**What Would You Do?: Mean Girls: 2/26/08**

22:15:51 ACTOR

You're a freak.

22:15:52 ACTOR

You're a nerd. No one likes you.

22:15:53 SAMANTHA GOOBER

Yeah, just get over yourself. No one likes you. You have no friends.

22:15:56 JOHN QUIÑONES, ABC NEWS

(VO) It's the kind of cruelty for which teenage girls are famous.

22:16:00 ACTOR

You're such a loser, Catherine.

22:16:02 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) If you're a woman, you probably remember just how traumatizing this

can be. So, if you encountered this scene on a stroll through the park,

what would you do?

22:16:12 ACTOR

Are you that ashamed of how ugly you are, you don't want us to see you?

22:16:16 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) But these mean girls aren't what they seem. They're actors, and

our hidden cameras are capturing an all-too common and painful adolescent

rite of passage.

22:16:26 ACTOR

Are you gonna cry?

22:16:27 SAMANTHA GOOBER

(Inaudible) your mommy.

22:16:28 ACTOR

Are we being too mean to you?

22:16:30 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) We're watching on monitors from a nearby van. With us, Rosalind

Wiseman, author of "Queen Bees and Wannabes," the book on which the movie

"Mean Girls" was based.

CLIP FROM "MEAN GIRLS"

22:16:39 RACHEL MCADAMS, ACTOR

No. Do you know what everyone says about you? They say that you're a

home-schooled jungle freak who's a less-hot version of me.

22:16:48 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) Two years ago, we tried the same experiment, except the bullies

were boys, and the bullying was physical.

22:16:56 STUDENT

Give me my backpack.

22:16:58 SAMANTHA GOOBER

You are such a loser...

22:16:59 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) But will it be different if the tormentors are throwing insults

instead of punches?

22:17:04 SAMANTHA GOOBER

We're not your friends. You don't have any friends. You're just alone

all the time.

22:17:07 ACTOR

You never, basically...

22:17:08 ACTOR

No one likes you and...

22:17:09 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) The first thing we notice is that many men just keep on walking.

22:17:13 PEDESTRIAN

They weren't getting violent, so that's why I didn't intervene. They

were just calling (inaudible) names.

22:17:18 JOHN QUIÑONES

(OC) If it had gotten physical, you would have...

22:17:19 PEDESTRIAN

I would've jumped in, yes.

22:17:20 ROSALIND WISEMAN, AUTHOR

Why do we have to wait until it gets physical to do something about it?

Does humiliation mean nothing? It's the seeds of what happens when kids

do get physical.

22:17:31 SAMANTHA GOOBER

You are just a waste of air.

22:17:33 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) And she says the damage to a teenage psyche is just as real when

the weapons are words.

22:17:40 PEDESTRIAN

You guys are so mean. Leave her alone.

22:17:43 ACTOR

What are you calling us?

22:17:43 PEDESTRIAN

Three losers and one not loser.

22:17:44 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) This woman passed by moments earlier. But now she's back, joining

another woman who's already stepped up.

22:17:51 ACTOR

Who do you think you are?

22:17:52 KATHLEEN DEUTSCH, PEDESTRIAN

You don't give a (censored by network) who I am.

22:17:53 ACTOR

Oh, okay. Well...

22:17:55 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) Even though they're strangers, the two women work in tandem, one

talking to our victim, while the other one sets the mean girls straight.

22:18:03 MAGGIE MURPHY, PEDESTRIAN

You guys are being so evil and mean. When you grow up, you're gonna be

ashamed of the way you're acting.

22:18:06 KATHLEEN DEUTSCH

That's right. I think the three of you...

22:18:07 MAGGIE MURPHY

Three, very ugly, unattractive people.

22:18:10 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) Then they switch roles.

22:18:12 CATHERINE DADDARIO, VICTIM

Yeah, I - it's, all right.

22:18:12 MAGGIE MURPHY

I'm like, so upset for you. They're very, very evil people.

22:18:15 CATHERINE DADDARIO

It's fine.

22:18:16 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) While a few men scold from the sidelines...

22:18:19 PEDESTRIAN

Hey guys, guys, guys, be nice, guys.

22:18:21 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) ...one after another, women step up to give those girls a piece of

their mind.

22:18:25 ACTORS

Loser. Loser. Loser.

22:18:29 PEDESTRIAN

Why don't you get a life...

22:18:30 ACTOR

Guys, look at her.

22:18:31 PEDESTRIAN

...and leave her alone?

22:18:32 PAT SUMMERS, PEDESTRIAN

Don't you girls have any place else to go?

22:18:34 SAMANTHA GOOBER

You're not my mother.

22:18:35 ACTOR

Who are you?

22:18:35 PAT SUMMERS

Thank God. If I were your mother, I'd knock your head off.

22:18:38 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) And we start to notice something else. We had asked our actors to

keep their language clean. So we're surprised to find out that it's the

adults who are cursing like sailors.

22:18:48 ACTOR

You don't know her, you don't know us.

22:18:48 KATHLEEN DEUTSCH

Because you're mean-spirited bitches.

22:18:50 PEDESTRIAN

Do you know those little (censored by network) ? I'm sorry.

22:18:53 PAT SUMMERS

Because you're (censored by network).

22:18:54 ACTOR

Right here.

22:18:54 SAMANTHA GOOBER

Excuse me?

22:18:55 ACTOR

You have...

22:18:55 PAT SUMMERS

(Censored by network).

22:18:57 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) And then another pattern emerges. Watch this.

22:19:00 MAGGIE MURPHY

Oh, you guys are so cool. You're such losers, it's unbelievable.

