

AFTER PARKLAND

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
EMILY TAGUCHI AND JAKE LEFFERMAN



OFFICIAL SELECTION – 2019 TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL – WORLD PREMIERE
In Select Theaters November 29, 2019

Produced By: ABC Documentaries
Directors and Writers: Emily Taguchi and Jake Lefferman
Producers: Emily Taguchi, Jake Lefferman, Stephanie Wash, Jeanmarie Condon and Steven Baker
Subjects: Victoria Gonzalez, Sam Zeif, Dillon McCooty, David Hogg, Manuel Oliver, Patricia Oliver, Brooke Harrison, Andrew Pollack
Editor: Brendan Cusack, Karl Dawson
Co-Producer: Meagan Redman
Cinematographer: Jake Lefferman
Camera: Emily Taguchi, Stephanie Walsh
Associate Producer: Samantha Sergi
Supervising Editor: Doug Blush
Executive Producer: Beth Hoppe
Assistant Editor: Alexandra Garcia
Run Time: 92 minutes
Website: afterparklandmovie.com

Synopsis: In the days after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018 that killed 17 people and launched a nationwide student movement, filmmakers Emily Taguchi and Jake Lefferman embedded with students and families whose lives were forever transformed. They include senior David Hogg, who recorded his class during the attack and became the face of the Never Again movement; freshman Brooke Harrison, who was in the first classroom under attack; Sam Zeif, a senior who was locked down in the same building, texting with his little brother and unsure if they would ever see each other again; Andrew Pollack, the father of 18-year-old Meadow, who was killed after being shot nine times; and the loved ones of 17-year-old Joaquin Oliver, including his parents Manuel and Patricia, girlfriend Victoria Gonzalez, and best friend Dillon McCooty. The filmmakers developed trusting relationships with these students and families, who opened their doors during some of the most difficult moments of their lives, and followed their private journeys as they rose to challenge the nation to end gun violence. Weaving together candid, in-depth interviews, vérité footage, and personal videos, the film chronicles moments both intimate and defining – from the quiet hours of grief and reflection, to those of political awakening, and onto milestones on the public stage – creating a moving portrait of one community's crusade to turn tragedy into progress.

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SHORT LOGLINE

“Filmed in the days after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that killed 17 people, this intimate chronicle weaves together interviews, vérité footage, and personal videos into a moving portrait of one community's crusade to turn tragedy into progress.

LOGLINE

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SYNOPSIS

In the days after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018 that killed 17 people and launched a nationwide student movement, filmmakers Emily Taguchi and Jake Lefferman embedded with students and families whose lives were forever transformed. They include senior David Hogg, who recorded his class during the attack and became the face of the Never Again movement; freshman Brooke Harrison, who was in the first classroom under attack; Sam Zeif, a senior who was locked down in the same building, texting with his little brother and unsure if they would ever see each other again; Andrew Pollack, the father of 18-year-old Meadow, who was killed after being shot nine times; and the loved ones of 17-year-old Joaquin Oliver, including his parents Manuel and Patricia, girlfriend Victoria Gonzalez, and best friend Dillon McCooty. The filmmakers developed trusting relationships with these students and families, who opened their doors during some of the most difficult moments of their lives, and followed their private journeys as they rose to challenge the nation to end gun violence. Weaving together candid, in-depth interviews, vérité footage, and personal videos, the film chronicles moments both intimate and defining – from the quiet hours of grief and reflection, to those of political awakening, and onto milestones on the public stage – creating a moving portrait of one community's crusade to turn tragedy into progress.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

They begin the same way: the news alert, the silent hope that it's a false alarm, the sinking dread that plunges deeper with the reporting of the death toll. In the beginning, Parkland was no different.

We first traveled there on assignment for ABC's Nightline, uncertain what to expect. We met Sam Zeif, a then-senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in his family's living room surrounded by vestiges of normalcy -- a fish tank behind him, his dog tucked beneath his legs. There, he described the terror of what he lived through -- texting his family goodbye from the floor of his classroom and the realization that his little brother was upstairs in the same hallway as the shooter, the hallway where his teacher had been shot dead moments before. He told us about losing his friend Joaquin Oliver, and about waking up on the day after the shooting, his 18th birthday, knowing that his childhood was gone. We looked at each other behind the lens, feeling as if the air had been knocked out of our lungs.

