

FROM THE ROOTS OF HATRED,
THE SEEDS OF CHANGE



THE CURE FOR HATE

BEARING WITNESS TO AUSCHWITZ

CURE FOR HATE FILMS IN ASSOCIATION WITH EAT THE MOON FILMS PRESENT A FILM BY PETER HUTCHISON
CINEMATOGRAPHY MARCIN KOPIEC & MACIEK GLAZ GRAPHICS BEN RADATZ CO-PRODUCER TONY MCALEER
COMPOSED BY LANDON KNOBLOCK EXECUTIVE PRODUCER FRIEDRIKA MERCK WRITTEN BY PETER HUTCHISON & TONY MCALEER
EDITED BY LUCAS SABEAN PRODUCED BY PETER HUTCHISON & LUCAS SABEAN DIRECTED BY PETER HUTCHISON



The Cure for Hate Film

In the Jewish tradition, tshuvah means “return” and describes the return to God and our fellow human beings that is made possible through repentance for our wrongs.

Tony McAleer is a former Skinhead and holocaust denier who went on to become a founding member of the anti-hate activist group Life After Hate. Profoundly aware and deeply ashamed of the lineage of hate he'd once promoted, Tony had long-contemplated traveling to Auschwitz in the spirit of tshuvah - to bear witness to the inconceivable ravages of the Holocaust, and deepen his personal work against the rise of extremist politics.

This project documents his profoundly personal journey of atonement to Auschwitz/Birkenau - exploring the conditions that allowed for the rise of fascism in 1930s Europe; shedding a unique light upon how men get into, and out of, violent extremist groups; and serving as a cautionary tale for our time that underscores the dangers in allowing hate to be left unchecked.



The Cure For Hate Impact Campaign

Anti-semitism, Islamophobia and acts of violent extremism are on the rise. As polarization seeps into every aspect of our society - and hateful rhetoric is increasingly normalized in both political discourse and online culture - we witness a weakening of the fabric of our communities. While many adults struggle to see the humanity in people they disagree with, youth are even more vulnerable to this binary thinking. Hate groups deftly exploit cultural upheavals to propagate ideology, further polarize society, and influence new, young members.

Individuals indoctrinated by hate speech can feel emboldened to commit violence - with or without direct recruitment. Young people are uniquely susceptible to the othering and “us vs. them” mentality that these hate groups employ, disenfranchised youth even more so.

Thanks to a grant from The Center for Prevention Programs & Partnerships, we have been able to leverage the film and McAleer’s unique experiences to counter this tide, engaging vulnerable youth to enhance their resilience to radicalization, and making communities more compassionate and cohesive in the process.



Praise for The Cure For Hate

“A riveting and deeply important film” - Kathryn Spitz Cohan, Film Pittsburgh ED

“I can't stress this enough, this film is something special and is not something you have ever experienced before. This film will move you... one of the best I've seen in 2023.” - Steve Kopian, Unseen Films

“It's documentaries like this one that must keep the memory of the horrors of genocide over ideology alive today, or dare we repeat the past.” - Alan Ng, Film Threat

“A beautifully shot, well-directed film that... holds a substantial level of importance, not only about our past but our future. 4 1/2 Stars.” - Chris Jones, Overly Honest Movie Reviews.

Interested in bringing The Cure for Hate to your community?

Contact impact@thecureforhatefilm.com

"I've taught the Holocaust with many meaningful, impactful, and emotionally compelling resources but this film is so powerful in a different way. His journey to bear witness, interspersed with his personal story is incredible."

- June Morris, Board of Directors, National Council for the Social Studies, 2019-2022

The Cure For Hate Curriculum

When *The Cure for Hate* Social Impact Program visits schools, students view a 55-minute version of the film, and then debrief and process using a curriculum that includes a set of experiential activities organized around themes. With input from a diverse group of stakeholders - employing storytelling and a research-based pedagogy - *The Cure For Hate* curriculum is designed to stick with kids, enhancing their resistance to "the seeds of hate" long after they leave the classroom.

