


RUN FOR HIS LIFE

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE
for Virtual and In-Person Screenings





Dear Screening Host,

Thank you so much for hosting a screening of *Run For His Life*. By hosting a screening, you are now a key part in the [Odyssey Impact](#) national social impact campaign to help humanize the issue of parental incarceration illuminated in the film.

The impact campaign for *Run For His Life* is designed to educate, engage and activate the public around the number of children separated from their parents through parental incarceration in America. In addition, it aims to shine a light on the aging population of incarcerated people and the unique challenges they face in maintaining their mental and physical health in prison, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The current increase in compassionate release, due to COVID-19, has also uplifted the immediate and long term needs and challenges of people returning home after incarceration as well as their families.

As part of this campaign, we encourage you to use *Run For His Life* as a tool for training and/or teaching, guided by the campaign goals below:

1. Promote the de-stigmatization of having an incarcerated parent.
2. Educate audiences of the unique, long term needs of children with an incarcerated or recently released father and the disproportionate number of directly impacted Black and Latinx children.
3. Inspire audiences to support and facilitate communication between incarcerated parents and their children in order to maintain the parent-child connection.
4. Uplift the voices of those who have been directly impacted by parental incarceration.
5. Spotlight the urgent need to release incarcerated fathers through the Compassionate Release Program due to the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the vulnerable aging incarcerated population.

Screening *Run For His Life* is only the first step. The story within the film is a springboard to larger discussions you can have within your family and community about the importance of communication, bonding and relationship-building between children and their incarcerated fathers.

Thank you for bringing *Run For His Life* to your community. Now, let's get to work!

Sincerely,
The Odyssey Impact Team

About the Film



Run For His Life (9min)

At first glance, Pete Monsanto Jr. lives a glamorous life; a celebrity photographer who works with Meek Mill, Rick Ross, Nicki Minaj, etc. But look deeper and you will see a man with a Dad-sized hole in his life. Pete was just five years old when his father was sentenced to life without parole for racketeering. Pete is now the same age his dad was when he was sent away. During his incarceration, Pete's father runs every day in the prison yard, keeping his mind and body sharp. Inspired by his dad, Pete decided to run the NYC marathon. Pete's personal story, the special bond he shared with his incarcerated dad, and his experience with the 26-mile race are the subject of *Run For His Life*.

Meet the Filmmaker

Bio:

Sebastian Sdaigui is a San Francisco native with a keen eye for unique characters and wild visuals. His music video work has garnered the attention of Ariana Grande, Future, 2Chainz, Ty Dolla \$ign, French Montana, Tyla Yaweh and Lil Kim — just to name a few. He has directed branded content for PGA, MLB, State Farm and more. Sebastian also served as resident director at major label Def Jam Recordings, where he spearheaded the “I AM DEF JAM” campaign. This series continually celebrates individuality and identity in the music industry by delving into its artists’ personal lives and creative processes.



Sebastian Sdaigui, Director

Director’s Statement:

“Pete’s story to me is about perseverance and overcoming obstacles no matter what the odds are. He doesn’t allow circumstance to define his narrative. Pete is not only getting closer to his father but also finding himself and physically pushing himself past his boundaries and that is what healing is. Through running, he has raised awareness for what he and his family and other children of incarcerated parents go through when they have a parent locked up.”

Using the Film as a Catalyst for Change

- What goals do you have for the outcome of your screening event?
- What type of support is needed in your community in regards to supporting children of incarcerated parents?
- Are there other organizations, congregations, and/or community leaders that would benefit from attending this screening and who could collaborate on a Call to Action?
- Are there models of action other communities have used that you could adopt in your own community?

Steps to Host a Virtual Screening Event

Decide when and how your audience will watch the film. You can either give your audience a time frame to watch the film, or set a specific time when everyone watches together.

If you choose to do so, invite a moderator and/or panelists for a post-screening discussion.

Create an RSVP system through Eventbrite, or similar platform, to gather the email addresses of your audience members.

Send your audience the link to the film and invitation to post-screening discussion.

Some suggested ideas for post-screening discussion include a panel discussion, community Q&A, or an audience talkback. Suggested virtual platform options include Zoom, Google Hangouts, Facebook Live, Instagram Live, YouTube, Twitch, Webex, or CrowdCast.

Publicize your event on social media. Use the promotional materials provided by the impact campaign and encourage your network and/or community to help spread the word!

Take pictures of the virtual screening, and screenshots of the post-screening discussion.

Engage in a post-screening activity and/or announce your call to action. Send pictures to Odyssey Impact (screenings@odyssey-impact.org) and use the hashtag #RunForHisLife when posting on social media.

