

DISMISSAL TIME

Teacher's Guide

by André Joseph, 4/10/24

An Innocent
TEENAGER

Victimized by Vicious
High School Cyber
BULLYING

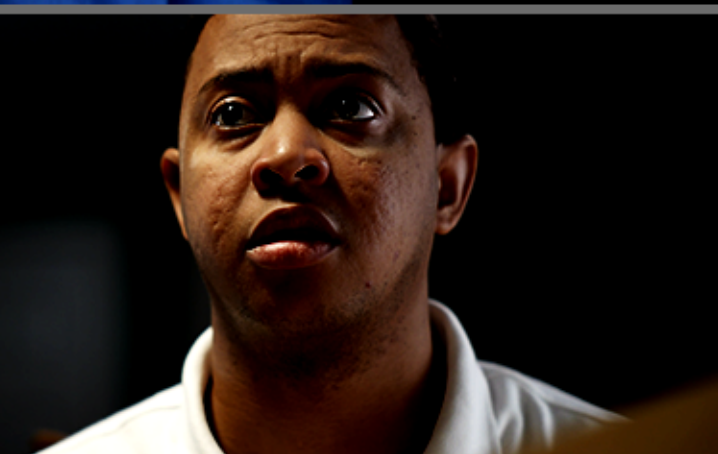
An Administration
That Wants to Dismiss
The **TRUTH**

It's **TIME**
for One History Teacher
to Bring The Darkness
to The Light



The **TEACHER**

The **VICTIM**



The
PRINCIPAL

DISMISSAL TIME

AJ Epyx Productions in association with A Write to Heal presents a film by André Joseph "Dismissal Time"
Lisa Regina Troy Sill Oliver Feaster Jay Pastelak Kat Walsh Sarah Dolhansky
Isaiah Faircloth Kayla Minore and Chris Corulla, Jr. with Matt Hackett
with music from Konstantin Soukhovetski edited by André Joseph directed by Greg Lassik
Associate Producer Chris Galassi Associate Producer Yolanda Brunner Associate Producer Nancy Martignetti
Executive Producer Lisa Regina Produced by André Joseph Written and Directed by André Joseph
"Like" us on Facebook @ajepyxdismissaltime
A fiscally sponsored project of Fractured Atlas #DontDismissMe



The
BULLIES





André Joseph

Writer/Director of Dismissal Time

Hello my name is André Joseph. I am committed to inspiring the world through my stories on film:

- Build Awareness
- Social Responsibility
- Take Action Against Injustice

I understand what it is like to be victimized for being different from others in high school. I recognized over time that over time, my voice in the visual medium can inform and enlighten audiences. Though my short film DISMISSAL TIME, I intend to help young people not feel alone and for adults in authority to bring light to darkness.

ACT 1

The Setup



- Prep school student T.K. Clark gets pranked by students due to interest in his classmate Candice Romano.
- The only teacher with sympathy for T.K. is his history teacher Sharon Vance who sees his potential.
- T.K. gets pulled out of class to be questioned by guidance counselor Mr. Deacon about a “kill list” he has allegedly wrote. Professing innocence, T.K. is unaware that the meeting is being filmed.
- At home, T.K. sees on the school’s social media page that the “kill list” was a prank that leads to him being cyberbullied. He contemplates suicide.

ACT 2

The Cover-Up



- Days after T.K.'s attempted suicide, Ms. Vance gets called into Principal Thompson's office where she's questioned about his suspicious behavior. While Ms. Vance speaks highly of T.K., Thompson promises a quick investigation and a school wide announcement if he's found innocent.
- During class, Vice Principal Simonson gets on the loudspeaker. Rather than address T.K., the homecoming dance is announced which outrages Ms. Vance.
- Ms. Vance takes action on her own by questioning two students with grudges against T.K. She soon realizes that her student Chantelle Gilbert was responsible due to T.K.'s interest in her friend Candice.

