

Full House Greet MR. ADVOCATE at August Premiere, Sparking Conversations About Education, Mental Health and AI

Former educator and filmmaker Stacie McClam celebrates a packed premiere while continuing her mission to use storytelling to raise questions about schools.

BAY AREA, CA, UNITED STATES, August 20, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A full house filled the theater Aug. 15 for the theatrical premiere of [MR. ADVOCATE](#), marking a major milestone for filmmaker and former educator [Stacie McClam](#) and the growing conversation surrounding the film's themes of education, mental health, grief, artificial intelligence and school politics.

The premiere brought audiences together for more than a film screening. It represented the culmination of months of production, planning and outreach — and an opportunity for McClam to see firsthand how viewers responded to a story rooted in issues facing educators, students, families and school communities.

“

I hope that people become aware of something new whether it's mental health, grief, teacher wellness, or school politics,”

Stacie McClam, Filmmaker

whether it's mental health, grief, teacher wellness, or school politics,” McClam said.

For McClam, who worked as an educator before moving into filmmaking, MR. ADVOCATE is an extension of the questions she encountered during her years in and around classrooms. Rather than presenting easy answers, the film is intended to encourage audiences to consider the



MR. ADVOCATE MOVIE CAST at August Premiere

complicated realities behind the policies, technology and personal experiences shaping modern education.

That conversation has become particularly timely as schools across the country begin another academic year while grappling with the expanding role of artificial intelligence, educator wellness, student needs and changing expectations for teachers and administrators.

The Aug. 15 audience offered an early indication that those themes are resonating.

The full-house premiere also represented a significant step in McClam's evolution as an independent filmmaker. In addition to developing and producing the film, McClam took on the responsibility of organizing her first theatrical premiere — an experience she described as another lesson in the many layers required to bring an independent production from concept to audience.

MR. ADVOCATE features a cast that brings the film's educational and human themes to life.

The premiere follows a growing season of visibility for McClam and the film, including media coverage, community outreach and recognition connected to the 2026 Diversity in Cannes Virtual Short Film Showcase.

With the premiere now complete, McClam plans to continue using MR. ADVOCATE as a catalyst for discussion among educators, parents, students, community organizations and others interested in the future of education.

For McClam, success is not simply measured by what audiences see on screen — but by what they begin discussing after the credits roll.



MR. ADVOCATE MOVIE PREMIERE



Filmmaker Stacie McClam and cast discuss the state of education

About MR. ADVOCATE

MR. ADVOCATE is an independent film created by former educator and filmmaker Stacie McClam that explores issues affecting today's educational community, including artificial intelligence, mental health, grief, teacher wellness and school politics. Through narrative storytelling, the film seeks to spark deeper conversations about the human experiences behind the systems and decisions shaping education.

For more information, visit www.mradvocatefilm.com.

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