

POV

Community
Engagement & Education

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Out in the Night

A Film by blair dorosh-walther



www.pbs.org/pov

blair dorosh-walther (director/producer)
with Daniel Patterson (director of photography).

Photo courtesy of Jon Goff



When seven young African-American women were arrested on Aug. 18, 2006, I immediately became interested in their case. I read the many salacious headlines: “Attack of the Killer Lesbians,” “Guilty Gal Gang Weepy Women,” “‘I’m a Man!’ Lesbian Growled During Fight” and on and on. However, it was the first of many *New York Times* articles about the case that really gave me pause. The headline read, “Man Is Stabbed in Attack After Admiring a Stranger.” *Admiring??* I really could not believe it. A man does not “admire” young women on the street at midnight. That is harassment. I have never met a woman who hasn’t been harassed on the street at some point in her life, and in New York City harassment is especially commonplace.

A blog was created as a community space for people to discuss what was happening in those headlines and news articles. I attended a community meeting at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in New York City’s West Village. The conversation wasn’t about what happened that night, as it was early and nobody knew the details. Instead, people were focused on these questions: How do we protect ourselves when we feel threatened? Who amongst us feels comfortable calling the police? How do we combat media bias?

I believe this story would have unfolded differently had the women and gender non-conforming youth involved been white. Race and class, as well as gender and sexuality, were and remain critical issues in this case.

Though my background is in film, originally, I did not think a white director such as myself should tell this story. So, for the next two years I worked on this case as a part-time activist.



A news article clipping.

Photo courtesy of “*Out in the Night*”

Three of the seven women pleaded guilty to avoid a trial, but the remaining four—Renata, Patreese, Venice and Terrain—maintained their innocence and were found guilty of various charges. Two years later, however, as their appeals were approaching, I could not stop thinking about this story. By then, the media attention had almost completely died down. I wrote to each of the women in prison and asked if I could come visit her and discuss the possibility of a documentary. We began a long process of interviewing each other off camera and getting to know one another. I did not want to direct this film if they were not going to be comfortable with me as the director. I also began speaking with their families and appellate lawyers to get a better handle on the case.

As the women and I developed a relationship and I was beginning to understand the intricacies of the case and the appeals, I was also mapping out how to tell this story. Within a few months of our deciding to make this film, Renata and Terrain, two of the four women, came home from prison. It was then that we really began to get to know each other. On the day of my first full interview with them on camera, Terrain and I were going to run out to pick up food for lunch, leaving my director of photography, Daniel, and Renata at Terrain’s house. Renata became nervous immediately when she heard our plan. She said she didn’t want to be left there with a “strange dude.” In that moment I realized how she is impacted by tremendous trauma from sexual violence and violent actions against her by men since childhood. It made me better understand her reaction on the night of the fight. I asked her to sit behind the camera and interview Daniel to get to know him. They became close after that.

Since conducting those early interviews, I have written dozens and dozens and dozens of grant applications. And I lost track of how many times I was turned down by a potential funder who claimed that these women weren’t believable because they laughed too much or didn’t cry on camera. When I got these responses, I always thought back to that first day of interviews. If those funders only understood the fears that were hidden behind the women’s humor and confidence. It in-



formed my choices about how to express their personalities, going beyond stereotypes and one-dimensional portrayals, projecting them from the screen into the hearts of audience members.

One of the reasons this story feels so important to me is that it touches on intersectional identity, something mainstream news media does not often acknowledge. These young friends, being black, conjured up stereotypes of what a gang looks like. The gang assault charge is disproportionately used against young men of color. This is where gender identity stereotypes become so powerfully oppressive. Most of the images used to illustrate reporting about this case were of Terrain. Terrain could potentially pass as male. So, when using her photo with the word “gang” in the headline, newspapers supported that association. Even now, though Terrain is the only one of the seven women without a felony on her record and her charges have been dismissed, her picture continues to be used. These images, as well as misquotes in headlines like “‘I’m a Man!’ Lesbian Growled During Fight” were used to deny that they were women or to deny them as human beings worthy of public sympathy. Women using physical force to fight back has never been socially acceptable.

Even though each of these women has a great sense of gender identity, that aspect of the story didn’t really make it into the film as strongly as I had once hoped. Way too often in the mainstream, LGBTQ rights are spoken about through marriage equality. Gender identity blends with sexuality as if they were one and the same. But the women’s gender identities did play a role in this story, particularly in the way they were represented in the media. Terrain and Renata identify as AG or aggressive, meaning (as a general simplification) a masculine-identified woman or a person to the masculine side of center. Venice and Patreese identify as femme. Venice says, “An AG is someone who is comfortable in their skin.”

So, as we move beyond treating marriage equality as the central LGBTQ issue, their experiences reveal so many other issues that need to be addressed: Feeling safe on the street. In any town, in any city. The right to defend yourself without fear of imprisonment. Trust in calling the police when you are threatened. And representations of spectrums of gender that aren’t neatly “male” or “female.”

I deeply believe that arguing for self-defense often does not work for the very people it should protect. In this case, context was missing in the courtroom and in the mainstream news. I want people to understand that Renata was never given the full care and support she needed as a child survivor of sexual abuse and torture. Her rapist, who began sexually assaulting her when she was 9 and continued until she was 16 years old, was given less time in prison than Renata received for defending herself against a sexual threat. The man who threatened her that night said he would “f**k her straight.” In her eyes, he said that he would rape her. I want people to understand how PTSD from sexual trauma impacts the way a person responds to a sexually violent threat. Similarly, Patreese’s history with police brutality helped inform her actions. She couldn’t call 911 for help; that was not an option. Additionally, the story of Sakia Gunn was not introduced in the courtroom, though the women were familiar with it and it had to have been on their minds. In 2003, Sakia Gunn, an African-American 15-year-old masculine-identified woman, was at the Newark train station, returning from the West Village, when a man approached her. Sakia said she was a lesbian, and the man stabbed her to death. In support of self-defense, a woman’s history, her experiences and her reality need to be given full weight in the courtroom proceedings (assuming the defendant is interested in sharing).

I want discussions to go deeper. This case is not cut and dried, as the women defended themselves with force. It is messy and complicated. We need to be prepared to talk about the gray areas.

My approach to filmmaking is both political and practical. I very much identify as an anarchist. Oddly, the act of making an independent film feels like the truest way for me to live that out in my career. When filmmaking works correctly, it is about a small, passionate and dedicated group of people governing equally. We work equally in our specific roles for a common and shared vision. I love that part of filmmaking.