We met with families without cameras, willing to walk away if the moment proved too painful. The symbols of childhood innocence were everywhere in then-freshman Brooke Harrison's room — walls painted baby pink, stuffed animals spread across her pillows. We feared re-traumatizing Brooke, who was in the first classroom that came under attack. She was barely a teenager at the time -- not far in age from Emily's own daughter -- so, we looked for any signs of reluctance when speaking with her. But soon, Brooke's father told us that each time we returned, we were "getting the poison out."

We felt it was important to keep sharing the stories of the students, families and community of Parkland -- to follow their path forward after the unimaginable. Drawing on Jake's past experience filming with the last survivor to leave the hospital after the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, we sought moments away from the spotlight that shed light on the long term impacts. We watched as Dillon McCooty, who had been friends with Joaquin since pre-school, put on his best friend's jersey to play in his place on the basketball team coached by Joaquin's father, Manuel. We witnessed high school rites of passage -- moments of hope tinged with sadness and resilience, like Victoria Gonzalez, Joaquin's girlfriend, as she prepared for prom. We joined morning rituals and drives to school, family meals and difficult conversations. We filmed the scenes ourselves, mindful of being as unobtrusive as possible, which we wanted to be reflected in the intimacy of the film.

The resulting film, *After Parkland*, chronicles the search for meaning through grief and the unseen wounds in the wake of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the private journeys the families have taken to challenge the nation to end gun violence. We hope that the film contributes to a discussion about the true horrors of gun violence in a way that resonates with audiences regardless of where they may be on the political spectrum, as the universal emotions of loss and love of family transcends those boundaries. We have been honored to have the world premiere of the film at the Tribeca Film Festival, itself a celebration of community and resilience after tragedy.

FILMMAKER BIOS

EMILY TAGUCHI (DIRECTOR, PRODUCER)

Emily Taguchi is a producer for Nightline, and a filmmaker whose work has been recognized with multiple Emmy nominations and a duPont-Columbia Award. She has directed and produced stories throughout the U.S. and abroad, which have aired on ABC, CNN, The New York Times Op-Docs, and PBS, among others.

In 2016, she produced "Taller Than The Trees" (AFI, Tribeca), a documentary short about aging in Japan by Academy Award winning director Megan Mylan. Previously, she worked as a Coordinating Producer on "In Defense of Food," an Emmy-nominated film on the politics of what we eat, and as Field Producer on "Growing Up Trans," a duPont-Columbia Award-winning film on transgender children. Her next project with co-director Jake Lefferman, Borderline, follows the journeys of asylum seekers from Central America and Americans who work on the southern border.

Born in Tokyo, Japan, Emily graduated from Tufts University and the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley.

JAKE LEFFERMAN (DIRECTOR, PRODUCER)

Jake Lefferman is a journalist and filmmaker for ABC News Nightline. His work includes award-winning coverage of prison programs connecting inmates with families, a crime miniseries and podcast for the network and long-form reporting from breaking situations including the Parkland and Pittsburgh shootings and Hurricane Harvey. His next project with codirector/producer Emily Taguchi follows the paths of asylum seekers from Central America.

Jake grew up in Los Angeles where he spent summers working odd jobs on film sets. He holds a M.S. from Columbia Journalism School and a B.A. from UC Berkeley.

JEANMARIE CONDON (PRODUCER)

Jeanmarie has directed, written and produced documentaries for three decades, beginning with her tenure writing and directing documentaries with the late Peter Jennings. She is currently the Sr. Executive Producer and Creative Director at ABC Documentaries, a division of ABC News. Jeanmarie has received numerous DuPont, Peabody and Emmy awards as well as a National Board of Review award for the last theatrical feature she produced, the critically acclaimed Let It Fall: LA 1982-1992, directed by John Ridley.

