

# Through the Night Watch Party Kit

**A step-by-step guide to help you organize  
a screening of the award-winning film *Through the Night***



**“This work is hard. I feel like if I lay down, I’m so tired I may not get back up.”**

-Deloris “Nunu” Hogan  
Co-owner Dee’s Tots 24-hour Childcare Center & film protagonist in *Through the Night*

**We’re thrilled you’re screening *Through the Night*!**

Thank you for your interest in the film! By organizing a screening or event you are joining a national network of thousands of caregivers, organizers, parents, and beyond. Welcome to our film family!

### [About](#)

[This Guide](#)

[The Film](#)

[You!](#)

### [STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE](#)

[Step #1: Plan](#)

[Step #2: Invite Participants & Send Reminders](#)

[Step #3: Enjoy the Film & Discuss Together](#)

[Step #4: After your event](#)

### [Bonus Resources](#)

## About

### This Guide

Whether you're planning an event for your friends or family, school, organization, or company, this document offers a step-by-step guide for organizing your event. When you host a watch party or panel, you are joining thousands of people across the country in honoring and caring for caregivers.

### The Film

*Through the Night* is a documentary film love letter to child care providers and single mothers. It is a tender portrait of titanic strength, love, and selflessness that follows three working mothers whose lives intersect at a 24-hour daycare center. It has been featured in the NY Times, Hollywood Reporter, and made Variety's 2021 Best Documentary Oscar Predictions list.

>> Watch the trailer here: <https://www.throughthenightfilm.com/about>

### You!

Hello! We're glad you're here!

Here are a few audience reactions from virtual screenings!

*"This was such an amazing documentary and I feel blessed to have shared in this experience. Thank you!" - Chris*

*"I love the way you captured the quiet moments. This is so much of the important work that child care providers do." -Amanda*

# How To Watch & Discuss The Film

We recommend watching the film then hosting a discussion afterward.



## How to watch the film:

>> Choose a way to watch here: <https://www.throughthenightfilm.com/watch>

## How to host a discussion:

Here's an overview of how to host a discussion:

- **Decide if it's public or invite-only:** Can anyone join or will it be for your community/members only?
- **Choose a format:** You can host your discussion on a platform of your choosing. If it's public, then you can host it on a public platform like your organization's Facebook page, or on a platform like Zoom if it's invite-only. If your discussion will be on Facebook then you are more than welcome to make the film's Facebook page a co-host.
- **Send invites:** Set a date and time for your event and invite people, make sure to include instructions on how to watch.
- **Tell us about it so we can share!** Let us know how it went! Tag/share audience reactions, group photos or group screenshots on social media!

## STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

### Step #1: Plan

#### ❑ **WHY— Ask yourself: What is your dream screening?**

Why do you want to host a screening? What is your vision for your event?

Some examples:

- Create a loving space for child care providers, single mothers, caregivers
- Educate legislators on the experience of providers and essential workers
- Strengthen a community of members you serve
- Share a story of Black joy and love with your community

#### ❑ **WHO—Who do you hope to screen or discuss the film with?**

Who do you want to center in this conversation?

Some examples:

- Child care providers
- Single mothers
- Black and brown mothers
- Essential workers

#### ❑ **WHEN—**

❑ **Date & Time:** Decide on when you'll host your event

❑ **Duration:** Decide how much time you will need for your event.

- The film is 75 minutes.
- Add 30 minutes or more for the discussion portion of the event. Don't forget to include time for introductions and closing.



- ❑ **HOW**— Select a format that takes into account your audience's needs (i.e. might your audience need child care or translation) and your local COVID-19 guidelines, if in-person.

- ❑ **Invite-only or Public**

Can anyone join or will it be only for your members or community?

- ❑ **Virtual or in-person**

- Virtual\*: Select a platform that works best for the number of people you anticipate attending. Make sure to do a tech check before your event!
- In-person: Follow your local COVID-19 guidelines.

- ❑ **Watch together live or stream individually**

Will you watch it live all together or will everyone stream it on their own and you will come together to discuss it at a specific time?

- Watch together live: This means your event will have everyone watching the film together at the same time, often followed by a group discussion.
- Stream individually: This means that you will direct your participants to watch the film on their own, but have a set time that you will come together to discuss it.

- ❑ **Plan your discussion:** Outline discussion questions (here are some). Decide who will lead or moderate the discussion, and if you will have special guest speakers.

- ❑ **Create an agenda:** Create one document that has all the details of your event, including an agenda for your event ([here is a sample agenda](#)).

