

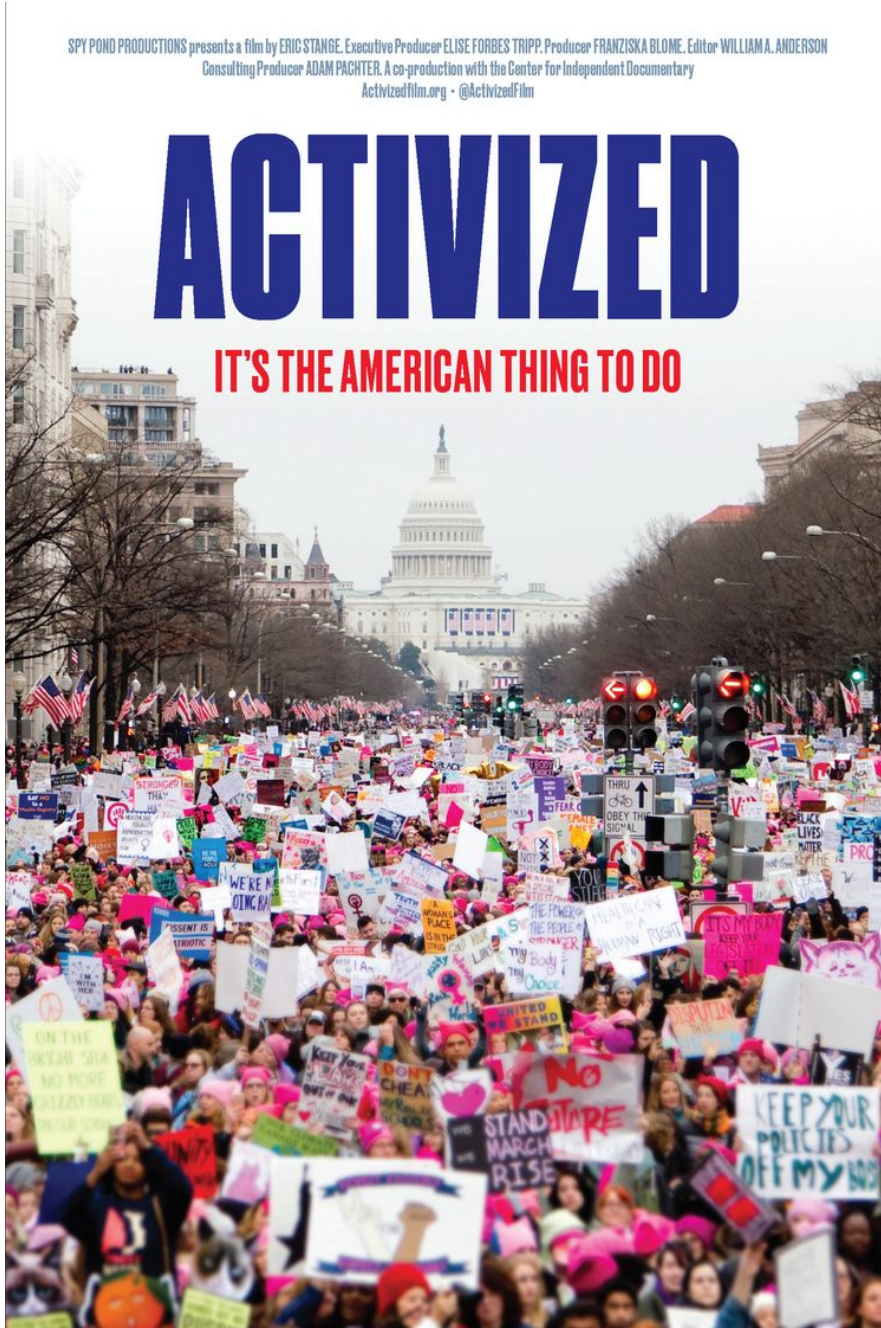
#StayHomeWatchTogether

Discussion Guide

SPY POND PRODUCTIONS presents a film by ERIC STANGE. Executive Producer ELISE FORBES TRIPP. Producer FRANZISKA BLOME. Editor WILLIAM A. ANDERSON
Consulting Producer ADAM PächTER. A co-production with the Center for Independent Documentary
Activatedfilm.org - @ActivatedFilm

ACTIVIZED

IT'S THE AMERICAN THING TO DO



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#StayHomeWatchTogether: *Activized* (2019)

36 min|Documentary| Dir: Eric Strange

“ I think some of the greatest stories of the practice of American civic power are stories of accidental activists - people who were going about their lives and an event happened, and they decided, ‘I can’t sit on the sidelines anymore.’”

- Eric Liu, in *Activized*

Connecting with #StayHomeWatchTogether: Why watch *Activized* now?

In this time when we are all social distancing in order to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities, the stories of the diverse and passionate activists in *Activized* are uplifting and positive. They invite us to:

- Reflect on our personal roles in keeping and strengthening our democracy
- Understand the power and responsibility of citizen participation
- Embrace our own passions
- Envision and act on the future we want to build

Film Summary

Synopsis: *Activized* follows the stories of seven ordinary Americans who, for the first time in their lives, leave their comfort zones and become involved in gun violence prevention, voting rights and immigrants’ rights. Interweaving their personal stories against the backdrop of the causes they fight for, we experience their motivations, successes and failures, their sacrifices, and victories. Above all, we celebrate these inspiring, courageous citizens for embracing one of the most basic of American traditions – dissent.

Engage & Connect

Before Watching *Activized*

Connect using these prompts before watching:

- What does it mean to be a citizen in a democracy?
- Who do you think of when you think of an ‘activist?’

After Watching *Activized*

Prompts to use as guideposts for post-screening:

- Talk about one particular activist or story who stood out to you, or touched you, or to whom you could relate.

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- Have you had the experience of speaking out about something you believe in? What was it like for you? What was it that inspired you to speak out?
- Discuss the role of activism in a healthy democracy. Think about historical examples of activists who contributed to social change. Who were they, and how did they do their work?
- The individuals in the film used many different skills and aspects of their personalities in their actions, from lawyering and speaking Spanish, to public speaking, music, dance, and art. What skills and talents do you have that you might contribute to a cause you believe in?

Take Action Now

- Share the film
 - Visit our website, activizedfilm.org. You can also set up a screening with your community, or share the trailer online. The website also features a screening guide and “How to Get Involved” one-pager to offer ideas.
- Support a cause you are passionate about
 - Use the hashtag #GetActivized to:
 - Get involved with some of the organizations featured in the film or with local groups working on gun violence prevention, voting rights/voting suppression and immigration.
 - Engage with the film team to reach more people with the message of the film, especially in communities where these conversations might not be taking place at all, that in a democracy every voice matters. Contact the team at activizedfilm@gmail.com, through the website www.activizedfilm.org or on social media at @ActivizedFilm.

[#StayHomeWatchTogether](#) is a collaborative project between impact producers, distributors & filmmakers to highlight important impact campaigns that have been affected by COVID-19. With thanks to [Blueshift Education](#) for drafting these educational guides, alongside [Together Films](#) supporting the curation and livestream panels through the series.

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