



Discussion Guide

Film Title: *Safe Sets: Dying to work in the film industry*

Duration of Discussion: 30-60 minutes

Target Audience: Film Industry Advocates and Film Students (or other participants interested in film industry practices and safety)

Goals for the Discussion

1. Deepen understanding of safety challenges in film and TV production.
 2. Explore the impact the working conditions in film and TV production have on workers and their families.
 3. Reflect on systemic issues and individual responsibilities in promoting safety.
 4. Explore ways to advocate for better working conditions and safety standards in the film industry.
 5. Connect personal insights to broader industry practices and reforms.
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Discussion Format

1. **Introduction (5-10 minutes)**
 - Welcome participants and briefly outline the purpose of the discussion.
 - Ask an icebreaker question to engage participants (e.g., "What aspect of the film surprised you the most?").
2. **Main Discussion (20-40 minutes)**
 - Divide discussion questions into thematic sections (see below):
 - Initial Reactions
 - Systemic Challenges
 - Solutions and Advocacy
 - Personal Takeaways
3. **Closing (5-10 minutes)**
 - Summarize key insights from the discussion.

- Encourage participants to reflect on how they might apply what they've learned in their own work.
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Discussion Questions

Section 1: Initial Reactions

1. What was your overall impression of the film? Did anything stand out to you as particularly surprising or impactful?
2. Were there specific moments or stories that resonated with you emotionally? Why?
3. How did the film challenge or reinforce your understanding of film set safety?

Section 2: Systemic Challenges

4. The film highlights systemic failures involving studios, unions, and the government. What do you think is the biggest obstacle to improving safety on film sets?
5. Do you think film unions and government agencies are doing a good job protecting film workers from harm caused by their working conditions? Why or why not?
6. Discuss the role of power dynamics on set. How do hierarchical structures contribute to unsafe working conditions?

Section 3: Solutions and Advocacy

7. The film discusses success stories like COVID-19 protocols and "Sarah Timeouts." What lessons can the industry take from these examples?
8. How can younger generations of filmmakers advocate for change in working conditions to better balance their personal and family life with their film careers?
9. If you were a crew member on a film set, how would you address a safety concern? What strategies might you use to ensure your voice is heard?

Section 4: Personal Takeaways

10. What did you learn about the relationship between safety and creativity? How can safety enhance, rather than hinder, the filmmaking process?
 11. In what ways can you, as a filmmaker or crew member, help build a culture of safety on set?
 12. What specific actions would you take to ensure safer working environments in your future projects?
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Optional Activities

1. **Case Study Analysis (10-15 minutes)**

- Break participants into small groups to analyze a case study from the film (e.g., *Rust*, *Midnight Rider*, or *Deadpool 2*).
 - Have each group identify key safety failures and propose solutions.
 - 2. **Action Planning (10-15 minutes)**
 - Ask participants to brainstorm safety measures they would implement in a hypothetical production.
 - Share and discuss their ideas with the group.
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Wrap-Up

1. Summarize the key points from the discussion, emphasizing the importance of safety as a shared responsibility.
 2. Encourage participants to continue exploring these issues and take proactive steps in their future careers.
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Follow-Up Resources

- **Other Documentaries**
 - *Who Needs Sleep?* | 2006
 - *Body Parts* | 2023
 - *Quiet on Set: The Dark Side of Kids TV* (5 part series) | 2024
- **Books:**
 - *Prop Gun Set Safety for Film & TV Guidebook* by Dutch Merrick | 2024
 - *Burn It Down* by Maureen Ryan | 2023
 - *The Health & Safety Guide for Film, TV & Theater*, Second Edition by Monona Rossol | 2011
- **Organizations:**
 - [Safety for Sarah Foundation](#)
 - [Mark Milsome Foundation \(UK\)](#)
 - [Reel Families for Change](#)
 - [Humanity on Set](#)
 - Unions and Guilds
 - [IATSE](#)
 - [SAG-AFTRA](#)
 - [ACTRA](#)