

BREACH OF TRUST

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PRESENTS "BREACH OF TRUST"

SOUND BY JOSH CICCEL | EDITED BY KARA FEIN & KELSY LUA | DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ARIEL CANTRELL

PRODUCED BY SUFIAN ABULOHOM & JACK WALTERMAN | DIRECTED BY MISHAL MAHMUD

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

Breach of Trust explores the University of Southern California's institutional cover up involving former full-time gynecologist George Tyndall. Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter; Matt Hamilton, guides us through this three decade old scandal, which has only recently surfaced to the public in 2017 after a Nurse named Cindy Gilbert reported Tyndall to the campus rape crisis center. Gilbert goes in front of the camera for the first time ever to explain her struggle to speak up for the protection of the students. We also hear straight from the survivors as they explain the lasting effects Tyndall has had on them. Fortunately, these brave survivors, out of the hundreds of women, have been empowered to speak out and advocate for institutional change.



SYNOPSIS

On December 19th 2018, Pulitzer Prize-Winning journalists Matt Hamilton and Harriet Ryan shed light on a disturbing scandal involving the former full-time gynecologist, George Tyndall, of the University of Southern California. They reveal that Tyndall was “under intense scrutiny as detectives probe allegations that Tyndall sexually abused hundreds of patients over nearly three decades at USC, part of the largest-ever L.A. Police Department sex crimes investigation with a single suspect.” Today this case is still on the table, yet to be settled.

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Breach of Trust explores further into this scandal through intimate conversations with some of the survivors; including Brennan H ('19), Amanda D ('02), Dr. Dana L ('95), and Kay Z ('20), who had the courage to share their stories, and the difficulties involved with bringing to light sexual misconduct within the walls of the student health center.

Over the past seven months, director Mishal Mahmud, and crew, follow a story that starts in what should have been a place of care and safety- a university's gynecologist's office. Matt Hamilton, one of the original reporters of this story, guides viewers through the chilling events as they unfold, focusing mainly on how USC tried to withhold the information of Tyndall's actions.

The filmmakers don't just stop there; they brought in four survivors out of hundreds that had the opportunity to come forward. Brennan states, "as soon as I knew that telling my story would help other people. I think that is when I was able to be open about what was going on."

One of the unsung heroes of this story is former Nursing Supervisor, Cindy Gilbert. Gilbert was the whistleblower who reported Tyndall to the campus rape crisis center. While most would view this as a heroic action, Gilbert quickly received a lot of backlash for speaking up. Her work environment became so hostile she chose to resign from her position. Now, after saying no to being in front of the camera for all news reports and articles, both photographs and video, Cindy agrees to step in front of the camera for the first time ever for our young team and addresses the extent to which she went to protect the students. Cindy states, "was there ever a time I felt like giving up? No. I think there were times when I questioned whether we were ever going to get someone to listen, but as far as giving up, no." At the USC premiere screening, Cindy Gilbert received a standing ovation for the sacrifices she made to keep the students safe.

When it was known that Tyndall was given a financial payout and was not reported to the state medical board or law enforcement agencies, outraged faculty came together to ensure the University would be held accountable for the crimes they were choosing to cover up. They wrote a letter (drafted by Dr. Ariela Gross) to the former President, Max Nakias, demanding that he step down from his position. Gross states, "feeling the pressure from our letter called a town hall". This town hall meeting was held after the spring 2018 semester ended, which none of the University's board members attended. After months of pressure like this from the concerned faculty members, Nakias finally gave in, and resigned from his position in the summer of 2018.

As the year continued, Interim President, Wanda Austin, had been a political placeholder for the University to save face until they appointed current President, Carol Folt. A few weeks before the new president was appointed, Austin had backed out of an interview with the crew. Former Provost Michael Quick also declined to comment. Rick Caruso, Head of the Board of Trustees, did not respond to a request to be interviewed. Dr. Dana explains that, "USC was never transparent. They were always trying to make it go away...if you focus everything on raising money, which USC is...USC is a fundraising machine. When fundraising becomes the number one cause and purpose, then sometimes, obviously, ethics will go by the wayside and even crimes can be committed...we want institutional change."