As a developing artist, I originally found my creative voice in the abstraction of painting and sculpture. But I did not continue in fine arts because of that very abstraction. I want access to meaning and justice to be more transparent. In my other life in social services and activism, I’ve paid attention to those things. Filmmaking—visual storytelling—merges these two parts of me, art and activism, in a way that feels whole.



blair dorosh-walther

Director/Producer, **Out in the Night**



2	Letter from the Filmmaker
6	Introduction
7	Potential Partners
7	Key Issues
8	Event Ideas
8	Using This Guide
9	Background Information
9	The New Jersey Four Case
11	Right to Self-Defense
14	Violence Against LGBTQ and LGBTQ of Color
17	Media Reporting
19	Selected People Featured in Out in the Night
20	General Discussion Questions
21	Discussion Prompts
26	Taking Action
27	Glossary
29	Resources
32	How to Buy the Film

Writer

Faith Rogow, PhD
Insighters Educational Consulting

Guide Producers and Background Research, POV

Eliza Licht
Vice President, Content Strategy and Engagement, POV

Aubrey Gallegos
Manager, Community Engagement and Education, POV

Alice Quinlan
Assistant, Community Engagement and Education, POV

Kelly Adams
Community Engagement and Education, POV

Isaac Park
Community Engagement and Education, POV

Alexandra Vasquez
Community Engagement and Education, POV

Design:

Rafael Jiménez

Copy Editor:

Natalie Danford

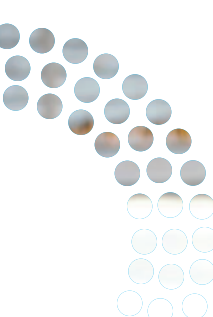
Thanks to those who reviewed this guide:

blair dorosh-walther
Director/Producer, Out in the Night

Jennifer MacArthur
Borderline Media

Sasha Costanza-Chock
*Assistant Professor of Comparative Media Studies
and Faculty Affiliate, MIT Open Documentary Lab*

Andrea Ritchie
Soros Justice Fellow





Venice, Terrain, Patreese and Renata.

Photo courtesy of Lyric Cabral

On a hot August night in 2006, seven young friends—all African-American lesbians—ventured from their Newark, N.J. homes to a gay-friendly neighborhood in Manhattan. On this night, the neighborhood wasn't so friendly.

In an incident that repeats thousands of times a day in cities across the globe, a man on the street verbally, vulgarly harassed them. On this night, that aggression escalated into a fight in which he was stabbed. **Out in the Night** examines what happened next.

The women were rounded up and charged with gang assault and attempted murder. Media reports labeled them a “gang of bloodthirsty lesbians.” Four of the women stood trial and became known as the “New Jersey Four” in activist circles. The film shares evidence from the women, their trials, their lawyers and their families, revealing a complex intersection of class, race and gender identities, stereotypes, bias and discrimination.

For viewers, the case raises important questions about self-defense and who has the right to resist. Are we really *all* protected equally under the law, and what happens if the answer to that question is “no”?



Out in the Night is well suited for use in a variety of settings and is especially recommended for use with:

- Your local PBS station
- Groups that have discussed previous PBS and POV films relating to the justice system, incarceration, LGBTQ issues, racism and youth, including *5 Girls*, *15 to Life: Kenneth's Story*, *Beyond Hatred*, *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*, *Girls Like Us*, *Give Up Tomorrow*, *Herman's House* and *Presumed Guilty*.
- Groups focused on any of the issues listed in the Key Issues section
- High school students, youth groups and clubs
- Faith-based organizations and institutions
- Cultural, art and historical organizations, institutions and museums
- Civic, fraternal, professional and community groups
- Academic departments and student groups at colleges, universities and high schools
- Community organizations with a mission to promote education and learning, such as local libraries

Out in the Night is an excellent tool for outreach and will be of special interest to people looking to explore the following topics:

- conflict resolution
- criminal justice system
- family
- feminism
- gang assault
- gay-bashing
- gender
- gender identity
- gentrification
- homophobia
- inequitable incarceration rates
- intersectionality
- journalism
- law enforcement
- legal issues
- LGBTQ issues
- media bias
- media literacy
- New Jersey Four
- police-community relations
- poverty
- prisons
- racial profiling
- racism
- respect/disrespect
- safe spaces
- safety
- self-defense
- sexism
- sexual assault/harassment
- sexuality
- social justice
- socioeconomic inequality
- stereotyping
- street harassment
- urban areas
- violence prevention
- weapon carry laws/self-protection
- women's issues
- youth

Use a screening of **Out in the Night** to:

- Organize a poetry slam with a theme related to the film (e.g., incarceration stories, experiences of gay-bashing/bullying, sexual harassment on the street). Terrain, Renata and Patreese all write poetry. You can use Terrain's piece at the rally in the film and/or Patreese's poem, which was turned into the song at the end of the film, as examples. To invite the women to speak at your event, send an email through <http://www.outinthenight.com/contact/>.
- Arrange for family members, teachers, administrators and local LGBTQ organizations to convene to develop informational materials for school/community members designed to better protect LGBTQ and gender non-conforming students. Teachers can also turn this into a classroom activity with students.
- Host a discussion group around #BlackLivesMatter and examine how it relates to the issues in the film.
- Convene a group of organizations and individuals, each working with a range of groups and issues (e.g., race, gender, LGBTQ issues, harassment, police-relations), to discuss intersectionality and brainstorm ways to work together to address discrimination and violence-prevention across multiple identities and groups.
- Host an open mic speak-out for young people who have been bullied because of their sexuality or have been subjected to street harassment. Use the event as a kickoff for an end-street-harassment or anti-bullying campaign.

USING THIS GUIDE

This guide is an invitation to dialogue. It is based on a belief in the power of human connection, designed for people who want to use **Out in the Night** to engage family, friends, classmates, colleagues and communities. In contrast to initiatives that foster debates in which participants try to convince others that they are right, this document envisions conversations undertaken in a spirit of openness in which people try to understand one another and expand their thinking by sharing viewpoints and listening actively.

The discussion prompts are intentionally crafted to help a wide range of audiences think more deeply about the issues in the film. Rather than attempting to address them all, choose one or two that best meet your needs and interests. And be sure to leave time to consider taking action. Planning next steps can help people leave the room feeling energized and optimistic, even in instances when conversations have been difficult.

For more detailed event planning and facilitation tips, visit www.pov.org/engage.



The crime scene.

Photo courtesy of "Out in the Night"

The New Jersey Four Case

As seen in **Out in the Night**, the exact details of the fight on August 18, 2006, in New York City's West Village—who started it, how it escalated, how threatened each party felt—are disputed. The 29-year-old man involved claims he made an admiring remark to the women and was subsequently attacked. He called the incident "a hate crime against a straight man." The seven women from Newark, N.J., all African-American and lesbian, say they stood up for themselves against verbal and physical harassment and acted in self-defense when they felt their lives, and the lives of their friends, were threatened. One of the women, Renata Hill, said, "With him approaching me in the manner that he was approaching, and saying the things he was saying, basically you're saying that you're going to rape me."

All seven women were arrested as they walked away after the fight. Three pleaded guilty to a violent felony and served six months in prison without going to court. The other four,

Patreese Johnson, Renata Hill, Terrain Dandridge and Venice Brown, pleaded not guilty and received a range of charges, including gang assault in the sec-

ond degree. Despite its name, the charge does not necessitate any actual gang affiliation; it only requires that three or more people were involved in an assault that caused serious physical injury. It is considered a class C felony and has a mandatory minimum sentence of three and a half years.

