

# Second Shot

a film by Andrew Michael Ellis



## Facilitator's Guide

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# Dear Screening Host,

Thank you so much for hosting a screening of *Second Shot*. By hosting a screening, you are now a key part in the Odyssey Impact national social impact campaign to uplift the complex and multifaceted ways in which the current criminal legal system impacts individuals, families, and communities.

The impact campaign for *Second Shot* is designed to educate, engage and activate the public around the urgent need for a national examination of the lifetime incarceration of minors. The impact campaign will spotlight the urgent need for restorative justice measures with a focus on juvenile justice. The film and resources will encourage community conversation on a variety of topics, including the importance of community healing and restoration.

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



**EDUCATE** audiences on the unintended consequences of lifetime incarceration of minors, lack of clarity and transparency of the parole process, experiences of the families of those who have been harmed, importance of restorative juvenile justice and other alternatives to punishment.



**UPLIFT** the voices of those subjected to incarceration for crimes they committed as minors, and the families of those harmed.



**ENCOURAGE** a safe and healthy dialogue rooted in restorative justice practices between those harmed, their families, and those who want to make amends for crimes committed in the past.



**EMPOWER** audiences to use the film and resources to spark community conversation on topics including gun violence, the rights of those harmed, historical trauma, restorative justice, and community healing.



**SPOTLIGHT** the urgent need to support local and national calls for the ending of lifetime incarceration for minors, neighborhood prevention efforts that keep young people out of the cradle-to-prison pipeline, programs for those reintegrating into society after incarceration, and those who have experienced harm and their families.

Screening *Second Shot* is only the first step. The story within the film is a springboard to larger discussions you can have within your community about juvenile life sentences, restorative justice, and second chances.

Thank you for bringing *Second Shot* to your community. Now, let's get to work!

Sincerely,

**The Odyssey Impact Team**

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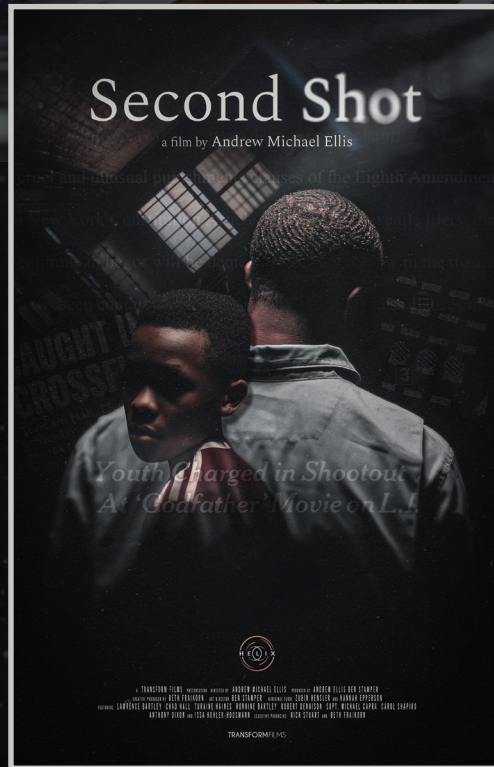
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About The Film

# Second Shot

28 min



An investigative documentary  
about violent crime and juvenile justice.

*Second Shot* investigates the complexities of the US parole process through the lens of one of New York's most examined murders of the early 1990's – a shootout on Christmas night during a screening of *Godfather III*. Through intimate storytelling on both the victim and perpetrator's side, the film exposes the impossibility of using punishment as a form of healing.



Meet The Filmmaker

# Andrew Michael Ellis



Andrew Michael Ellis is a filmmaker who uses intimate storytelling to raise consciousness around complex social issues. His work has been featured by Sundance, DOC NYC, and Camerimage, as well as, outlets such as CNN, The New York Times, and The New Yorker. Most recently, Andrew spent the past year working with film director Terrence Malick, as an editor, and 2nd unit cinematographer.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



On May 18, 2017, Lawrence Bartley was released from prison after a class-action lawsuit against the New York State Parole Board had been filed on his behalf. I was there at Sing Sing that morning as a video journalist filming his first moments of liberation. Stunned by his sincerity and optimism, I soon began production on what would have been a short profile documentary about institutional injustice done to a man who deserved freedom.

