



MAKING PEACE

We believe in restorative justice. We believe in its emphasis on humanity, accountability, forgiveness, and community. As filmmakers, we want to help bring the practice to people and communities that might not be aware of it and to work with and support those communities which have implemented restorative practices. We want to see restorative justice spread nationally and globally as an alternative to unnecessary incarceration. Countless lives will be impacted for the better by this shift towards a more humane and emotionally intelligent system of justice.

For an audience to understand the transformative power of restorative justice, they need to **see** how it really works, not just be **told** how it works. Our film will document the full arc of the peacemaking circle process, as it is being practiced in King County, Washington (the Seattle-area) with juveniles facing a range of felony charges. Importantly, to protect these youth's identities, we are recording **only the audio** of the circles, then using **animation** to bring the stories to life. We will not use names or any identifying characteristics. In this way, the audience will have unprecedented access to witness the power and potential of restorative justice, in a way that no film on the subject has yet accomplished.

Our team has been imbedded in King County since February 2019, with access to the Juvenile Division of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPAO) as well to the organization Point One North, to which KCPAO diverts felony-level juvenile cases for circles in lieu of prosecution.

Our film will tell the story of restorative justice by:

1. Recording the positive transformations of justice-involved youth;
2. Telling the incredible life story of Cambodia-born Sarouem Phoung, who runs Point One North, and whose life was transformed from a violence-addicted gang leader to a peacemaking leader after meeting elders from First Nation Tagish Tlingit in the 1990s;
3. Interviewing Justice Barry Stuart and Tagish Tlingit elders, whose work in the Yukon in the 1980s-1990s led to the resurgence of this centuries-old practice in North America;
4. Telling the story of how King County, WA is embracing and institutionalizing restorative justice by interviewing stakeholders in their juvenile justice system, from judges, detention staff and probation counselors to prosecutors and victim advocates.
5. Underscoring the efforts to support restorative justice programs by the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, including the support of pilot programs and a revelation of the successes and encouraging data developed by those programs, including those undertaken in conjunction with the Legal Rights Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
6. Presenting the evidence demonstrating the effectiveness economically and socially of restorative justice practices to end the insidious cycle created by unnecessary incarceration.

A small number of documentaries have been produced about restorative justice, but none has yet garnered national attention or acclaim. The need to protect the subjects' identities has prevented these films from showing the actual 'arc' and 'process' of restorative circles, and subsequently, audiences have yet to see the machinations and transformative benefits of the practice. Also, as the number of practitioners of restorative justice has grown, so has the practice become diluted from its origins. However, the peacemaking process practiced at Point One North is the genuine article, preserved and taught by Sarouem Phoung with reverence for the Native American elders who shared their practice with him in the 1990's. Therefore, this film will, for the first time, reveal the 'origins' of peacemaking and restorative justice practices and their tremendous potential to help youth offenders take true accountability for their crimes, while allowing them to turn their lives around without the shackles of a criminal record, thereby becoming contributing members of our society.

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PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION PLAN — AS OF JULY 2019

We have been following two justice-involved youth through the circle process since February 2019. We will continue to follow them until their criminal cases are resolved (an additional 2-3 months) and then edit this audio material into a script which the animator will use to create those sequences. We will film interviews in fall 2019/winter 2020, and edit the film throughout summer 2020, which will enable us to submit to the 2021 Sundance Film Festival. Other film festivals to submit to include True/False, CPH: Dox, HotDocs, Full Frame, Sheffield, and more. Possible distributors of the film range from US public television to cable (HBO & Showtime) to streaming companies like Netflix, Hulu, Apple, and Disney +.

We will also edit down the feature into a short (15-20 minute) version that is meant to be distributed directly to stakeholders working in criminal justice (judges, prosecutors, etc) via conferences and professional associations.

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THE POWER AND POTENTIAL
OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE.**



THE TEAM

ERIC DANIEL METZGAR

DIRECTOR & EDITOR

Eric is a two-time Emmy Award nominated filmmaker and Sundance Documentary Lab Fellow. He directed, shot and edited *Reporter* (2009), about New York Times reporter Nicholas Kristof, which premiered at Sundance, aired on HBO, and was nominated for an Emmy Award for Best Long-form Programming, and the International Film Award by Cinema for Peace. He also directed, shot and edited *Life.Support.Music.* (2008) which was broadcast on POV, PBS's documentary showcase, and *The Chances of The World Changing* (2006), which was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award and broadcast on POV. Metzgar also works as an editor, having collaborated on four additional documentaries that were broadcast on PBS/POV -- *Give Up Tomorrow* (Emmy-nominated), *High Tech Low Life*, *Thank You for Playing* (Emmy winner), and *Almost Sunrise* (Emmy nominated). He recently edited and produced *Crime + Punishment*, which won the Grand Jury Award for Social Impact at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and was shortlisted for an Academy Award.

For the last few years, Eric has taught meditation to inmates at a maximum security prison in Tracy, California. He has also made multiple visits to the inmate-journalists at San Quentin Prison to discuss documentary filmmaking.

MIKAELA BEARDSLEY*PRODUCER*

Mikaela is an Emmy-winning documentary producer and social entrepreneur who is dedicated to finding innovative ways to deploy storytelling's power for good. She has worked with filmmakers Martin Scorsese, Rachel Grady and Heidi Ewing, Alex Gibney and Wim Wenders, among others, and produced twelve nationally broadcast films.

Mikaela is currently Executive Director of The What Works Media Project, a joint venture she initiated with Results for America, The Sorenson Impact Center, Soledad O'Brien's Starfish Media Group, and Impact Partners. The What Works Media Project is commissioning award-winning documentary directors to produce authentic, character-driven shorts that will harness the power of nonfiction filmmaking to highlight "what works" to advance social mobility and the courageous leaders in government who are driving this change.

Previously Mikaela originated and executive produced Half the Sky Movement, a multi-year global media project aimed at improving opportunity for women and girls in the developing world. Centered around the internationally broadcast television series based on Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's bestselling book, the project had over 2 billion media impressions and raised \$5 million for direct programs. Mikaela developed a groundbreaking partnership with USAID that linked the Ford Foundation, IKEA Foundation, Intel and numerous other foundation and corporate partners, and she managed funding relationships with over a dozen funders including Coca Cola, Goldman Sachs, Ford, Gates, IKEA, MacArthur, Nike, NoVo, and Rockefeller. Mikaela optioned Half the Sky after producing the Emmy-nominated HBO documentary Reporter: A Film with Nicholas D. Kristof. She graduated with high honors from Princeton University

REZA RIAHI*ANIMATOR*

Reza Riahi grew up in Tehran, Iran. For the last dozen years, he has worked on animated films and television series in Iran, France and Ireland, which have appeared on ARTE, France3 and TED-ed. He served as Art Director on the animated feature film, "The Breadwinner," which premiered at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival and was nominated for the Best Animated Feature at the 2018 Academy Awards. Reza is currently living in Paris and working on his new animated short film for ARTE.
