

ALL ROADS PRODUCTIONS presents

PRECONCEIVED

Directed by Sabrina Keane and Kate Dumke



Screening and Educational Interest

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SYNOPSIS

Where does someone turn when facing an unplanned pregnancy? *Preconceived* tells the stories of Maleeha and Maria, two women who, while navigating unplanned pregnancies, inadvertently found themselves at facilities discouraging them from abortions. The film is a window into these enigmatic centers that some call “pregnancy resource centers” and others call “fake clinics.” Shedding light on how many of these centers are a part of a movement striving to make abortion unthinkable and illegal, the documentary explores the complex role of deception, finances, faith, and privacy. Amid a shifting legal landscape, *Preconceived* underscores the significance of understanding the resources available to pregnant people.

DIRECTORS’ STATEMENT

Our introduction to crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) in 2021 was a revelation that sparked an urgent need for exploration. The pervasive presence of CPCs across the United States left us astounded by our prior lack of awareness, a sentiment echoed by many with whom we discussed this subject. With the possibility of *Roe v. Wade* being overturned, we felt it was important to document a shifting reproductive healthcare landscape and dive deeper into the resources available to people facing unplanned pregnancies. We learned that CPCs are surrounded by controversy, with many arguing they have long been, and continue to be, highly deceptive. CPCs are accused of purposely hiding their pro-life intentions and using questionable tactics to change minds and pregnancy outcomes. Regardless of politics, we believe in the right to transparent care and feel people in vulnerable positions should be made aware of CPCs and their complexity so they can be empowered to seek the resources they feel best suit their needs. Though novices in the art of documentary filmmaking, this topic inspired us to take on the challenge with the help of industry veterans as a women-led team. Filming throughout 2022, we gained unprecedented access to Americans on both sides of the abortion debate. We are especially grateful to the two young women, Maria and Maleeha, who shared the complexities of their private lives and struggles with us on camera so openly. It is our intention that *Preconceived* makes people think deeply across party lines and continue to seek out more information.

FILM PARTICIPANTS

Maleeha

Having recently immigrated to Texas from Pakistan, Maleeha finds herself unexpectedly pregnant at 19. In her search for an affordable abortion, she accidentally ends up at a CPC and immediately feels something is off. She is uncomfortable and confused by the biblical imagery in what she assumed was a medical establishment, and given misinformation that results in her frantically traveling to another state for her abortion. Years later, we meet Maleeha who is “angry that this is something that they did to me and that they are doing to other people” and motivated to confront CPCs.

Maria

In her google search for “abortion clinics”, Maria mistakenly ends up at a CPC. Once at the center, she is influenced by an ultrasound, conversations discouraging her from abortion, and offers to help her financially. A young woman from a deeply Catholic family, Maria feels that “God puts the right people in your life that you gotta meet.” She decides to continue her pregnancy and to maintain a relationship with those who said they would be there for her during her pregnancy and beyond.

Stanton Healthcare

“Very strategically, we locate our Stanton Healthcare clinics next to Planned Parenthood, abortion clinics, or other abortion facilities.”

-Brandi Swindell, Founder & CEO, Stanton Healthcare

“Here at Stanton Healthcare, we have a public policy center in Washington D.C. because abortion and women’s healthcare and politics all sort of go hand in hand. But at our clinics, we are nonpartisan, and we do not make this a political issue.”

-Brandi Swindell, Founder & CEO, Stanton Healthcare

“Because of our credentialing at Stanton, we cannot say that we offer diagnostic ultrasound. We don’t have treatment for if there was a problem or we don’t offer prenatal care.”

-McKinzy Troudt, RDMS, Stanton Healthcare

Stanton Public Policy

“I don’t believe per se in the separation of church and state. We don’t want our faith mixed in with politics; we want our faith to transform politics.”

-Reverend Patrick Mahoney, Chief Strategy Officer, Stanton Public Policy

“Many thought overturning Roe v Wade was a finishing line. It’s not, it’s a starting line.”

-Reverend Patrick Mahoney, Chief Strategy Officer, Stanton Public Policy

Heartbeat International

“When they tell us that they are insistent upon getting this abortion and absolutely determined to do that, in and of itself that doesn’t mean that that’s really what she wants.”

-Jor-El Godsey, President, Heartbeat International

“If you’re not using big data, you’re missing this because we have the ability to say I want this person and then put a target on their back and follow them completely, all around the internet, whatever they’re doing.”

-Heartbeat International Annual Conference 2022

Catholics for Choice

“I think that the biggest challenge that Catholics for Choice faces as an organization is this myth that religious people cannot support abortion. It goes back to the fact that the anti-abortion movement really has created a successful propaganda machine, and I think crisis pregnancy centers are a great example of the extreme ends of that kind of propaganda.”

-Kate Hoeting, Writer and Managing Editor, Catholics for Choice

“We are going to fight. And we are going to keep fighting, even if it takes 50 more years.”

-Kate Hoeting, Writer and Managing Editor, Catholics for Choice

Hope Medical Group for Women

“I don’t know if she fully trusted me. Playing it back in my head, I think she was still a little skeptical that we are actually going to give her an abortion, which is exactly what CPCs want. They want to muddy the truth as much as possible where it’s imperceptible anymore.”

-Alison Hodges, Staff, Hope Medical Group for Women

“I think most of the women who are coming to us, they are upset because they are being delayed, once they get here they are relieved they finally made it here, but there’s still the concern hanging over their head that something is going to happen to interfere with that.”