In collaboration with educators, we designed the curriculum with flexibility and ease in mind. The module-based structure and flexible lesson time allows teachers and/or school sites to choose the themes they feel are most urgent and relevant for their students and communities, while still centering Tony's story of atonement, and the urgency of anti-hate education today. Whether delivered in school-wide assemblies or a single classroom, the film and curriculum provides an entry point to much-needed conversations about the threat of indoctrination for vulnerable youth.

Goals

- Help young people understand the roots of hatred – the conditions under which it thrives – and ways to prevent its spread.
- Provide young people with specific tools to counter "othering" tendencies.
- Teach digital literacy as an antidote to online recruitment
- Promote community resiliency through community screenings and programming with local anti-violence organizations

Discussion Themes and Film Clips

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Identity & Indoctrination](#)
3. ["Othering" & Dehumanization](#)
4. [Compassion Curiosity & Courage \(the "3 C's"\)](#)
5. [Vulnerabilities to Polarization: Then and Now](#)
6. [The Power of Bearing Witness: Holocaust Education](#)
7. [Digital Literacy](#)
8. [The Story of the Guards: The Legacy of Trauma and Shame](#)

Impact Campaign Offerings:

- Screening of the 55 minute or 90 minute version of *The Cure for Hate*
- Town hall discussion led by Tony McAleer, co-founder of *Life After Hate* and the film's subject; and Peter Hutchison, director of the film and co-author of the curriculum.
- Facilitated lessons and workshops from *The Cure for Hate* curriculum
- Educator professional development on *The Cure for Hate* curriculum
- Host & facilitation of interfaith dialogues
- College and University screenings and panel discussions
- Community and faith-based workshops

The Cure For Hate Community Tour

In towns across the country, we have screened the film and convened conversations about belonging, compassion, and resisting polarization with diverse audiences. With secondary school and community response outstripping our expectations, we found ourselves on the road for 8 weeks with the program – screening to nearly **4400 students** in over **40 schools** – with total engagements numbering over **6100 persons**. And our work has just begun.

Hate doesn't happen in a vacuum. For that reason, we aim to enhance resiliency to radicalization using a whole-of-society approach.

Leveraging our growing national network, we partner with community leaders, interfaith organizations, and colleges/universities to create event-based screenings in the same communities we are engaging with secondary schools. These film events include town halls, panels, solution-oriented workshops and info-shares that serve the broader community - all towards fostering ways to rethink and resist polarization.

"In a world increasingly immersed in anger and violence, *The Cure For Hate* not only provides us a back seat into one man's journey for redemption, but potentially, a roadmap of sorts, for us all."

–Dr. David Raker, Professor of Education, Westfield State University



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PETER HUTCHISON
FILMMAKER & PROGRAM CREATOR
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Peter Hutchison is an award-winning filmmaker, NY Times Bestselling author, educator & activist.

His films include *Requiem for the American Dream: Noam Chomsky and the Principles of Concentration of Wealth and Power* (Netflix/Amazon Prime/Kanopy) – a NY Times Critics Pick, its companion book a NY Times Bestseller. The more recent *Healing From Hate: Battle for the Soul of a Nation* (Amazon Prime/Kanopy) - an exploration of hate group activity as seen through the lens of masculinity - has been described as a "raw masterpiece".

Devil Put the Coal in the Ground, a holistic look at the ravages of extractive industry and corporate power in West Virginia, is currently in festival release, having garnered 5 Best Documentary Feature Awards.

His longstanding commitment to issues around male identity has resulted in the films *You Throw Like A Girl: The Blind Spot of Masculinity* (MEF), *Angry White Men: Masculinity in the Age of Trump* (Grasshopper), and *The Man Card: White Male Identity Politics from Nixon to Trump* (MEF).

He holds an M.S. in Counseling Psychology with a focus on Addictions and Systems Dynamics.



TONY MCALEER
WORKSHOP LEADER & PROGRAM CREATOR
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Tony spent 15 years in the white supremacist and neo-Nazi movement, starting as a skinhead before evolving to leadership positions. Instrumental in ushering in the use of the internet as a means to disseminate white supremacist propaganda, he was ultimately brought before the Canadian Human Rights Commission for his offences in a case that captured nationwide attention.

