
AT-RISK SUMMER

directed by e.E. Charlton-Trujillo

A Feature Documentary About Empowering Youth On The Fringe And Conversations
With Some Of The Most Prominent Authors In Children's Literature



TRT: 88 minutes

Camera: Canon DSLR, GoPro, iPhone

Exhibit: DCP

Sound: 5.1 Surround

AT-RISK SUMMER

c/o Piñata Productions events4rocktheword@gmail.com

What Is At-Risk Summer?



Left to Right: Charlton-Trujillo at New Orleans Public Library, Fairview
Alternative High School Chico, CA and REACH Alternative Ed in Red Bluff, CA

LOG LINE

An award-winning young adult author puts her life into storage and embarks on a self-funded book tour across America. On the road, she empowers at-risk youth to harness their voice through creative writing.

THE STORY

After meeting and empowering a troubled but talented small-town Texas teen without access to creative mentorship in May 2013, e.E. Charlton-Trujillo arrived at an idea. What if she could empower other young people through writing?

By late June 2013, she packed her belongings into storage so she could afford to embark on an unprecedented, self-funded, cross country book tour for her third novel, *Fat Angie* (Candlewick Press). Driving from Cincinnati, Ohio, she traveled thousands of miles while pitted against personal phobias and doubts, all in an effort to inspire youth on the fringe.

Holding free writing workshops and discussions in libraries, alternative education programs and even behind bars, Charlton-Trujillo showed youth ages 5 to 18 years-old how to use their words and storytelling abilities to face their fears, embrace their imagination, and most of all, never be counted out. Through Charlton-Trujillo's humor and heart, see why Kirkus Reviews calls her "a force of nature" and how she began a creative revolution!

TOPICS

Some of the topics/issues addressed in the film are:

Bullying	Name Calling	Teen Pregnancy
Belonging	Poverty	Writing
Education	Privilege	
Empowerment	Reading	
Family	Race & Ethnicity	
Homelessness	Self-Harm	
Juvenile detention	Suicide	
LGBT		

FEATURED AUTHORS

[Laurie Halse Anderson](#) - Two time National Book Award Finalist

[Matt de la Peña](#) - Newberry Award

[Kathy Erskine](#) - National Book Award Winner

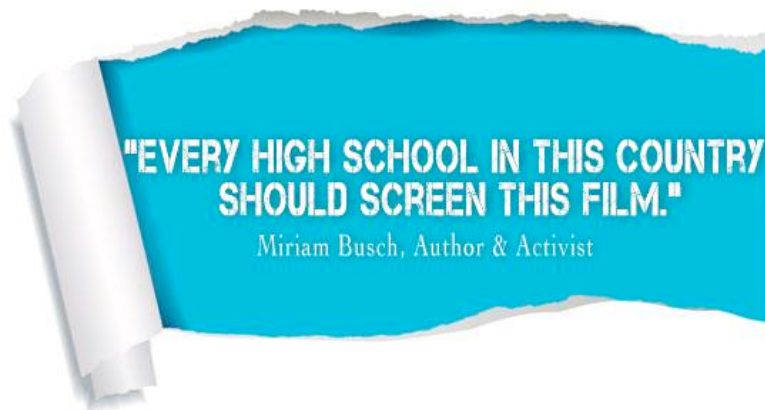
[Meg Medina](#) - CNN Visionary Woman of The Year 2014, Pura Belpre' Winner

[A. S. King](#) - Michael Printz Honor Award, L.A. Times Book Award

[Ellen Hopkins](#) - New York Times Best Selling Author, Nevada State Award

[Pat Zietlow Miller](#) - Golden Kite Award, Best Selling Author

[Michelle Embree](#) - Lambda Book Awards Finalist



Thoughts On The Film

Greg Neri

Award-winning Author & Filmmaker

At-Risk Summer is a deeply felt journey into the scarred landscape of the teenage heart and how the power of sharing stories can light up the darkness and inspire others to overcome their own obstacles in life.

Lisa Goldstein

Division Chief, Brooklyn Public Library

We loved it! I was inclined to ask the director to come back to school with us that same day and speak to our kids. It was a tremendous experience and I know our students were receptive and gained so much depth from it. I'm looking forward to the release of the DVD to show to our school.

Cynthia Levinson

Award-winning Author & Long-time Education Reformist

This stirring, distressing, yet hopeful documentary about lost kids and Trujillo's work with them needs to be seen by everyone who knows a child—or thinks they do.