STEVE BAKER (PRODUCER)

Steven Baker was named Executive Producer of "Nightline" in October 2017. Baker, the youngest ever to be in this position, oversees the production and all daily operations of the program on broadcast, digital and social media.

Baker joined "Nightline" in 2005 as a production assistant and has been promoted regularly to higher-level positions on the show since that time. His long and distinguished record includes producing exclusive and news making interviews, coordinating coverage of the Royal Wedding in London, overseeing editorial content for the 2011 summer series "Nightline Primetime,"

producing all of Barbara Walters' "Nightline" specials and the first ever digital-only broadcast following the Orlando shooting. In 2018 Baker executive produced documentary special "For Our Lives: Parkland" for Freeform and ABC News' first-ever Disney PRIDE speaker series.

Baker's work has garnered "Nightline" multiple Emmy wins, and his work with Oscar nominated documentarians Tim Heatherington and Sebastian Junger on U.S. soldiers serving on the front lines in Afghanistan earned a duPont and an Overseas Press Club Award. Under his leadership, Baker has helped grow the show's social media footprint, particularly growing monthly video views on Facebook by 260%. He also oversaw the development of a new logo that embodied the show's multi-platform storytelling ability.

Between 2012 and 2014, Baker was Associate Director/Supervising Producer for "Entertainment Tonight," where he was responsible for long term investigative futures and news making interviews.

Baker graduated Summa Cum Laude from William Paterson University. He is originally from Vernon, N.J., and currently lives in Manhattan.

DOUG BLUSH (SUPERVISING EDITOR)

Doug Blush is an award-winning director, producer, editor, writer and cinematographer whose work includes over 130 feature and television projects, and is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) as well as the American Cinema Editors (ACE). His recent credits include, as consulting editor and co-producer, the 2019 Academy Award winning PERIOD. END OF SENTENCE, the 2018 Academy Award winning ICARUS, and, as supervising editor, the 2013 Oscar-winning 20 FEET FROM STARDOM, for which he also received the ACE Eddie Award for Best Documentary Editing. He was Co-Editor and Associate Producer of Kirby Dick's THE HUNTING GROUND in 2014, and the Oscar nominated and Emmy winning THE INVISIBLE WAR in 2012. Other major recent films include MR. SOUL! (IDA Award Winner, 2018), JIM: THE JAMES FOLEY STORY (HBO Emmy winner, 2017), THE MUSIC OF STRANGERS (HBO Best Editing Emmy nominee, 2018) CHASING CORAL (Netflix Emmy Winner, 2018), THE MARS GENERATION (Netflix, also as executive producer), ON HER SHOULDERS and DARK MONEY (both Oscar Shortlisted for 2019) and KING IN THE WILDERNESS (HBO Emmy Winner, 2019), and earlier editorial and producing work including the popular documentaries WORDPLAY, FREAKONOMICS, OUTRAGE, THESE AMAZING SHADOWS, RICH HILL and SUPERHEROES.

Doug is the producer, cinematographer and supervising editor of THE SWORD, a new award-winning film on suicide survivors turned activists directed by his wife Lisa Klein, now playing across the US and Canada. His earlier film OF TWO MINDS, co-directed with Lisa, is an intimate look at three remarkable people living with bipolar disorder, and is winner of both the 2013 EIC Prism and SAHMSA Voice Awards for excellence in films on mental health issues. The film was a popular documentary on Netflix and at national film festivals.

Doug co-owns MadPix Films, a production and post production company in Los Angeles dedicated to documentary and independent films. He is also a longtime film educator with classes and seminars at USC, UCLA, Syracuse University and the YoungArts Foundation in Miami, as well as exchanges and panels in Indonesia, Brazil, New Zealand, Armenia, Malaysia, Nigeria, China, the Netherlands and more.

