



Eyes of a Child: 'Safety' Short Film Stares Down School Shooting

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No matter how many times you see them in the headlines, school shootings are hard to take. But once you've experienced one through the eyes of a small child, you realize that the *Safety* we once took for granted might now be just a fairy tale.

It seems like every few weeks -- or more -- we're hit with another harrowing story of kids forced to grow up too soon as they hide or flee for their lives. We see most of these stories through reporters' lenses as they broadcast the news, but in the short story *Safety*, we sit with a group of little ones as they listen, watch, and wait to meet their fate.

Based on Lydia Fitzpatrick's 2015 short story *Safety*, French filmmaker Fabrice Joubert's short film follows an elementary school class from a normal day in their gym to the terror and chaos of a shooter roaming and heading their way. Shown mainly from the perspective of the children, *Safety* feels anything but as we watch their teacher corral them into his office and scrambling to protect them the best way he can.

They count to stay calm, hold each others' hands, and closely follow their teacher's directions. There is one student, however, who seems strangely aware and calm in the face of danger and who is far too familiar with weaponry.

According to *Fast Company*, *Safety* posted online just 10 days before the Nov. 14 shooting at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, California. Sadly, though, school shootings have become so common that the short could remind you of a dozen others as well.

The subject matter is tragic and intense, and Joubert makes it disturbingly realistic by treating the topic with respect. *Safety* doesn't hype up anything for dramatic effect -- it doesn't need to. The real pain is in sitting with these kids through this horrible event and watching their carefree childhoods instantly end.

The Saugus HS shooting was the 38th of the year, a staggering number that is truly hard to stomach. Joubert, a French filmmaker and father living in the United States, is deeply disturbed by this country's gun violence problems and chose to make art that would raise awareness and hopefully lead more to understand just how deeply our kids are being affected.

“What really interested me in that story was the impact of gun violence on human beings rather than the political side of it. My hope is that *Safety* can become an additional voice to end gun violence in this country and keep the conversation moving in the right direction,” Joubert said in a statement on *Safety*'s official website.