

# Dean Cain Stars in 'I Survived,' a Sarasota-Filmed Movie Highlighting Domestic Abuse and Survival

*A powerful and heartbreaking story that exposes how abuse can begin the moment the vows are spoken—and the strength it takes to survive.*

SARASOTA, FL, UNITED STATES, January 28, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A powerful new independent film, [I Survived](#), produced by Sarasota filmmakers Brenda Williams, Chris Swanger, and Michael Carlisle in collaboration with JC Film Studios, is making waves for more than its gripping storyline. Filmed in and around the Sarasota area, the psychological thriller confronts the harsh realities of domestic abuse while delivering a message of hope; there is a way out, and help is available.



“

It's about survival, resilience, and reminding people that they are not alone — even when it feels like they are.”

*Brenda Williams*

Based on a true story, *I Survived* follows a woman trapped in a violent relationship who must fight for her life, her freedom, and her identity. After escaping, she relocates to start over and encounters a sheriff (Dean Cain) who helps her regain her footing—but her abusive husband refuses to let go and continues to hunt her. While firmly rooted in the thriller genre, the film's creators say its true purpose is to shine a light on a crisis that affects millions, often in

silence.

“This film isn't just entertainment,” said filmmaker Brenda Williams. “It's about survival, resilience, and reminding people that they are not alone — even when it feels like they are.”

## Raising Awareness Without Exploitation

The filmmakers emphasize that *I Survived* does not sensationalize abuse, but instead focuses on the psychological control, fear, and isolation survivors often face — and the courage it takes to

escape.

The film can be streamed for free on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s\\_72auNz6w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s_72auNz6w)

The Movie's Soundtrack 'I Survived' is a country-rock hit; you can stream it on [Soundcloud](#)

While the production does not have formal partnerships with domestic abuse or human trafficking organizations, the team is committed to using the film's platform responsibly. Official film materials and online pages include links to two of the most trusted national resources:

National Domestic Violence Hotline — 24/7 confidential support (phone calls, chat or SMS available)

<https://www.thehotline.org>

Salvation Army - 1-800-725-2769

Called to Peace Ministries - Joy Forrest's group - 919-614-9497

National Human Trafficking Hotline (Polaris) — Call or text for help

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org>

"These organizations exist to help people take the next step safely," said co-creator Chris Swanger. "If this film encourages even one person to reach out, then it's already made a difference."

#### Giving Back as the Film Grows

As part of its mission, the I Survived team has also committed to donating a portion of proceeds from the film to shelters and survivor support services. While exact amounts have not yet been determined — dependent on distribution and performance — the filmmakers say giving back will remain a core part of the project as it expands to wider audiences.

"This film is personal for two reasons; First, a member of my family survived abuse and had to disappear while being hunted. Secondly, a courageous friend of mine shared her story of abuse with me and still lives under a pseudonym. "I Survived" was born from their stories. If giving back helps even one woman escape DV, count me in." Mentioned Brenda Williams

#### A Local Story with National Relevance

Shot in the Sarasota, Florida area, I Survived reflects the team's belief that stories with national relevance often begin locally. Domestic abuse does not discriminate by geography, income, or background — and the filmmakers hope the movie sparks conversations not just nationwide, but right at home.

The film is currently available via JC Film Studios, with broader streaming distribution expected. More information, trailers, and viewing options can be found at: □

<https://www.isurvivedmovie.com>

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