My argument for the film was simple, and in line with past films on prison reform I'd worked on: Lawrence is a hero, and the prison system is corrupt and must be abolished.

However, my perspective changed when I spoke to Chad Hall, the elder brother of the boy who Lawrence was convicted of killing. Chad's belief was the opposite: the perpetrator of his brother's murder should never be free, no matter how much he'd changed, or how many accomplishments he had. After interviewing Chad, I could see that Lawrence wasn't denied his freedom because of some opaque, institutional injustice, but rather because there was a real, wounded person advocating for his continued incarceration.

By incorporating both sides of the story into the film, my moral instincts around prison reform grew into something more nuanced: we must have compassion both for the incarcerated and for those who've experienced the trauma of violent crime. Bolstered by experts on both sides, my film expanded into a portrayal of the dilemma we find ourselves in when dealing with incarceration: when punishment is the only form of currency to repay the debt of violent crime, an endless cycle of violence is inevitable.

I couldn't sit idly and blame a system. I had to consider all sides, delve into the complexity, and envision a new way of coping with violence. My hope is that *Second Shot* can help to expand the moral imagination of viewers in the way that making it did for me."

# Using 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 racial violence, community healing, and the need for restoration and transformation after violence?

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 Hosting a Screening

- 1** **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.**

The film will be delivered as a password-protected Vimeo link a week out from your event. If you have any questions, please let us know by sending an email to [screenings@odyssey-impact.org](mailto:screenings@odyssey-impact.org).
- 2** **If you choose to do so, invite a moderator and/or panelists for a post-screening discussion.**

We always recommend inviting panelists and/or moderators from your community. This will help guide the conversation to something specifically relevant to your community.
- 3** **Create an RSVP system through Eventbrite, or similar platform, to gather the email addresses of your audience members.**

Send the audience members the link to the pre-screening survey in advance of the event.
- 4** **Send your audience the link to the film or set a time to watch together, and send invitations 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.
- 5** **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!**

Looking for a bit more promotion for your event? Odyssey Impact would be happy to share info on our social media.
- 6** **Remind your audience before the event is over to fill out the post-screening survey.**

Feel free to display the QR code slide included in the toolkit for easy access.
- 7** **Engage in a post-screening activity and/or announce your call to action.**

Don't forget to take pictures/screenshots of the screening and the post-screening discussion!
- 8** **We want to hear about your event!**

Fill out the post-screening host survey and email [screenings@odyssey-impact.org](mailto:screenings@odyssey-impact.org) and let us know how it went. We welcome quotes, testimonials, and photos from your event!

# Guidelines for Conducting Purposeful Conversations



## I. Guidelines

The topics you will engage with in this conversation may be emotionally charged for all (All – what about some?) those involved. For many people, engaging in a courageous conversation can be challenging and uncomfortable. Creating and maintaining a purposefully brave space throughout the conversation allows each person to express themselves while respecting others.

Your job as a facilitator is not to help the group come to an agreement, but rather to create and maintain an environment where everyone can participate in a discussion [around this film] in an ethical and honest capacity, even if in disagreement with someone’s perspective.

### **CREATING GROUP NORMS**

- It is important that the creation of conversation norms for the group be established and agreed upon by the group. We recommend consensus-based decision-making for this process (fist-to-five and asking questions two ways are helpful consensus tools).
- You can start by offering transparency in this process, and open with something like:

“As a group I’d like us to take some time at the beginning to establish some group norms for this conversation. We want to make space for all the ways in which people would like to share about this topic/film. What are some needs you have that will make you feel brave enough to share your thoughts?”

- Give the group space to reflect and answer intentionally. You can use reframes to ask clarifying questions about anything that seems unclear.

“What I hear you saying is \_\_\_\_\_, is that correct?”

