

REEL CANADA Content Advisory Chart

Across The Line

Due to mature subject matter, this film is recommended for grade 11 and 12 students only.

Inspired by true events, **Across the Line** tells the story of Mattie Slaughter, a Black teenaged hockey phenom, who is poised to be selected in the first round of the NHL Draft. As the star of his local team, he's had to overcome bias, stigma, discrimination, racism, familial economic hardship, family dysfunction, and poor decision-making, in a community with a long and deep history of racial hostility. When he starts a relationship with Jayme, a mixed-race girl in his class who has a white ex-boyfriend (John), simmering racial tensions boil over, jeopardizing Mattie's shot at a hockey career.

This film contains a considerable amount of mature content, including coarse language, use of the N-word and a number of other racial epithets, race-based violence, and gender-based violence including verbal, physical and sexual violence against women. Through the experiences of high school students, and set against the backdrop of the real-life race riots in a Nova Scotia high school, beginning in 1989, this film touches on themes of social identity, racial identity, pigeonholing, racism, shadeism, inclusion/exclusion, sex trafficking, violence against women, ignorance, inequality, and hope.

Due to the mature nature of topics presented in the film, particularly around racism and sexual violence, it is advisable to provide advanced notice of this content to students prior to viewing the film. The film may trigger strong feeling for students who have personal experiences relating to the aforementioned subject matter present in the film.

FILM RATINGS from each provincial film review board: (NR indicates that the film was not rated in this province.)												
AB	BC	MB	NB	NL	NT	NS	NU	ON	PE	QC	SK	YK
14A	14A	14A	14A	NR	14A	14A	14A	14A	14A	13+	14A	14A

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Content \ Frequency	One Occurrence	Rare	Occasional	Frequent	Context/Notes
LANGUAGE					
Coarse Language				✓	<p>“The N-word” “Shit!” “Fuck!” “Asshole” “Slut” “Bitch N-----” “Motherfucker” “N----- Fucker” and other racial epithets: “ape” “monkey” “boy” “savages” “halfbreed” “dark meat”</p>
VIOLENCE					
Race-based Violence and Harassment				✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overtly-racist teenager Todd throws a can at a Black student, resulting in a fist fight. - A girl is bullied in the bathroom, getting shoved against the stall. - A race riot/brawl takes place at school. Punches and kicks are thrown, and faces are bloodied (mild). - Another fist fight, where John and Mattie are badly beaten. - Other incidents of pushing, shoving, slapping, punching throughout.
Physical Violence	✓				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carter is slapped in the face by his dad as punishment - A pimp slaps a teenage girl he is using for sex trafficking, and Mattie & Carter’s silence condones the behaviour

					- Jayme is punched in the face by Todd, friend of ex-boyfriend
ALCOHOL/DRUGS					
Alcohol Use		✓			Mattie and Jayme have a couple of shots of alcohol while hanging out. No obvious drunkenness.
SEXUALITY					
Kissing		✓			Jayme and John kiss. Jayme and Mattie kiss.
Sex	✓				Teenagers Mattie and Jayme have sex (no nudity shown)
Pregnancy	✓				Jayme and her boyfriend John are concerned about a possible pregnancy.
CRIMINALITY					
Sex trafficking			✓		At first, the nature of Carter's phone calls is unclear, but it's insinuated that he is conducting illegal business. It's later revealed that Carter deals with a pimp, picking up girls to deliver them to clients. In the next scene, he is confronted by his father about it.
Drug dealing	✓				Reference that Carter has dealt drugs in the past