

IN A TOWN THIS SIZE

A Documentary Film by

Patrick V. Brown



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Synopsis:

"In A Town This Size" introduces an Oklahoma town and its long-ignored tragedy of child sexual abuse by a prominent pediatrician. The abuser is, through this film held accountable for his actions. This film is a personal narrative of the filmmaker who was also abused. Stories are told through poignant first-person interviews with the victims, their families and professionals, this film brings to viewers an unnerving familiarity with the lifelong harm of childhood sexual abuse.

Covering events in the 1960's and 1970's and into present times, Patrick V. Brown introduces us to his childhood and family friends - none of who spoke directly to one another about the abuse while it occurred and who now share their stories on film. These stories devastate, frustrate and inspire – and hopefully empower audiences to confront child sexual abuse and press for change to the states' statutes of limitation regarding this crime.

Oklahoma represents the "heartland" of the United States and a mirror for other places in the world where silence and denial allow pedophilia to exist. The film describes the devastation of those whose trust in family and community was broken. It explores the impact of abuse on their lives, their approaches towards healing and potential changes to laws regarding pedophilia.

The film emphasizes surviving sexual abuse, yet does not diminish the violation and horror of abuse. It illustrates instead that with determination, support and direct conversation about abuse, those harmed can choose their survival.

Expert Praise

Patrick Brown's documentary account of the quiet horror of child sexual abuse is poignant, evocative and important. Directed with respect and simplicity, it raises awareness of what happens, on a daily basis, to children from ordinary families in ordinary towns. The various interviews are moving, pure, and told without pretense. I recommend it highly.

Steven Isaacman, Psy.D., LMFT, FIPA

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Certified Psychoanalyst

Sadly, this story is being played, not only on your DVD player, but in real life right now in scores of towns of every size all over the nation. But, children grow up. They talk. Some make films. Films that tell the truth.

My hope is that those who see themselves in this powerful film will seek treatment. The best way to prevent child abuse is to educate and treat abusers. My hope is that no more films like this are necessary.

Nancy Irwin, PsyD

Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Professional

Director's Biography

Patrick began his undergraduate education at the University of Oklahoma where he studied theatrical arts. Mr. Brown earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. His educational pursuit of photography began at Brooks Institute of Photographic Art and Science in Santa Barbara, California, and continued at L'Ecole International de Photographie in Arles, France. In May 1999 Patrick received his M.F.A. in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute.

He has supported the arts community throughout California when he served on the Arts Commission of Pacific Grove he is a member of various arts and arts advocacy programs and related non-profit organizations. Patrick has taught at San Francisco State University and he was previously a Visiting Artist/Professor of Photography at the San Francisco Art Institute. He has been pursuing studies in Media Psychology at UCLA.

Patrick's fine art photography has been exhibited in various one-man and group shows throughout the United States and at gallery shows in New York City, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Carmel, California, Phoenix, Scottsdale Arizona and in Brussels, Belgium.

He has also exhibited his photography work entitled Survivors Not Victims _ Portraits of People Living with HIV/AIDS at the Scottsdale Center for the Arts, the Fred Jones Museum at the University of Oklahoma in Norman as well as the Monterey Museum of Art, Monterey, California. His photographs are collected in the United States, Europe and Australia. He worked with the Weston Gallery in Carmel, California, and became a docent at the Friends of Photography Gallery when they were located in Carmel, California. He has taught darkroom technique to several groups and individuals most notably, the curator of the ICAC/Weston Gallery in Tokyo, Japan.

His most current work represents a departure from the still image into documentary filmmaking. Six years ago Patrick embarked on a 25-year goal and to make a documentary. In a Town This Size is a film about child advocacy issues as they relate to child abuse and states' statutes of limitations. In the course of that journey Patrick became a certified paralegal as well as a certified film editor. Additionally, Patrick has pursued post-baccalaureate courses working towards a MA in Media Psychology.

Crew:

Director, Producer, Writer: Patrick V. Brown

Videographer: Patrick V. Brown

Transcript Editor: Pam Wise, A.C.E.

Editor: Pam Wise, A.C.E.

Assistant Editor: Rob Wilson

Different by Design: Matt Radecki

Film Color: Brian Hutchings

Sound Mix by Fluid Post

Additional Camera Operators: Peter Elliot

Lee Linderman

Dea Laurence

Diane Doornbos

Nick Aquilino

Professional Services: Boxing on the Boulevard

Paradigm Consulting

Interviewees:

(In order of appearance)

Dale Dutcher

Dona Dutcher

Christy Dutcher McPhail

Mike Dutcher

Brandon Dutcher

Patrick V. Brown

Patsy Brown

Thomas Brown

John Stinson

Louann Stinson

Alison Price

Alan Carlson

Harold Price

Anonymous CSA Survivor #1

Anonymous CSA Survivor #2

Fred Jealous

Richard Gartner, Ph.D

Reviews and Awards



http://www.fox23.com/mostpopular/story/Documentary-breaks-silence-for-child-sexual-abuse/382TzGD2AUj_92V-cCjj7w.csp

Documentary breaks silence for child sexual abuse victims

Reported by: Sharon Phillips Email: A locally-produced documentary is targeting a former Bartlesville doctor.

The film claims he committed multiple counts of child sexual abuse over two decades, but the allegations are only coming to light now.