ACT 3

Exposing the Truth



- Ms. Vance brings her suspicions to Thompson and the school administration. She learns that T.K. is leaving school as a result of what transpired and the administration wants to move on.
- Ms. Vance expresses disgust at the school treating T.K. like an expendable student. In retaliation, Thompson threatens her job because of her actions against the suspected students involved in the prank. Ms. Vance decides to quit in protest.
- Ms. Vance meets with T.K.'s family to explain what really happened. They take their story to the local press which results in charges against Chantelle and humiliation for the school. Meanwhile, T.K. is expected to recover.

LEARNING MOMENTS

The Themes of Dismissal Time



- When acts of cruelty against students happen, teachers must encourage students to be socially accountable. Speak up and call out the wrongdoing. Often times, students never know what's going on with a victim internally.
- Students of color should never be judged based on their race, personal habits, interests, or social status. Educators especially cannot judge a student at face value.
- Schools need to do a better job addressing the mental health of students. In addition to hiring specialized counselors, create specialized classes once a week where students can express themselves freely outside of academic responsibilities.

WORKSHOP PREMISE

Reenactment Exercise

- **EXERCISE PREMISE** - Two scenarios of the same scene: Have teachers and students reenact the ending scene. Make the students play the administration and one teacher.
 - **Scenario 1:** Administrator runs down the stats about the troubled student and makes assumptions. Teacher who only sees the troubled student as a name on a roll sheet makes a half-hearted defense for him/her.
 - **Scenario 2:** Administrator runs down the stats about the troubled student and makes assumptions. Teacher who knows the student and his/her potential well enough makes a powerful case to defend him/her.
 - **For the Audience:** Think about how you would support the student; how do you engage with an administrator responsibly when addressing a student's problem; and what can a school do to ensure a student can be treated fairly and equally?
 - **Learning Outcome:** Teachers must learn to be more empathetic towards their students to earn their trust not only in academics but also confiding in their personal issues both in and outside the classroom.

HIGHLIGHTS



- Featured in The Philadelphia Inquirer
- Winner for “Best NJ Short” at 2023 Hang Onto Your Shorts Film Fest
- Winner for “Best Human Rights” at 2022 NY True Venture Film Fest
- Voted “Audience Choice” at 2022 Indie Short Film Series
- Special screening at 2023 Roxbury International Film Festival
- Screening & speaking engagement at Northeastern Grad Leners.
- Ability to speak on Pathful Connect.
- Ability to speak at the International Women Build Confidence Conference.
- Ability to speak at Indian Land High School Entrepreneurship Course, Class of 2024.

TESTIMONIALS

What People Are Saying About DISMISSAL TIME



- *“Andre explores the use of film as both an entertainment and educative medium. He reaches deep for non-commercial avenues to talk about social issues of bullying, suicide, racism, and neglect of school district administrations. Dismissal Time approaches these issues in a blunt, but fictional way, its effectiveness is revealed first hand. It is raw, direct, blunt and deliberate. It does not shy away from its premise.”* - Indieactivity
- *“Dismissal Time captures the critical problems young people face. Some on a daily basis of exclusion, torment, and in this case racism. Most suffer in silence and feel hopeless. Schools and families must work together feverishly to help the in despair and to promote all the resources the school and community have for those struggling.”* - Donna Aromando, Guidance Counselor at Rancocas Valley Regional High School
- *“It's so cool how he transformed a real experience into an actual movie.”* - A Northeastern University student
- *"This gave me deeper insight into what is possible for me when connecting my background to my work.”* - A Northeastern University student
- *“André Joseph, a distinguished member of the Turning On the Lights Global Institute's Business Communication Mastery program, recently showcased his film, *Dismissal Time*, as a virtual guest of Dr. Allana Da Graca's graduate classroom. The graduate students were deeply engaged by Mr. Joseph's presentation, finding the thought-provoking themes of the film resonant and impactful. Through *Dismissal Time*, students applied their knowledge of UX design and storytelling, exploring social constructs and connections related to globalization, civic responsibility, and advocacy.”* - Dr. Allana Da Graca, Turning On the Lights Global Institute