



EDGE OF VIOLENCE

ONE-HOUR UNSCRIPTED DRAMA SERIES

REDA FILMS

JSJ ENTERTAINMENT
GROUP



EDGE OF VIOLENCE

The explosion of groups promoting extremist violence didn't start with the insurrection at the Capitol. Or the massive unrest in Portland for that matter.



It's been growing for years, swallowing everything and everyone in its wake. White supremacy, drug gangs, religious intolerance...

And there are people right now, at this very minute, in danger of falling over the edge into that violence.

Mostly young people — lured by hate groups who promise a twisted sense of family and community.



But there are also people who make a difference.

Former perpetrators of extreme violence — working together with survivors, reaching out to the ones most at risk and building a brighter future.

Their journeys are amazing, frightening, and hopeful.

THE SHOW

We start with a **FORMER**—someone who was once a white supremacist, a gang banger, or terrorist. They lived a life defined by extreme violence but have now given it up to help others.

That person pairs with a **SURVIVOR**—someone who has been targeted themselves or have family or loved ones who have been victims of that Former's prior hate group. They are committed to stopping the spread of extreme violence.

The Former and the Survivor team up with an **AT-RISK**, usually someone young, who is on the edge of joining the world that the Former has left behind, and that the Survivor has triumphed over.

It is a high-stakes intervention. Friends and family can be on opposite sides, leading to violent clashes. The team finds a way forward—a path to opportunity and connection.



EPISODE EXAMPLE

(ABOVE) A former Neo-Nazi comes together with a man whose father was killed in a fire-bombing by a white supremacist group. Together they work with an at-risk youth in Milwaukee who has been targeted for membership by a gang that encourages hatred of white people. The Former and Survivor plan a rock-climbing expedition to help build trust. They help get his education back on track and connect him with part-time work. Nothing is easy—but a hopeful future beckons.

THE PEOPLE

Different groups, different cities, different hostilities — but one challenge: Intervene before violence claims another life.

- In Newark, an ex-convict Former works with a Survivor whose community is under siege from drug trafficking. They build a t-shirt business so kids can earn money without selling drugs.
- An ex-Islamist militant in Toronto works with a rabbi reaching out to Arab immigrants, offering community, educational opportunities, and emotional support.
- In LA, a Honduran ex-Latina gang leader helps a brutalized teen mother keep her kid safe and develop new skills so she can pull herself out of poverty.

We bring together Formers and Survivors all over the world. Many are already working together combatting the spread of violence and hate. We identify At-Risks and tell their individual stories of finding a better way to live.



EPISODES

Each episode is told in the style of *Intervention* and *Beyond Scared Straight*. There's a documentary feel, with a strong dramatic arc, and a sense of narrative cohesion.

No host; no voice-over narration; only occasional supertitles. We open with interviews and news media reports to explore the backstories of the three people in the episode.

We follow the Former and the Survivor in action, as they strategize and carry out a plan to convince the At-Risk to change his or her life — sometimes with the help of the At-Risk's friends and family, sometimes, despite the physical and emotional hindrance of friends and family.



Together, in a unique, unorthodox alliance, the Former and the Survivor build alternatives for the At-Risk. It can be therapy, job training, religious study, legal aid: Any strategy to show the At-Risk a different way to live.

The emphasis is on the At-Risk's personal, specific path to a moment where the light goes on in their eyes. Sometimes that's a giant leap and sometimes it's a baby step. It's always human, involving, and relatable.

We let the chips fall where they may. Some At-Risks succeed, others are noncommittal, while others sink into the violence that surrounds them. There are no guarantees. No excuses. And sometimes the line between hope and despair is hard to find. But a way of building a better life is always there.

The sizzle reel introduces us to the kinds of characters we will follow and the kinds of worlds they live in. It gives a sense of tone.



Full episodes will tell these stories over time, sometimes weeks or even months. One Former. One Survivor. One At-Risk. One life changed forever.

PARTNERSHIPS

Organizations on the frontline operate with a high degree of anonymity to protect themselves. Over the last few years we have earned their trust—developing relationships with key players in the arena, including [Save Our Sons](#), [2nd Call](#), [Parents For Peace](#), [Serve 2 Unite](#), [Life After Hate](#), [The Forgiveness Project](#), and the London-based [Institute for Strategic Dialogue](#), and utilize the network of Formers and Survivors at [Against Violent Extremism](#). We have interviewed Formers, Survivors, and At-Risks nationally and internationally.