### Step #2: Invite Participants & Send Reminders

#### Create a way for participants to RSVP

This will make it easy for them to participate and easy for you to track how many people will attend. Here is an example.

We recommend that you have participants RSVP ahead of time via your chosen platform, such as [Zoom](#), [Eventbrite](#), or a [Facebook](#) event. Don't forget to send out the trailer as part of your invitation ([Example](#))!

#### Make a guest list

Who do you want to watch the film? Write down a list of names—coworkers, friends, family, neighbors—the more people the better! And don't forget the kids! This is a family friendly documentary!

#### Invite your participants

You know your network best and nothing is more likely to make them show up than a personal invitation from you. Tell them why you're excited about the watch party and discussion you are organizing and why it is meaningful to you.

- Be the first to RSVP! Then share the event on your social media with a personal note about why this is meaningful to you
- If you have guest speakers ask them to share the RSVP page on their own channels and email/ mailing list
- If you're an organization, add the event to your organization's event calendar, social media, and newsletter/ mailing list
- If you're an organization, send an email to employees or volunteers to ask them to help spread the word
- Reach out to local organizations to request their help in getting the word out and inviting their members/ community

#### Check your RSVPs

Are you getting the responses you expected? Ask the people you invited to also invite a friend. It's a good idea to call and remind them how meaningful it is to you for them to

watch and discuss with you! Usually about 30%-50% of people show up that RSVP, so invite more than you hope will attend!

### ❑ **Send reminders**

- ❑ As the event gets closed post updates on your personal/organization's social media accounts and/or your RSVP page
- ❑ Share pictures, the trailer, and images from the film. You can simply repost what is on the film's social media channels
- ❑ Send a reminder the day before and the day of your event with details like the time and link or address. (If you use Eventbrite, it will send reminders automatically for you)

## Step #3: Enjoy the Film & Discuss Together

Here's a sample event agenda:

### **Welcome and introductions** (~5-10mins)

Share with the group why you invited them to watch with you and which topics in the film are important to you. If you have guest speakers, introduce them as well.

### **Watch the film together** (if applicable) (75 mins)

If you are watching all together live, and there is a chat or comment feature on the platform, then you can type into the chat how you're feeling about the film as you watch.

### **Discuss the film** (~30-60mins)

Start with general questions before moving to specifics.

- What moments in the film resonated with you?
- How do you feel?
- What did the film make you think of?

Choose specific topics to discuss that may resonate with your participants:

- **Combating stereotypes that keep BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) caregivers and women in particular from engaging in self-care.**

- Was there anything, or anyone, in the film that you see reflected in your life?
  - If you see yourself reflected in the film, what are some of the ways you've set aside self-care to care for and support your loved ones?
  - How has COVID impacted how you care for yourself?
  - Does the pressure to engage in care come from within or from outside or yourself? Is it both?
- What does **care** look like for the BIPOC caregiver, or yourself?
- What are ways you think communities can support you in your work?
- What are some of the economic, social and political structures that are in place that hinder you getting the care and support you need?
  
- **Creating and curating supportive communal experiences for caregivers.**
  - Clarity the difference between self-care and communal care. ([see here](#))
  - What are some of the ways Deloris, Patrick, and Marisol have created mutual networks of care?
  - Think back to your childhood, name some of the ways you received care from those outside of what is considered your *immediate* family?
  - If you are not a parent or caregiver, name one or two specific actions you can take to support a parent or caregiver you know directly or indirectly.
  - If you are a parent or caregiver, name one or two specific ways you need support directly or indirectly. *Activity: Consider watching our national [Community Care Circle](#) follow-along workshop, by [Parenting for Liberation](#).*
  - Each caregiver and parent in the film voices challenges as they attempt to “do it all.” Is there anything in your story that’s calling you to engage in your community now? *Activity: Consider doing a [“story of self”](#) exercise together.*
  - What does liberatory parenting mean to you? Why is that important for a thriving community or nation? *Activity: Consider selecting one of these resources from [African-American parents](#) and [Latinx parents](#) discussing it.*
  
- **Reframing mothering within movement spaces, as a verb and the most radical and subversive activities film our communities.**
  - Name some of the ways the film shows people including children engaged in mothering? How did seeing this make you feel? Do you think there may be anything like this happening in your own community? Why or why not?
  - Did the film cause you to reflect on how you were mothered as a child? What are some methods you have adopted with your own children? What are you doing differently and why?
  - What are the ways mothering as a verb can be brought into your activist spaces to make life better for caregivers?