The women pleaded self-defense and went to trial, and the four defendants became known in activist circles as the "New Jersey Four." All four were found guilty of assault and gang assault. Terrain received a three-and-a-half-year sentence, Venice and Renata were sentenced to five and eight years, respectively, and Patreese was sentenced to eleven years.

The women appealed their convictions. In 2008, Terrain's conviction was dismissed on the basis that there was not enough evidence to support her charges, and she was released after having served two years in prison. Renata was granted a retrial and temporarily released on bail. In New York City, a retrial happens in front of the same judge as the



Animation of the courtroom.

Photo courtesy of "Out in the Night"

original trial, but Renata worried that the judge would repeat her sentence. Instead, for six months her lawyers negotiated a plea deal with the prosecution. The shortest sentence they could agree to was three and a half years, and Renata returned to prison to serve her remaining year and a half. Venice was also granted a retrial and chose to accept a plea deal. She negotiated two years of time served and was released. Patreese's appellate lawyers fought her sentence by arguing that the stab wound she inflicted did not qualify as serious physical injury. The court rejected that argument, but her sentence was reduced to eight years "in the interest of justice." She was released from prison in 2013.

Sources

Dietrich P. Epperson, Attorney at Law. "Assault."
<http://www.eppersonattorney.com/practice-areas/assault/>

FindLaw. "N.Y. Pen. Law § 120.06: NY Code - Section 120.06: Gang Assault in the Second Degree."
<http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/nycode/PEN/THREE/H/120/120.06>

FindLaw. "Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department, New York. The PEOPLE of the State of New York, Respondent, v. Renata HILL, Defendant-Appellant. The People of the State of New York, Respondent, v. Terrain Dandridge, Defendant-Appellant."
<http://caselaw.findlaw.com/ny-supreme-court-appellate-division/1152786.html>

Hartocollis, Anemona. "Woman in Gang Assault Trial Says Man Started the Fight." *The New York Times*, Apr. 14, 2007.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/14/nyregion/14assault.html>

Hochheiser & Hochheiser LLP. "What is Gang Assault?"
<http://www.hochheiser.com/Violent-Crimes/Gang-Assault.aspx>

Justia. "The People of the State of New York, Respondent, v Venice Brown, Appellant. The People of the State of New York, Respondent, v Patreese Johnson, Appellant." <http://law.justia.com/cases/new-york/appellate-division-first-department/2008/2008-09642.html>

Out in the Night Press Release. http://www.outinthenight.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/OUTINTHENIGHT_PressKit_May20152.pdf



Wheaton, Drew. Criminal Defense Lawyer. "Felony Assault in New York." <http://www.criminaldefenselawyer.com/resources/criminal-defense/criminal-offense/new-york-aggravated-assault-laws>

WNYC. "'Killer Lesbians' or Victims?" The Brian Lehrer Show, June 16, 2014. <http://www.wnyc.org/story/killer-lesbians-or-victims/#commentlist>

Terrain Dandridge.

Photo courtesy of Lyric Cabral

Right to Self-Defense

Despite the women’s claims that they were verbally and then physically threatened, the court did not grant that they were acting in self-defense. Legally, self-defense is referred to as “justification,” meaning that the defendant admits to their actions, but maintains that they had reasonable justification. For a defendant to be granted a claim of self-defense (or defense of another person):

- Their actions must have been in resistance to the use of unlawful force by another person.
- The resistant force they used cannot have been excessive. It also cannot have been fatal, unless it was in defense of a potentially fatal attack.
- They cannot have been the first to attack, unless the person they attacked unexpectedly responded with deadly force or continued to attack even after they had withdrawn.
- They cannot have had an opportunity to retreat with total safety, although this does not count if they were attacked in their home or workplace. It also does not count if they only used non-deadly force.





Patreese Johnson looking out over the Hudson River, from the West Village.

Photo courtesy of Lyric Cabral

Self-defense laws are complicated and subject to interpretation, and they vary state by state. In some states, controversial “stand-your-ground” laws allow a person to use deadly force in self-defense, even if they have an opportunity to retreat, and regardless of whether they are on private or public property. (New York State does not have a “stand-your-ground” law.)

For women, especially LGBTQ women of color, navigating the court system in a self-defense case may be especially complicated. In the United States, incarceration rates for African Americans are six times the rates for white individuals and one of 100 African-American women is currently incarcerated. According to the United Nations special rapporteur on violence against women, there is a “strong link between violence against women and women’s incarceration.” The New Jersey Four, Marissa Alexander, CeCe McDonald and other women and LGBTQ

individuals have been incarcerated for crimes against men they claimed had harassed them, abused them and/or directed discriminatory violence toward them. In 2003, 15-year-old Sakia Gunn, whom many of the women in the **Out in the Night** case knew from school, was stabbed to death in their hometown of Newark, N.J. after rebuffing a man’s advances and informing him that she was a lesbian. Patreese said Sakia Gunn’s story crossed her mind during the fight, and she wondered if they were “repeating history.”

**Renata Hill.**

Photo courtesy of Lyric Cabral

Sources

Buza, John. "How Does Self-Defense Work in New York?" New York City Criminal Lawyer Blog, May 20, 2014. <http://www.nycriminallawyerblog.com/2014/05/20/self-defense-work-new-york/>

Eastman, Susan Cooper. "Florida Woman Who Fired 'Warning Shot' Denied Self-Defense Hearing." *The Huffington Post*, July 21, 2014. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/21/florida-woman-warning-shot_n_5606101.html

Emanuel, Steven L. *Criminal Law*. 6th ed. New York: Aspen Publishers, 2007.

FindLaw. "States That Have Stand Your Ground Laws." <http://criminal.findlaw.com/criminal-law-basics/states-that-have-stand-your-ground-laws.html>

The Huffington Post. "CeCe McDonald, Minnesota Transgender Woman, Pleads Guilty in Manslaughter Case Despite Supporters' Defense." http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/02/cece-mcdonald-minnesota-transgender-woman-manslaughter_n_1472078.html

Klein, Richard. "Race and the Doctrine of Self Defense: The Role of Race in Determining the Proper Use of Force to Protect Oneself." *Touro Law Center, Journal of Race Gender and Ethnicity* 4, no. 3. (Nov. 2009).

<http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1484&context=scholarlyworks>

NAACP. "Criminal Justice Fact Sheet."

<http://www.naacp.org/pages/criminal-justice-fact-sheet>

New York State Law. "Article 35 – NY Penal Law."

<http://ypdcrime.com/penal.law/article35.htm>

Smothers, Ronald. "Teenage Girl Fatally Stabbed at a Bus Stop in Newark." *The New York Times*, May 13, 2013.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/13/nyregion/teenage-girl-fatally-stabbed-at-a-bus-stop-in-newark.html>

United Nations General Assembly. "Pathways to, Conditions and Consequences of Incarceration for Women."