REDA FILMS

Reda Films, led by Scott L. Reda, Adam J. Reda, and Marc L. Reda, has created 600 hours of programming for domestic and international networks and the amassing of the largest privately-owned film archive — Reda Archives, LLC — in the United States.

The company has received immense praise and numerous awards from the industry, including a People's Choice Award, Peabody Award, and Primetime Emmy Award (including nine nominations).

From a documentary about the intersection of sci-fi and rock & roll, to a formatted series about the dissection of ordinary objects, to a scripted series about Prohibition-era Mississippi, Reda Films has one mandate when developing new content for film and television: to bring to light stories that are underrepresented or told from an atypical point of view.

By telling these stories, Reda Films continues to solidify itself as a leading producer of important and thought-provoking contemporary work.



J S J Entertainment Group was created by veteran producer and intellectual properties attorney Jeff Mackler, award-winning writer-producer Samuel Garza Bernstein, and filmmaker-producer Jeremy Blair.



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Re: Edge of Violence/Save Our Sons, St. Paul

Ann Moore

Dear Jeff,

Bridget Martin

Following up from our conversations about your proposed series, Edge of Violence, please note that yes, you have the support of me and of Save Our Sons, St. Paul in going forward! Good luck, in developing your series, and let us know if we can be of service.

FYI, Save Our Sons, St Paul has been providing mentoring for at risk youth, primarily youth of color, to inner city Minnesota kids since 1991. I will enclose with this letter several news items about SOS and me.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance in the future.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Melvin W. Carter Jr.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melvin Carter Jr.

Encl
mc/wlt



Samuel Bernstein <samuelgarzabernstein@gmail.com>

Edge of Violence

1 message

arno michaelis <arno@arnoarr4.com>

Tue, Mar 17, 2020 at 1:01 PM

To: Samuel Bernstein <samuelgarzabernstein@gmail.com>

Hi Samuel,

I'm very interested and willing to pursue the "Edge of Violence" TV project. I'm the author of "My Life After Hate", co-author of "The Gift of Our Wounds", Director of [Serve 2 Unite](#), and Deradicalization Specialist at [Parents 4 Peace](#). I've been working internationally to counter violent extremism for a decade, and I'd love to bring all of my experience and network to bear for the project.

Cheers,

-Arno

Arno Arr Michaelis IV

414-406-5246

Veronika Graves
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Coalescence Foundation
3221 Carter Ave #361
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
Coalescence.Foundation@gmail.com

6/19/2020

REDA Films
JSJ Entertainment Group

RE: EDGE OF VIOLENCE | COALESCENCE FOUNDATION

Dear Jeremy,

This letter of intent will establish the basic framework for an agreement between Edge of Violence in associations with REDA Films, JSJ Entertainment Group, and the Coalescence Foundation relating to the formation of a database.

The Coalescence Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that promotes positive social change by helping production companies recognize the role their businesses play in society. Our goal is to harness the power of storytelling to create measurable social impact. We strive to mend the gap between advocacy and real lasting change.

The Coalescence Foundation will provide a database that will include the name and contact information for organizations working to rehabilitate former extremist group members. Our focus will be to find rehabilitation groups that align with evidence-based programming proven to reshape deviant behavior in youth and adults. We will also provide the name and contact information for organizations working to rehabilitate survivors of the violence inflicted by said extremist groups. These organizations are not solely based on a specific cause or location, but rather they are diverse in their expertise and geographic location.

We look forward to facilitating the opportunity of uniting rehabilitated mentors and survivors with the mission of making a lasting impact on at-risk youths' lives.

Sincerely,
Veronika Graves



Samuel Bernstein <samuelgarzabernstein@gmail.com>

Edge of Violence

1 message

arno michaelis <pardeep.kaleka@yahoo.com>

Wed, Mar 18, 2020 at 10:20 AM

To: Samuel Bernstein <samuelgarzabernstein@gmail.com>

Pardeep Kaleka

10:20 AM
(6Re
minutes pl
ago) y

to me

Good afternoon Samuel,

Yes, you have our support in going forward! Good luck and hope all is well.
Pardeep Kaleka

<https://www.theforgivenessproject.com/>