- **Discussion questions for children** - The film features the voices of children prominently. Consider holding screenings within the childcare facilities you operate or with the children in your lives. Here are some discussion questions for kids.
  - What was your favorite part of the movie and why?
  - In the film, one of the kids talks about how his mother needs to get “Big Rest?” What are some of the things you’ve suggested your parents do when you notice they are cranky or just tired?
  - What’s one small task you can complete this week that you can do to help out your parents?
  - Where are the places that you feel heard? Where are spaces that you feel silenced?
  - Marisol’s daughter says that she is afraid to grow up and have to work all the time? How did that make you feel? Do you think your caregiver likes their job? Do you feel like they work too much? If so, why do you think they do it? In what ways do you wish things were different for your parents?

### **Encourage others to host a screening**

Mention that participants can host their own watch parties and share this kit with them. If everyone who hosts a watch party gets just one more person to do the same, together, we can expand our film’s caring community!

### **Take a picture!** (~1 minute)

Take a group photo, screenshot or selfie to commemorate your watch party!

Share on the photo Social Media -- tag us so we can share it and use #CareforCaregivers

- Facebook: [@throughthenightdoc](#)
- Twitter: [@ThrutheNightdoc](#)
- Instagram: [@throughthenightdoc](#)

Encourage your participants to follow the film and post about your watch party.

## **Step #4: After your event**

### **☐ Thank your participants**

Thank your participants for joining you! Share your favorite moments, photos, or reactions with them. Let me know how you think they can stay engaged in your local community or with the film’s community by sharing their own experience on social media.

### ☐ **Tell us how it went!**

Thank you for hosting a watch party! Spreading the message of this film is only possible because of people like you who believe that mothers and all who do the work of mothering should feel held, heard, and seen. We're excited to hear how your party went! You can [contact us here](#) or via social media.

*Thank you!!*

# Bonus Resources

---

[1. Social Media & Promotional Materials](#)

[2. Invitation Examples](#)

[Newsletter Invitation Template](#)

[SMS/Text Template](#)

[3. Virtual Event Tech Tips](#)

[4. Tips for Events with Guest Speakers](#)

[5. More Resources](#)

---

## 1. Social Media & Promotional Materials

- Promotion:
  - Press Kit: [Click here](#)
  - Website: <https://www.throughthenightfilm.com>
  - Trailer: <https://www.throughthenightfilm.com/about>
- Social Media:
  - Facebook: [@throughthenightdoc](#)
  - Twitter: [@ThruTheNightdoc](#)
  - Instagram: [@throughthenightdoc](#)
  - Hashtag: #ThroughTheNight #CareforCaregivers
- [Social Media Image Folder](#)
- Mention us so we see it and repost it!
  - Facebook: [@throughthenightdoc](#)
  - Twitter: [@ThruTheNightdoc](#)
  - Instagram: [@throughthenightdoc](#)
- Use hashtags #care4caregivers and #ThroughTheNight so you join the conversation.
- Share something here with just 1 click: <https://www.throughthenightfilm.com/share>

## 2. Invitation Examples

We recommend using [Eventbrite](#) because it will automatically send reminders for you.

- Here are example Eventbrite RSVP links:
    - [National PBS Watch Party & Community Care Circle](#)
    - [Mothering is/as Resistance Panel](#)
- 

### Newsletter Invitation Template

**SUBJECT:** You're invited: "Through the Night" Film Screening

**EMAIL BODY:**

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to invite you to a watch party for the documentary *Through the Night!*



[Download this image here](#)



### About the documentary film!

*Through the Night*, is an award-winning documentary film that explores the personal cost of our modern economy through the stories of two working mothers and a child care provider - whose lives intersect at a 24-hour daycare center.

It's a love letter to single mothers, child care providers, caregivers, and all of those who mother, to feel held, heard, and seen. It's a beautifully crafted multi-layered portrait of mothering--peace, calm, strength, laughter, exhaustion, loneliness, sacrifice, community, and love.

[Watch the trailer here.](#)

### Audience reactions!

- "This was such an amazing documentary and I feel blessed to have shared in this experience. Thank you!"
- "It portrays how disciplined and technical child care is--nutrition, education--it honors those who are doing the work in intentional ways."
- "A beautiful, nuanced look at what care work looks like, who it impacts, and why we should all be eager to value and protect caregivers in our society."

**Invite a caregiver:** Invite a mother, caregiver in your life 

**RSVP & LEARN MORE HERE:** [{{Add your RSVP link}}](#)

We hope to see you there!

---

### SMS/Text Template

Hello! You're invited to join us!

