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ENOUGH

The movie *Enough* hits close to home for many women

By Melissa Stephenson
THE BATTALION

If a man seems too good to be true, he probably is. *Enough*, starring Jennifer Lopez and Billy Campbell utilizes this theme as the premise, and puts a dramatic spin on the common issue of domestic violence.

The plot is simple: a woman marries the man of her dreams. After the honeymoon ends, he turns out to be unfaithful and abusive, she escapes with their daughter, and he pursues relentlessly.

Aside from the fighting to the death part, this scenario is all too familiar for many women. Three to four million American women are reported as being battered each year by their husbands or partners. Experts estimate every woman has between a one-in-three and a one-in-four chance of being physically assaulted by a partner or ex-partner during her lifetime.

Sara Mendez, director of Phoebe's Home, the local shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children, knows the reality of these statistics all too well. In 2001, Phoebe's Home served 1,300 men, women and children that had been victims of domestic violence in Bryan/College Station and the surrounding counties. She says movies help promote awareness of domestic violence as a problem by portraying real-life situations that might open the eyes of people in abusive relationships.

"People watching the movie might see someone in a relationship just like the one they are in and realize they need to get help also," Mendez said.

Jennifer Lopez also recognized the reality of the storyline and focused on the feeling a woman in this situation might have.

"She finds herself in an abusive relationship with a child and has to go on the run," Lopez said in an interview with Entertainment Tonight. So many women go through this in real life, but I think, on so many different levels, women in relationships, we have a tendency to give ourselves away so much. The whole message of the movie is that you can take your power back. You can gain control again."

In *Enough*, Lopez's character, Slim, is able to leave the abusive relationship, but this does not stop her husband (Campbell) from tracking her down and threatening her. In reality, 70 percent of domestic violence happens after the woman leaves the relationship. Slim does not go to the police or to a shelter; instead she attempts to rebuild her life on her own agenda.

Mendez, of course, would disagree with this aspect of the movie and would recommend for the abused woman to get help from some kind of authority. Nevertheless, Mendez agrees that it would not have made for an exciting plot if Slim just went to a shelter and found refuge. Approximately 61 percent of female victims fail to call the police out of fear their case will not be taken seriously.

The inability to live in safety is what forces Slim to realize her only option is to kill him before he kills her or harms her child. Homicide statistics suggest that 40 percent of partner

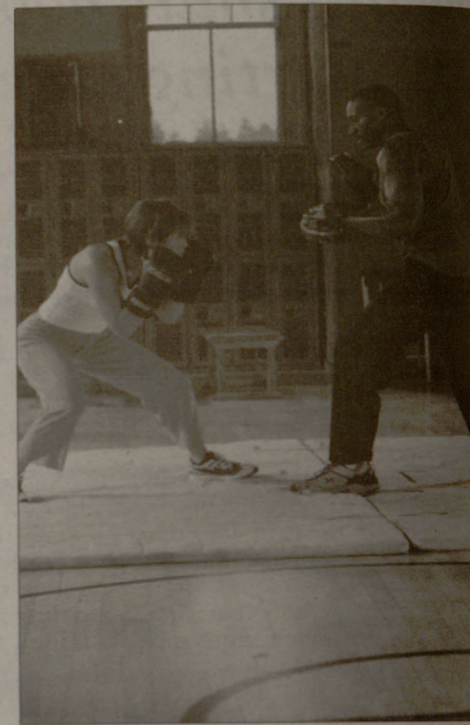


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homicides are men killed by women, and motive is usually self-defense.

"It (the movie) is unusual, but it's something that is meant to give hope," Lopez said. "You can take control over your life, maybe not to an extreme level, but you can take control by doing what you have had enough and are going to do: breaking the patterns and pull away."

On the subject of fighting back, Mendez says people that work with victims of domestic violence recognize it does happen, but do advise anyone to combat violence with violence. The case worker should assist with that come to the shelter with other legal and counseling.