- Below are some norms to consider offering to the group if no one specifically raises them:



## Co-branded Guidelines

### IN PERSON/GENERAL

- We ask that you **show up** in whatever way feels right for you.
- **Challenge by choice.** We're aware that we are inviting you to be vulnerable with people who you have likely just met, and we hope that you will share bravely in this space. What sharing bravely looks like will differ from person to person. For some of us, it might even look mostly like listening. We trust you to make that decision for yourself.
- If things come up for you unexpectedly, please **prioritize taking care of yourselves** in those moments, however you need. You can exit the space, you can take an aside, you can close your eyes, you can take some deep breaths, etc.
- **Go slow and play with silence.** We encourage you to lean into slowing down, to ask the group to pause, and to ask clarifying questions as needed. There is no need to feel rushed here! We should take the time we need to engage with these ideas and with each other.
- If the sharing is personal, please **respect everyone and their privacy** within this group. Take the lessons you learn with you, but leave the details of people's stories – what's shared here, stays here; what's learned here, leaves here.
- During these sessions, **be intentional** with the language you use. Avoid generalizations, and consider the impact they may have on people who hold identities different from your own. Words are very powerful.
- **Unpack the perspective, not the person.** When someone says something that we disagree with, we can hear each other better if we focus on why we disagree with the idea or statement, rather than whether the person who raised it is good or bad.
- **Make Space, Take Space.** Be aware of the space you take up. This conversation is meant to be collaborative and inclusive. If you notice that you are talking a lot and taking up a lot of space in the conversation, consider making space for others by holding silence and listening. If you notice that you are not talking much, or at all, keep in mind that we're holding this brave space together, and we would encourage you to be courageous.
- **We actively want to hear what you have to say.** Privilege inevitably informs our relationships to conversation and space. If you find that there are many places and spaces in the world where your voice is prioritized and valued, then please make an active effort to focus on listening more than you speak.
- **Owning intentions and impacts.** We encourage you to acknowledge and discuss both the intentions and the impacts when this conversation is having an emotional effect on participants in the space.
- **“One mic”** - One person speaks at a time.

### ONLINE (SPECIFICALLY)

- We ask that you **show up** in whatever way feels right for you. Feel free to turn off your mic or camera at any point during the session. You can also use the chat box as much as you want; it's a great way to engage with the material and the group.

## Co-branded Guidelines

- **Hide Self View!** Looking at your own face on Zoom for extended periods of time can be weird and exhausting and none of us signed up for that kind of self-scrutiny, so feel free to click the “hide self view” button so that the group can see you and you can see the group, but you don’t have to see yourself.
- If things come up for you unexpectedly, please **prioritize taking care of yourselves** in those moments, however you need. (Offer: you can private chat me, take a break, head back to the main session).
- **Make content accessible** for folks with different abilities (utilize closed captioning, chat, allow for video only, allow for audio only, etc.)

**AFTER GOING THROUGH THIS FRAMING**, ask participants the following questions:

- How do these norms sound for everyone?
- Is anyone uncomfortable with any of these norms?
- Does anyone have any other norms to add?

## II. Three Rules of Religious Understanding

Your conversations may directly or indirectly address religion, the religious beliefs of community members, or targeted religious identities. You may consider including these guidelines or keep these tools in mind as issues arise. These rules are also helpful for thinking through inter-group dialogues, regardless of whether religious identity is the most salient difference between these groups.

At a press conference in 1985, Dr. Krister Stendahl, a Bishop of Stockholm, responded to vocal opposition to the building of a temple there by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He laid down three rules which have been used across the globe to guide dialogues involving religion and topics that address faith.

- When you are trying to understand another religion or community, you should ask the adherents of that religion or ideology, and not its enemies.
  - Note: No one can speak for an entire faith tradition, community or demographic (i.e. refugees, immigrants, etc.). It is important for each person to speak from their own perspective about the practices or beliefs of their tradition or community.
- Don’t compare your best to their worst.
- Leave room for “holy envy”.
  - By this, Stendahl meant that you should be willing to recognize elements in the other religious tradition or faith (or non-religious group) that you admire and that you wish could, in some way, be reflected in your own religious tradition, faith, or community. This also applies to groups not defined by their faith that are outside of your own identity (e.g., country of origin, socio-economic status, immigration status, political affiliation, etc.).

### III. Anticipate Issues to Consider Before Your Conversation

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Discussions may be difficult for some participants to host or participate in for a number of reasons. We'd like to offer some strategies to help manage and maintain a brave space throughout this courageous conversation.

