Films like the soon to be released Matthew McConaughey and Gina Gershon's Killer Joe discussed in the article below make me wonder if our real problems are not sex traffickers, commercial sex buyers, and paedophiles but media elites who produce and star in garbage like this in the name of comedy and freedom of expression. Since when is child sexual exploitation funny? Sandusky's victims aren't laughing. The girls sexually trafficked by family and so-called boyfriends aren't laughing. Countless victims of child pornography aren't laughing. Do those involved with Killer Joe really dare to laugh in the face of so much tragedy and pain? Apparently so.

Are Killer Joe producers and stars really so blindly unaware that films like this are dangerous? Have they not learned that their stories shape public consciousness, values and trends? I doubt it.

If those behind this film truly find amusement in a story in which a child is pimped out in order to gain the cooperation of a corrupt law enforcement officer, perhaps they should familiarize themselves with the definition of antisocial personality disorder.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fourth edition (DSM IV-TR), defines antisocial personality disorder (in Axis II Cluster B) as:

A) There is a pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others occurring since age 15 years, as indicated by three or more of the following:
1. failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviors as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest;
2. deception, as indicated by repeatedly lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure;
3. impulsiveness or failure to plan ahead;
4. irritability and aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults;
5. reckless disregard for safety of self or others;
6. consistent irresponsibility, as indicated by repeated failure to sustain consistent work behaviour or honour financial obligations;
7. lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from another;

You make up your mind!


Dr Lisa Thompson is Director of Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking, The Salvation Army National Headquarters USA.
www.iast.net