

H&H Week Screening of 'The Mission'

Homelessness in Los Angeles has surged 75% in the last 6 years, and with it, more people end up living in their vehicles - an unfortunate reality for many families in cities across the US, it affects not just the genuinely homeless, but also working poor, and ordinary families who have fallen through the cracks.

Director Tom Haines brings this very issue to light in his latest film, *The Mission*. The film depicts a struggling family of three living out of their Van, but trying to carry on as normal, and revolves around Sunny, a teenage girl desperately trying to pursue her passion: playing the trumpet in her school band. Her dire situation of living in a van with her little brother and father on the streets of Los Angeles presents seemingly insurmountable obstacles which work against her – and the film then examines the challenges behind everyday routines easily taken for granted, and how the struggle to comply with the rules of society takes a toll on keeping a family together.

The film was made in collaboration with The Harmony Project, a nonprofit that provides tuition-free music education and social support to youth across Los Angeles. To further draw attention to the issue of homelessness, *The Mission* is being released in conjunction with Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, a nationwide effort from the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness, designed to educate the public, draw attention to the problem of poverty, and build up the base of volunteers and supporters for local anti-poverty agencies.

H&H Week participants are able to screen the short film for free, and can use the below discussion questions to round out the screening:

1. What do you think is behind Sunny's anger?
2. What other challenges might Sunny and her brother face beyond what is shown in the film?
3. What kind of social services do you think would help Sunny and her family?
4. What benefits would a stable home give to Sunny's family? Should these be guaranteed for all households?

About BRF

BRF (B-Reel Films) is an award-winning and modern production company working across commercials, feature films, documentaries, branded content, interactive, and music videos. BRF operates out of Los Angeles and Stockholm. For more information go to brf.co.