It's a story that echoes what's happening at Penn State, but in this case it may be too late for punishment. Despite the multiple allegations against him, there have not been any charges filed against the doctor. Because of that, we are not going to reveal his name in this story.

The documentary, "A Town This Size" begins with a look at Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and unveils a secret so shameful that many are fearful to come forward.

However, one man did and his name is Patrick Brown. "He would turn off the lights and put his hands on me," says Brown.

"In the course of being fondled and molested by him, I would concentrate on a cat clock that was hanging on the wall," Brown says.

Brown is a photographer and producer in California, but returned to his hometown in 2004 to make this documentary.

He used letters and video to track down others who had a similar experience with the prominent and trusted pediatrician.

"He would insist to our mothers that we were big boys, and that we belonged in the examining room alone," says alleged victim Gil Browder.

Browder is one of at least seven victims, although he does not appear in the film.

For Gil and many others, the healing process is day by day. "I think we spend the rest of our lives trying to release some of that skewed viewpoint and we try to just not be traumatized," Browder says.

The allegations are decade's old, dating back to the 60's and 70's. The statute of limitations in Oklahoma has run out, and therefore no charges have been filed.

"We want him held accountable and if the judicial system won't do it, and the legislature won't do it, then we will do it in our own way," says Brown.

Brown says he hopes the film moves audiences to face the reality of child sexual abuse, and push for changes in our state's statute of limitations. The doctor hasn't practiced medicine in the last two decades.

<http://www.centredaily.com/2012/01/26/3068276/in-a-town-this-size-documentary.html#storylink=cpy>

'In A Town This Size': Documentary reveals similarities of alleged child abuse cases (with Second Mile & Penn State)

By Stephanie Koons Jan 28, 2012

The Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal has raised many questions that local residents are still struggling to answer. In an effort to address those issues and raise awareness of local resources for victims of sexual abuse, the Centre County Women's Resource Center and the State Theatre invite the community at 7 p.m. Jan. 29 to a screening and discussion of a documentary in which individuals share stories of being victimized by an accused serial molester in a tight-knit Oklahoma community.

Directed by Patrick Viersen Brown, "In a Town This Size" tells the story of alleged child sexual abuse by Dr. William H. Dougherty, a pediatrician in Bartlesville, Okla. The panel discussion will be moderated by Kristen Houser, vice president of communications and development for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape. In addition to Brown, panelists will include Matt Bodenschatz, a Penn State student who claims to have been sexually abused as a child; Julie Price, a certified child life specialist; Pamela McCloskey, a licensed psychologist; and Marolyn Morford, a clinical and developmental psychologist. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the resource center, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower survivors of sexual or domestic violence.

"In planning this event, we identified documentaries that focused on childhood sexual abuse," said Mary Faulkner, director of counseling and advocacy services at the resource center. "We saw important parallels with the events featured in 'In A Town This Size' and Jerry Sandusky's indictment here in Centre County."

The funds that are generated from the event, Faulkner said, will be used to develop support groups for survivors of sexual abuse and their significant others.

"In a Town This Size" is Brown's personal narrative. He alleges to have been abused by Dougherty as a child, and stories are told through interviews with seven other alleged victims, their families and mental health professionals. In 2011, the film won the award for best documentary at the Bare Bones International Independent Film Festival and was nominated for best documentary by Trail Dance Film Festival.

Brown, a fine arts photographer who divides his time between Los Angeles and New York City, said he began shooting the documentary in 2004 partly out of frustration with legal roadblocks that helped Dougherty evade criminal prosecution. According to www.sol-reform.com, Oklahoma's statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse states that victims have two years after the last incident of abuse to file their claims.

"There was no legal remedy, so I decided to take the artistic remedy and make a film about it," Brown said.

“In a Town This Size,” Brown’s debut film, was mostly self-funded. Since completing the film in 2010, he has been screening it across the country, with all proceeds benefiting nonprofit child advocacy organizations.

Brown claims that between 1966 and 1971, he was fondled by Dougherty during routine examinations. After the second or third incident, Brown said, he told his family about the abuse.

“Their response was that I had misinterpreted something,” he said.

Brown said he believes that the conservative culture of the Oklahoma heartland and the lack of awareness of child sexual abuse 40 years ago enabled Dougherty to continue his crimes. In addition, Brown said, Dougherty was an expert at ingratiating himself with community members — particularly single mothers — who enabled him access to their children.

“There’s a private and a public reality,” Houser said. “Absolutely, people will use their power, position and community trust as a shield to cover bad actions.”

While some people called the police to report Dougherty’s alleged actions, Brown said, many of them quickly changed their minds about pressing charges.

“I think that people get really confused about how to respond to suspicions and rumors,” Houser said. “People (think they) need incontrovertible proof before they can make a report.”

Brown said he thinks that too much of the dialogue on the Sandusky scandal has been centered on its repercussions on Penn State and its football program. He said he hopes that the screening and discussion of “In a Town This Size,” shifts the focus to where it belongs —on the alleged victims.

“The bravery of those young men who spoke to the grand jury about their experience is something that really needs to be commended because it took courage,” he said.

While Brown never had the chance to share his story with a grand jury, he said making the film was an “incredibly empowering experience.” His work has inspired at least one other individual to come forward. After a screening in Bartlesville in October, he said, one of the alleged victims in the film, who was interviewed in darkness, took the microphone and told the audience, “I will not be in the shadows anymore.”