Annotated Bibliography

*Killing Us Softly 4* is a documentary film that challenges media through advertisements of images of women. The documentary brings about awareness through a variety of television advertisements to gain attention of offensive and unsettling gender stereotypes. What may have been viewed simply as an advertisement in the past has changed drastically. Critically analyzing medias view of images of women and how advertising is used to express broader issues and messages that are being portrayed beyond just what the eye can see.

Jean Kilbourne Ed.D is a feminist, an author internationally known for presenting lectures, films and articles. Her focus is on advertisements of image of women, alcohol and tobacco. Kilbourne’s main focus is to bring about awareness to encourage members of the society to call for action and make a change. Her audience varies from lecturing to children, teenagers and adults. Jean Kilbourne was “named by the *The New York Times Magazine* as one of the three most popular speakers on college campuses, she has twice received the Lecturer of the Year award from the National Association for Campus Activities” (Kilbourne, 2002).

Central themes and issues in this documentary that pertain to this particular essay is that every aspect of popular culture is about marketing. Such as advertisements that portray women in negative ways as objects to men and society. When Jean Kilbourne addresses self image and concepts of love, success, which we as individuals are and how we should be portrayed this helps prove the point that media plays a big role in surrounding society with images of female beauty. However, advertisements forget to mention that we can spend all our time trying to achieve this flawless beauty, yet it is unachievable because it is created through airbrush and retouching. Every single picture, billboard and advertisement has been worked on and photo shopped. *Killing Us Softly (4): Advertising’s image of women, with Jean Kilbourne. Dir. Sut Jhally, Northampton, MA: Media Education Foundation, c2002. Film*
Child AbuseWatch is a One Child International Inc. which is a nonprofit organization. Evin Daly is the founder and CEO of this organization and he is also a “specialist in child abuse prevention, child protection systems, and domestic violence research” (“AbuseWatch.Net”). This organization has a focus on children; however the intended audience of the material is for adults with the choice of online or print materials. Also, there is information on investigators, law enforcement as well as health care tips.

Some of the central themes discussed are children on reality television shows and how they are being exploited. The article discusses “Toddler and Tiaras” and it’s views on how these children are victims of child abuse in their homes, on the show and when in pageants. This article provides materials to educate parents and the community in what acts are considered child abuse. Through various research, this particular article touches on not only child abuse but emergency and crisis services that are available for free. It provides public and professional insight on what is considered child abuse in reality television shows. Also, it provides protection, and prevention measures and information for free world wide. It is important to keep in mind that some children are forced and pressured to participate rather than by choice. This text provides Child AbuseWatch’s point of view about how children are manipulated and exploited on reality television.


In an article “Child Beauty Pageants May Be More About Parents” the author Dr. Rick Nauert discusses how parents can get very aggressive at beauty pageants because they have a goal in mind and that is to win. Dr. Rick Nauert is an academic writer with many years of experience under his belt in clinical, administrative and academic healthcare. He is currently “an
associate professor for Rocky Mountain University of Health Professionals doctoral program in health promotion and wellness” (Nauert, 2012). Dr. Rick Nauert’s intended audiences are adults, medical and academic individuals. He presents the information he writes about with everyday examples that are evident in reality television shows such as “Toddlers and Tiaras. Dr. Rick Nauert also discusses the possible challenges that children may face as they get older as well as their overall health and their well-being.

The central themes in this article help articulate the role of parents that will be explored in this essay. This article discusses issues that beauty pageant parents may be ignorant to notice. Such as focusing on their own needs rather than their child’s needs because ultimately there is a prize the parents are trying to achieve. Also, the idea that not only are pageants harmful to children’s health but also the pressure they get from parents twenty-four seven at home practicing, staying fit, staying flawless even if that means not going out to play with friends. This takes a toll on the development of children as they are missing out on being children. Another thing to consider is the amount of money that could be spent on one competition. This can be very expensive from the cost to participate, to clothes, makeup, hair and nails. The likelihood that parents get caught up in the pageants themselves who will do anything to get the crown, even if it is putting their child’s health in danger through caffeinated beverages or “engaging in risky behaviors, objectification or even abuse and exploitation of a child” (Nauert,2012).

Ultimately, what’s most dangerous is that parents ignoring their children’s signs of exhaustion and push their children’s limitations further.