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/A-68-340.pdf>



Renata and Terrain outside the IFC in New York.

Photo courtesy of Jon Goff

Violence Against LGBTQ and LGBTQ of Color

According to research institutions like the Perception Institute and the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, implicit biases—the attitudes or stereotypes that a person is not consciously aware of having, but that influence their views and actions—contribute to inequity across lines of race, gender, sexual orientation and so on. Anyone can have implicit biases, even those whose careers demand impartiality, like judges, police officers and journalists.

As black LGBTQ women from a low-income neighborhood, the New Jersey Four face an intersection of distinct types of discrimination and biases, including homophobia, sexism, racism and socio-economic inequality. According to the US Human Rights Network, the combination of factors like these “produce a unique, substantively different experience of discrimination.” For instance, black men and women are both vulnerable to racism, but a black woman will likely experience racism in a distinct way, specific to the intersection of her identity as both a woman and an African American. Intersections like these can lead to chal-

lenges in finding support. For example, women as a whole may organize around gender equality, but the nuances and additional needs for women of color, LGBTQ women, women of lower socioeconomic status and so on may not be addressed by larger, single-issue movements, organizations and policies—especially if they are not led by women of color and LGBTQ individuals.

Statistically, as black LGBTQ from a low-income neighborhood, the women in **Out in the Night** are also more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and violence. Renata explains that they went to New York City’s West Village because they viewed it as a “safe haven.” For any marginalized group, finding a safe space can be a daily fear and challenge. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, LGBTQ individuals are “far more likely to be victims of a violent hate crime than any other minority group in the United States.” Though official data on LGBTQ communities in the United States is scarce, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Pro-

grams (NCAVP) estimates that 20 to 25 percent of people who identify as lesbian or gay experience some form of hate crime during their lifetimes (this percentage does not include bisexual or transgender individuals). In 2013, more than 70 percent of hate-violence homicides were murders of transgender women, and nearly 90 percent of all homicide victims were people of color. According to a 2013 NCAVP report, "LGBTQ and HIV-affected people of color survivors were 1.5 times more likely to experience physical violence compared to white LGBTQ survivors and were 1.4 times more likely to experience violence in the street or a public area." Black LGBTQ individuals, in particular, were twice as likely to experience threats and intimidation. The NCAVP also reports that LGBTQ and especially LGBTQ of color are more vulnerable to profiling and police violence than non-LGBTQ and white LGBTQ. In an effort to foster positive and healthy relations between police officers and the LGBTQ community, a number of police departments across the country, including the New York Police Department, have added LGBT liaison units to their task forces.

Street harassment is a common form of abuse disproportionately experienced by women, LGBTQ and individuals of color. In a 2014 survey by the nonprofit organization Stop Street Harassment, 65 percent of women surveyed stated that they had experienced street harassment, and of the men who had experienced street harassment, the most common form reported was "homophobic or transphobic slurs." Thirty-eight percent of respondents who were black reported experiencing "physically aggressive harassment," compared to 27 percent of white respondents.

Though the case of the New Jersey Four was not deemed a hate crime in court, the cultural and political climate of violence against LGBTQ, women and those of color paints a picture of an unsafe public arena. Laws covering hate crimes vary by state, but there are also federal hate crime laws in place, including the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009. Not all states have hate crime laws, and not all state laws cover sexual orientation. A major step was taken toward protecting LGBTQ rights on a federal level in 2103, when President Obama reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). VAWA now covers non-discrimination protections for those who are members of "underserved populations" due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and race, among others.



Venice Brown.
Photo courtesy of Lyric Cabral





Animation of the judge.

Photo courtesy of "Out in the Night"

Sources

African American Policy Forum. "A Primer on Intersectionality." <http://www.intergroupresources.com/rc/Intersectionality%20primer%20-%20African%20American%20Policy%20Forum.pdf>

Association for Women's Rights in Development. "Intersectionality: A Tool for Gender and Economic Justice." https://lgbtq.unc.edu/sites/lgbtq.unc.edu/files/documents/intersectionality_en.pdf

Buchanan, Wyatt. "Pride Parade Salute for an Unlikely Ally." SF Gate, June 23, 2006. <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/SAN-FRANCISCO-Pride-parade-salute-for-an-2532708.php>

Jarrett, Valerie. "No One Should Have to Live in Fear of Violence." White House Blog, March 7, 2013. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/03/07/no-one-should-have-live-fear-violence>

Marzullo, Michelle A. and Alyn J. Libman. "Hate Crimes and Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People". Human Rights Campaign Foundation, May 2009.

Mogul, Joey L. et al. *Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2012.

Movement Advancement Project. "Hate Crime Laws." http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/hate_crime_laws

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate Violence in 2013." http://www.avp.org/storage/documents/2013_ncavp_hvreport_final.pdf

NYPD.. "Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Liaison Unit." http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/html/community_affairs/lgbt.shtml

Ridgeway, Greg. "Analysis of Racial Disparities in the New York Police Department's Stop, Question and Frisk Practices." The Rand Corporation, 2007. http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/downloads/pdf/public_information/TR534_FINALCompiled.pdf

Safe Space Network. "What Is a Safe Space?" <http://safespacenetwerk.tumblr.com/Safespace>

Southern Poverty Law Center. "LGBT Rights." <http://www.splcenter.org/what-we-do/lgbt-rights?gclid=CMLm9q2Q7MQCFXQV7AodUywA1g>

Stop Street Harassment. "National Street Harassment Report." <http://www.stopstreetharassment.org/our-work/nationalstudy/>

United Nations Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. "Combatting Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity." <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Discrimination/Pages/LGBT.aspx>

U.S. Government Printing Office. "An Act to Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994." <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113s47enr/pdf/BILLS-113s47enr.pdf>

US Human Rights Network and Rutgers Center for Women's Global Leadership. "Framing Questions on Intersectionality." http://www.ushrnetwork.org/sites/ushrnetwork.org/files/framing_questions_on_intersectionality_1.pdf



A Bill O'Reilly segment.

Photo courtesy of "Out in the Night"

Media Reporting

Media reports affect public opinion and views and can therefore contribute to creating or dispelling biases. They may also influence how safe a person feels. Basic journalistic ethics state that journalists have a responsibility to be fair and accurate in their reporting, and to take care not to stereotype, oversimplify or misrepresent a story. Despite the fact that none of the women had any gang affiliations, their gang assault charge was caught by media outlets and misconstrued to the public. Bill O'Reilly aired a segment with Rod Wheeler called "Violent Lesbian Gangs a Growing Problem" that used the New Jersey Four case as an opening example of a purported national epidemic of lesbian gang violence. (O'Reilly and Wheeler later issued clarifications and apologies for "overstated" false assertions.)

