

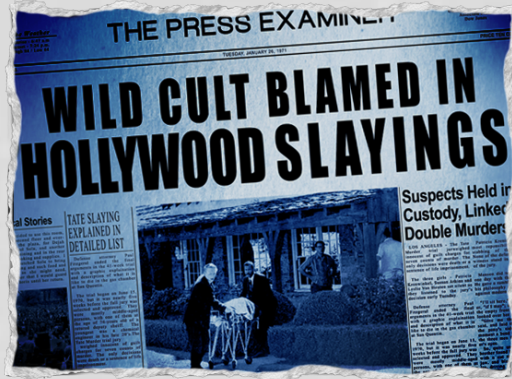
LIFE AFTER MANSON

The untold story of Patricia Krenwinkel



THE MANSON

PRE-FILM QUESTIONS



- What do you know about Charles Manson, the Manson Family, and their crimes? How did this event impact the world at the time it occurred?
- During the 1960's, many youth were experimenting with alternative lifestyles and "trying to find out who they were." How do you think this era helped make it possible for the Manson Family's crimes to be committed?



- How does the Manson Family continue to impact society today?
- How have we become immune to the horrific nature of murderous tragedies?

POST-FILM DISCUSSION



- What did you learn from this film? What insights did it provide about the Manson Family and their crimes?
 - What one fact, that you previously did not know, caught your attention?
- Describe a moment or scene in the film that you found particularly disturbing or moving. What was it about that scene that was especially compelling for you?



- If you could ask Patricia Krenwinkel a single question, what would you ask her?
- To most, Patricia is known as a woman that represents the worst in humanity. How has this film challenged that opinion?
- How could Patricia be considered a victim of an abusive relationship? How might this change your perception of her crimes?
- *Life After Manson* does not excuse Patricia's crimes, but when she says that she is taking "full responsibility for the damage, the wreckage, and the horror," do you believe her? Why or why not?

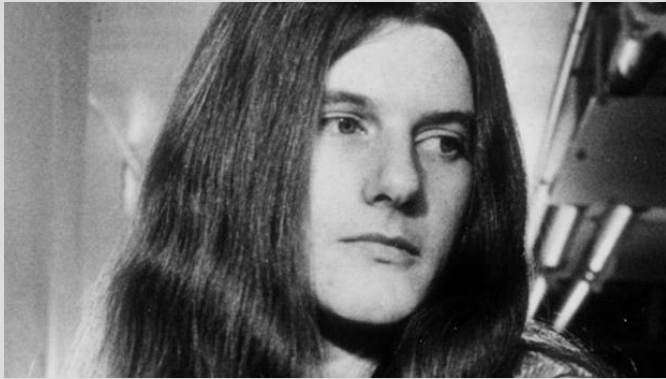


- In 1971, Patricia Krenwinkel was sentenced to death for her part in the Charles Manson murders and her received life in prison after the death penalty was reversed the following year. Did watching the film impact your view of the death penalty at all? If so, how? What were your feelings about the death penalty before watching the film? What are they now?
- Have your views on the rehabilitation of criminals changed? Why or why not?
- After getting to know Patricia behind bars, what do you see as the continuing challenges facing the American criminal justice system?



- Patricia has been denied parole 13 times, and is not eligible for another hearing until 2018. If you were a Parole Commissioner at her next hearing, what position would you take on her eligibility for parole?
 - What reasons would you have to deny her parole?
 - What reasons would you have for finding her suitable for parole?

SOCIOLOGY & PSYCHOLOGY



- The Milgram experiment studied the willingness of individuals to obey authority figures who instructed them to perform acts conflicting with their personal conscience. The study tried to reveal how far we are willing to go when we are told to do something by someone that we perceive to have power and authority over us.
 - How is Patricia's story a modern day Milgram experiment?
 - How did Manson's perceived power over Patricia affect her and ultimately become the driving force for such destruction?
 - Put yourself in Patricia shoes, and the abuse she endured while part of the Manson Family. Do you feel you would have taken different action?



- George Herbert Mead described “the self” as a person’s distinct identity that is developed through social interaction. In order to engage in this process of “self,” an individual has to be able to view him or herself through the eyes of others.
 - When Patricia states, “Who am I? Who is he?” How does this impact her development of self identity?
 - How did Patricia’s experience in her family and teenage years impact her sense of self?
 - How did Patricia’s perceived sense of self in her teenage years leave her susceptible to someone like Manson?