- Managing the range of emotions that might arise during your courageous conversations.
  - Reference the previously established Group Norms as needed and, if necessary, notice to individuals and the group when people aren't respecting those norms (i.e., "I just wanted to notice that we have a couple people speaking over each other, how would we feel about returning to our One Mic norm we discussed earlier?")
  - Periodically, check-in about learning goals for the conversation. Ask everyone to offer ideas and suggestions toward achieving those goals/purpose.
  - Give space to emotions as needed. Heavy topics will bring up feelings and if we ignore them entirely, they will often still come out later and require even more space after having done damage. Some small ways to offer space for emotions include:
    - Asking a question to the person sharing like, "Why do you think this is coming up for you now?"
    - Asking questions to the group such as, "What did it feel like to hear that?" or "Do other people feel this way?"
    - Making space for people to exit the group as needed.
    - Holding silence after heavy shares and acknowledging/appreciating vulnerable shares. (A "thank you for your share" will suffice).
    - Reflecting back the feeling(s) you heard (i.e., "It sounds like that was really scary...")
- Make a plan, hold it loosely, and follow the group.
  - Planning is vital to feeling prepared when facilitating. Having a plan can help us think through timing, framing, and goals before we start the conversation. We recommend you keep in mind three things:
    - Keep it simple
    - Follow the group
    - Make space
  - Allow the group agency over the conversation as often as possible, especially as it relates to learning goals and objectives.
- Difficult dynamics.
  - It is important to hold a purposeful space so there is room for everyone participating to share. If you notice the group is not following the agreed upon norms, here are some ways to notice this dynamic aloud:
    - Ask the members of the group how they would like to handle the situation.
    - Offer options that include the behavior that was disruptive (i.e., If there is a lot of side chatter, maybe offer some time for smaller group or pair-shares.)

## Co-branded Guidelines

- Notice to participants, “We established some group norms in the beginning of this conversation, does it feel like we are still following those norms? Would we like to revisit or reconsider those norms?”
  - When someone has an emotionally charged share, reflect back their comments or ideas to the group, making sure to check for accuracy with the original speaker, and ask the group what that share brings to mind for them?
  - Respectfully try to balance the voices in conversation, intentionally, making more space for those less dominant. For example, “I’m wondering if we could hear from some people who haven’t shared yet? Do any of you have questions or thoughts?”
  - If someone says something that is problematic, you can ask the group, “What did it feel like to hear that?” It is likely that a participant will name the harm so that it can be addressed.
- Responding to hard questions.
    - These conversations likely will involve people discussing stereotypes, misconceptions, and interpretations about the event/film. Fact sheets can provide useful, vetted information that will provide data for responses. Additional strategies include:
      - Pose the question to the group. As a facilitator, you do not need to be, nor should you be, the arbitrator of knowledge. Allow the group, and even the individual asking the question to answer it themselves.
      - If you’d like to respond, you can answer and speak from personal experience. For example, “I believe \_\_\_\_\_.”

## IV. Prayer/ Invocation Acknowledgement of Traditions or Other Identity Based Groups

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There are a number of ways for people to share their religious tradition or culture with each other to set the environment for the conversation.

Consider:

- Opening the conversation with a land acknowledgement.
- Allowing volunteers to share words of greeting from their culture, house of worship, or belief system.
- Asking people to take a moment of silence together as a group.

## V. Debrief the Conversation

After courageous and difficult conversations, it is important to reflect on the intention and impacts of the event. Debriefings allow participants to synthesize learnings, offer feedback, and continue processing reflections from the space.

Some questions to consider including in your debrief evaluations might be:

### **1. Logistics and Accessibility**

- Location
- Date
- Format
- Language
- Support
- Accessibility issues that arise

### **2. Resources referenced**

- Fact sheets or questions used

### **3. Participant experience**

- What is one take-away participants are leaving the conversation with?
- What is something participants want to know more about or wish more space had been given to during this conversation?
- Did participants share how this conversation affected their way of thinking about, or engaging with this topic?
- Do participants plan to take any actions as a result of this event?
- Were there any difficult moments?
- What moments felt important and/or meaningful in this discussion?



# Thank You

for screening the film and being a  
part of the impact campaign!



# Second Shot

Facillitator's Guide

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