Reporting about LGBTQ issues is a relatively recent phenomenon, having only started in the mid-1950s, when activists first began demanding more media coverage and fair reporting. Media coverage of violence against LGBTQ became more prominent after the Stonewall Uprising in 1969, which sparked demonstrations and protests across the country and launched a nationwide LGBTQ civil rights movement. The Stonewall Uprising took place in

New York City's West Village, just a few blocks from where the IFC Theater is now located, and saw violent interactions between protesters and law enforcement. A number of precincts were involved, including the Sixth Precinct—the same one that responded to the incident in **Out in the Night**. Media coverage also saw an increase following the high-profile 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a 20-year-old student from Wyoming who was beaten to death for being gay. However, coverage of violence against LGBTQ is still under-reported or reported with problematic framing and language, especially in cases of violence against LGBTQ of color and/or low-economic status. According to Kim Pearson, a professor at the College of New Jersey, in the first month after Matthew Shepard was killed, there were 449 stories about him in major newspapers. By comparison, when Sakia Gunn, a young black lesbian from a low-income neighborhood, was murdered, only eight stories were written about her in major outlets in the first month. Similarly, when Dionte Greene, a 22-year-old gay black man from Kansas City, Mo., was killed in a low-income neighborhood, journalist Zach Stafford claimed that his case was written off

as an act of violence common to low-income black neighborhoods, rather than reported as a hate crime and given significant media coverage.

GLAAD (originally the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) has released a reference guide for media outlets to help establish practices for fair and accurate reporting of LGBTQ issues. According to GLAAD, accurate media reporting is crucial because the media plays a significant role in shaping the community's and law enforcement's awareness of, understanding of and response to anti-LGBTQ violence. When harassment, violence and hate crimes are under-reported, community members, family, law enforcement personnel and even victims themselves are less likely to report crimes or seek proper investigations. Conversely, full and fair media coverage raises public awareness and motivates both law enforcement and community members to report crimes and conduct full and transparent investigations, creating more safe spaces.

Sources

American Experience: "Introduction: Stonewall Uprising." <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/introduction/stonewall-intro/>

Castañeda, Laura. *News and Sexuality: Media Portraits of Diversity*. Thousand Oaks, Ca.: Sage Publications, 2006.

Congressional Quarterly Staff. "Gay Gun Advocates Draw Bead on O'Reilly." *The New York Times*, July 16, 2007. http://www.nytimes.com/cq/2007/07/16/cq_3090.html?pagewanted=print

GLAAD. "Hate Crimes.". <http://www.glaad.org/reference/hatecrimes>

Katz, Jonathan Ned. "Stonewall Riot Police Reports." OurHistory.org <http://www.outhistory.org/exhibits/show/stonewall-riot-police-reports/contents/newly-obtained-documents-revea>

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. "State of the Science: Implicit Bias Review 2014." <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/2014-implicit-bias.pdf>



Angela Davis and Blair Dorosh-Walther and Daniel Patterson.

Photo courtesy of Jon Goff

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. "Understanding Implicit Bias." <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/>

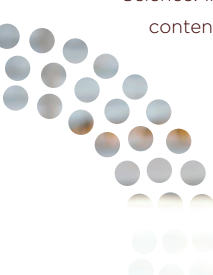
M, Sarah. "Ten Years After Matthew Shepard, Coverage of Hate Crimes Is Lacking." GLAAD, Oct. 9, 2008. <http://www.glaad.org/2008/10/09/ten-years-after-matthew-shepard-coverage-of-hate-crimes-is-lacking>

Moxley, Elle. "FBI Investigating Dionte Greene Murder for Possible Civil Rights Violation." KCUR, Dec. 16, 2014. <http://kcur.org/post/fbi-investigating-dionte-greene-murder-possible-civil-rights-violation>

The O'Reilly Factor. "Violent Lesbian Gangs a Growing Problem." June 22, 2007. <http://www.alacrastore.com/storecontent/Voxant-TV-Transcripts/THE-O-REILLY-FACTOR-Violent-Lesbian-Gangs-a-Growing-Problem-2007fx062105cc256>

Perception Institute. "The Science of Equality, Volume 1: Addressing Implicit Bias, Racial Anxiety and Stereotype Threat in Education and Health Care." Nov. 2014. http://perception.org/app/uploads/2014/11/Science-of-Equality-111214_web.pdf

Society of Professional Journalists. "Code of Ethics." <http://www.spj.org/pdf/spj-code-of-ethics.pdf>



Selected People Featured in **Out in the Night****Venice Brown**

Venice was sentenced to 5 years in prison and 4 years post release supervision. She was released in 2008 following an appeal and plea deal that reduced her sentence to 2 years, with 4 years post release supervision.

**Terrain Dandridge**

Terrain, the youngest of the group, was initially sentenced to 3 1/2 years in prison, with 4 years post release supervision. Her conviction was dismissed in 2008 and she was released, but not before she had spent 2 years in prison.

**Renata Hill**

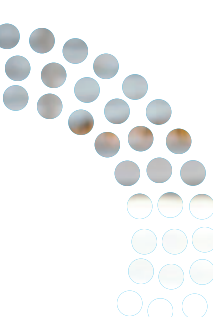
Renata was initially sentenced to 8 years in prison, 5 years post release supervision. That sentence was reduced in a plea deal after her appeal. She was released in 2010. She served 3 1/2 years, with 5 years post release supervision.

**Patreese Johnson**

Patreese, the smallest of the group, standing 4 feet 11 inches and weighing 95 pounds, was initially sentenced to 11 years in prison, 5 years post release supervision. After her appeal, the sentence was reduced to 8 years, and she was released in 2013 after serving 7 1/2 years and given 5 years post release supervision.

Immediately after the film, you may want to give people a few quiet moments to reflect on what they have seen or pose a general question (examples below) and give people some time to themselves to jot down or think about their answers before opening the discussion:

- Describe a moment or scene in the film that you found particularly disturbing or moving. What was it about that scene that was especially compelling for you?
- If you could ask anyone in the film a single question, whom would you ask and what would you ask them?
- If a friend asked you what this film was about, what would you say?
- Compare your own experience with the experiences of people in the film. Which parts of their experiences “spoke truth” to you and which were very different from your life?
- Was there anything in the film that was surprising or made you pause and say, “I need to think more about that”?
- What is one thing you learned from the film that you wish everyone in your family or community knew? What do you think would change if everyone knew it?
- If you were going to send a tweet describing the most important message of the film, what would it say? Discuss whether there is consensus in the room about what the main message is or why people may have had different ideas about the main message.





New York City skyline.

Photo courtesy of "Out in the Night"

The Attack

Thinking about the events of that night, Patreese asks, "What was this fight about? Why did we even have this fight?" What would you say is the answer to her question?

According to reporter Laura Italiano, the prosecutor characterized the attack as "unprovoked." Do you think that's accurate? Who do you think started the fight?

Renata's mother says her daughter is in jail "for defending herself." Do you see it as self-defense? If so, why do you think the jury or the press did not?

It took just four minutes to change the lives of these young women completely. If they could rewind and have a do-over, would you suggest they do anything differently? If so, what?