Janet Fox

Former Middle School Teacher

I wish every teacher could see this film. I wish every politician would be required to watch this film. And I particularly wish that kids who feel lost would watch this film, because it inspires.

Hannah Moushabeck

Co-Chair New England's Booksellers Children's Advisory Council

Watching the reactions of the girls (The Care Center youth) viewing *At-Risk Summer* was magical. Walking in they seemed shy and disconnected, perhaps a little bored. By the time the film was over, they were vocal, engaged and several spoke about their time in juve and what they wanted to achieve in their lives and what they wanted for their children. In the space of a few hours, their demeanor changed.

This film is not about one author's road trip across America. It is a vessel to spread the message of the importance of listening to what at-risk teens have to say and the devastating effects of what happens when we don't.

Kim Summers

Urbana High School English Teacher, Urbana, Illinois

While watching e.E. Charlton-Trujillo, I felt moved to add a creative writing component to the curriculum. “At-Risk Summer” has been an inspiration to me to look beyond the labels of my students to see who they really are and acknowledge their individual challenges as strengths.

Kirsten Crohn Mills

Author . Educator

A former student who came to the showing, was also very inspired. She’s really been struggling with anxiety/depression/PTSD, and your film helped her see what else she wants to do with her life, so thank you for that.

C. G. Watson

High School Educator & Author . California

This is a different film for an educator than it is for a parent, a librarian, or a kid. It hits emotional points on so many different levels. Each person in the audience will see a slightly different film because it will hit a slightly different emotional chord. The story is equally powerful regardless of which viewpoint you’re watching from.

Teen Girl, Age 15 (Brooklyn)

The movie was really inspirational and it made me tear up because I’ve had connections with some kids who have tried to commit suicide. I’ve been one of those kids. I’ve self-harmed. My parents are accepting but everyone else in school isn’t. So, the film helped me out.

Mike Jung

Author . Librarian

It’s hard to imagine kids across the country watching this without being galvanized into action, whether it be following their own literary muses, seeking out more stories like the ones depicted in the film, or opening their hearts and minds to the idea that we all have value, we all belong. At-Risk Summer is a work of immense power; it has the power to change lives.

Texas Book Festival Attendee

Being a teacher in the classroom, you want to bring some of these innovative ideas. Bring excitement. But when you have someone come and take time out of their schedule and doesn’t have to be there, it has more weight. I would love to be able to show *At-Risk Summer* in my class.

Filmmakers



e.E. Charlton-Trujillo . DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Kirkus reviews calls Charlton-Trujillo “a force of nature.” A Mexican American writer, filmmaker, playwright and poet, she has published three, award-winning novels: *Prizefighter en Mi Casa*, *Feels Like Home* and *Fat Angie*. *Fat Angie* won the American Library Association’s Stonewall Award 2014 and was a Lambda Literary Finalist nominated in the adult category with Wally Lamb. Her fourth novel *When We Was Fierce* has been called “*The Outsiders* for a new generation.”

Charlton-Trujillo has worked on over twenty-five short films, executive produced and directed feature films, directed music videos, live motion book trailers and garnered a number of awards for filmmaking. Her work has been seen in The Huffington Post and Entertainment Weekly.

In 2016, Charlton-Trujillo will be one of the founding faculty for the highly anticipated Sierra Nevada Children’s Literature MFA Program. Charlton-Trujillo is directing her second feature documentary for GLSEN titled, *A Culture of Silence* and is penning a *Fat Angie* sequel. www.nevercountedout.com



James Bailey . EDITOR/SOUND DESIGN/COLORIST

A self-taught, renaissance filmmaker, James Bailey has worked nearly every aspect of production and post production and directed three feature films (*HOME*, *The Barren Spring*, *Videotape*) before the age of thirty.

He specializes in editing and sound design and has worked on multiple feature films, music videos, web series and commercials. Bailey’s work has been featured on The Huffington Post and Entertainment Weekly.

He is currently collaborating on a second feature documentary collaboration with Charlton-Trujillo for GLSEN-Cincinnati’s *The Stories Project*.



Rob Gokee . COMPOSER

Los Angeles-based composer Rob Gokee studied at the University of New Mexico, and then spent six months under the tutelage of world renowned composer Christopher Young (*Spider-Man 3*, *The Grudge*, *Ghost Rider*). Rob has scored 14 feature films, over 100 short films, and three dozen different TV series & pilots, including the National Geographic show “Known Universe,” SyFy’s “Fact Or Faked,” PBS’ “Roadtrip Nation,” Speed Channel’s “Car Science,” and TruTV’s “Police POV.” Rob has also scored commercials for Sony two years in a row, promoting their surround sound products.

