

HOST A SCREENING



We believe that the *Return to Zero* film is a valuable teaching tool and community builder for health care providers and bereaved parents. Though hosting a screening can feel intimidating, there is no right or wrong way to organize this type of event. We developed this guide to give you a place to start and to help you generate ideas.

Please note: per copyright law, a license is required to show a movie for anything other than personal, private use, even if you own the DVD or admission to the screening is free. *If you would like to screen this film, please email us at connect@rtzhope.org and we will be happy to provide you with a letter of permission.*

HOW TO GET STARTED

Decide on the Type of Screening

- Free community awareness event
- Provider education or training
- Fundraiser

Determine A Location

- Community room at local library
- Meeting room at hospital
- Local movie theater

Identify Your Audience

- Support groups for pregnancy and infant loss
- Bereaved parents in the community
- Health providers who work with pregnant or postpartum patients
 - If reaching out to a local birthing center or hospital, you will need to *do a little research to locate the right contact*. Finding the proper gatekeepers can take a few attempts; however, speaking with someone directly is usually the best option.
 - *Utilize your own social network*: do you have any friends that work at local hospitals and can help facilitate introductions?
 - Do you have a connection with a nurse or social worker at the hospital from your own experience?
- Any combination of the above

Verify the Media Requirements with Your Venue*

- DVD - Region 0 (purchase on Amazon)
- Stream it on Netflix, Amazon, or iTunes
- Blu-ray or DCP (for a movie theater) can be ordered through RTZ HOPE

*If you live in a country outside the USA, it may be easier to obtain a screening copy from us. (You will be charged DVD retail price + shipping in USD)

Ideas on How to Promote Your Screening

- Use synopsis and media press quotes on following pages for content
- Find graphics for social media and flyers in our Google Folder (<http://bit.ly/rtzscreening>)
- Reach out to local perinatal bereavement support groups
- Connect with local medical and mental health providers who work with pregnant and postpartum families
- Both providers and support groups are listed in the **Pregnancy & Infant Loss Directory** (www.pregnancylossdirectory.com) should you need help locating them

Optional: Include a Panel Discussion After the Film

- Labor & Delivery (L&D) nurse
- Perinatal social worker
- 1-2 bereaved parents
- **Sample Discussion Prompts:**
 - What are some of the more surprising things you've learned from your own experiences and the experiences of others that happen in the hospital following a stillbirth?
 - What does the general public still not understand about losing a child?
 - For our full list of prompts, please refer to page 6 .

FILM SYNOPSIS



Return to Zero is based on the true story of a successful couple, Maggie (MINNIE DRIVER) and Aaron (PAUL ADELSTEIN) who are preparing for the arrival of their first child. Just weeks before their due date, they are devastated to discover that their baby son has died in the womb and will be stillborn.

Maggie and Aaron attempt to go on with their lives but cannot escape their postpartum grief. Their lives and relationship have been forever altered by this loss, and no one seems to understand the hell they are going through. Aaron's dad, Robert (ALFRED MOLINA), encourages his son to bury himself in work, while Maggie's Mom, Kathleen (KATHY BAKER), always says the wrong thing.

Maggie and Aaron try to cope in a myriad of ways — through denial, escape, and alcohol — but when Maggie ultimately discovers that Aaron is having an affair with Dana (SARAH JONES), a co-worker, she decides to end the marriage.

Just when Maggie believes she has started a new life, she discovers that she is pregnant by Aaron (from a last ditch 'save the marriage' getaway to Vegas). With the help of Claire (CONNIE NIELSEN), an empathetic doctor who experienced a similar loss years ago, Maggie finally grieves for the loss of her son. Then, she and Aaron must reunite to face a turbulent and terrifying pregnancy.

PRESS QUOTES



"A delicately etched and intimately powerful portrait of grief and bitter loss. *Return to Zero* stars a fearless Minnie Driver and the ever-affable Paul Adelstein as a couple rocked to their emotional core by the loss of their unborn child, discovered to have died in the womb shortly before the delivery date. We follow them through the wrenching procedure and recovery process with a stark realism in which husband and wife are often seen at their worst, as their once-solid relationship frays when Maggie plummets into depression and neither seem able to say or do the right things to be able to heal and move on. Though sometimes hard to watch, *Zero* is a compelling and beautifully acted character study that will make you care as it dramatizes a domestic tragedy with a minimum of melodrama, so rare for TV and TV-movies."

Matt Roush, *TV Guide*

"Minnie Driver and Paul Adelstein give first-rate performances in this lovely, moving film about a couple whose marriage falters when their baby is stillborn... It's a subject worthy of education and one that seldom gets dealt with on television."

Robert Bianco, *USA Today*

"*Return To Zero* is a painful portrait of devastating loss, pivoting on a performance by Minnie Driver that acutely captures those raw feelings... Hanish deftly zeroes in on how all the preparation and enthusiasm surrounding a new baby magnifies the enormity of the parents' pain here — as well as the different ways people cope, or don't, with such events."

Brian Lowry, *Variety*

SUGGESTED SCRIPT TEMPLATE



INITIAL CONTACT VIA EMAIL

Dear *[Contact Name]*,

My name is *[Name]* and I *[how you are affiliated with the provider, e.g. "am a patient who had a loss at xx Hospital in 2017." If you have a good "name drop" this is the place to include it, e.g. "My OB, Dr. Smith, suggested that I speak to you"]*. I'm reaching out to you now as a member of Return To Zero: HOPE, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing pregnancy and infant loss awareness, education, and support.

I am interested partnering with *[Hospital's Name]* to host a screening of the Emmy-nominated feature film *Return to Zero*.

Return to Zero was created by Kiley and Sean Hanish (Return to Zero: HOPE founders) and is based on their true story. Maggie (MINNIE DRIVER) and Aaron (PAUL ADELSTEIN) are preparing for the arrival of their first child, and just weeks before their due date, they are devastated to discover that their baby son has died in the womb and will be stillborn.

This film is both a valuable teaching tool for health providers and has the ability to create community among bereaved parents. We can also offer the option of a panel discussion with perinatal health providers and bereaved parents following the film.

Could you please suggest a convenient time when you have 30 minutes available for me to come by and discuss this in more detail? (Or if you believe you're not the best contact person, could you please refer me to whichever colleague you'd recommend?)

Warm regards,
[Name]
[Phone Number]

SAMPLE PROMPTS



SAMPLE DISCUSSION PROMPTS (for general or panel discussion)

1. What are some of the more surprising things you've learned from your own experiences and the experiences of others that happen in the hospital following a stillbirth?
2. What does the general public still not understand about losing a child?
3. Are the needs of dads or other partners any different from mom's needs? What have you heard from family members about their experiences after a loss?
4. What do you do if your partner's way of dealing with the loss is different from the way you deal with it?
5. Once you know initially what to say or not to say to support a friend who has lost a child, what do you do to support her long-term, in the years to come?
6. How do you deal with subsequent pregnancies after a loss?
7. How can we guide the friend or support person of the parents who are expecting after a loss? What are some things they should do and should not do/say?
8. How do you the help siblings through their losses?