After time in prison to reflect, Patreese says, "It made me feel safe to carry a knife on me, but when I get out, I'm not going to carry no weapon, because...because a weapon caused me to be in this situation." Do you know anyone who carries a weapon for protection? Would you advise them to carry their weapon, or follow Patreese's lead and not carry a weapon? How do you think they might respond to that advice?

Renata's mother labels the attack "gay-bashing." What aspects of the fight would fit that label?

Street Harassment

According to Patreese, the man's comments to the group included "Let me get some of that." After she refused him, he said, "Dyke bitches, lesbian bitches, I'll f**k you straight." Why do you think he said these particular things? Why did they hear his comments as a threat, when the man claimed his remarks were "harmless"? Why do you think the media portrayed his actions as a friendly "come on" rather than harassment? How would you characterize his comments to the young women?

Defense attorney Susan Tipograph explains that even when the law considers the legitimacy of a claim of self-defense, it "doesn't address the trauma that women, that black women, that differently gendered people experience on the street all the time. And what effect that cumulatively has." What is the cumulative effect and do you think the courts should take it into account?

Have you ever been the target of unsolicited comments from strangers on the street? What did they say and how did you respond? How did the situation make you feel? Was there something else you wish you had said or done?



Terrain and Renata.

Photo courtesy of Lyric Cabral

Prejudices and Perceptions

Do you think this story would have unfolded differently had the young women been gender conforming? How about white? Or wealthy? Or male?

Renata explains their trip to the Village that night saying, “It’s a safe haven for us. It’s a place we can go to, to be around people who are of our same sexual orientation...We thought that we wouldn’t have a problem if we went to New York, just be ourselves.” What is the power of getting to “be yourself” in public? What does it tell you about society that they had to go to the Village to experience that acceptance? In your community, who can be themselves in public and who is forced to hide their true selves?

Officer Christopher O’Hare asserts, “If Ms. Hill wasn’t there, this never would have happened. She riled up the rest of them and then kept this thing going on longer than it should have.” Given that he wasn’t present, how do you suppose he came to this conclusion? How might his interpretation of the women’s behavior (e.g., his observation of them “high-fiving”) have been influenced by his beliefs about acceptable ways to deal with fear or trauma? In what

ways might his interpretation have been influenced by his own beliefs about the meaning of clothing or body language in the context of the women’s race, gender and age?

How do you explain the apparent contradiction between the conversation with dispatch in which an officer describes the incident as “nothing,” and the fact that charges were brought against all of the young women?

Though Terrain is skeptical, Renata says, “We from the hood.” How would you describe their neighborhood? How did the environment they live in influence their interactions with the man on the street and with police? How might it have influenced press coverage or the way they were treated in court?

Reva McEachern observes, “Cases like Trayvon Martin, Cece McDonald, Marissa Alexander—they all paint this picture that if you’re a black person you don’t have the right to defend yourself. That it’s legitimate for people to intimidate you...



Patreese's aunt pointing out bullet holes in their door.

Photo courtesy of *"Out in the Night"*

It creates this environment where you are on guard because everyone around you perceives you as a threat before they know anything about you." What does this case have in common with the other cases mentioned? What is the effect of the hypervigilance that results from these types of attacks and the subsequent failure to exact justice?

Reporter Laura Italiano acknowledges, "The headline writers had a very good time." What role did media play in this case? How did coverage contribute to safety for lesbians or women in general? What might responsible or non-sensationalized reporting have looked like? What questions should journalists have asked?

Officer Christopher O'Hare took Renata's joking as a sign of the group's guilt. Renata explained that it was her way of blowing off steam and keeping everyone calm. Why the contrast? What behavior do you think police might have expected from young women (in contrast to young men) who had been victims of an attack?

Appeals attorney Karen Thompson says, "There was something about the way they were being talked about, the kind of primal, animal thing. You can't help but take it personally. You know, I'm a black woman, I'm a lesbian, and it instantly felt wrong." How are those who think, "It could have been me," affected by events differently than those who don't relate? How could you help people who don't relate to understand what the events mean to those, like Karen Thompson, who make a personal connection?

What did you learn from the film about the ways in which racism, sexism, homophobia, and class-based prejudices intersect? How is life different for people who are members of none or just one of the targeted groups compared with people whose identity includes all of them?



The Trial and Sentences

None of the New Jersey Four had a record, so why were they portrayed as a “gang”? How did the use of the label “gang” influence court proceedings (the jury’s response, the bail that was set, the choice of charges, the way the trial was conducted, the reading of the verdict, the district attorney’s sentencing request)?

Officer Christopher O’Hare says that there wasn’t a choice about using the term “gang” because, “By the law if three or more people are involved in beating someone, it’s a gang assault.” Should the law be required to use a different word? Do you think the same charge would have been used had the women involved been white and/or gender conforming?

Commenting on the murder of Sakia Gunn, another young lesbian from Newark, activist Glo Ross says, “It’s really about the system of policing to make it basically an arrestable offense to be queer, to be of color. You’re guilty just by having an identity.” Where do you see evidence that would support that statement?

Laura Italiano says, “It was with a big grain of salt that we sat there in the courtroom listening to [the man

Celebrating the release of the New Jersey Four.

Photo courtesy of “*Out in the Night*”

involved] describe himself as not anti-gay, not a homophobe.” She notes that he had posted homophobic comments on a website, including, “that same-sex relationships were a part of the hidden agenda of Satan.” Should his beliefs or online posts not directly connected to the attack have been permitted as evidence at trial? What would the benefits and drawbacks be?

What was your reaction to hearing Renata describe her sentencing: “Well, when I got sentenced the judge said he was sentencing me to eight years because I testified falsely and my lawyer actually had to stand up and say, your honor, she never testified. And he was like, ‘Oh, yeah. But she played an aggressive role.’” How did the film influence your opinion of the legal system?

Renata talks about being abused and raped at age 9 and wonders how it is possible that the man who sexually as-



Renata's son, T.J.

Photo courtesy of "Out in the Night"

saulted her when she was a child ended up being sentenced to five years in prison, while she was sentenced to eight years for the 2006 incident. What beliefs, values and policies make it possible for the system to treat her crime as more serious than her abuser's?

What did you learn from T.J. (Renata's son), and the women's mothers and siblings about the effects of incarceration on a loved one's family? What did you learn about the effect of incarceration on inmates like Renata and Patreese?

Terrain's case was eventually dismissed by the appellate court, but, as Renata's appellate attorney, Alexis Agathocleous, says, "At the end of the day, she did two years in prison." Do you see Terrain's experience as a sign that the legal system is working or broken?