In an article “I hated the make-up, hairspray and fake teeth. But most of all I hated being forced on to the tanning bed. Mum read to me to make me lie still’: Former pageant beauty's stark warning to parents”. This article discusses a personal experience of a former beauty pageant participant who expresses the difficulty she still feels as an adult due to her childhood experience. This article was written by Jane Atkinson a coaching and consulting speaker who represents other speakers, celebrities and bestselling authors (Atkinson, 2012). Jane Atkinson wrote Brooke Breedwell’s story on behalf of her to make other adults aware that beauty pageants are not always what they look like from the outside. Jane Atkinson helps other speaker’s gain the skills they need to professionally speak in front of an audience.

A central theme in this article that relates to this essay is the personal experience of Brooke Breedwell. This is the side of the story that society does not see in the media or on reality television. Brooke Breedwell was in beauty pageants before she was even a year old. Although there were moments where she enjoyed being in beauty pageants there were also moments she will never forget and that have changed her life. Brooke Breedwell told The Sun: “Since I was three I was pressured by my mum to be perfect. But living up to her expectations was impossible” (Atkinson, 2012). She remembered being forced to lie in a tanning bed crying because she was forced to put make up on. Brooke Breedwell admits that beauty pageants took a toll on her confidence even though she won pageants also the thought of the amount of money her mom spent on her pageants added pressure on her to win. She remembers her mom bribing her to get her to cooperate to get things done for the pageant. Brooke Breedwell relationship with her parents varied greatly “thankfully, with the love and support I constantly received from my dad, I’ve been able to balance out my perfections with my insecurities as an adult” (Atkinson, 2012). On the other hand her relationship with her mother was very different because of her
pageant experience with her mom. Here she states “At the moment I’m not sure if I ever even want children as I feel like the relationship with my mum may have ruined that idea for me” (Atkinson, 2012). Brooke Breedwell’s story gives insight to the voices of the individuals who are participating in the beauty pageants that we don’t always hear. She is an example of the lifelong affects beauty pageants have on ones self-esteem.

Atkinson, Jane. “I hated the make-up, hairspray and fake teeth. But most of all I hated being forced on to the tanning bed. Mum read to me to make me lie still' :Former pageant beauty's stark warning to parents”. The Sun 14 Sept. 2012. Web. 17 Jan 2013


In a Communication Studies Master’s Thesis titled “Baby, I wish we could get you some lips for Christmas”: investigating cultural disregard for girls through the promotion of hegemonic and sexualized femininity, and celebrity in Toddlers &Tiaras” (Connolly, 2011). There is a diverse view of culture, gender and sexuality looking at “Toddler and Tiaras”. This text approaches a different perspective on reality television shows through a variety of concepts and central themes. For example going on a television show and getting a makeover to play a part. Promoting beauty pageants on television as ideal feminine body images to a society that is already very appearance sensitive. This text approaches the reality television show “Toddler and Tiaras” and critiques celebrity stars on the same platform. Which leads to a different view of how looking through a cultural, gender or sexuality lens makes for a broader understanding of what messages are being implied by just looking at a picture more closely. This helps clarify how the image media presents to viewers is distorted by expressing one logical message that as female’s only one image is ideal and that is what beauty looks like.
Corrinne N. Connolly is a student who wrote her thesis in “Arts in Communication, Media and Cultural Studies in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of Northeastern University, April 2011” (Connolly). Corrinne N. Connolly’s academic writing is intended for professors and scholarly individuals.

Connolly, Corrinne N., ""Baby, I wish we could get you some lips for Christmas": investigating cultural disregard for girls through the promotion of hegemonic and sexualized femininity, and celebrity in Toddlers & Tiaras” (2011). Communication Studies Master's Theses. Paper 2.

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Atkinson, Jane. “I hated the make-up, hairspray and fake teeth. But most of all I hated being forced on to the tanning bed. Mum read to me to make me lie still' :Former pageant beauty's stark warning to parents”. *The Sun* 14 Sept. 2012. Web. 17 Jan 2013

http://speakerlauncher.com/about-jane/

Connolly, Corrinne N., "'Baby, I wish we could get you some lips for Christmas': investigating cultural disregard for girls through the promotion of hegemonic and sexualized femininity, and celebrity in Toddlers & Tiaras" (2011). *Communication Studies Master's Theses. Paper 2.*  
http://iris.lib.neu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=comm_studies_theses


“'Toddlers & Tiaras': Pageant Mom Has Daughter Practice 'Until She Falls Apart, Crying.”
