

Salisbury Street Films presents



a short documentary
directed and produced by lisa cohen

confessionsofasocialbully.com

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SYNOPSIS

Natasha and Jane became fast friends as sixth grade started, but within the first few weeks of middle school things started changing. Jane proved to be a good student and a talented actor, the only sixth grader to earn a major role in the school play. Natasha grew intensely jealous of Jane and increasingly insecure about her own abilities. The only area in which Natasha was more successful than Jane was in her social savvy. As Natasha climbed the social ladder, she decided to use her power against Jane in an effort to boost her own self-esteem. By the middle of sixth grade, Natasha had embarked on a three-year campaign to punish Jane socially, while basking in her own popularity. Natasha's coveted position in the popular group enabled her to ensure Jane's status as the class outcast for almost all of middle school. Until the end of eighth grade, when Jane bravely confronted the entire class about their cruelty, forcing Natasha to begin what would become years of examining her actions, her motivations, and the true meaning of compassion.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I've played every role in the bullying cycle – the target, the bystander, and for one regrettable summer, I joined a group of girls in bullying a peer. When I started researching this film, I had forgotten that summer. But with some reflection, I came to terms with what I'd done and vowed to create a project that would help kids who bully others to re-assess their behavior. I'm convinced that without giving kids who bully the space they need to understand, reflect on and change their behavior, we are neglecting a crucial part of the discussion about bullying.

Confessions of a Social Bully is the first film about bullying told solely from the perspective of the perpetrator. Most media portray those who bully as cruel, one-dimensional monsters. Have we forgotten that no one is born a bully? There are myriad reasons kids choose to bully others, and the reasons are as varied and complex as the perpetrators themselves. *Confessions of a Social Bully* humanizes a perpetrator to allow the audience to understand, and hopefully, to empathize with her. I believe that understanding why people choose to bully others is essential to comprehensive bullying prevention; and I hope this film reaches as many kids, and the adults who care about them, as possible.

CREATIVE TEAM

LISA COHEN DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Lisa worked as a technical post producer for over 15 years, and has extensive expertise in shepherding film and video projects through the post-production process. During her seven years managing the digital-to-film department at Alpha Cine Seattle, Lisa oversaw the digital transfers of several award-winning films, including Oscar winners *Taxi to the Darkside*, *Freeheld*, *The Blood of Yingzhou District* and *Born into Brothels*. Lisa has won several awards for PSAs and other broadcast projects. Her first short documentary, *B-BOY*, won five festival awards. *Confessions of a Social Bully* is Lisa's second film.

DOUG HOSTETTER CINEMATOGRAPHER

Over the past two decades, Doug has shot hundreds of commercials across the globe for companies such as Toyota, McDonalds and the Ad Council's Americans for the Arts, as well as music videos for Alice in Chains, The Presidents of the USA and Beads. Doug's passion for independent filmmaking and has inspired him to lens several documentary and narrative shorts, including IFP winner, *Dry Rain* and award-winning *B-BOY*. He is a member of the International Cinematographers Guild and is represented by the Mack Agency in LA.

TRENT SIEGEL EDITOR

Trent has over 20 years experience as a cinematographer, director, editor, and still photographer. He has contributed his vast range of skills to several award-winning independent films such as *Raftman's Razor*, *End of the Affair* and *Forced Entry*. Trent is excited to be a part of *Confessions of a Social Bully*.

JACQUI JAMES STILL PHOTOGRAPHER

An Australian-born, longtime Seattleite, Jacqui and has worked all over the world as a commercial and fine art photographer. Her passion lies in studying adolescent girls both behind the camera and through audio interviews and surveys. Relevant exhibits include *Milan Trianale Quanto ti Vuoi Bene?* (Milan, 2012); *It's All About Me* (Seattle Children's Festival, 2008); and *Beyond the Y Chromosome* (Milan, 2002). Jacqui has won numerous awards including a 2006 Seattle City Artist Award for the project *It's All About Me*.

GABRIELLE ABBOTT ILLUSTRATOR/ARTIST

Gabrielle is a multi-media artist specializing in figurative illustration. Her numerous clients include The Bellevue Art Museum, Seattle Public Schools and The Hague City Government (Netherlands). One of Gabrielle's unique specialties is her chalk pastel street painting of large masterpieces, which are regularly commissioned by festivals and public events worldwide. Gabrielle holds a Diploma in Portraiture from the Florence Academy of Art in Italy, and an MFA from University of the Arts, London.

CATHERINE GREALISH COMPOSER

Originally from Tasmania, Catherine is an LA-based composer for film, games, media and live performance. She won the Independent Music Vox Pop Award for her soundtrack for the film *All Things Hidden*. Catherine's music has been featured in many award-winning films, including *Pearl*, which won Best Short at the Mexico and Madrid International Film Festivals. Catherine recently completed scoring the feature *The Basement* and the documentary *Gold Balls*.



CREDITS

Director/Producer	Lisa Cohen
Producer	Eleni Ledesma
Cinematographer	Doug Hostetter
Editor	Trent Siegel
Composer	Catherine Grealish
Still Photographs	Jacqui James
Illustrations	Gabrielle Abbott
Colorist	Tim Maffia
Sound Mix	Steve Heinke, Pure Audio

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