

THE HUNTING GROUND

RECEPTION:

The film has been received extremely positively in the US and around the world, and in 2016 received nominations for an Academy Award and an Emmy Award, and won the prestigious Stanley Kramer Producers Guild of America award.

ACCURACY:

Everything in the film is accurate. The filmmakers fully stand behind Kinsman's and Willingham's accounts of their assaults (see [The Hunting Ground Facts](#)), as well as the accounts of all the subjects in the film. The entire film has been rigorously fact checked, and is backed up by thousands of pages of documents and corroborating testimony. Additionally, after a [CNN broadcast](#) and three-year international release, we have not received a single defamation claim, nor has anyone ever asked us to make a correction.

RESEARCH:

Over the course of three years, the filmmakers contacted more than one thousand survivors of college sexual assault, college administrators, researchers, psychologists, law enforcement personnel, statisticians, journalists and other experts, and conducted lengthy on camera interviews with 140 of them. They investigated more than 100 campus sexual assault cases, reviewing tens of thousand of pages of court documents, depositions, expert testimony, and police records.

TWO OF THE CASES:

Florida State University student Erica Kinsman's repeated accounts of her assault by a star quarterback have been remarkably consistent, and no single point of her testimony has every been disproven. However, both Florida State and the Tallahassee police were found to have [mishandled their investigations](#). Three years after the assault, it was revealed in a deposition given by a university official that a [second student also reported that Winston had assaulted her](#), and that the school had covered up that case as well. As a result, in 2016, [Florida State settled with Kinsman](#) in the largest settlement ever paid out in a Title IX claim pertaining to negligence in responding to a student's reported sexual assault.

Harvard Law student Kamilah Willingham's account was upheld by six investigative and adjudicative entities, which all found that an assault had been committed. The only entity that came to a different finding, a group of 19 Harvard Law professors and their associates, did so in a secretive hearing that was [found to be illegal](#) by the U.S. Department of Education. As a result, Harvard Law was [forced to change its appeal process](#).

STATISTICS:

Six national surveys, including those by the [Washington Post](#), [American Association of Universities](#), and [US Department of Justice](#), have repeatedly found that more than 20% of women are sexually assaulted while in college. The only study that found a lower number, the

[National Crime Victimization Survey](#), has been critiqued extensively for its flawed methodology, and a [278-page study](#) by the US National Academies of Sciences concluded that its college sexual assault statistics could not be presumed to be accurate.

OUTREACH FOR COMMENT:

The filmmakers reached out to all the named college and university officials for comment prior to the film's release. Two university presidents were interviewed for the film, and thirty-five college or university presidents declined to speak or did not respond.

The filmmakers also reached out for comment to all those accused in the film prior to its release. The filmmakers reached out for comment a total of five times to Florida State University quarterback Jameis Winston, his agent, and his attorney prior to the film's release and never received a response from any one of them.

IMPACT:

The film has screened at the White House, Department of Justice, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Education, the National College Athletic Association (NCAA), and in more than 2000 colleges, universities and high schools in all 50 states in the US. The film has helped inspire the writing of more than fifteen pieces of legislation in the US Congress and state legislatures. Days after the New York governor screened the film for the legislature, it swiftly passed a groundbreaking new bill to help stop sexual assaults on all New York college campuses. Globally, the film has helped instigate campaigns in the UK, France and Australia to combat sexual violence on campuses. The film team also produced a [short film](#) about college sexual violence based on the original song by Lady Gaga featured in *The Hunting Ground* that has received over 40 million views.

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Kirby Dick
Director

Amy Ziering
Producer