The Workshop

In-person Screening and Workshop (all inclusive with speaker travel and lodging): $1,500
Virtual Screening and Workshop (speaker joining virtually): $750

What

A college workshop on the most insidious red flags of abuse and trauma built around the Healing TREE short film Silk

Healing TREE Founder and CEO, and Silk Co-Writer and Producer, Marissa Ghavami, or a Healing TREE Artist Advocate (healingtreenonprofit.org/about/our-team), will lead a workshop and discussion on abuse and trauma after screening our film which highlights the abusive tactic of gaslighting and stars mainstream talent in an effort to engage and equip young people with the tools necessary to spot and confront the most insidious forms of abuse in various contexts. We will connect students with resources that help them understand trauma’s impact on the brain and what can be done about it so as to help achieve Healing TREE’s vision of making healing from abuse and trauma, rather than coping with the symptoms, the new normal, effectively addressing the root of society’s toughest problems. The impact will be measured with pre and post workshop assessments.

Why

Psychological abuse is a stronger predictor of PTSD than physical abuse among women.¹
Women between the ages of 18-24 are most commonly abused by an intimate partner.²
College students haven’t been given the tools to deal with dating abuse. 57% say it is difficult to identify and 58% say they don’t know how to help someone who is experiencing it.³
95% of men who physically abuse their intimate partners also psychologically abuse them.⁴
Nearly half of women and men have experienced at least one psychologically aggressive behavior by an intimate partner.⁵

The Effects of Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse increases the trauma of physical and sexual abuse, and a number of studies have demonstrated that psychological abuse independently causes long-term damage to a victim’s mental health.⁶

Victims of psychological abuse often experience depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal ideation, low self-esteem, and difficulty trusting others.
Subtle psychological abuse is more harmful than either overt psychological abuse or direct aggression.⁷

Who We Are

Healing TREE (Trauma Resources, Education & Empowerment) advocates healing from abuse and trauma rather than coping with the symptoms, in order to transform lives and, ultimately, society. We achieve this by providing trauma-focused resources and education and by producing and partnering with relevant film, television, and theatre, empowering the social change necessary to create a healing movement.

¹,²,³,⁴,⁵,⁶,⁷
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Love Is Respect:
¹,²,³,⁴,⁵,⁶,⁷
² https://nacd.org/statistics
³ http://www.lovesisrespect.org/resources/dating-violence-statistics/

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The Film

Silk follows a gifted aerialist who struggles to recognize she’s being gaslit by her new boyfriend...

Gifted aerialist Cara falls hard for Sol, the lighting designer on her upcoming high-stakes solo show. When safety and communication issues plague rehearsals, Cara begins to doubt her perceptions and grows more and more dependent on Sol. With the outside perspective of good friends, Cara is forced to consider that her anxiety and growing insecurities have been planted in her mind by Sol in an effort to control her.

This short narrative nod to the classic film Gaslight features stunning aerial work by renowned performer Crista Marie Jackson (The Greatest Showman) and also stars Fran Kranz (The Cabin In The Woods), Louisa Krause (Billions) and Garcia (Tales of the City).

Silk is directed by John Magaro (The Many Saints of Newark, The Umbrella Academy, Carol, The Big Short) and written by award-winning playwright David Caudle and Healing TREE founder Marissa Ghavami. Stay tuned for information on Silk in the film festival circuit and on its public release.

Testimonial

“As a mental health clinician who works with college students, I felt that "Silk" was an incredible tool for starting an important campus conversation about gaslighting and emotional abuse. While most students may have heard of the concept of gaslighting, this well-written short film takes them directly into the heart of the matter, powerfully and succinctly addressing and educating the viewer on this challenging subject in an emotionally engaging way. Our campus' screening of the film was followed by a great discussion in which students acknowledged that the film was eye opening, and for some it served as a conduit for sharing their own personal experiences with gaslighting in relationships. Delivering this kind of valuable information to our students via a 1-hour program is exactly the kind of programming that our college campus is always looking for.”

—Tony Paglia, MSW, LCSW, Personal Counselor / Disability Services Coordinator, Penn State Shenango

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The Team

Crista Marie Jackson
Cara
The Greatest Showman
Power
Beyoncé’s Formation World Tour

Fran Kranz
Sol
Dollhouse
The Cabin in the Woods
Much Ado About Nothing

Louisa Krause
Emily
The Girlfriend Experience
Billions

Garcia
Ruben
Tales of the City

John Magaro
Director
The Many Saints of Newark
The Umbrella Academy
Carol, The Big Short

Frances Chen
Cinematographer
Films screened at Cannes
and Tribeca Film Festivals

David Caudle
Co-Writer
The Sunken Living Room
Visiting Hours
Downward Facing Debbie

Marissa Ghavami
Producer, Co-Writer
The Gift of Christmas
Not Fade Away
Without A Trace

Silk was shot with a crew of 75% women, many of whom are BIPOC and queer.
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