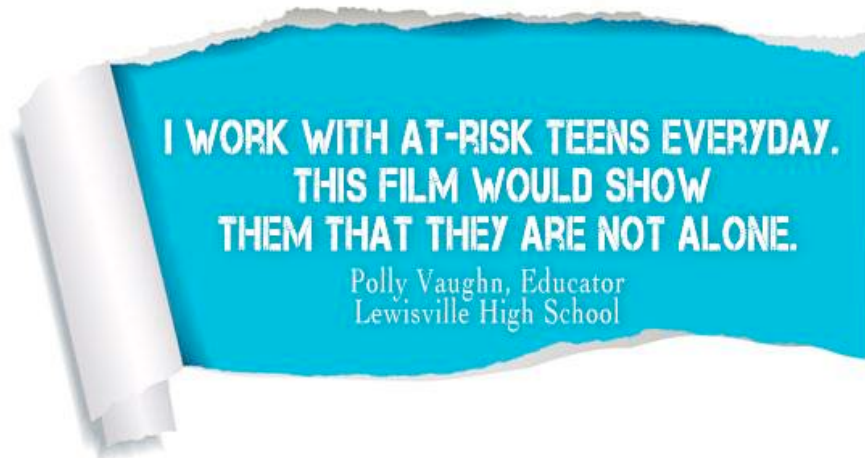
Rob won back-to-back IAWTV (International Academy of Web Television) awards for Best Score in 2012 and 2013, for the shows “Night of the Zombie King” and “Cost Of Capital,” which also won Best Score at the 2013 Indie Soap Awards.

Rob is currently scoring music for several Discovery & SyFy shows, readying a new CD compilation of television & film scores, and writing his second book, about composing for television & film in the indie world, and how to make a living doing it. [IMDB link.](#)



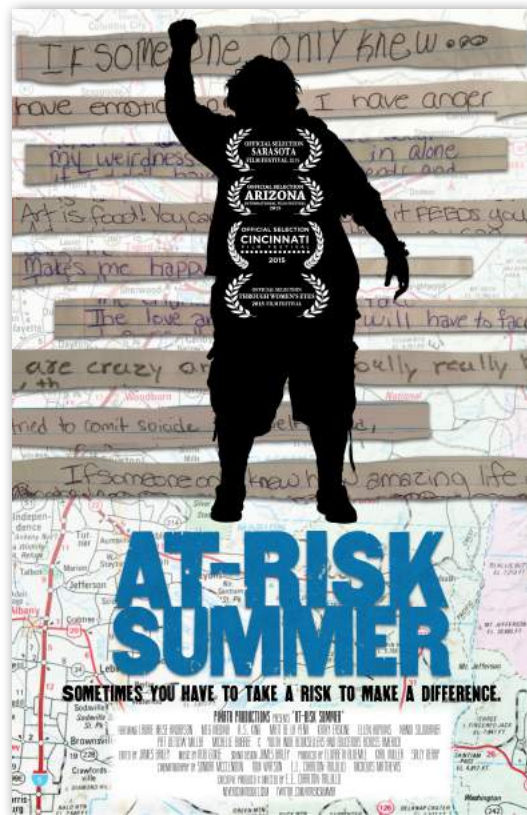
Nicholas Matthews . ADDITIONAL CAMERA

Hailing from the Midwest, Nicholas is an award-winning filmmaker based in Los Angeles and Cincinnati. Most recently, he has lensed four independent features in Southern California. As a director of photography, he specializes in story-driven commercial, narrative, and music video production, working extensively with modern digital cinema cameras including the Arri Alexa, RED Epic, RED MX, F55, C300. & HD SLRs. He thrives on collaboration in finding each film’s unique voice. [Website.](#)



Screenings & Awards

- Texas Book Festival 2015
- McAllen Book Festival 2015
- Vegas Book Festival 2015
- Sarasota Film Festival 2015
- Through A Woman's Eyes Film Festival 2015
- Arizona International Film Festival 2015
- Cincinnati International Film Festival 2015
- Rockport International Film Festival 2015 * Winner Best Documentary
- National Council For Teachers Of English 2015
- Portland Youth Film Festival 2016



Press



Links

[The Huffington Post](#)

[Publishers Weekly](#)

[MTV](#)

[School Library Journal](#)

[Kirkus Reviews](#)