Amanda explains that, "it's not a quick let's move on. To me that is a little bit too close to...let's protect our brand and keep moving. Part of fixing that is allowing victims to have a voice in the process, because otherwise you're just sitting in an office separated from your community; separated from the victims...imagine if all of these hundreds of women. If we all now had a voice and were speaking up...how big...how much more power, strength, and courage we would have over this one man."

Gilbert is quoted saying, "Parents send their kids there [USC] and expect them to be safe...we should keep them safe". What happens when a University is held accountable for its

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past after decades of silence? Will the institution remain the same, despite its Trojan family being forever changed? With the case remaining unsettled there are a number of reasons the university refused to speak in front of the camera but, despite their silence, *Breach of Trust* brings the voices of women who needed a space to speak up, and to be heard.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For three decades George Tyndall was the only full-time gynecologist at USC, and although complaints of sexual misconduct were made as far back as 1989, Tyndall was not asked to resign until 2017 after a nurse named Cindy Gilbert reported him to the rape crisis center.

George Tyndall was given a financial payout and was not reported to the state medical board or law enforcement agencies. Although an independent investigation had found him guilty of sexual misconduct, it was not until the LA Times released an investigative report about the Tyndall case that the USC community became aware of what had happened.

We started off with a dark story about institutional complicity and neglect, but what we found was a compassionate and subversive community of USC students, faculty, and alumni who continue to advocate for change till this day. Being able to collaborate with this community in telling their stories has been the greatest privilege for us all.



FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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Mishal Mahmud – Director



Mishal Mahmud is a Pakistani writer/director. Her most recent film, Breach of Trust, is an award winning documentary short about the USC George Tyndall sexual assault case told from the point of view of the women advocating for change.

Breach of Trust won best documentary at the First Look 2020 Industry Awards as well as best student documentary at the Impact Doc Awards. The short film garnered acceptances into Oscar qualifying film festivals such as AFI FEST, made it onto the BAFTA 2020 student film shortlist, and premiered online on Short of the Week.

Mishal graduated from the USC School of Cinematic Arts with a masters in film and television production. Her most recent project, Witness, recently became the recipient of the BAFTA-GSA grant.

Sufian Abulohom – Producer



Sufian Abulohom is a Yemeni Filmmaker who grew up in Sana'a, Yemen until he was about 15 years old. He moved to Falls Church, Virginia and graduated from American University in 2017. He is currently enrolled in the University of Southern California getting his MFA in Film and Television Production. Being one of very few Yemeni filmmakers in the world, Sufian aspires to humanize and shed light on Yemeni stories. His latest documentary Yemen: The Silent War (2018) have played in over 10 countries and won an Award of Merit at Impact Docs Awards 2018.

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Jack Walterman – Producer

A native of Lakeville, Minnesota, Jack Walterman graduated with a BA in Theatre Arts: Acting/Directing from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in 2017. While there, he was able to study abroad and perform in both London, England, and at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland. He also directed stage productions and coached competitive speech for neighboring high schools. During the summer he worked as a teaching artist at the renowned Guthrie Theater. He has recently move to Los Angeles to pursue an MFA in Film and Television Production at the University of Southern California, where he focuses his energy on writing, producing, and directing stories about characters overcoming personal fears and allowing more room for love in their lives.



