



**AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY ONE STEP AT A TIME

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**—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—**

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**“The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” Sexual Assault Awareness Event at FLICS**

The Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault, in partnership with FLICS, Bakersfield’s International Cinema Society, will conduct an informational outreach to raise awareness about sexual assault and other violent crimes against women on **Friday evening, September 17**, at the **Fox Theater** downtown.

The outreach will take place in conjunction with the opening night of FLICS’ 29<sup>th</sup> Season, which will feature the subtitled Swedish film adaptation of the best-selling novel “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.” The book’s author, the late Stieg Larsson, was sympathetic to the plight of women who are victims of sex crimes, having witnessed such a crime when he was a teenager. The film contains graphic scenes of sexual violence against the main female character, Lisbeth Salander, a goth computer hacker marvelously portrayed by Noomi Rapace, who has been lauded internationally for her performance.

“I have read the book, and this movie lends itself to doing an outreach in line with the issues of rape, sexual coercion and violent crimes against women,” said the Alliance’s Clinical Services Manager Raye Bugnosen.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., FLICS moviegoers will be able to stop by an Alliance outreach table set up in the theater’s mezzanine level, talk to Alliance representatives about the agency’s services for sexual assault and domestic violence victims, as well as concerned family members and friends, pick up useful literature, or make a donation to help the nonprofit in its mission: ***to stop domestic violence and sexual assault in Kern County and to assist victims in reclaiming their lives.*** They will also be able to see an on-screen ad with Alliance contact information during the pre-feature show.

Last year, the Alliance provided services to 508 sexual assault survivors—women, children and men—and to 1,958 victims of domestic violence, according to Alliance Business Services Manager Barbara Vadnais. Alliance services are free, confidential, and available in English and Spanish.

**What:** Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault Outreach in tandem with FLICS’ screening of “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”; **When:** 6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17 (movie begins at 7:30 p.m., following a 6:30 p.m. reception); **Where:** At the Fox Theater, 2001 H Street, downtown; **Movie Admission:** \$5 general admission (or free for FLICS season ticket holders—season tickets are \$50 and will be available for sale at the door); **Information:** Call the Alliance at 322-0931, or visit [www.kernalliance.org](http://www.kernalliance.org) or [www.flics.org](http://www.flics.org).