At-Risk Summer pictures: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/101736414@No8/>

Credits

PINATA PRODUCTIONS

Presents

A Film by

e.E. Charlton-Trujillo

Authors Featured

MEG MEDINA A.S. KING KATHY ERSKINE
PAT ZIETLOW MILLER MATT DE LA PENA
ELLEN HOPKINS MICHELLE EMBREE

Executive Producer	e.E. CHARLTON-TRUJILLO
Produced by	e.E. CHARLTON-TRUJILLO ELIZABETH BLUEMLE SALLY DERBY KARL MILLER
Associate Producers	JENNIFER CROW RICK OLMOS DAVE WETZEL JOHN LAWSON SONDRA MCCLENDON CHUCK BEATTY
Cinematography	e.E. CHARLTON-TRUJILLO
Edited by	JAMES BAILEY
Score by	ROB GOKEE
Titles & Graphics	RAVE, LTD
Additional Camera	NICHOLAS MATTHEWS TOM WATSON CHARLI HULL CHRISTIAN DAY SONDRA MCCLENDON MARGARET COBLE C.G. WATSON SHERRY KEMP
Sound Mixer	JAMES BAILEY
Sound Recorders	TYLER SHIRA C.G. WATSON e.E. CHARLTON-TRUJILLO
Color Correction	JAMES BAILEY
Subtitles	JAMES BAILEY

Special Thanks

Erin Murphy
Chris Van Dusen
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Tracy Kinne
Sally Miller
Andi Roberts
Lee Snow
Michelle Ehlen
Margaret Coble
Simple Difference
Karlita Linden
Cassandra Whetstone
Patricia Miller
Els De Clercq
Cynthia Minnich
Sandrea Schlaepfer
Kevan Atteberry
Penny Klostermann
Nancy Ling
Nancy Grow
Lyn M Lachmann
Dream Gomez
Mollie Beaumont
Deidre Slater
Dream Gomez
Jean Gralley
Kim Ward Storch
Random Acts of Art
Natale Gammon
Tanya Bartlett

Kari Ann Holt
Lindsay Lane
Mike Jung
C.G. Watson
Janet Fox
Laurie Thompson
Tamara Smith
Tara Lazar
Peter Solomon
Donna Bratton
Heidi Lewis
Suzanne Nelson
Anna Staniszewski
Kurt Struyf
Shirley Klock
Meredith Jaffe
Frances Gordon
Joel Watson
Dennis Stephens
Andrea Cascardi
Joan Powers
Andi Krawczyk
Sherry Kemp
Trish Toney Lawrence
Jennifer Ziegler
Rocket Cats
Angela Martin
Cecil Castellucci
Erin Murphy's Dog
Elly Pitasky Swartz
Ruth McNally
Barshaw
Lynda Mullaly Hunt
Jeannie Mobley-
Tanaka
Daphne & David

Ugly Dog Books
Powell's Books, Inc.
Blue Marble Books
Inscribed Books & Gifts
Lyon Books
The Odyssey Bookshop
Attleboro Public Library
Stonewall Chico
Wooden Nickel Press
Joseph Beth Books
Skylight Books
The Little Bookstore That Could
Fair View High School
New Avenues For Youth
New Orleans Main Library
Tehama County Mentoring
Program
Sacramento River Discovery
School
Reuther Alternative High School
SAFE Have of Racine, Wisconsin
IDAYY Program, Philadelphia, PA
Wisconsin Tonight, TMJ4 NBC
Erin Murphy's Dog
Geroge West I.S.D.
Racine Montessori School
Texas Book Festival 2013
Boys and Girls Club Racine, WI
Dave Davis at the All Night Party
Erin Murphy Literary Agency

Music

“Opening Offering Talking”
Written and Performed by Bitch
Courtesy of Short Story Records © 2014

“Decision”
Written and Performed by Jake Kolesar
Courtesy of Koelsar Records @ 2014

“Run”
Written and Performed by Shiny and the Spoon

“Bread and Butter”
Written and Performed by Shiny and the Spoon

“Never Give Up”
Written and Performed by Melissa Ferrick
Courtesy of Right On Records © 2007

“Come On Out”
Written and Performed by Jenny Kohls

Serenade
Written and Performed by Rae Fehring

I Don’t Want You To Change
Written and Performed by Melissa Ferrick
Courtesy of MPress Records © 2013



Contact

Press Contact

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Minus a film crew for some of the journey, Charlton-Trujillo empowers kids she just met to film some of the movie.