Ariel Cantrell – Cinematographer

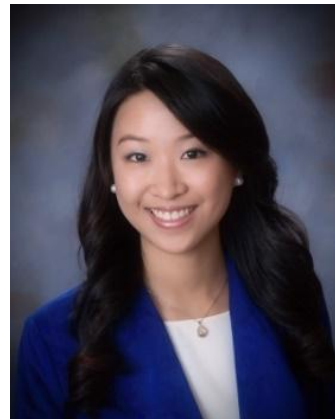
Ariel Cantrell is currently pursuing an MFA in Film and Television Production at the University of Southern California. She is primarily focused on cinematography, writing, and producing. At the University of Florida she studied English Literature and Astronomy for her undergraduate degree. She wrote her first novel this year titled *Blood and Honey* and is intending to publish in 2020. Her goal as a filmmaker is to develop visually compelling and thematically complex female led crime dramas.

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Kara Fien – Editor

Kara Fein is currently pursuing an MFA in Film and Television Production at the University of Southern California. She is primarily focused on editing, directing and producing. Kara received her Bachelor's degree in Film Studies from Vanderbilt University where she first developed a love of documentary filmmaking. Her goal as a filmmaker is to shape stories and explore unique characters, real and imagined.



Kelsy Lua – Editor

Kelsy Lua is a Chinese-Filipino filmmaker born and raised in the Philippines. She graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Business Administration. She directed and edited a short documentary "Gawilan" which won the 2nd-runner up award at the 2018 Istorya ng Pag-asa film festival in Manila, Philippines. Kelsy is currently pursuing a Master's degree from the University of Southern California in Film and Television Production with a focus in Editing. She takes every opportunity to collaborate creatively and universally while she strives to edit films that tackle the complexity of human experiences, cultural divides, social issues and conflicts that speak to worldwide audiences.

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Joshua Ciccel - Sound Recordist/Designer

An LA native, Josh Ciccel received his Bachelor's Degree in Video Art from the Syracuse University. He is currently pursuing an MFA in Film and Television Production at the University of Southern California, where he is primarily focused on Directing and Sound Design. Joshua's goal as a filmmaker is to inspire audiences with work outside the mainstream.



Anthony Sabatino – Composer

Anthony Sabatino is a composer based in Los Angeles who studied at Berklee College of Music, dual majoring in Film Scoring and Electronic Production and Design, with a minor in Conducting. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and received the Michael Reddish Award in Film Scoring and the Richard Devine Award in Sound Design for Electronic Music. Anthony is also a graduate of USC's Screen Scoring Program, and is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society.

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Joseph Picozzi – Associate Producer

Joe grew up in Providence, Rhode Island. His uncle, a local author and painter, sat Joe down in front of an old computer to write a story when he was 7 years old, and he's been writing and creating ever since. He earned his undergraduate degree in Motion Pictures from the University of Miami. At USC, Joe has produced, written and directed a wide variety of projects. His short, "Serial Killer Superstar" is currently being broadcast on KCET as a part of their FineCut student film showcase.



Shicong Zhu - Associate Producer

Born and raised in Beijing, Shicong studied Psychology and Fine Arts at USC and is currently in the film MFA program at USC focusing on directing. She co-produced a Chinese Sci-fi series *Yolkman* and her short film *Anchor Baby* was officially selected in Beverly Hills International Film Festival.

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PRESS

Covered by LA Times reporter Matt Hamilton, Harriet Ryan, and Paul Pringle who all won a Pulitzer Prize “*For a distinguished example of investigative reporting, using any available journalistic tool*” on the USC Gynecologist scandal since 2017.

Here are their prize winning articles:

