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The Other Side of Cannabis Exposes the Negative Effects of Marijuana Use on America's Youth *Independent Documentary Film Exposes Health Risks of Recreational Marijuana Use in Youth Population*

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA (April 24, 2015) – Award winning independent documentary, “[The Other Side of Cannabis](#)” announces its upcoming participation at the St. Tropez International Film Festival on May 11, 2015. The film has been nominated for four awards including - Best Feature Documentary, Best Science & Education Film, Best Director, and Best Editor.

A HeartsGate Productions, Inc. film produced and directed by Jody Belsher is the first film to explore in depth the potential harmful effects of recreational marijuana drug use on America's youth. The 72-minute documentary features interviews with respected Harvard researchers, neuro-scientists, rehab directors, counselors, and numerous other professionals; as well as many personal stories of those who have experienced the negative effects of long-term marijuana use.

The Other Side of Cannabis was inspired by Belsher's own son who experienced a traumatic outcome from his use of marijuana. Now in recovery, he is interviewed in the film explaining some of the difficulties he's faced as a result of his use. “The film is not about legalization nor the medicinal value of marijuana – both have their valid points,” says Belsher. She continues, “Regardless of one's view, the aim of this documentary is to educate young people about the health risks associated with recreational marijuana use, so they can make informed decisions that may influence their lives forever.”

The Other Side of Cannabis explains how many young people today believe the marijuana they are using is medicinal. They are unaware of the dangerously high levels of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), addiction rates, the potential for mental illness - ranging from depression to anxiety and even psychosis - as well as the physical effects that include lung issues, heart, cognitive and other brain effects.

The documentary is currently being shown at independent film festivals worldwide and DVD copies are available for purchase at www.OtherSideOfCannabis.com for private, educational institution, or multi-use audience. (\$25-\$500)

ABOUT OSC – The Other Side of Cannabis (OSC), is an independent project, funded through contributions and not influenced by any organizations or political affiliations. OSC's sole purpose is to educate adolescents, teenagers, and young adults, whose brains are still developing, about the negative long-term effects of recreational marijuana use. A portion of the proceeds from the film will be donated to programs that assist with marijuana issues in the young population. OSC was awarded Best Feature Documentary at the Sunset Los Angeles Film Festival 2015 and is being shown at St. Tropez International Film Festival, Reel Recovery Film Festival, San Luis Obispo International Film Festival, and other independent festivals worldwide.

For more information about the film, please visit www.othersideofcannabis.com. For interviews with Jody Belsher or additional information, media may contact Karen Beaudin at Bullpen Press; karen@bullpenpress.com.

