

COME & TAKE IT

OFFICIAL COMPANION GUIDE

Short film by PJ Raval and Ellen Spiro
<https://www.comeandtakeitdoc.com>





ABOUT THE FILM

This short documentary film captures the transformation of a young woman to the leadership of America's most irreverent anti-gun violence movement called #CocksNotGlocks. After concealed carry of handguns is legalized on the University of Texas campus, Jessica Jin posts clever humor on social media, and with the help of a tight-knit group of young female students, a movement is born: **The Great Texas Dildo Revolt.**

- World Premiere SXSW Film Festival 2018
- AUDIENCE AWARD BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY New Orleans Film Festival 2018
- AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY Sidewalk Film Festival 2018
- BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY Houston Asian American Pacific Islander Film Festival 2019
- Social Impact Media Awards Short Doc Finalist 2019
- International Premiere Manchester International Film Festival 2019
- HONORABLE MENTION for DOC SHORT Bushwick Film Festival 2019



A MESSAGE FROM FILMMAKER, PJ RAVAL

On August 1st, 2016, the “campus carry” law went into effect in the state of Texas, allowing concealed handguns on university campuses. The law was pushed through the Texas legislature with zero support from ANY of the public education institutions in Texas, making many of us wonder, who exactly is Campus Carry serving?

The first day of school brought about visible public opposition from faculty and staff, a few even resigning in protest. As filmmakers, Ellen Spiro and I wanted to use our skills of non-fiction storytelling

to protest this controversial law. But, there had already been many conversations about gun violence, and many people had already decided their positions, feeling confident in being on whatever side of the line they had drawn in the sand. However, being on a university campus, one cannot overlook the presence of young people, many of them starting to understand politics and their positions in the world, including how they feel about guns on campus. One such Chinese- American UT Austin student, Jessica Jin, used irreverence to change the conversation and highlight the hypocrisy of Texas laws that allow the presence of handguns on campus but not sex toys, namely dildos. Jessica realized campus carry was an example of Texas legislators accepting and promoting the culture of gun violence while rejecting the culture of sexual awareness. The good ol’ boys were still running the show and Jessica had had enough. #CocksNotGlocks was born.

A silhouette of a person with long, dark, curly hair, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. They are holding a white marker in their right hand and are in the process of writing on a light blue grid-patterned whiteboard. The person's arm is raised, and their head is tilted back, looking towards the top left of the frame. In the top right corner, there is a small rectangular window with a blue border, containing a grid of small, illegible icons. Below this window, the word "Bookmarks" is written in a small, dark font, preceded by a small location pin icon.

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INTRODUCTION

About #cocksnotglocks

As of August 1, 2016, students with concealed carry licenses are now permitted to take loaded handguns into public Texas university classrooms. Throughout the state, openly carrying a gun is now also legal. The minimum requirement to obtain a license for any of these activities is 4 hours of instruction. Dozens of states across the nation are battling similar legislation. This is not what safety looks like.

On the first day of classes, August 24, 2016, we held what was hailed as one of the “largest anti-gun rallies in Texas history.” The event was satirically named “Campus (Dildo) Carry” to mock the new “Campus Carry” law. It was created upon the discovery that it is illegal, according to Texas obscenity laws, to openly brandish a harmless dildo in public. In contrast, loaded guns (concealed or otherwise) capable of inflicting instant death are often legally welcomed and encouraged. The protest served to challenge Americans to reconsider what objects they consider obscene, normal, and acceptable in their daily lives.

Guns in classrooms are just as appropriate as dildos in classrooms. The normalization of gun culture has put too many guns in too many poorly trained hands in our public spaces.

We’re here to show you how ridiculous it would look if everyone in society “carried” something.

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

This learning companion has been designed to deepen conversation around the issues discussed in the short film, *COME & TAKE IT*. It is also meant to inspire individuals to think about what personal action and civic engagement means to them.

While this guide cannot cover every topic of discussion, we hope that communities, schools, and individuals are encouraged to:

- Watch *COME & TAKE IT* as you delve into the guide.
- Consider the issues tackled within the film regarding gun control/violence
- Reflect on how the activists took action with a simple idea
- Take action and get involved.

Please take what elements resonate with you and your work.



KEY FILM SUBJECT:

About Jessica Jin

Organizer at Cocks Not Glocks.

Texan freezing in San Francisco.

Tech, art, politics, and cats.

THE TEAM



PJ Raval - Co-Director/Co-Producer

PJ is a queer, first-generation Filipinx American documentary filmmaker. Named one of Out Magazine's "Out 100," PJ's films include *TRINIDAD* (Showtime) and *BEFORE YOU KNOW IT* (WORLD Channel), lauded as "a crucial new addition to the LGBT doc canon" by indieWIRE. PJ's most recent documentary, *CALL HER GANDA*, chronicles three women as they seek justice for Jennifer Laude, a Filipina trans woman who was brutally murdered by a U.S. Marine. *GANDA* received over a dozen awards and was nominated for both a GLAAD Media Award and a Philippines Academy Award for Best Documentary. After broadcasting on POV (PBS), it also won the 2020 NLGJA Association of LGBTQ Journalists Excellence in Documentary Award. PJ is a co-founder of the queer transmedia arts organization OUTsider, and is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a Guggenheim Fellow and a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.



