Otero	You know for me, its all about the moment. I know there are certain things and certain people that if I see them, regardless...I know its wrong. In my head its lively wrong, but I'll still end up making a mistake.
00:54:02	"AJ"	You know, just give yourself a second to think. You're gonna be put into shitty situations. Out at a club and there's a fight and your buddy gets hit again. What do you do? Do you know what I mean? Do you just grab him and save him? Or do you jump in? Its those split second decisions man, that can change your fuckin' life forever. It takes two seconds. I can speak on that, two seconds.

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<b>TC</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPT</b>
00:54:29	Charmise Galloway	<p>You could be doing something else. You don't have to be here. Ain't no one forcing you to be here, right? This is a choice because you want to do better with your own lives and your own selves, right? So that's justice. Even if you don't see it in yourself, I always tell you guys just take a second and look in the mirror. You're your own justice, you're your own courage.</p> <p>You get up every morning and come to school and make it happen. You could drop out. You don't got to be graduating this year. It could be so much more worse happening for you guys but you all are making the choice to make justice for your own life. So you're your justice. My justice is coming here and knowing that I'm seeing you every week. I'm not looking in the paper, somebody's not calling my phone like "One of your kids is gone." You're my justice. You're your own justice. Okay?</p>
00:55:15	"AJ"	<p>Listen, I just want to thank you guys. Thank you for having me. Thank you for listening. Thank you for letting me be a part of this circle, I've never done anything like this. Thank you Janet. I thank Janet every single night you guys. If you only knew. So I wish you guys the best. And just be strong, alright?</p>
00:55:50	Janet Connors	<p>You can be incarcerated and you can serve thirty-five, forty years and never own your accountability. Because punishment is imposed. So you do your time. Accountability comes from the heart and soul.</p>
00:56:18	Janet Connors	<p>Are people still coming in? Okay.</p>

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TC	SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPT
00:56:24	Janet Connors	<p>Restorative justice practices and circle in general are native practices, so they've been passed on from first nation people as a means of bringing people together in community, as a way to solve problems in community, as a way to build trust and relationships in community.</p> <p>In the middle here we have a representation of the four elements. So the sage coming from the earth, the shell coming from the water, candle is the fire, and the bird is sort of my representation of air.</p> <p>I knew about restorative justice from the past and it really came up to the forefront and started bubbling up for me. And I like the idea that there is a place for us to help people sort through those injustices... seek other means of justice when the systems fail them – and I'm not talking about just criminal justice – but all systems fail them.</p>
00:57:48	Judge Jay Blitzman	<p>I was a public defender as I said for twenty years before I became a judge. I've been a judge for going on twenty. And I represented a lot of kids who did a lot of bad things. I was very, very worry when I first heard about restorative justice. In fact my initial impressions were, not in America. Not in America. I was really really wrong.</p>
00:58:10	Clementina Chéry	<p>We've really built this family of survivors. That we realized it didn't matter what color, what class, what culture, and what community we came from. What bonds us together is that someone we love was murdered by someone somebody else loved.</p>
00:58:28	TV Show Host (Michael Beaudet)	<p>This is Chronicle on WCVB channel five. The apologies, one step in a practice called Restorative Justice where inmates and family members of murder victims come together. The ultimate goal, rehabilitation for criminals and preventing them from reoffending. Connors' talk is part of the restorative justice process.</p>
00:58:49	Janet Conors	<p>You can't change your past actions but you can help us bring our loved ones forward. You can help their stolen lives matter.</p>