Steps for Facilitating a Constructive Post- Screening Discussion (Virtual or In-Person)

Be Prepared:

- View the film once or twice before your screening to familiarize yourself with the subjects' names, key themes, important scenes from the film.
- Determine what themes and/or scenes from the film might resonate with your audience members. These can be used as springboards for discussion.
- Identify specific actions to mobilize your audience and community.

Know Your Audience:

- Get a sense of who will be attending your screening. Will members of a particular organization attend? If so, what is that organization's mission/perspective? Will any experts or community influencers attend?
- Realize that not all attendees will come into this screening with the same points of view, life experiences, or prior knowledge.
- Be open to all points of view and encourage attendees with differing perspectives to participate in discussion.

The Role of the Moderator:

- Be conscious of time and kindly remind attendees to keep their comments brief so that everyone has the chance to speak.
- Supplement the discussion with background information and facts when necessary but make sure not to dominate the conversation.
- Feel comfortable to gently correct any misinformation.

Be aware that there may be people directly impacted by parental incarceration in the audience who may be triggered by *Run For His Life*. It is important to create a safe space so that attendees feel respected and willing to engage in conversation. Please see the Trauma-Informed Guide below for further information:

A brief Trauma-Informed Approach to screening this Odyssey Impact Documentary



Reverend Storm Swain, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Anglican Studies, Pastoral Care, and Theology United Lutheran Seminary

As a screening host, it is important to be aware that the topic of a documentary is likely to relate in some way to the lived experience of persons in the room. During a screening, a person who has had traumatizing experiences may be triggered by the documentary, and their bodies may experience an overwhelming response. This trauma-informed reality needs to shape our awareness, attitude, and actions before, during, and after a screening. As a host, we need to attend to the environment and **context** of a screening to make the experience of the **content** something that can be witnessed and processed in ways that are not overwhelming. The following are brief conversation pieces, that may help you frame such an approach for this screening.

In engaging any documentary film, we take a trauma-informed approach by attending to the three following spaces:

1. The Holding Space: It is important to frame the screening well, through building trust and establishing safety. A brief non-anxious explanation of what to expect by a trusted person, or someone who seems trustworthy can go a long way towards countering an unexpected and unconscious response. For example, “Welcome to... I am... This screening is of... [name of film and brief public description]. You will notice, as you look around the room, that available exits are... [orienting to the physical space]. Bathrooms are available [in location]. [This documentary] is [xxx] minutes long. After the final credits, the lights will come on, and we will have a short break for those who wish to leave straight away, but we encourage you to stay and join our discussion of the film [which will include a panel of named participants or follow a particular process], to help us explore the impact of the film, action that it might inspire, and resources available to us.”

2. **The Suffering Space:** Traumatic material warnings are not enough when the subject is in the room, we need to give prompts that promote agency and inform about resources. For example: “Those of us who identify personally with particular aspects of the film, might want to make sure we take care of ourselves. I encourage you to monitor your response, if you feel overwhelmed, get re-grounded with your feet flat on the floor, look around and check out your surroundings, pay attention to your breathing. You are welcome to come and go during the screening but we encourage you to do as sensitively as you can. If you wish to talk with someone during or after the film about what’s happening for you, there are members of the screening team [which may include local licensed mental health providers or other trained persons] who are available to spend some time with you. At least one of us will be available [outside the room].”
3. **The Transforming Space:** After the group discussion or an individual conversation, if needed, start orienting people to leave and engage their ability to care for themselves. For example, “As you go from here, you may find it helpful to share your experience of the film with a trusted [friend or professional.]” “It may be helpful to think about what you will do today/tonight after you leave here?” “What might you do to take care of yourself?” “What do you need to do to be ready to leave?” Some way of closing the conversation is helpful for both of you. “I trust that you’ll do what you need to do to take care of yourself. All strength to you. Thank you for attending [documentary.]”

A trauma-informed approach to viewing [this Odyssey Impact documentary] seeks to build a safe holding space with trustworthy people to facilitate the process, attend to suffering that arises, and discover life-giving transformation in community and conversation to promote action and build resilience in individuals and communities. With the right conditions, traumatic experience can be addressed, worked through, metabolized, healed, and provide an impulse for social change and personal growth.

A more detailed ‘Trauma-Informed Approach to Documentary Film Screening’ is available by contacting: screenings@odyssey-impact.org

Thank you for screening the film and being a part of the Impact campaign!

FACILITATOR’S GUIDE DESIGNED BY