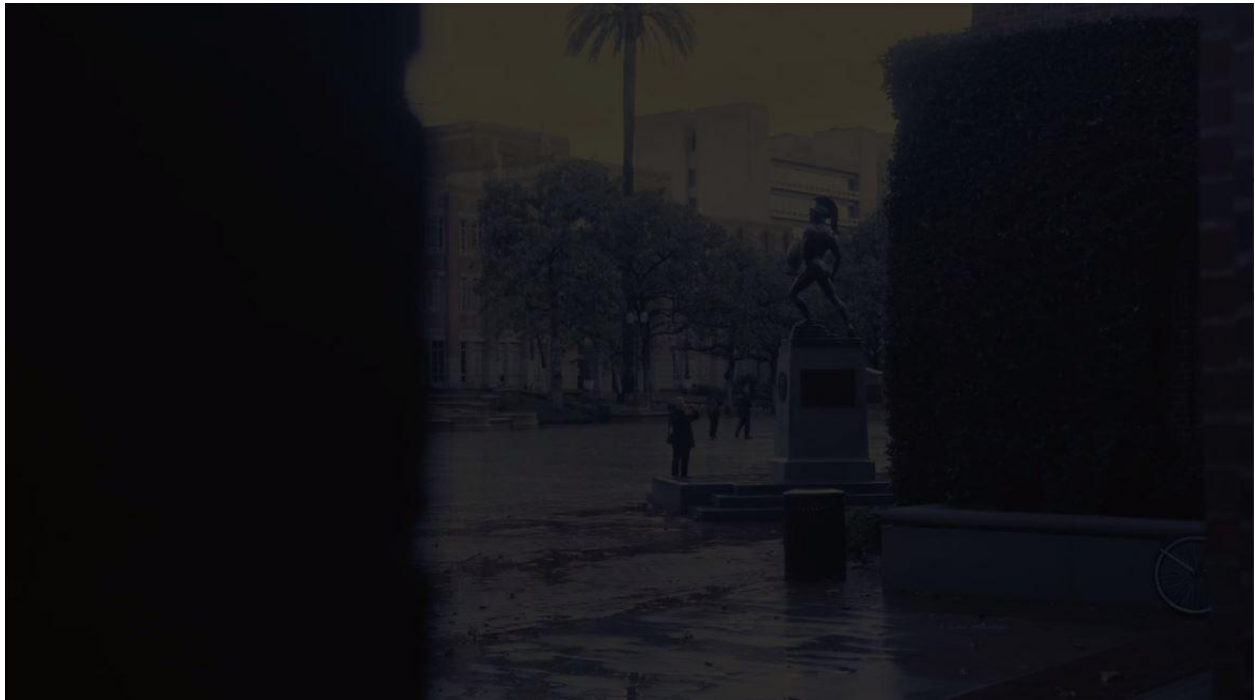
<https://www.pulitzer.org/winners/matt-hamilton-harriet-ryan-and-paul-pringle-los-angeles-times>

Los Angeles Times Reports included in the film:

- [How George Tyndall Went from USC Gynecologist to the Center of LAPD’s Largest-Ever Sex Abuse Investigation.](https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-george-tyndall-profile-usc-sexual-assault-all-egations-20181219-story.html) Los Angeles Times, 19 Dec. 2018
<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-george-tyndall-profile-usc-sexual-assault-all-egations-20181219-story.html>
- [Police found trove of nude images of women in ex-USC gynecologist’s storage unit](https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-usc-gynecologist-storage-unit-20181211-story.html)
<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-usc-gynecologist-storage-unit-20181211-story.html>
- [Ryan, Harriet, et al. “Former Students Recount Decades of Disturbing Behavior by USC Gynecologist.” Los Angeles Times, 17 May 2018](https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-usc-students-gynecologist-20180516-story.html)
<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-usc-students-gynecologist-20180516-story.html>
- [USC’s aggressive recruiting of Chinese students faces challenge amid gynecologist scandal](https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-usc-chinese-20180517-story.html)
<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-usc-chinese-20180517-story.html>
- [Scandal after scandal focuses scrutiny on USC leadership, culture](https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-usc-scandals-20180520-story.html)
<https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-usc-scandals-20180520-story.html>
- [Ryan, Harriet, and Matt Hamilton. “Students Warned USC about Gynecologist Early in His Career: ‘They Missed an Opportunity to Save a Lot of Other.’” Los Angeles Times, 23 May 2018](https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-patients-usc-complaints-20180523-story.html)
<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-patients-usc-complaints-20180523-story.html>
- [Vulnerable young women. A gynecologist accused of violating them. Where was USC?](https://www.latimes.com/local/abcarian/la-me-abcarian-usc-gynecologist-20180517-story.html)
<https://www.latimes.com/local/abcarian/la-me-abcarian-usc-gynecologist-20180517-story.html>
- [USC’s controversial \\$215-million settlement with gynecologist’s victims moves forward](https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-usc-settlement-lawsuits-former-patient-gynecologist-20190213-story.html%3foutputType=amp)
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-usc-settlement-lawsuits-former-patient-gynecologist-20190213-story.html%3foutputType=amp>

