

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 workshop for high schoolers, college students and community members on the most insidious red flags of abuse and trauma built around our short film *Silk*

Silk highlights the abusive tactic of gaslighting and stars mainstream talent in an effort to engage viewers and equip them with the tools necessary to recognize and confront the hardest to spot forms of abuse in various contexts. Our workshop allows attendees to have an open conversation about these important, but often undiscussed, topics. We explore trauma's impact on the brain and its widespread effects and connect folks with resources to effectively heal. The impact will be measured with pre and post engagement assessments, ensuring that attendees walk away far better equipped to heal from the aftermath of what too many have faced and are able to prevent themselves and others from being victimized by, or perpetrating, abusive situations in the future.

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.⁶

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.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Love Is Respect:

^{1,4,5,6} https://www.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/domestic_violence_and_psychological_abuse_nacadv.pdf

² <https://ncadv.org/statistics>

³ <http://www.loveisrespect.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.



Photo by: Alexander Rivero



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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 (*The Sunken Living Room*) and Healing TREE founder Marissa Ghavami (*The Gift of Christmas*). 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... 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... 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



Photo by: La Bloise Art

“(During this film / workshop, I learned that) what I experienced is real and I am not alone.”

— Student, University of Louisville

The Team



Crista Marie Jackson

Cara

The Greatest Showman

Power

Beyonce'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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