Additional media literacy questions are available at:
www.pbs.org/pov/educators/media-literacy.php

- Investigate your state's prosecution and incarceration rates by race, gender and/or sexual orientation. Work with state leaders and community-based alternative-to-incarceration groups to remedy any inequities you find. Alternatively (or in addition), look for systemic inequities based on socioeconomic class. (For example, consider how the system works differently for people who can and can't afford bail and whether the workload of the public defender's office is reasonable.)
- Brainstorm a list of safe ways to respond to street harassers. Talk to your local police precinct for advice and ways to build police-community relationships. Start a community watchdog organization as a potential first response alternative to calling the police. Share the list widely.
- Have a discussion with friends, family, community or students about safety and what makes a situation safe or unsafe. Establish a game plan for how to prevent unsafe situations and respond if you find yourself in one. Download the Circle of 6 app (<http://www.circileof6app.com/>), a free app that connects users with friends to stay close, stay safe and prevent violence before it happens. Identify six people to whom you can reach out if you find yourself in an unsafe situation, then share your game plan with them and ask if they will join your "Circle of 6."
- Organize a group to serve as media watchdogs. Arrange to meet with publishers, journalists and news directors when you see headlines or stories that rely on negative stereotypes.



Renata Hill prison interview (behind-the-scenes).

Photo by Scott Gracheff

- Write letters to individuals who are incarcerated. For a pen pal program for incarcerated LGBTQ, visit <http://www.blackandpink.org/pen-pals/>.
- Find (or found) an organization in your community that works to counteract homophobic, sexist or racist discrimination and/or that supports LGBTQ youth (especially youth of color). Ask how you can help. Find out more information about your legal rights from an organization such as the American Civil Liberties Union, National Lawyers Guild or Get Yr Rights.

Explicit bias: Attitudes or stereotypes a person is consciously aware of having.

Gay-bashing: Unprovoked verbal or physical abuse of a person based on their sexual orientation.

Gender identity: A person's personal, emotional and psychological identification with a gender (which may or may not be the same as the gender they were assigned at birth).

Harassment: Harassment covers a wide range of actions that are meant to disturb, bother, torment, terrorize or threaten another person repeatedly. Actions associated with harassment can violate civil and criminal laws.

Hate crime: Crime motivated by bias against a person based on their race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age or mental or physical ability. Laws covering hate crimes vary by state, but there are also federal hate crime laws in place, including the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009. Not all states have hate crime laws, and not all state laws cover sexual orientation. For a map of hate crime laws by state, visit www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/hate_crime_laws.

Implicit bias: Unconscious attitudes or stereotypes that influence our views and actions.

Intersectionality: A term coined by Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw to convey the idea that individual identity is multi-dimensional, and a person's race, ethnicity, age, income, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity and other aspects all coincide uniquely to inform who they are, how they are perceived/treated and how they experience the world. Identities are interrelated and, collectively, can contribute to unique experiences of inequality, discrimination, bias, harassment and violence.

LGBTQ: An acronym that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and either Questioning (someone still exploring their sexuality) or Queer (though this word is sometimes seen as pejorative), or both.

Queer: An umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities who are not heterosexual or cisgender (meaning someone who is not transgender or genderqueer). Originally meaning "strange" or "peculiar," queer came to be used pejoratively against those with same-sex desires or relationships in the late 19th century. Beginning in the late 1980s, queer scholars and activists began to reclaim the word to establish community and assert a politicized identity distinct from the gay political identity. Queer may be used by those who reject traditional gender identities as a broader, less conformist and deliberately ambiguous alternative to LGBTQ.

Safe space: Any space in which an individual can be themselves with a feeling of safety, support and security, regardless of their race/ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status and mental and physical ability. A number of factors can affect how safe a space is for various groups, including history and incidents of violence, bias, harassment and prejudice/discrimination against them; media coverage and representation; public opinion; the laws that are in place and how they are enforced; police relations; and gentrification.

Two-Spirit: An idea with Native American origins, two-spirit refers to individuals who embody both male and female identities.



Renata on the day of her release.

Photo courtesy of "Out in the Night"

Sources

American Bar Association. "Intersectionality: The Double Bind of Race and Gender."

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publishing/perspective_s_magazine/women_perspectives_Spring2004CrenshawPSP.authcheckdam.pdf

Cambridge Dictionaries. "Gay-basher."

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/british/gay-basher>

Criminal Defense Lawyer. "Hate Crimes: Laws and Penalties."

<http://www.criminaldefenselawyer.com/resources/hate-crimes-laws-and-penalties.htm>

FindLaw. "Harassment." <http://criminal.findlaw.com/criminal-charges/harassment.html>

The Free Dictionary. "Queer." <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/queer>

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. "Understanding Implicit Bias." <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/>

Movement Advancement Project. "Hate Crime Laws."

http://www.LGBTmap.org/equality-maps/hate_crime_laws

National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association. "Stylebook: Terminology." <http://www.nlgja.org/stylebook/terminology/>

New York State Law. "§ 485.05 Hate Crimes."

<http://ypdcrime.com/penal.law/article485.htm#p485-05>

Oxford Dictionaries. "Intersectionality."

http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/intersectionality

Oxford Dictionaries. "Queer."

http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/queer

Perception Institute. "Explicit Bias."

<http://perception.org/research/explicit-bias/>

PFLAG. "A Definition of 'Queer.'"

<http://community.pflag.org/abouttheq>

Safe Space Network. "What Is a Safe Space?"

<http://safespacenetwerk.tumblr.com/Safespace>

Schulman, Michael. "Generation LGBTQIA." *The New York Times*, Jan. 9, 2013. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/10/fashion/generation-lgbtqia.html?_r=3&

Urban Dictionary. "Two-Spirit."

<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Two-Spirit>

US Human Rights Network and Rutgers Center for Women's Global Leadership. "Framing Questions on Intersectionality."

http://www.ushrnetwork.org/sites/ushrnetwork.org/files/framing_questions_on_intersectionality_1.pdf



FILMMAKER WEBSITE

www.outinthenight.com

Information about the film, suggestions for actions, and links to resources..

Original Online Content on POV

To enhance the broadcast, POV has produced an interactive website to enable viewers to explore the film in greater depth. The **Out in the Night** website—www.pbs.org/pov/outinthenight/—offers a streaming video trailer for the film; an interview with filmmaker; a list of related websites, articles and books; a downloadable discussion guide; and special features.

LGBTQ

ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

<http://www.avp.org/resources/reports> – This organization works to end violence toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected communities and allies and has published a number of reports on violence against LGBTQ individuals and communities.

THE AUDRE LORDE PROJECT

<http://alp.org> – The Audre Lorde Project is a lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, trans and gender non-conforming people of color center for community organizing, focusing on the New York City area. Through mobilization, education and capacity-building, the center works for community wellness and progressive social and economic justice. Committed to struggling across differences, it seeks to reflect, represent and serve various communities responsibly.

FIERCE

<http://fierceny.org> – Depicted in the film, this youth-led organization builds the leadership, political consciousness and organizing skills of LGBTQ youth. It also organizes local grassroots campaigns in New York City to fight against police harassment and violence and fight for increased access to safe public space for LGBTQ youth.

GLAAD

[www.GLAAD.org](http://www.glaad.org) – This LGBTQ media advocacy organization provides a wide range of resources to counter inaccurate, negative and stereotyped media portrayals of LGBTQ people. This site is an especially good place to start for beginners. It also has a media reference guide.