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- USC's Academic Senate calls on university president to resign after a series of scandals
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-usc-academic-senate-vote-20180523-story.html%3foutputType=amp>
- Top USC officials stepping down as university tries to set new course
<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-usc-administrators-retirement-20190402-story.html>
- How much of USC's sweeping sexual abuse investigation will stay secret?
<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-usc-sexual-abuse-investigation-secret-20190401-story.html>



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CREDITS

Directed By Mishal Mahmud

Produced By Sufian Abulohom and Jack Walterman

Director of Photography Ariell Cantrell

Edited By Kara Fein and Kelsy Lua

Sound Recorded and Designed By Joshua Ciccel

Original Music By Anthony Sabatino

FEATURING

Amanda Davis
Cindy Gilbert
Dr. Ariela Gross
Matt Hamilton
Brennan Heil
Dr. Jane Junn
Dr. Dana Loewy
Kay Zhang

College Graduates Cast

Karen Ayvazian
Deja Bowen
Allyse Gibson
Joseé Gourdine
Katrina Lee
Jessica Otse Idaewor
Annie Faley

CREW

Associate Producers Joseph Picozzi and Shicong Zhu

Assistant Camera

John Hanle

B Cam Operator

Sufian Abulohom
Kathryn Boyd-Batstone
John Hanle

Steadicam Operator Rob Bennett

Drone Operator Chehade Boulos

Gaffer

Kathryn Boyd-Batstone
Letia Solomon

Assistant Editor Note Abhichoke Chandrasen

SCA Business Affairs Veronica Villanueva and Brenda Williamson

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Sufian Abulohom and Jack Walterman

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Kristin Muller Transcription Services

Colorist Sohil Vaidya

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Producing Lisa Leeman

Cinematography James O’Keeffe

Editing Kate Amend, ACE

Sound Richard Burton

Avid Instruction Jeremy Deneau

Story Development Amanda Pope

Graduate Assistants

Grant Raun

Baihui “Becky” Chen

Jiaqing Audrey Gu

Kelly Mineou Han

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Intsar Al-Eryani

Dmitry Kovalev

Anurag Kumar

Liviera Lim

Valerie Lopez

Doe Majer

Samantha Ong

Shelby Palmer

Jef Pearlman

Mary Posatko

Harley Roles-Douvier

Jason Rosenfield

Matthew Sasaki

Emily Sagen

Sarah Skibitzke

Astor Stark

Refée Tajima-Pena

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Hillary Tzeng

Alexa Villarreal

Yuan Wang

CTPR 547 Spring 2019 Class

Rae Chen

The USC Intellectual Property and Technology Law

Clinic

Jaxsen & Jeyden Davis

Joan Fang

Sheila and Steven Fein

Mike Fink

Paul Gilbert

The Gilbert Family

Roberta Grossman

Ihsanul Huq

Archival Photographs courtesy of

Photograph of Kay Zhang by Angela Jingyi Zhu

Additional Archival Footage and Photographs

CBS Los Angeles

Oprah Winfrey 2018 Commencement Speech: USC Annenberg, 2018, University of Southern California

Inside Troy

News Articles, 2018, *Los Angeles Times*

Good Morning America, ABC

Today’s Show, NBC

Photographs of Brennan Heil

Photographs of Dr. Dana Loewy

Photographs of Kay Zhang

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