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TC	SPEAKER	TRANSCRIPT
00:59:09	Janet Connors	<p>The young man when I tell the story, who I refer to all the time as the third young man, he refused to testify and so he could only plead down to murder two. And he received a sentence of eighteen to twenty years.</p> <p>And Friday I got a call from victim services saying that this young man had filed a motion to reverse his guilty plea.</p> <p>I was stunned. I was like really shaken to my core. I was shivering and shaking out in my kitchen. If he in fact is granted this motion he'll get a new trial. And the thoughts of a new trial... I almost even can't bear the thoughts of it. When I think of it I start to see some of the evidence. Like I start to see Joel's... this T-shirt of Joel's, that was a white T-shirt, that when they held it up it looked like it was a brown t-shirt because it was just... completely soaked in Joel's blood.</p> <p>I remember how much Joel doesn't matter in this court room, not one single bit. It's just all about the defendant, the defense attorney, the State, and the prosecutor.</p>
01:00:50	Strong Oak Lefebvre	<p>In the world, I live in relation to everything. Like my happiness is tied to yours. So, me doing something that would be hurtful to you+F146 is important for us to move through and resolve because otherwise we feel it.</p>
01:01:12	Janet Connors	<p>This is our last circle for this year!</p>
01:01:19	Austin Baez	<p>I mean... like, I've changed because of you guys. I'm not gonna sit here saying I forgive the people that killed my mans or whatever. But, like, mentally I've grown, and I think I've got that from here. Because I've learned that I don't want no negativity around me, that's just a waste of time, you feel me? I just need positivity around me. And I don't think that if I didn't come here to this little circle thing... I thought it was corny at first.</p> <p>I was like, "Why do we gotta come to some circle?" I was like, "Yo, this circle is dumb corny!" Nah, nah, nah. But then we started talking or whatever. You all are cool, I like you all.</p>

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<b>TC</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPT</b>
01:02:05	Luis Otero	I feel like I got a different way of thinking. Cause like, back then I would just think of, just like, hunting down, like one person, or like hunting down a couple. I would like walk, like I don't even care, to their neighborhood and try to like, just hurt somebody. But now, like the way I see it is just like, I just try to stay more calm, just do my own thing, focus on like... Right now I'm just focusing on school and getting out of it, basically. Going to college and doing my own thing.
01:02:29	Charmise Galloway	I feel like you all are my kids. So I wouldn't ever want to see anything happen to you guys. Just stay encouraged, keep love in your heart, and try to stay as positive as you can. Because you don't want your mother sitting here were were sitting now. So I love you guys.
01:02:48	Boys in group	We love you, too!
01:02:52	Clarissa Turner	So what I did is when I got up and was thinking about that, I was like, "How can I give this to them to hold on and to keep because someone gave it to us?" And it may be corny and cheesy, but I wrote it on stickies. And I felt that, you know, you all can stick it in a book or put it over your bed something, on your mirror, when you wake up in the morning. Before you start your day you look at it and remember us, that we shared this with you guys and you all can share these words with someone else.
01:03:21	Ismael Fortunato	Now I have you guys in my conscience. Because I have my mom, my girlfriend... and I got you guys! More people. Yeah, its just...its just mad crazy. But, thank you!
01:03:42	Ismael Fortunato	I didn't think that I was gonna make it to 21, honestly. Like, I was just like, "Well, if I make it to 21, that's pretty impressive." You know, like, my friend died at 19 the other one died at 18. So, you know, I'm 19 now. So, I would probably wouldn't even be here right now, I'd probably be in jail somewhere. You know, I've come such a long way.
01:04:09	Chardanney Dozier-Turner	My mom is like my superwoman. Her going onto the community and working with other mothers, that's so powerful. And so that kind of made me feel like, I can do anything. No matter how much pain I'm in or went through, I can do it. Because, maybe this will heal me.

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<b>TC</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPT</b>
01:04:32	Clarissa Turner	You know, when I first lost my son, this wall was bare, nothing was over here. His legacy lives on, and I had to do something with myself before I just self-destructed. And just turning things around. You now, all the hate, turning into love and just wanting to give back. In life we have choices: we can choose to stay stuck or we can choose to get up and do something about what has happened. Just motivate and inspire and help support another in the midst of all this pain.
01:05:16	Janet Connors	I have a vision that in all neighborhoods people will be running circles. People will be running circles to just build relationships, to build community. But people will also be circling up around those young people that they see are having a hard time.
01:05:40	"AJ"	How've you been?
01:05:41	Janet Connors	I'm alright.
01:05:48	Chardanney Dozier-Turner	My brother's gone. He's not coming back. So why am I happy? Why am I gonna celebrate? I started to become more in touch with my feelings. I wasn't afraid to walk outside with tears rolling down my face. And that's powerful. And it's important. It's so important. Because that's how I became unstuck.