

listen.violence [sometimes we need to just sit back and **listen.**]



listen. is a film series by Jim Colletti and Ben Fama Jr.

listenfilm.org

View trailer at: <https://vimeo.com/78449303>

Believing that the single most important purpose of independent film is dialogue – the beginning of a conversation – Jim Colletti has partnered with Ben Fama Jr. to bring some of the most thought-provoking film content to the screen. This series of films, titled **listen.**, uses the raw talent of spoken word artists, not actors, to tell their true stories on screen.

By focusing on social issues worthy of change, Colletti anticipates this series to include stories of violence, guns, bullying and abuse. The first in the series, **listen.violence**, focuses on domestic violence, an issue that Jim says “needs to be continually brought out of the shadows so that we can all be accountable and continue to make change happen.”

Jim Colletti – producer/director

Ben Fama Jr. – director/editor

Adam Smith – music producer/composer

Mesa Wilkerson – sound engineer

Sean Deckerty – camera/lighting

Courtney Weir – make-up

Eric Pointer, Element Design – graphic design

Shot on location at Vermillion Photo, Phoenix AZ

Stories of Their Tears – written and performed by Jason Lalli

Mermaid Dreams and Rainbow Skies – written and performed by Jesenia Ruiz

BandBangBang – written and performed by Robert ‘FlipSide’ Daniels

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Synopsis

No actors. Real people - real stories. listen.violence brings three amazing spoken word artists to the screen, each using their art to tell their personal stories of domestic violence and abuse. This simple film is designed to start a conversation. But before you can, sometimes we need to just sit back and listen.

"I didn't know the echoes I hear everyday were my story from then to now. A legacy of abuse; emotional, physical, sexual and verbal. Now I know....I choose to break the cycle." from Robert 'FlipSide' Daniel's poem, BangBangBang, featured in this film.

Intended as a first in a series titled "listen." this film is about the raw emotion of domestic violence. Filmmakers Jim Colletti and Ben Fama Jr join forces again to create a film that touches human emotion in a way intended for change and action. Future listen. films will include bullying, guns, abuse and other socially significant issues.

This film was created with the merging of two important pieces - the opportunity to bring the art of spoken word to the screen and the (Colletti's) desire to bring thought-provoking and conversation-starting films to sophisticated film audiences.

"LISTEN to the stories of these children's tears. LISTEN to how we are debilitating our future by deep-seeding fear. Just LISTEN. Because if we don't LISTEN, then for them, the beautiful colors of this earth become tainted with grey shades of depression and hate." from Jason Lalli's poem, Stories of Their Tears, featured in this film.

Feedback

*I think you guys have a gift that could do a lot of good in this world, and more people need to hear that. It's what you do with that gift that matters. Words are a unique characteristic of us humans, and some words have even caused hate and death. But some words have created hope and inspiration, and we need to hear more of those words at this time. I hope you will continue to remember that. - **Ben Fama**, director/editor*

*Very strong stuff - **Frances Fisher**, actor*

*Very powerful! The witnesses to violence are also now finding their voices. The old paradigm of silence is changing. - **Patti Giggans**, Executive Director, Peace Over Violence*

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Bios

Jason Lalli, poet

Lalli is the co-founder of the Phoenix Festival of the Arts, creator and host of Infuse – Open Mic, 3-time author, and is one of Phoenix’s veteran spoken word artists.

He uses his gift for poetry as a form of motivational speaking and believes a person does not need to have money to give back to their community. He utilizes his abilities, voice, and networks to their fullest potential in an attempt to make our world a better place.

Jesenia Ruiz, poet

Jesenia Ruiz is of Puerto Rican and Mexican decent born and raised in Chicago. She is a full time mother of three children ages 3 months, 3 and 5 years old. Her passions include dance, spoken word, art, serving the homeless and raising her children.

Currently, she is excited to return to school in the spring of 2014 to complete her Bachelors in Theatre. She aspires to use her background in theatre and dance to one day open a nonprofit organization or theatre that will provide hope for at risk youth.

Robert FlipSide Daniels, poet

Born in Las Vegas and raised in San Bernardino, Calif., Robert FlipSide Daniels has been a writer his entire life. With a journalism background, the third child of four has used his love of words to tell stories since he was a small child.

As one of six co-founders of BlackPoet Ventures, a multimedia performance arts and entertainment company, FlipSide has been involved in writing, producing, directing and performing in more than a dozen theatrical projects.

FlipSide also has published a book of poetry called "Fragile, Life is Poetic: Say Something...Or Not...Whatever" and is working on several other projects.

Jim Colletti, Producer/Director

After serving 10-years for the Sedona International Film Festival as Board Director and Chairman, supporter and volunteer, Jim first tried his hand at filmmaking as associate producer of the full-length documentary titled *Bullied to Silence* (Dog Eat Hat Productions 2012). Jim's first producing/directing project was the recent documentary short titled *And the Sky Will Never Be the Same Again* (OEO Entertainment 2012), a film currently making the film festival circuit.

Jim is the owner of Element Design, a full-service, holistic creative agency providing design, marketing and advertising services to many industries, including automotive, real estate/land development and the music industry. Jim also owns OEO Entertainment, an artist management company, record label and film production company.

Ben Fama Jr., Director/Editor

Ben Fama Jr. is a recent graduate of the Zaki Gordon Institute for Independent Filmmaking and the Sedona Film School in Sedona, AZ. While attending film school, he received awards for Best Director in the Documentary category for his ground breaking documentary short "A Virus Called Fear" and as Best Director award in the Narrative category for his narrative short "An Invisible Truth"

As well as winning awards from many film festivals, he has also directed and edited music videos and short films for acclaimed Arizona recording artists Adam Smith including "Something To Believe In" and the award winning short film "And The Sky Will Never Be The Same Again", and is currently in production with OEO Entertainment on upcoming music videos and films.

Ben currently owns his own production in company in Sedona, creating commercials and business videos for clients such as Sedona NOW TV (Channel 18), and continues to work toward a career as filmmaker.

Adam Smith, music producer/composer

Singer, songwriter, musician and artist Adam Smith's music can be heard in independent film since 2012, including in *Bullied to Silence*, *And the Sky Will Never Be the Same Again* and *Untold Truth*.

Adam has toured and performed across the US and is currently in the studio working on a new album. Adam's music, including his two full-length albums, *Another Way to Get to Heaven* and *Around the Bend*, and several singles and EPs are available on iTunes, amazon.com and other retailers.