



the center for  
*Young Women's Development*

August 2005

***Girl Trouble* is scheduled to have a national PBS Broadcast on Independent Lens in the Spring 2006 where it will reach millions of Americans with an urgent and timely message about young girls at risk**

(San Francisco, CA) Shot over a period of four years, *Girl Trouble* documents the compelling personal stories of three teenage girls entangled in San Francisco's juvenile justice system. These young women, and many like them, aren't just at-risk—they are in deep trouble. Trying to change their lives, the girls work part-time at the innovative Center for Young Women's Development, an organization run by young women who have faced similar challenges

*Girl Trouble* illuminates the reasons why girls find themselves in the juvenile justice system, the treatment they receive in that system, and their struggle to find their way out of the cycle of incarceration. The film addresses these issues through our three subjects who all share the common experiences of abuse, neglect and poverty in their early childhood. They all enter the juvenile justice system in their early teens and the film follows their journey in the courts, and court-ordered programs through their teen years and into adulthood. This long-term documentation reveals the one step forward/two steps back nature of personal transformation, as well as the sometimes punitive nature of the system that seeks to process young women deeper and deeper into the cycle of incarceration. In the film, the young women get progressively more caught up in that system, before they are able to begin to access pathways out.

**Girls Trouble won the Golden Gate Award at the San Francisco Film Festival**

[www.girltrouble.org](http://www.girltrouble.org)

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