



About Finding Jenn's Voice

On March 23, 2011, filmmaker Tracy Schott, received a call from a friend telling her that her niece, Jennifer Snyder, had been murdered by her married boyfriend the week before. Jenn was two months pregnant. On impulse, Tracy "googled" homicide and pregnancy and was shocked to find research studies that found homicide to be leading cause of death during pregnancy. And so began the journey that was to become *Finding Jenn's Voice*.

Finding Jenn's Voice is an award-winning documentary film that explores the circumstances around Jennifer Snyder's murder, and examines the risks for intimate partner violence and homicide. The film features interviews with many of the leading experts in domestic violence and examines the risk factors for violence during pregnancy, explores abusive relationships looking beyond physical violence, describes psychological characteristics of perpetrators of intimate partner homicide, and analyzes media coverage of domestic violence homicides. Conversations with survivors of homicide attempts by their intimate partners give a voice to the voiceless and leave the viewer with a message that is hard to forget.

Experts

The following experts and researchers were interviewed for the film. Their expertise helped to shape the story and create the evidence-based approach to its message:

- **Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, MSN** – Professor of Nursing, Johns Hopkins University.
- **Diana Cheng, MD** – Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Former Director of Women's Health, Maryland Dept. of Health and Medical Hygiene.
- **Rae Taylor, PhD** – Chair, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Loyola University – New Orleans.
- **Linda Burke-Galloway, MD** – Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Social Worker, Author
- **Marcus Kondkar, PhD** – Chair, Associate Professor-Sociology, Loyola University – New Orleans.
- **David Adams, PhD** - CoFounder/CoDirector EMERGE
- **Evan Stark, PhD, MSW** -Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University
- **Marilee Strong** – Journalist, Author of "*Erased: Missing Women, Murdered Wives*"
- **Janine Latus** – Survivor/Author of "*If I am Missing or Dead*"

Survivors

The real experts are the 11 survivors of intimate partner homicide attempts whose stories are featured in the film. They shed light on the victim experience and help viewers understand why the question isn't "Why doesn't she just leave?" but should be "Why does he hurt her?"

Why a campaign using *Finding Jenn's Voice*?

In preparation for documenting Jennifer Snyder's tragic story, Tracy Schott brought her training and former practice in Social Work together with her recent career in communications and filmmaking. Tracy dug deeply into the issues asking, "Why wasn't the media talking about this problem? Why was this research obscured by the sensationalistic coverage that 'domestic murders' traditionally receive? Why was every case covered like it was a fluke - just some guy 'snapping'? Was there a pattern to this crime? Were there warning signs?"

Tracy did find answers, bringing together some of the most recent and incisive research concerning the warning signs of abusive, controlling relationships. This is research which continues on the academic level, but whose practice has not found its way down to every domestic violence shelter, parenting class or marriage counseling setting. And it is certainly not part of the cultural vernacular or widely known by journalists and media outlets.

Beyond the Black Eye

Finding Jenn's Voice takes viewers on an emotional and compelling journey through the world of intimate partner violence. Viewer comments:

"I was on the edge of my seat the whole movie!"

"Outstanding, emotional, engaging".

"Not one black eye in sight!"

The filmmaker intentionally avoided reenactments, graphic photos, and *black eyes*; understanding that these elements, while entertaining to some, can actually create distance between the viewers and the audience. Reenactments have become so common in television "reality" crime programs that they've entered into the genre of entertainment rather than documentary. Graphic violence is also so common in entertainment that viewers have become numb to its effects and the reality of injuries. The more graphic the violence, the more likely the viewer is to say, "Well, my situation is not that bad!"

Instead, *Finding Jenn's Voice* engages viewers through pacing, music, content and above all compelling characters. This style draws the viewer in and helps to create emotional connections to the characters. Nearly everyone who views the film can relate to someone's story. And that is the point. With 1 in 4 women experiencing intimate partner violence in her lifetime, we all know someone at risk.

"The film was one of the best films I've ever seen that addressed domestic violence... It was incredibly powerful. Thank you so much for this significant piece of work. It has changed me forever."

Gretta Gardner, JD, Deputy Director

