

"Somewhere we know
that without silence
words lose their meaning,
that without listening
speaking no longer heals,
that without distance
closeness cannot cure."

HENRI NOUWEN

SPECIAL THANKS TO

BLACKBERRY MARKET, RULE29, CHIPOTLE,
LAGUNITAS BREWING, THE MARIN FOUNDATION
& THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



RULE29™



THE MARIN
FOUNDATION



CHICAGO LINE-UP

NOON LUNCH

HOSTED BY LEVEL GROUND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Come share a meal with the Level Ground team to learn more about the vision of Level Ground and ways you can join us in our mission to create safe space for dialogue through art.

2 PM SCREENING OF KIDNAPPED FOR CHRIST DIALOGUE WITH DIRECTOR KATE LOGAN

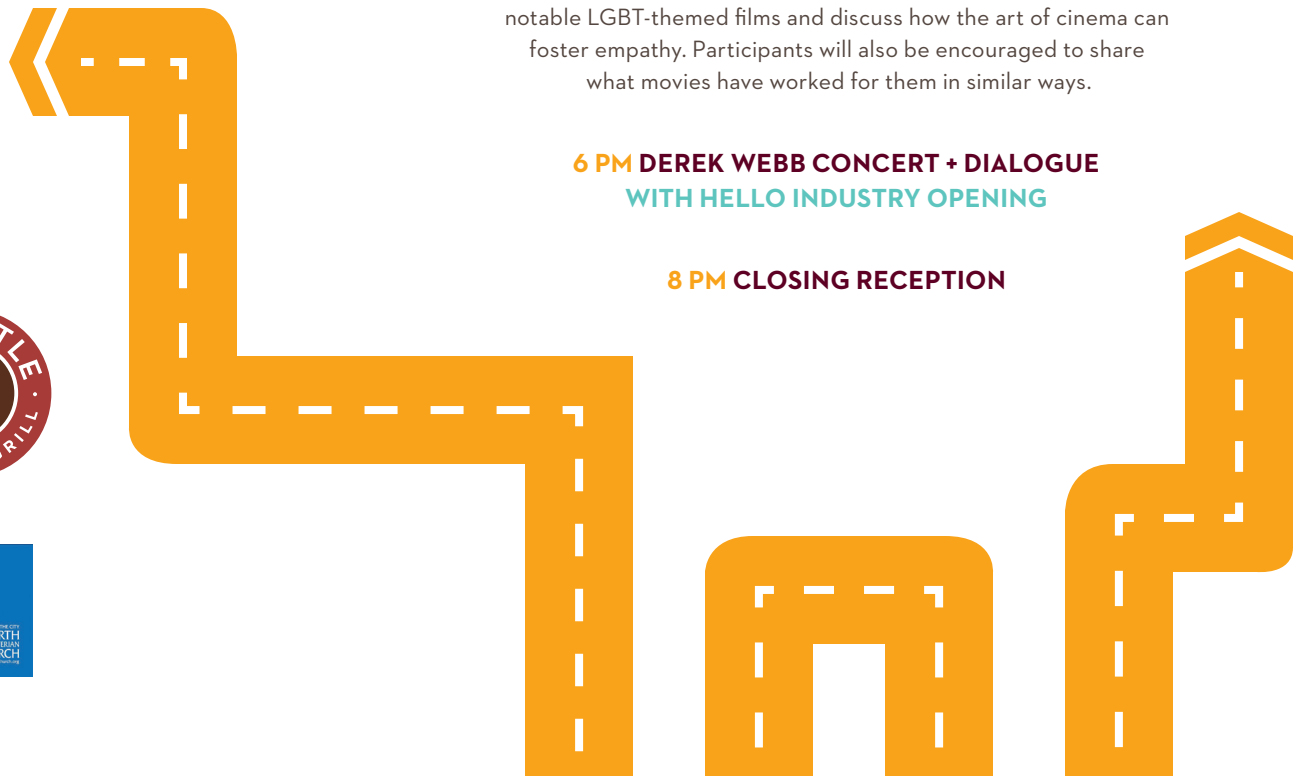
4 PM THE ART OF EMPATHY

LED BY JOSH LARSEN

This collaborative workshop will look at a handful of scenes from notable LGBT-themed films and discuss how the art of cinema can foster empathy. Participants will also be encouraged to share what movies have worked for them in similar ways.

6 PM DEREK WEBB CONCERT + DIALOGUE WITH HELLO INDUSTRY OPENING

8 PM CLOSING RECEPTION





LEVEL GROUND creates space for dialogue about faith, gender, and sexuality through the arts and festival programming. Our hope is to cultivate a better way of speaking with one another across our differences and disagreements. Level Ground works with artists and communities, curating art that tells stories and fosters reconciliation.

The name Level Ground comes from a prophecy in the book of Isaiah. The name embodies a space where we descend from our mountains and climb out of the valleys to meet one another on sacred, though likely uncomfortable, level ground.



KIDNAPPED FOR CHRIST

For many of us our beliefs are passed-down, unquestioned, from parents, teachers, and spiritual leaders. This is less of an indictment and more of an observation.

What happens, though, when spiritual authority figures condone abuse and shame?

This painful question unexpectedly confronted director Kate Logan when she saw what was taking place at Escuela Caribe—an American-run Christian behavior modification school in the Dominican Republic. Where Logan expected to find troubled teens getting help to overcome drug addiction and recover from a lifestyle of gang violence, she instead uncovered a drastically different—and much more disturbing—story.

A gay teen from a conservative Christian home. A victim of abuse who lashes out in anger. A girl suffering from panic attacks and crippling anxiety. These are just three of the students at the “school” Logan bravely documents.

It may not be shocking that conservative Christian parents struggle to come to terms with the sexuality of their gay son. What is shocking, however, is that an entirely unregulated Troubled Teen Industry exists that is preying on parents’ fears and secretly taking children out of the country by promising to cure them with various forms of biblical discipline.

In the midst of uncovering the Troubled Teen Industry, *Kidnapped For Christ* asks us to consider the role of spiritual authority and discipline in how we approach faith and sexuality.



DEREK WEBB

Derek has been back in the headlines recently with the release of his latest album, *I Was Wrong, I’m Sorry & I Love You*. A veteran of the Christian music industry, he first gained prominence as a member of the folk rock band Caedmon’s Call, and then later embarked on a successful solo career. As a member of Caedmon’s Call, Derek saw career sales approaching 1 million records, along with 10 GMA Dove Award nominations, three Dove Award wins,

and six #1 Christian radio hits. Since leaving Caedmon’s Call, Derek has released seven studio albums, generating some controversy—particular with *Stockholm Syndrome*, a more electronic album in which Derek wrestles with tough questions around sexuality, race, and social justice. Derek lives in Nashville, Tennessee.



JOSH LARSEN

Editor and film critic for *Think Christian*—a digital magazine on faith and culture, and co-host of *Filmspotting*, a podcast and Chicago Public Media program. Josh graduated from Trinity Christian College with a degree in English and Communication Arts. He attends Hope Christian Reformed Church in Oak Forest, IL. Find him on Twitter @larsenonfilm or online at larsenonfilm.com.

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