Following over a thousand hours of individual & group counseling to understand his own process, Tony was instrumental in helping to found *Life After Hate*, an organization that supports those considering exiting hate groups. Tony served as its Executive Director from 2013-2017, and Board Chair until his departure in 2019.

Now a certified Life Coach, Tony works closely with law enforcement and government, from Attorney Generals to senior staff at the Department of Homeland Security. Tony has testified before Congress, and was recently invited to the Paris Summit for the Christchurch Call with the Prime Minister of New Zealand. He also supports Government and Law enforcement in Victoria, Australia helping them grapple with the rising problem of violent white supremacist groups.

He is the Author of *The Cure For Hate: A Former White Supremacist's Journey from Violent Extremism to Radical Compassion*, published by Arsenal Pulp Press; his TED Talk on "Radical Compassion" is available via TEDx



KATIE SOLITO
IMPACT PRODUCER
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Katie Solito is an accomplished educator, with fifteen years of experience in diverse public high schools and adult education settings. Holding a Masters in Secondary English Education, Katie brings her knowledge of curriculum design, learner theory, and engagement strategy to the impact space.

As an educator, Katie knows how to reach people. She possesses an inventive yet practical skillset to deepen the impact documentaries can have. A news hound and voracious reader, she is keenly interested in exploring the larger cultural and geopolitical forces that shape the everyday.

She crafts educational materials that challenge learners to question their assumptions and truly engage with the systemic issues of our time through immersive role-plays, ethical inquiry, and active learning. Employing stakeholder research and an understanding of pedagogy, she facilitates discussions, screenings and campaigns that are memorable and impactful, sparking internal and societal change.

Katie is deeply engaged in the complex issues facing youth today and seeks to use film to engage and enlighten this crucial generation.

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LUCAS SABEAN
CURE FOR HATE PARTNER & EDITORIAL PRODUCER
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Lucas Sabeau is an editor, producer and filmmaker, whose output includes independent narrative & documentary features, commercial video, and a large body of experiential work.

Co-founder of Eat the Moon Films & Big Tent Productions, he has produced & edited *Healing From Hate: Battle for the Soul of a Nation* (Freestyle, MEF), directed & edited *Angry White Men: American Masculinity in the Age of Trump* (Grasshopper Films) and *Devil Put the Coal in the Ground*, a holistic look at the ravages of extractive industry and corporate power in West Virginia.

He recently directed, produced & edited *The Man Card: White Male Identity Politics From Nixon to Trump* (2020, MEF) as well as *You Throw Like A Girl: The Blindspot of Masculinity* (2020, MEF).

He was named a "Filmmaker of Tomorrow" at the Telluride Film Festival for his short film *Relieve* (1999). His films include the feature *End of Era* (Underground Zero, 2003), and *The Last Stand* (Best Feature, Backseat Film Festival, 2008). Choreographer Paul Taylor has called his films "superb - like poems made visible." He has an MFA from Boston University in Film Production.



CAITLYN BOYLE
CAMPAIGN STRATEGIST
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Caitlin Boyle is a specialist in distribution and social impact for documentary film.

Caitlin has served as the leading strategic advisor for independent film, providing coaching and guidance for independent film teams in managing their film's social impact and distribution.

Caitlin also serves as the Director of Filmmaker Development at DOC NYC, America's largest documentary film festival, and as the project manager for the FaithDoc Impact Lab at Auburn Media's Hartley Media Impact Initiative.



THE INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY ASSOCIATION
FISCAL SPONSOR

The IDA supports the vital work of documentary storytellers and champions a thriving and inclusive documentary culture. We are dedicated to the vision of a world where documentary creators flourish. Through our work, we connect audiences with the best of the form, provide resources, create community, and defend the rights and freedoms of documentary artists, activists and journalists around the globe. We do this work because we believe that documentaries enrich and deepen our culture, fostering a more informed and connected world.

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