

# DISCONNECTED

The stigma of suicide

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Dogs  
on the  
Run  
Capture Stories

## THE FILM

### Secrets and shame

Disconnected is a reflection of a mind-set and momentum of thought, that often starts in the playground.

The spiraling of negative belief that manifests and grows, for some, the only way to end their pain is by withdrawing from life.

Through experiential stories we unravel the secrets of those affected by suicide and try to understand the complexity of life without meaningful connections.

The strength and value of this film lies in these voices.



"A documentary that brings light to the darkness"

Julian Jansen - Journalist at Rapport



## WHY THIS FILM

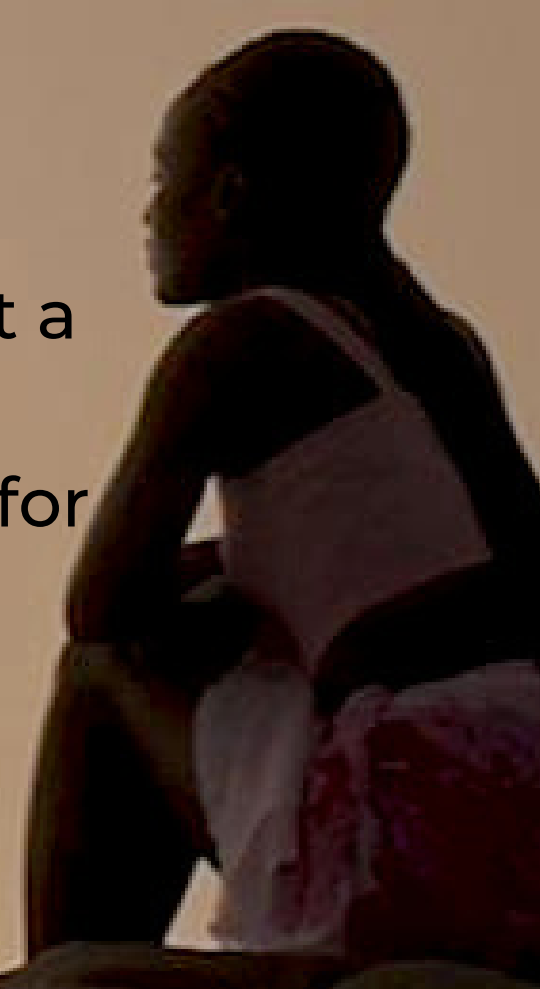
Every 40 seconds someone takes their life by suicide

- Suicide has always been shrouded in mystery, a hidden secret, a cloud of shame.
- Many of us have been affected by either suicidal ideation, or the loss of a loved one by suicide, but are too ashamed to talk about it. We wear a mask of 'everything is ok' when it's not.
- Families keep secrets to manage stigma. Some of the effects of stigma include isolation, not talking and a reluctance to ask for help or get treatment. Suicidal behavior tends to run in families.
- By having conversations on suicide, people affected realise they are not alone and are then more likely to reach out for help.

# BREAKING THE STIGMA

Collaborating with partners we will help facilitate screenings:

- FESTIVAL FILM SCREENINGS - raising awareness on the subject of suicide
- COMMUNITY SCREENINGS AND OUTREACH - enabling ordinary people without professional training to run their own group screenings
- SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS - a public service to loss survivors
- FOUNDATIONS SET UP BY FAMILIES - services for survivors who have lost a loved one by suicide
- WEBINARS/CONFERENCES ON MENTAL HEALTH - national conferences for professionals and survivors of suicide
- TRAINING SESSIONS & TALKS - presentation to facilitate educational programs, train professional caregivers and offer consultative services.
- TELEVISION BROADCAST - Netflix, PBS, Showmax
- DIGITAL RELEASE - Youtube, Vimeo & Virtual Screenings



*"Your film is beautifully heartbreaking. I loved the way you have used the mask. The black and white photography is absolutely stunning and so is the music. Many of the themes resonated with me and I can see its educational value. I hope it will be able to go on its journey and change the world for the better."*

Sangeeta Mahajan

Trustee of Papyrus and Co-chair of Thrive



*"The way you managed to have the people open up the way they did (and forget that the camera was there), is a huge testament to you as a filmmaker and as a person."*

- K H

**Dogs**  
on the  
**Run**  
Capture Stories

Eric and Odette @ Dogs on the Run have been documenting social behaviour throughout Southern Africa, since 2013 .

As independent film makers, with a curiosity in human behaviour, we document stories without limitation, agenda or restriction.

Through unscripted conversations about real life experiences we shine a light on issues society chooses to ignore.

**THE STORIES FIND US**



## The Team

Eric Gauss

Director

Odette

van Rensburg

Producer