-Kathleen Pittman, Clinic Administrator, Hope Medical Group for Women

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Sabrina Keane - Director and Producer

Sabrina graduated from Harvard College with a degree in philosophy where she honed her ability to think about complex ideas and articulate them in a coherent and rational manner. Growing up immersed in diverse cultures, she fostered an appreciation for the nuances that define varying belief systems. She believes in the power of visual storytelling to spark deep thinking and dialogue.

Kate Dumke - Director

Kate is a storyteller with a boundless curiosity for the human experience and a special interest in cultural / societal influences and women's lives. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in political science and photography before continuing her documentary studies in New York City at the International Center of Photography's Documentary and Visual Studies program.

Heather Keane - Producer and Executive Producer

Heather is a French/US citizen, Harvard graduate, entrepreneur, mother, philanthropist, and feminist. She is a strong supporter of women's issues, and believes in the right to affordable, transparent, and supportive reproductive healthcare. She feels we all have something special to contribute, but that contribution often goes further through the power of teamwork.

Maggie Contreras - Producer

Maggie is a director and producer behind films tackling a wide range of topics. Her critically acclaimed directorial debut *Maestra* premiered at Tribeca 2023 where it won an audience award. Films she produced include *Jonathan Scott's Power Trip* (PBS Independent Lens 2020) and *Gilbert* which premiered at the Tribeca 2017 (Gravitas Ventures with exclusive SVOD on Hulu). Previously, Maggie was a producer co-running an independent production company which in addition to producing documentary features, created numerous short-form, nonfiction digital series and live action promos.

ABOUT ROCO FILMS

Founded in 2000, ROCO Films is a leading global documentary film distribution agency. With an educational division aimed at bringing these compelling films to schools, libraries, corporations and other semi-theatrical environments, ROCO broadens the impact and influence of these films by mobilizing communities to host, organize and execute their own screening events. In addition to being a premiere distribution partner, ROCO offers a range of impact services for select titles to enhance engagement.

Over two decades, ROCO has distributed exceptional documentaries to the global and educational markets including many Oscar-nominated feature documentaries and festival award-winners such as *Born Into Brothels*, *Hoop Dreams*, *Jesus Camp*, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, *Street Fight*, *How to Survive a Plague*, *Chasing Ice*, *Miss Representation*, *A Place at the Table*, *The Invisible War*, *Particle Fever*, *After Tiller*, *The Internet's Own Boy*, *Inequality for All*, *Girl Rising*, *Cartel Land*, *The Hunting Ground*, *Life Animated*, *Trapped*, *DOLORES*, *Human Flow*, *An Inconvenient Sequel*, *The Fourth Estate*, *Human Nature*, *RBG*, *The Fight*, *Picture a Scientist*, *John Lewis: Good Trouble*, *Kiss the Ground*, *The Biggest Little Farm*, *Flee*, *On the Record*, *Los Hermanos - The Brothers*, *The First Wave*, and *Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America*. Find out more at rocofilms.com.

END CREDITS

Directed by

Sabrina Keane
Kate Dumke

Produced by

Heather Keane
Maggie Contreras
Sabrina Keane

Executive Producer

Heather Keane

Edited By

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Original Score by

Anne Chmelewsky

Co-Producer

Tim Grafft

Archival Producer

Kate S. Logan

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Josh Ausley
Patrick Bolton
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Evan Burns
Catherine (Mimi) Dautremont
Kate Dumke
Rachel Dusa
Hannah Engelson
Patrick Hewlett

Julie Hotz
Allie Humenuk
Amber Johnson
Bruce Liffiton
Christopher Mariles
Bridget McQuillan
Luisa Mendoza
Cassidy Minarik
Bruce Petschek
Jeremy Ramirez
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Lynn Weissman
Elizabeth Young
Hannah Zamora

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Daniela Mileykovsky

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Catholics for Choice

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Consulting Producers

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Marianna LaFollette
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Jocelyn Lyon
Jessie Marek
Luisa Mendoza
Jennilee Park
Leah Puffenberger
Jesse Ryan

Randall Taylor
Andy Turrett

Score produced by
Anne Chmelewsky

Score performed by
Anne Chmelewsky and Tom Calvert

Additional Music
Tom Calvert

Score Mixer
Patrick Lemmens

Assistant Sound Engineer
Bence Bobák

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Final Frame

Post Production Audio Services
Final Frame

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Students for Life
The Washington Post
The Young Turks
Tonya Lafferty
Women's Hope Medical Clinic

WTHI-TV

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ROCO Films

Featuring (in order of appearance)

Angela Dwyer

Brandi Swindell

Kathaleen Pittman

Dr. Mitchell Creinin

Maleeha

Jenifer McKenna

Erin Maye Quade

Tara Murtha

Samantha Doty

Christine Yeargan

Maria

McKinzy Troudt

Jessica Marchbank

Ashley Wilson

Kate Hoeting

Jamie Manson

Jessica

Timi Gerson

Jor-El Godsey

Senator Tim Kaine

Rev. Patrick Mahoney

Laura Lazaro Cabrera

Thanks

Mike Abramowitz

Connie Borde

Cricket Braun

Alexandra Caffrey

Caty Carra

Gerald Chamales

Kathleen Chamales

Julie Cohen
Edmund Dumke
Sue Dumke
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Tamara Ezzat
Kathy Gasperine
Jeanne Hanover
Louis Hanover
Will Hapeman
Anne-Marie Keane
Robert Keane
Leila Hirschfeld
Carol Martori
Mary Nada
Sherif Nada
Jon Paul
Sarah Rossman
Kaylee Stealer
Chris Stevens
Michele Stevens
Leah Stewart
Wendy Thompson
Deborah Wais
Marshall Wais
Madeleine Witt

The filmmakers would also like to thank the many people who generously gave their time to the making of this film.

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