INCITE! WOMEN, GENDER NON-CONFORMING AND TRANS PEOPLE OF COLOR AGAINST VIOLENCE

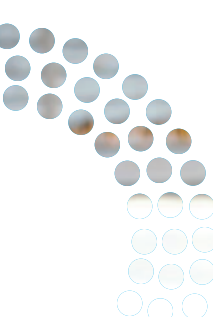
<http://incite-national.org> – This national organization is dedicated to addressing and preventing violence against women of color and communities through direct action, dialogue and grassroots organizing.

STREETWISE AND SAFE

streetwiseandsafe.org – This organization leads “know your rights” training sessions and works to change police practices and policies affecting LGBTQ youth of color.

TRANSFORMATIVE MEDIA ORGANIZING PROJECT

<http://transformativemedia.cc> – This network connects LGBTQ and two-spirit organizers, media makers and tech activists. Its website includes free media-making skills-building materials, as well as an extensive report about media work around LGBTQ issues in the United States.





Law and Criminal Justice

CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

www.ccrjustice.org – Appellate attorney Alexis Agathocleous works for this organization, which provides legal and educational resources related to constitutional and human rights cases, including those dealing with gender, racial and economic justice.

COLOR OF CHANGE

http://colorofchange.org – This organization is dedicated to strengthening the political voices of African Americans, as well as all Americans, regardless of race or class.

GET YR RIGHTS

www.getyrrights.org – This project is dedicated to creating a national LGBTQ youth know-your-rights network. Its website has resources, curricula, toolkits and a map of local policies and organizations across the country. Human Rights Watch

http://www.hrw.org – Human Rights Watch is an independent, international organization that works as part of a vibrant movement to uphold human dignity and advance the cause of human rights for all.

National Center for Lesbian Rights

www.nclrights.org – This site provides information on LGBTQ equality efforts (legislation, litigation, policy and public education) and includes a searchable database of laws and court cases.

THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS: TAKE ACTION

http://newjimcrow.com/take-action – The website for this seminal book on the incarceration of blacks includes a page with a great set of links to organizations working to end racial disparity in incarceration and support those who have been imprisoned.

THE SENTENCING PROJECT

www.sentencingproject.org – This group provides research and advocacy to reform the U.S. prison system, including statistics on racial disparity. Of special interest is a new report on eliminating racial inequity in the criminal justice system: http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/rd_Black_Lives_Matter.pdf

SYLVIA RIVERA LAW PROJECT

http://srlp.org – The Sylvia Rivera Law Project works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine their gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination or violence.

Sexism and Street Harassment

CIRCLE OF 6 APP

www.circleof6app.com – Winner of the White House/Health and Human Services Apps Against Abuse technology challenge and the Institute of Medicine/Avon Foundation for Women End Violence @Home challenge, Circle of 6 connects users with friends so that they can stay close, stay safe and prevent violence before it happens.

STOP STREET HARASSMENT

www.stopstreetharassment.org – This advocacy group suggests action strategies and provides valuable background information, such as definitions and statistics.

STOP TELLING WOMEN TO SMILE

www.stoptellingwomentosmile.com – With this street art project, Tatyana Falalizadeh is working to raise awareness about street harassment worldwide.

News/Journalism

CENTER FOR NEWS LITERACY: DIGITAL RESOURCE CENTER

http://digitalresource.center – This site is a good place for people interested in serving as media watchdogs to get started.

MAG-NET

http://mag-net.org – MAG-Net (the Media Action Grassroots Network) is an organization dedicated to media justice and working toward full, fair and democratized media.



Kimma traveling to visit Terrain in prison.

Photo courtesy of "Out in the Night"

NATIONAL LESBIAN AND GAY JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.nlgja.org> - This organization made up of journalists, media professionals, educators and students has the mission of promoting fair and accurate coverage of LGBTQ issues. It offers a number of resources for journalists, including a terminology stylebook and tip sheets on LGBTQ coverage.

POYNTER: TRUTH AND TRUST IN MEDIA

<http://ethics.poynter.org> - This site collects blogs by contemporary journalists and scholars that address current media ethics issues.

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS: CODE OF ETHICS

www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp - This group provides the basic ethical principles that are supposed to guide a reporter's work. It also has a sourcebook designed to connect journalists with qualified experts on a variety of issues related to diversity.

WOMEN IN MEDIA AND NEWS

<http://www.wimnonline.org> - Women in Media and News works to increase women's presence in the public debate, emphasizing those who are least often heard, including women of color, low-income women, lesbians, youth and older women.

HOW TO BUY THE FILM

To order **Out in the Night** for home or educational use, visit www.outinthenight.com/purchase.



Produced by American Documentary, Inc., POV is public television's premier showcase for nonfiction films. The series airs Mondays at 10 p.m. on PBS from June to September, with primetime specials during the year. Since 1988, POV has been the home for the world's boldest contemporary filmmakers, celebrating intriguing personal stories that spark conversation and inspire action. Always an innovator, POV discovers fresh new voices and creates interactive experiences that shine a light on social issues and elevate the art of storytelling. With our documentary broadcasts, original online programming and dynamic community engagement campaigns, we are committed to supporting films that capture the imagination and present diverse perspectives.

POV films have won 32 Emmy® Awards, 18 George Foster Peabody Awards, 12 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, three Academy Awards®, the first-ever George Polk Documentary Film Award and the Prix Italia. The POV series has been honored with a Special News & Documentary Emmy Award for Excellence in Television Documentary Filmmaking, two IDA Awards for Best Continuing Series and the National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP) Award for Corporate Commitment to Diversity. More information is available at www.pbs.org/pov.

POV Digital www.pbs.org/pov

Since 1994, POV Digital has driven new storytelling initiatives and interactive production for POV. The department created PBS's first program website and its first web-based documentary (*POV's Borders*) and has won major awards, including a Webby Award (and six nominations) and an Online News Association Award. POV Digital continues to explore the future of independent nonfiction media through its digital productions and the POV Hackathon lab, where media makers and technologists collaborate to reinvent storytelling forms. @povdocs on Twitter.

Front cover: Venice, Terrain, Patreese and Renata.
Photo courtesy of Lyric Cabral

POV Community Engagement and Education

POV's Community Engagement and Education team works with educators, community organizations and PBS stations to present more than 650 free screenings every year. In addition, we distribute free discussion guides and standards-aligned lesson plans for each of our films. With our community partners, we inspire dialogue around the most important social issues of our time.

American Documentary, Inc. www.amdoc.org

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation.

Major funding for POV is provided by PBS, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding comes from Nancy Blachman and David desJardins, Bertha Foundation, The Fledgling Fund, Marguerite Casey Foundation, Ettinger Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Ann Tenenbaum and Thomas H. Lee, and public television viewers. POV is presented by a consortium of public television stations, including KQED San Francisco, WGBH Boston and THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG.

You can follow us on Twitter @POVengage

for the latest news from
POV Community Engagement & Education.



Media Sponsor:

