

A FILM BY **ATOMIC FOCUS ENTERTAINMENT**



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This **Banned Books Week (October 5–11)**, join us in celebrating the freedom to read, reflecting on the importance of open access to ideas, and reminding ourselves why protecting that freedom matters.

To support this initiative, we're spotlighting the documentary *Banned Together*, available to your patrons on Kanopy. This eye-opening documentary examines two timely issues: book bans and curriculum censorship in public schools. It's a powerful resource for sparking meaningful discussions around censorship, the freedom to read, and the role of storytelling in education and community life.

This programming guide includes promotional materials, along with programming ideas and ready-to-use social media copy to help you engage your patrons around *Banned Together* and Banned Books Week.

About *Banned Together*

A diverse cast of visionary teenagers, stirring public protests, private threats, criminal charges, and drama-filled school board meetings: this is the explosive world of *Banned Together*. The film pulls back the curtain on two of the most controversial issues in America today: book bans and curriculum censorship in public schools. *Banned Together* follows three students as they fight to reinstate 97 books suddenly pulled from their school libraries. As they evolve from local to national activists, they meet with banned authors, politicians, and the major players protecting the First Amendment of our Constitution. Woven throughout the story about the student activists include Congressman Jamie Raskin; bestselling and banned authors like Juno Dawson, Jodi Picoult, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, Erika L. Sanchez, and Ellen Hopkins; First Amendment warriors like Jonathan Friedman from PEN America and Deborah Caldwell-Stone from the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom; Prof. Justin Hansford, the Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University School of Law; Olivia Little, a senior investigative researcher from Media Matters for America who's done in-depth reporting about Moms for Liberty since early 2021; organizations fighting on the front lines in Florida; Maurice Cunningham, author of "Dark Money and the Politics of School Privatization"; and IL Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias who wrote the first anti-book-ban legislation in the country... to name just a few!

Programming Ideas

- Host a public screening of Banned Together followed by a discussion on censorship, intellectual freedom, and the film's impact. Banned Together includes public performance rights (PPR), allowing you to host public screenings.
- Curate a display of banned books alongside the reasons they were challenged. For a fun twist, hide the book covers so only the "reason for the ban" is visible. Encourage patrons to borrow from the collection.
- Invite patrons to share their favorite banned or challenged book. This can be either in person or on social media. Display in person submissions around a curated shelf of banned and challenged titles.
- Host a poster-making workshop where patrons design posters that promote the freedom to read.
- Organize a book club featuring a frequently challenged or banned book and facilitate a discussion around its themes and history.
- Create a social media poll (e.g., on Facebook or Instagram) asking patrons to guess whether certain titles have been banned or challenged.

Social Media/Newsletter Copy

Social Media Copy #1

Banned Books Week highlights the importance of protecting the freedom to read. Explore the issue of censorship in Banned Together, an eye-opening documentary available free on Kanopy with your library card. kanopy.com/product/banned-together

Social Media Copy #2

Your library card gives you access to more than just books, it opens doors to powerful stories, like Banned Together, a free documentary tackling banned books in public schools, on Kanopy. Watch now:

kanopy.com/product/banned-together

Social Media Copy #3

Celebrate Banned Books Week by watching Banned Together on Kanopy, an eye-opening documentary on censorship. Stream free with your library card on Kanopy. kanopy.com/product/banned-together

Social Media Copy #4

Celebrate Banned Books Week by watching Banned Together, a documentary that explores why some stories are challenged and how we can keep reading freely. Free on Kanopy with your library card!

kanopy.com/product/banned-together

Social Media Copy #5

Explore the stories behind censorship in Banned Together, a documentary that celebrates the freedom to read. Stream for free with your library card on Kanopy! kanopy.com/product/banned-together

Social Media Copy #6

Watch Banned Together on Kanopy during Banned Books Week and join the conversation about access, storytelling, and the freedom to read. Watch for free with your library card on Kanopy:

kanopy.com/product/banned-together

Respectfully,

The Kanopy Team and OverDrive Team