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New Documentary Banned Together Exposes the Rising Tide of Book Bans in America's Schools

Charleston, SC - In response to the growing trend of book bans sweeping across the nation, **Atomic Focus Entertainment** is set to release a compelling new documentary, ***Banned Together***. It is the first feature documentary to tackle this critical issue. ***Banned Together*** is co-produced with **Kanopy**, the popular streaming service offered at no cost through public libraries and universities.

The producers have launched a national Impact Campaign, which will be supported by sponsorships, to provide select screenings to libraries, civic groups and non-profit organizations prior to the 2024 elections. ***Banned Together*** has also been chosen to appear in four film festivals to date.



[View the Trailer for Banned Together](#)

Featuring a dynamic cast of young activists, intense public protests, personal threats, criminal accusations, and highly charged school board meetings, ***Banned Together*** sheds light on the escalating issue of book bans and the censorship of curricula in public schools.

The documentary follows the courageous efforts of three students from Beaufort, South Carolina, who take a stand when 97 books are abruptly removed from their school libraries. As these students rise to become national voices in the fight against censorship, the film captures the broader narrative of book banning and curriculum censorship across the United States. ***Banned Together*** offers viewers a comprehensive look at both sides of the debate and provides an inside perspective on the heated battles occurring in schools and legislatures.

The film features interviews with best-selling authors whose works have been banned, including **Jodi Picoult, Juno Dawson, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, Ellen Hopkins, and Erica L. Sánchez**. It also includes insights from Maryland **Congressman Jamie Raskin**, constitutional scholars, educators, librarians, parents, and student activists from across the country. The film also features discussions with representatives from the ACLU, PEN America, the American Library Association, and Moms for Liberty.

Producers **Jennifer Wiggin** and **Allyson Rice** of Atomic Focus, along with directors **Kate Way** and **Tom Wiggin**, were inspired by the activism of these young students and the vast scope of this rapidly evolving national issue. The post-production was led by award-winning editor **Cha Quallis**.

"***Banned Together*** is about marginalized voices being silenced and the violation of students' and educators' rights to access diverse sources of information in schools," said Producer Jenn Wiggin. "It is also an inspirational story of students stepping up to protect those rights against powerful forces -- in school board meetings, statehouses, and even in the halls of Congress."

Jason Tyrrell, General Manager of Kanopy, said: "As a provider of streaming film, documentaries, series, and kids' content to libraries and educational institutions, we at Kanopy felt compelled to get behind this critical story that details the fight for the right to information in the United States."

ABOUT BANNED TOGETHER: ***Banned Together*** is a feature documentary film about the current wave of book bans in the United States. It tells the local story of Beaufort, S.C., where 97 books are suddenly pulled from their school libraries after two adults threaten to take legal action against the school board. Viewers follow three teenagers through their senior year of high school as they work together to fight book bans in Beaufort and then at the state and national levels. This community's story is interwoven with the larger national landscape of book banning, including interviews with best-selling authors, policymakers, and experts. Additional information about the creative team may be found at: www.bannedtogetherdoc.com.

ABOUT ATOMIC FOCUS ENTERTAINMENT: Atomic Focus Entertainment is a female-owned independent entertainment and production company based in Charleston, SC. Atomic Focus creates an array of exceptional content for film, television, and podcasts. To learn more, visit www.atomic-focus.com

ABOUT KANOPY: Kanopy is the leading video streaming service providing films that matter through public libraries and colleges worldwide. Kanopy has 30,000+ films in its catalog. Partnering with

filmmakers and film and video distributors, Kanopy offers access to wide-ranging, engaging narratives, insightful documentaries, and riveting television and instructional series.

Organizations interested in supporting the Impact Campaign or to request a screening, please visit the film's website: www.BannedTogetherDoc.com.

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