Enough is simply a movie that happens, a serious social issue as the axis around which its plot revolves. It also happened to be a successful idea because the movie is currently ranked seventh and has grossed \$27.1 million to date.

Some people who see the movie will take it as it is and enjoy the pure entertainment value. Others will look for deeper significance and similarity to their real-life problem. Lopez says the project for its importance to battered women and its social value.

"Whenever you empower yourself physically, you are empowering yourself mentally, emotionally as well," Lopez said. "It's kind of about getting in the zone, and knowing that you can protect yourself and that you are a strong human being. It's almost an animal thing, it's about survival."

"That is what this movie is about, let people know it can be done ... it takes a lot of hard work emotionally and in this case physically but it's about giving hope and that is what I wanted to even do this film."

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Joel checks himself into psychiatric hospital

NEW YORK (AP) — Billy Joel has checked himself into a substance abuse and psychiatric hospital for a "personal problem," his record label said Wednesday.

The 53-year-old, Grammy-winning singer-songwriter is staying at Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, Conn. Joel's stay was first reported in Wednesday's edition of *The Advocate* of Stamford.

A brief statement released by Columbia Records said: "Billy Joel recently checked himself into Silver Hill Hospital for a planned 10-day stay to deal with a specific and personal problem that had recently developed."

"Joel scheduled his stay in Silver Hill several weeks ago and expects to leave in a few days, as planned."

The *Advocate*, citing unidentified sources, said the singer was receiving counseling at Silver Hill's chemical dependency treatment center.

A spokeswoman for the singer, Claire Mercuri, declined to comment on the kind of treatment Joel is receiving.

Joel, whose hits include "Piano Man," "Just the Way You Are" and "Only the Good Die Young" and "Uptown Girl," in March rescheduled a joint tour with Elton John, saying he was ill. The tour is to begin again in September.

A review in *The New York Times* of a show shortly before the postponement described him as rambling and bellowing, and said Joel "seemed to have ingested something quite a bit stronger than cough syrup."

He was placed under a doctor's supervision for acute laryngitis, inflamed vocal cords and an upper-respiratory infection, according to Sony Entertainment's Billy Joel Web site, www.billyjoel.com.

Mercuri said Joel's stay at Silver Hill would not affect his fall tour.

Manson pays \$4,000 in fines for sexual misconduct

CLARKSTON, Mich. (AP) — Shock rock Marilyn Manson, who was charged with sexual misconduct for allegedly gyrating against a security guard at a concert, pleaded no contest Wednesday to being a disorderly person, assault and battery.

Clarkston District Judge Gerald McNamee ordered Manson, whose name is Brian Warner, to pay fines and costs totaling \$4,000. A no contest plea is not an admission of guilt.

Afterward, Manson said the ruling was adding, "It's a victory for art."

Security guard Joshua Keasler was working the stage during Manson's July 30, 2001 performance at the DTE Energy Music Theatre when Manson allegedly rubbed his genitals against the guard's neck.

Manson, known for his ghastly, cadaverous look and macabre lyrics, sat silently during Wednesday's 15-minute hearing. He wore a black suit, without his trademark makeup piercings.

Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor James Frazee III said, "I think further punishment warranted, given the conduct of the defendant and to act as a deterrent."

Defense attorney Walter Piszczatowski said the sentence was appropriate.

"We are very satisfied with the results," he said. Keasler also has filed a federal lawsuit against Manson, 33-year-old rocker, accusing him of sexual assault and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

After the hearing, Manson was served with papers notifying him of a civil suit filed in New York state court by a security guard accusing him of similar behavior at an Aug. 9, 2001 concert in Long Island.

Similar allegations also are contained in a civil suit filed against Manson by a security guard following an Oct. 27, 2000 concert in Minneapolis.

"He's going to vigorously defend against the civil actions that have been filed," Piszczatowski said.