Ellen Spiro - Co-Director/Co-Producer

Ellen Spiro's films include *Diana's Hair Ego*, *Greetings From Out Here*, *Roam Sweet Home*, *Atomic Ed & the Black Hole*, *Are the Kids Alright?*, *Troop 1500*, *Fixing the Future* and *Body of War* (Oscar shortlist). Her films are housed at the MOMA, Academy of Motion Pictures, UCLA, Paley Center and NY Public Library. She is a former Guggenheim, Rockefeller and NEA fellow and has won two Gracie Awards. Spiro earned her MA at S.U.N.Y Buffalo and did post-grad work at the Whitney. She is a Professor at the University of Texas.



Cecilia R. Mejia - Social Impact Producer

Cecilia R. Mejia has worked in development for non-profit organizations. She's worked with several grassroots organizations focusing on underrepresented communities, which led to her working in film. Cecilia has produced a number of short films focusing on critical social impact issues. She's the lead producer of the Sony-acquired feature film *Yellow Rose*, a Social Impact Producer of the award-winning doc *Call Her Ganda*, and Co-Producer for *Lingua Franca*. She is also the Creative Director of *Art of Me* and an adjunct professor at NYU.

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KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED IN THE FILM:

- Gun Control
- Campus Carry Law
- Activism

ABOUT THE CAMPUS CARRY LAW IN TEXAS

Texas Senate Bill 11, also known as the Campus Carry Law, allows people with a license to carry a concealed handgun on the grounds and in the buildings of colleges and universities. The law went into effect for four-year universities in August 2016 but community colleges were given an extra year to comply.

PROS AND CONS ABOUT GUN CONTROL (FROM BRITANNICA PROCON.ORG)

- The United States has 120.5 guns per 100 people, or about 393,347,000 guns, which is the highest total and per capita number in the world. 22% of Americans own one or more guns (35% of men and 12% of women). America's pervasive gun culture stems in part from its colonial history, revolutionary roots, frontier expansion, and the Second Amendment, which states: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."
- Proponents of more gun control laws state that the Second Amendment was intended for militias; that gun violence would be reduced; that gun restrictions have always existed; and that a majority of Americans, including gun owners, support new gun restrictions.



- Opponents say that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to own guns; that guns are needed for self-defense from threats ranging from local criminals to foreign invaders; and that gun ownership deters crime rather than causes more crime.

CONCEALED CARRY WEAPON LAWS AND COLLEGE CAMPUSES (FROM NCLS.ORG)

- All 50 states allow citizens to carry concealed weapons if they meet certain state requirements. Currently, there are 16 states that ban carrying a concealed weapon on a college campus: California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina and Wyoming.
- In 23 states the decision to ban or allow concealed carry weapons on campuses is made by each college or university individually: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.
- Because of recent state legislation and court rulings, 10 states now have provisions allowing the carrying of concealed weapons on public postsecondary campuses. These states are Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin. Not included in above list, Tennessee allows faculty members with licenses to carry weapons on campus but the law does not extend to students or the general public.

Discussion prompts 1:

- What are some pros and cons of gun control?
- What are your thoughts about the campus carry law?
- What are your thoughts about Jessica visiting a pro-gun activist?
- Who should be allowed to carry/own guns? Should guns be legal?
- What are thoughts about people being allowed to carry guns on campus? How does that affect the learning in the classroom?



HOW THIS GOES BEYOND THE MOVEMENT

#cocksnotglocks started as a joke on the internet and led to a movement, but Jessica recognizes that this much more than that. She wants to inspire people to take action and to take part in their civic duties regardless of what your political affiliation is.

Discussion prompts 2:

- What are your thoughts on the social media backlash Jessica received during the campaign?
- What does civic engagement mean to you?
- How does the #cocksnotglocks movement inspire action?

Other discussion prompts:

- What are the issues that matter to you?
- How do you want to take action?
- Do you know what steps to take in order to take action?
- How do you feel about activism?



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WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Volunteer and join the #cocksnotglocks movement
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdTE-5EwldHgkmuEuBBELlcN-D4OSiB43OmM8K6MNj957h33Q/viewform>
2. Organize a screening of the film for your community through Grasshopper Films
<https://grasshopperfilm.com/host-a-screening/>
3. Watch our panel discussions
 - I. Come and Take It. Days of Action. Part I: Making the “Hard” ask: How to Turn out the Vote (insert link)
 - II. Come and Take It. Days of Action. Part II: Keeping it up: Strategies beyond the Election (insert link)
4. Support these organizations taking action.

18 million Rising 18 Million Rising (18MR) brings Asian American communities together online and offline to reimagine Asian American identity with nuance, specificity, and power. We are using this Asian American identity as the foundation to build a more just and creative world where our experiences are affirmed, our leadership is valued, and all of us have the opportunity to thrive.

Move Texas MOVE is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, grassroots organization building power in underrepresented youth communities through civic education, leadership development, and issue advocacy. And yeah, we’re an acronym, learn it, memorize it, live it.

Community Justice Action Fund The Community Justice Action Fund is a nonprofit organization building power for and with communities of color to end gun violence. CJAF is changing the conversation on gun violence prevention by leading with the people closest to the pain of everyday gun violence.

Sueños Sin Fronteras de Tejas Suenos Sin Fronteras de Tejas (SSFTX) is a Latinx, WOC-led collective providing health and healing support and access to immigrant womxn and children in the U.S.

NDN Collective NDN Collective is an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to building Indigenous power. Through organizing, activism, philanthropy, grantmaking, capacity-building and narrative change, we are creating sustainable solutions on Indigenous terms.

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