

SKIP SCHOOL

you only get one shot in this life



FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

It is hard to watch my sister encourage her children to go to school because I know the sad reality is that they might end up target practice for the next would-be assassin. As one character in the film asks "How do we send kids off, defenseless, everyday to get shot?" That's a good question.

I sought to make a film that 'skipped' the school shooting, and instead focused on the aftermath and the fallout in the actual survivors lives, something our news media will never do. Only by embracing and coming to understand the deep suffering caused in the aftermath of these events can our deepest compassions arise. We need to find common ground if we are to find lasting change. Everyone from the NRA to the PTA could be working together if they recognized the urgency now, more than ever to find things society can come together on.

This issue calls for drastic action. It is time to rethink the entire thing, and find a new way forward that doesn't include bullet proof backpacks and shooter drills in nursery school. My niece was four years old when she starting learning to climb under her desk if she hears a "bang". As an artist my role is to tell stories about what I observe in the hopes that policy makers and local communities make changes. I'm a storyteller, and this feels like a story worth telling.

I am thankful to everyone who has been a part of making this film into a reality because I believe in the importance of its bi-partisan, apolitical, common-sense core message: don't shoot kids. Finally, something we can all agree upon. #DontShootKids

Sincerely, Brian Hogan