EVENT: We are delighted to invite you to the National Watch Party & Community Care Circle for the national PBS/POV television broadcast premiere of "Through the Night"

DATE: [{{Add your event date here}}](#)

TIME: [{{Add your event time here}}](#)

RSVP and Learn More here: [{{Add your RSVP link here}}](#)

### 3. Virtual Event Tech Tips

#### Discussion format

Decide how you'll gather your group for conversation. Here are few a tools you can use to discuss after you've watched or even use to discuss while you're watching together:

- Video platforms you can use for your discussion: [Zoom](#), [Skype](#), [Google Hangouts](#), [Microsoft Teams](#), [8x8](#), [Jitsi](#), [House Party](#), Facetime (iphone)
- Social/text chat: Twitter group chat, Facebook Rooms, a Facebook group you may already be a part of.
- Text: a WhatsApp group, regular text message

#### Tech Check/Dry Run (at least 1 week before your event)!

Regardless of the platform you decide to use, make sure to do a tech check/dry run at least 1 week before your event so that you have enough time to work out any issues and feel confident with it before your event. It's no fun to scramble with a live audience!

If more people are involved in the event (a moderator, ASL interpreter, guest speakers, etc.), make sure they're included in your test run or that you have someone stand in for them to help you with you.

Run your tech check/dry run from the device you'll be streaming from (the host device) and have at least one other person watching from a different device (the audience device).

Here is a sample tech check/dry run checklist:

- **AUDIO:**
  - Can you hear the film's audio on the platform you are using?
  - If applicable, can you hear the guest speaker when they talk?
- **VISUAL:**
  - Can you see the film?
  - If applicable, can you see the guest speaker when they talk?

#### Check your internet connection

For all screening sharing options, both the host device (where the film will be playing and who's screen will be shared) and the viewer device (where your attendees will see the film from their individual devices) will need a strong and reliable internet connection in order for the video stream to not be jumpy or delayed. We recommend telling your attendees to watch from a place with a strong and reliable internet connection in order to have the best experience possible.

### Additional considerations:

- **Action:** Is there a specific action you want to organize like join an organization, volunteering, etc.?
- **Moderator:** Do you want to ask anyone to help you moderate the discussion?
- **Accessible & Inclusive:** Here are things to consider having to make your event accessible and inclusive to everyone in your community:
  - **Child care:** Hire a virtual sitter via [Sittercity](#) or set up a video platform that's running at the same time as your discussion.
  - **Translation:** Some Zoom price plans offer simultaneous interpretation in a variety of languages.
  - **Sign language:** Make sure you choose a video platform. You can find an interpreter on [Linguabee](#).
  - **Captioning**
    - [Zoom](#) captioning
    - [Skype](#) captioning
    - [Google Hangouts](#) captioning
    - [Microsoft Teams](#) captioning
    - [Facebook](#) captioning

## 4. Tips for Events with Guest Speakers

Having a guest speaker or audience discussion as part of your event can make for an impactful and memorable event.

- Send questions and an agenda ahead of time to give your guest speakers a chance to prepare, as well as the trailer and/or how they can watch the film.
- Our discussion guide in the [Watch Party Kit](#) can help you prepare.
- Make sure to leave time for your audience to ask questions as well. The more engaged your audience is, the more memorable your event will be.
- If you have multiple speakers who have never met, then consider doing a meet and greet beforehand.
- Have a tech check with your speakers, even if it's 15-30 minutes before your event begins.

## 5. More Resources

- **For Mothers & Caregivers**
  - [“Parenting for Liberation”](#) by Trina Greene Brown
  - [“We Live for the We: The Political Power of Black Motherhood”](#) by Dani McClain
  - Need Childcare? Go to [Childcare.gov](https://www.childcare.gov) for finding childcare in your state
  - [Latinx Parenting](#)
- **For Childcare Providers**
  - [Coronavirus Support Resources for Domestic Workers](#)
  - [Home-based Childcare Network and Training Institute](#)
- **For Supporters & Allies**
  - [Essential Care Fundraiser](#) for supporting home-based daycare centers
  - [Nanny Employer Checklist](#) for hiring during COVID
  - [“Deepening Your Understanding of Race and Racism | Tools for Anti-Racist Teaching”](#) by PBS Learning Media
- **[Community Care](#) defined**
  - [Focusing International](#) - Community wellness resource planning
  - [loby](#) - Community centered crowdfunding
  - [Nakita Valerio](#) - Trains in reclaiming culturally relevant care
  - [Promise the Children](#) - Volunteer led organization that advocates for low-income parents and childcare providers. They have online call to action tools targeting legislatures and policymakers.

You can find additional resources on our website:

<https://www.throughthenightfilm.com/resources>