STEPHANIE WASH (PRODUCER)

Stephanie Wash is a five-time Emmy Award-winning journalist. Stephanie is currently a Coordinating Producer for ABC News' Specialized Units. An 11 year ABC News veteran, Stephanie is oftentimes one of the first to arrive on the ground as breaking news stories unfold. She has extensively covered some of the world's biggest tragedies including the mass shootings in Las Vegas, Parkland, Florida, and at Pulse Nightclub. She has reported from destructive Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, the Manchester concert bombing, the Brussels Airport attack, and documented the return of the Wild Boars soccer team in Thailand. She has worked as a producer on network specials with former President Barack Obama and Pope Francis, covered presidential elections and conventions and the 2018 Florida recount. From Baltimore to Ferguson, Stephanie has covered riots and protests across the country. She was the network off-air reporter for the George Zimmerman trial.

Stephanie has contributed to booking and producing exclusive interviews and programming for all ABC News programs and platforms. She has received three News & Documentary Emmy Awards for on-the-ground coverage following the Pulse and Las Vegas attacks, and a town-hall on race with President Obama – and two Daytime Emmy Awards as a contributing producer to Good Morning America. Additionally, she has received 6 Emmy nominations, including recognition in 2014 for her work as a producer on Diane Sawyer's "Hidden America" series on Strawberry Mansion for which she embedded for two years at a high school then considered one of the "most dangerous schools in America" with a small team. In 2016, Stephanie was part of the award-winning team to receive a Murrow Award for ABC News' Baltimore riots coverage. She is also the recipient of the Gracie Award and Gabriel Award. Stephanie's writing has appeared in the Boston Globe.

Before launching her journalism career, Stephanie earned a B.A. in Print Journalism and Africana Studies from New York University. She is a native of Braintree, Massachusetts and resides in Brooklyn, New York.

END CREDITS

Directed and Produced By
Emily Taguchi and Jake Lefferman

Produced By
Jeanmarie Condon
Steven Baker

Edited By
Brendan Cusack
Karl Dawson

Consulting Editor
Douglas Blush

Producer
Stephanie Wash

Co-Producer
Meagan Redman

Director of Photography
Jake Lefferman

Camera
Emily Taguchi
Stephanie Wash

Original Music
Nathan Halpern

Executive Producer
Beth Hoppe

Senior Producer
Eric Johnson

Associate Producer
Samantha Sergi

Assistant Editor
Alexandra Garcia

Sound Design and Mix

Jeremy Grody
Mixed at

Sound Logic Post

Additional Camera

Kevin Deyo
Ozren Milharcic
Evan Simon
Janet Weinstein

Additional Editing

Alan Miller
David Kovenetsky

“You Are My Sunshine” Performed By

Jasmine Thompson
Warner Music Group

Violin and Viola

Robert Pycior

Additional Music By

Ronan Coleman
Chris Ruggiero

Graphics

Mindbomb Films
Syd Garon
Christopher Kirk
Ana Gomez Bernaus
San Charoenchai

HD Post Services

Different by Design

DI Colorist

Luke Cahill

DI Producers

Matt Redecki & Greg Lanesey

Online Editor

Sean Meyers

Dialogue Editor

Trevor Jolly

Vice President of Production, ABC News

Lee Beckett

Line Producers

Julie Fiasconaro

Kinga Janik

Paul Jarrett

Post Production Supervisor

Ming Xue

Intern

Mack Muldofsky

Assistant Chief Counsel

Ian Rosenberg

Director, News Practices

Nicole Gallagher

Senior Vice President, News Practices

Kerry Smith

Additional Footage

Change the Ref

David Hogg

DJ Ivanco

Ericka Duval/Storyful

Lauren Hogg

March For Our Lives/Den of Thieves & Deena Katz

Matt Walker

Ryan Deitsch/Storyful

WCTV

WJLA

WLS

WTVD

Marketing and Distribution

Cinetic

Special Thanks

The Gonzalez Family

The Harrison Family

The Hogg Family

The McCooty Family

The Oliver Family

The Ortega Family
The Pollack Family
The Zeif Family

Ashley Louszko
Jenna Millman
Bob Murphy
Richard Thompson
James Goldston
Nightline