22:19:03 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) Grown women reverting to teenagers, becoming mean girls themselves.

22:19:09 DAVID STEIN, PEDESTRIAN

You look like '80s.

22:19:09 LISA STEIN, PEDESTRIAN

Oh, it's so cool to pick on people.

22:19:12 DAVID STEIN

You look like '80s.

22:19:12 LISA STEIN

Oh, my God.

22:19:13 ACTOR

Let's leave this freak. Come on, guys. When the women came up to us and

they'd imitate us completely. And we were like, wow. It was like,

amazing that they would just like come down to our level to try to get

through to us.

22:19:25 SAMANTHA GOOBER

Yeah.

22:19:26 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) Our girls are clearly striking a nerve. And for some, the painful

memories come flooding back.

22:19:33 LISA STEIN

I guess it was - that I was a teenager. I was bullied. Plus, I think I

remember picking on other kids.

22:19:38 DAVID STEIN

You look like '80s.

22:19:38 LISA STEIN

Oh, it's so cool to pick on people. You know, maybe mimicking them or

role-playing kind of thing. I don't know. It must have all just coming

to me, I don't know. I didn't think of it. It just happened.

22:19:48 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) We asked our expert, 'Why such raw emotion?"

22:19:51 ROSALIND WISEMAN

I think it reflects how intense people feel. And also, it's like a

flashback to when they were younger. And when that happens, it can be a

gift because it can really propel you to be courageous and intervene.

22:20:02 ACTOR

You're a loser.

22:20:03 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) But we're about to meet a woman who won't let a few mean girls

rattle her.

22:20:07 ACTOR

Well, at least I need to be getting respect, right?

22:20:09 PEDESTRIAN

This is something that I try to teach my children, too, and they're only

4 and 8, is that if they want respect, they've got to give, they've got to

give respect.

22:20:17 ACTOR

Who cares?

22:20:18 PEDESTRIAN

Well, because I'm a person. I care about another person. And I still

see three girls picking on one girl. How would that make you feel?

22:20:26 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) We had to ask her, is she a psychologist?

22:20:29 PEDESTRIAN

No, I'm just a mom.

22:20:32 PEDESTRIAN

You're being fresh, why don't you knock it off?

22:20:34 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) We're noticing that a lot of women are stepping up, even more than

when the bullies were boys. And our teenage actors say, you don't need a

Ph.D. to understand why.

22:20:44 CATHERINE DADDARIO

Women implant a little idea into your head and it totally messes with

you. And that's - we, that's a skill that we hone.

22:20:52 SAMANTHA GOOBER

Boys bullying and girl bullying is so different. And I think that's why

the women understand it more because it's not - it's not just a punch in

the face and you're friends again. It's like, it's there forever.

22:21:03 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) But now we decide to throw in a twist.

22:21:05 ACTOR

Hey, Catherine, (inaudible) all by yourself over here?

22:21:08 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) What would happen if our girls dress in hoodies and act more

aggressive?

22:21:12 ACTOR

When you least expect it, we're gonna pound your face in.

22:21:15 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) The result? People are much more reluctant to get involved. But

those who do, appeal directly to the victim, Catherine.

22:21:24 MADELINE ADAMI, PEDESTRIAN

Catherine, why don't you just get up and walk away? It's not worth it.

Walk away from them right now.

22:21:29 JOHN BENSHOE, PEDESTRIAN

Don't worry, I've been there before.

22:21:30 PEDESTRIAN

You'll be the one that makes a life out of yourself.

22:21:32 JOHN BENSHOE

The reason they do that is because they don't like themselves.

22:21:35 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) So what's the best approach? Wiseman says it's much better to

confront the aggressors.

22:21:41 ROSALIND WISEMAN

In this situation, if you ask the target, they're probably gonna say,

"I'm fine. I'm fine," because they have to deal with the bullies later.

The adults don't. So it's much more effective to actually say to the

bullies, 'This is what you need to do. You need to stop. You need to

walk over there. I am calling the police."

22:21:57 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) Which is exactly what this man does in no uncertain terms.

22:22:02 SHAWN TAYLOR, PEDESTRIAN

Girls, I'm gonna give you about three minutes to clear this area, okay?

All three.

22:22:07 ACTOR

What are you, the police?

22:22:07 SHAWN TAYLOR

Clear the area. Let's go. Move it. Leave the girl alone or you're

gonna deal with the police.

22:22:11 ACTOR

What if we don't?

22:22:11 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) It's hard to know what to do. But no matter the age, sex or

appearance of the bullies, it's important to do something. And if it's

your child being bullied?

22:22:22 ROSALIND WISEMAN

You say three things. I'm so sorry this is happening to you. Thank you

for telling me. And together, you and I are gonna work this out. And

then they think about exactly what they wanna say to the bully. And then

you strategize with the kid about where you would confront the bully.

22:22:35 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) So who learned more? The people passing by or our actors? Will

you guys watch out for the victims now? Speak up for them more often?

22:22:42 SAMANTHA GOOBER

I've always tried to stick up for people. And it's so hard when your

friends are the ones picking on this girl.

22:22:46 ACTOR

Yeah.

22:22:47 SAMANTHA GOOBER

And it's like you come between you could lose a friendship. Now,

especially from this experience, I will totally stick up, no matter what.

Because seeing people just walk away, I was like, never again. Never

again.

22:22:57 JOHN QUIÑONES

(VO) And from this former mean girl, an apology.

22:23:00 PEDESTRIAN

I regret being so mean to this one boy in my class. Julio, if you're out

there and you're watching, I'm so sorry.