

## FILM SYNOPSES

### 3-Line Synopsis

Inside America's sex trade who is tricking whom? It's a \$3 billion a year business and our fastest growing criminal industry. Meet the pimps, the johns, the police, and the victims of America's thriving sex trade-- an industry that is fueled by greed, fantasy, and the commercial exploitation of American children and girls.

### Medium Synopsis

The Internet has created the golden age of the sex industry. It's an 87 million dollar a day business and it is growing. The allure of pleasure is only one click away. And now it's on your handheld device. Thousands of new sex workers enter the trade each month. Some opt in by choice. But most don't. Unsuspecting victims fall prey to the elaborate schemes of predators, who are charming, street smart, unscrupulous, and often violent. They know that a girl can generate upwards of \$300,000 a year. As the sheer volume mounts, so does the abundance and severity of harm. Key people, including 'good' cops and legislators are fighting for change. In certain cities, the word 'victim' has replaced 'prostitute' and pimps face harsher sentences. Yet nationwide, the men – and sometimes women – who peddle girls continue on with impunity. Tricked offers a definitive portrait of sex trafficking in America today.

### Long Synopsis

Modern-day slavery is alive and well in the United States as thousands of victims are trafficked throughout the country to satisfy America's \$3 billion a year sex trafficking industry. Meet the pimps, the johns, the police, the parents and the victims of the America's thriving sex trade in Tricked, a comprehensive documentary that uncovers America's dirty secret.

As many as 300,000 children are at risk of being victims of sex trafficking, in the United States each year. Children are being trafficked from urban, suburban and rural communities across the country. The average age of entry into street prostitution is 13 years old and girls as young as five years old are controlled by pimps. These crimes are taking place in our own backyards to our neighbors, friends and daughters.

Tricked offers a definitive portrait of sex trafficking in America today. The culmination of three years of filming in cities across the country, Tricked chronicles the girls, pimps, johns, parents and law enforcement in Boston, Denver, Las Vegas, Orange County, Los Angeles and New York. Embedded with the Denver Vice squad, Tricked follows Sgt. Dan Steele and his colleagues in their dogged pursuit of traffickers and devotion to rescuing victims. In Las Vegas, ground zero for escort services, Las Vegas Police detectives work to hit traffickers where it hurts them most, by seizing their financial assets. In New York, Colorado and Las Vegas, brash and unrepentant johns reveal the how, why, when and where of what they call "a hobby."

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HEAR THEIR STORIES ► DEMAND CHANGE

The devastating impact of pimps and johns is painfully clear in the intimate stories of survivors and girls currently caught up in the sex trade. During her first week of college, Danielle Douglas was invited to a party where she met a man who became her boyfriend and then violently abused her before forcing her into prostitution. *Tricked* reveals the pain and trauma that follow Danielle after her two years of forced sex slavery working the streets and as an escort.

From Sgt. Steele to the survivors, *Tricked* weaves together dramatic, disparate, inter-dependent characters and provides an unflinching view of the world of sex trafficking, the almost incomprehensible and disturbing bonds between the traffickers and victims and the seemingly insurmountable challenges faced by law enforcement nationwide

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## FILM THEMES

### **Empowerment or Slavery?**

The filmmakers are making a clear normative argument that the trafficking of women and children is a violation of their basic human rights. In one interview, respected New York Times journalist Nick Kristof slams the notion that some feminist groups hold: That the right to sell their bodies represents female empowerment. He says that we have a 'gilded' notion of what prostitution involves and that we don't understand the abusive dynamic between pimps and the women they sell. The survivors featured in the film go into great detail about how they were lured into the life, beaten, threatened and sold many times a day. The film reiterates time and again that these girls and women are under the control of their pimp, be it by violence or manipulation, and that they are being bought and sold against their will, modern day slavery in its ugliest form.

### **Legalization**

One of the film's central characters, Detective Chris Baughman relays a chilling message from pimps: If Las Vegas legalizes prostitution, they will not hesitate to bring as many girls as they can and "set up shop". He believes that legalization protects everyone but the girls who are trafficked. Johns are free from fear of prosecution, and pimps can operate with impunity, but girls will still be victimized by the system, and perhaps at a higher rate.

### **Victims or Criminals?**

Nick Kristof says in the film: "We're treating the victims as criminals, and it's profoundly unjust". Laws in the United States focus heavily on the sellers of sex rather than the traffickers or the johns. Far more women and girls are convicted than pimps or johns. Slim, a Chicago pimp, admits that he operates without fear, saying that if he were busted selling drugs, he'd get "double-digits" but selling women is much safer. A DA in Denver acknowledges how difficult it is to prosecute pimps, because the women who testify against them are viewed as criminals, prostitutes and untrustworthy. Even the victims themselves express fear of speaking out, worried they'll be shamed or worse, disbelieved. In the case of Amelia, a young girl in Denver who revealed all of the painful details of her kidnapping and exploitation by a pimp, the DA declined to press charges and Amelia was left without justice. Cops like Dan Steele and Chris Baughman view these girls as victims, but the system still does not.

### **Deception and Delusions**

The film is titled *TRICKED*, which is reflected in the duplicity of pimps, delusions of johns, and how the American public is taken in by the lies perpetrated by the sex trafficking industry. The pimps claim to either have nothing to do with prostitution (Franky and Jello) or purport that they are helping the girls (Slim). Robert Money is the only pimp who acknowledges that girls are commodities in the sex industry. Danielle outlines how pimps tell girls to trick Johns into believing they are doing it by choice, and many of the johns seem to think the girls enjoy their work. Las Vegas detective Chris Baughman admits that many johns from Nowhere, USA believe that prostitution is legal in Las Vegas, a myth perpetuated by the pimps and even the atmosphere of "What Happens in Vegas, Stays in Vegas".

## MEDIA OUTREACH TEMPLATES

### Sample Facebook Event

**Event Name:** TRICKED Screening

**Details:**

Modern-day slavery is alive and well in the United States. Throughout the country, thousands of victims enter the sex trade each month to satisfy America's \$3 billion a year sex trafficking industry. It's an industry that is fueled by greed, fantasy and the commercial sexual exploitation of American children. Some opt in by choice. But most don't, falling prey to the elaborate schemes of predators.

Meet the pimps, the johns, the police, the parents and the victims of America's thriving sex trade in TRICKED, a comprehensive documentary that uncovers the crimes taking place in our own backyards to our neighbors, friends and daughters. TRICKED is an initiative of 3 Generations, a Not for Profit organization dedicated to helping survivors of atrocities tell their stories to the world.

I've organized a screening at a local movie theater on [\[insert date\]](#). I hope you'll attend and help me bring this eye-opening and important film to [\[insert city or town\]](#). **Be sure to include the details if you plan on incorporating a discussion, speaker, activity and/or fundraiser as well.**

The trailer can be viewed here: <http://vimeo.com/68633093>

Tickets can be purchased here: [\[Insert your link\]](#)

**Privacy:** It's usually best to make the event "Open Invite." Friends of attendees can then see the event and be invited.

### Sample Tweets

Watch the trailer for the documentary TRICKED <http://vimeo.com/68633093> and attend my screening on [\[insert date\]](#) - [\[insert link\]](#)

Attend my screening of TRICKED and meet the pimps, johns, police, parents and victims of America's thriving sex trade [\[insert link\]](#)

Attend my event, featuring the documentary TRICKED, and join the fight against sex trafficking [\[insert link\]](#)

**Hash tags:** #TrickedFilm, #3Generations

Re-tweeting or producing original tweets is an easy way for friends and colleagues to help spread the word!