- Families are universally important social institutions relating people biologically and socially. All of us have experienced family life as individuals, we cannot fully understand this experience without a deeper understanding of the environment in which it takes place.
 - From Dot Krenwinkel, Patricia's mother, description of Patricia's early years, do you feel that Patricia's family provided a healthy foundation for her development years?
 - How do you think the troubled step-sister played a role in negatively impacting Patricia's youth?
 - Do you get the sense that Patricia's mother was emotionally disconnected from the reality of Patricia's life?



- We are all socialized to act in accordance with our gender, class, race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation etc. Primary socialization occurs when we are children and learning from the people who raise us. Socialization continues throughout childhood and can be influenced by family, school, peer groups, and the media. Resocialization occurs later in life, when we must adapt to changes.
 - How did primary socialization impact Patricia's life? How were her parents responsible for the woman she became?
 - How did the socialization of Patricia's teenage years mold her sense of identity, worth, and self-esteem?
 - With the idea of resocialization, when Patricia became part of the Manson Family, how did this new environment, norms and values dramatically change the person that she was?
 - How has Patricia's prison experience been an additional form of resocialization?

WOMEN'S STUDIES



- During the 1960's, pregnancy was a fireable offense. Women couldn't open a bank account or establish a line of credit unless a husband would co-sign. How did growing up in this era impact Patricia?
- Gender analysis is a systematic process used to identify, understand, and describe gender differences and the relevance of gender roles and power dynamics in a specific context.
 - Do you believe that Patricia Krenwinkel was in an abusive relationship with Charles Manson? What factors make you believe or disbelieve this idea?
 - Describe the cycle of violence and discuss factors that could have kept Patricia from leaving such a violent environment where she lived with Charles Manson and others.
 - One of Charles Manson's most known philosophies was how he believed a woman's sole purpose was to serve and please men. How do you feel this emotionally influenced Patricia and her relationship with Manson?



- In our culture, we punish those who commit acts of violence, but our mainstream television, films, and books often show characters who prove themselves through acts of violence and masculinity. Does a society that celebrates masculinity inherently leave women vulnerable to abuse? How does a violent environment affect a woman's sense of security?
- If Patricia was born and raised in the 2000's, how might her life have been different?

CRIMINOLOGY



- Of the more than 120,000 women incarcerated in the U.S., over 80% are survivors of abuse. What might this correlation between imprisonment and a history of abuse indicate about the nature of crimes committed by women? To what extent could this correlation inform ways to prevent crimes committed by victims of abuse?
- Patricia Krenwinkel's story is very similar in many ways to a majority of women that are incarcerated. As shown in this film, she felt uncared for and alone, causing her to turn to another person for comfort and love. How did her adolescence lead her down a path toward incarceration?



- Patricia has been able to learn and change during her incarceration, as many inmates do. Depicted in this film is her road to a new life, which she may or may not be able to live as a free person. How do you feel that Patricia has made the best of her time in prison?
- Many criminals have been released from prison over the years whose crimes were worse than Patricia's, but much less controversial. Does this create a fair and equal justice system? Do you feel that Patricia is held to a different standard when under consideration for release at a Parole Board hearing? Why or why not?
- If you were a prisoner, would you have been able to endure the 45 years of incarceration that Patricia has served? What would you do to deal with the reality that you might never be granted freedom?

FAITH-BASED



- The Christian concept of grace might be described as “getting what we do not deserve; but because of God's love we receive the great blessing of redemption.” How does this concept relate to Patricia’s journey?
- In the Bible, Matthew 6:12 states, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” If one of the Manson Family victims were from your family would you be able to take the steps toward forgiveness? Why or why not?



- Mohandas Gandhi once stated, “An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.” Reflect on how this statement relates to Patricia Krenwinkel.
- If you are atheist or agnostic, do you have any transcendent reference point with which to gain perspective on this tragic event?
- If you are Muslim, how might your understanding of Allah impact the way you would view the Manson Family tragedy?

WRITE TO PATRICIA



Want to share the impact *Life After Manson* had on you?

Want to send a personal message to Patricia?

Go to www.LifeAfterManson.com/Message

Facebook.com/LifeAfterManson
@LifeAfterManson