

## ***SHAPING THE FUTURE***

2019 ATSA Conference | Friday November 8 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**F-12**

### **Everything RJ - Behind the Scenes of an Interactive Documentary**

Ken Ogasawara  
Sherien Barsoum  
Taza Media

Everything RJ is a unique interactive documentary project exploring the effectiveness of restorative justice in addressing trauma and recidivism of sexual harm. Through interactive documentary storytelling, Everything RJ will move beyond the dynamic of survivor/offender, and invite users into the world of circles of support and accountability, allowing them to navigate the perspectives of offenders, survivors, volunteers and community members who have been affected by sexual violence. The session will provide an overview of the interactive documentary project. Using small groups and discussion the film's producers will facilitate to discussion with expert attendees to help shape the project and develop unique and dynamic strategies and guides to educate broader audiences following completion of the project.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Attendees will be able to provide examples of how restorative justice can be used to address trauma and reduce sexual recidivism
- Attendees will collaborate to create plans to disseminate the interactive documentary in the community
- Attendees will be able to identify specific steps to implement of circles of support and accountability

**Ken Ogasawara** is a film writer and producer based in Toronto. Ken co-produced his first feature film *THE VOLUNTEER* which he helped write and star in. Since then, Ken's producing and writing credits include *THE ELMIRA CASE*, *PIT* and recently, a series of short documentaries in partnership with nonprofits including 'Syria: Coming To Canada' and 'Stride: Circles' which tells the story of a woman's transition out of federal prison. Ken also works as a writer and story producer at Mennonite Central Committee, an international relief, development, and peace non-profit organization.

**Sherien Barsoum** is a filmmaker and story consultant who is inspired by people and issues making the world a better place. Her first feature, *COLOUR ME* was a bold exploration of black identity narratives. Most recently, Sherien directed and produced *RIDE FOR PROMISE* and *PLAYER ZERO*, winning the HotDocs Short Film Pitch and Best Canadian

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Documentary at NorthWest Fest. She produced *BABE, I HATE TO GO*, which played top festivals internationally while nominated for a Canadian Screen Award. Sherien was the story consultant on the Oscar-shortlisted *FRAME 394* and co-produced *HOUSE OF Z*, the first feature film bought and distributed by Condé Nast, now on Netflix. Sherien is the former Director of Programming of the Reelworld Film Festival and serves as a board member of the Documentary Organization of Canada's Ontario Chapter.