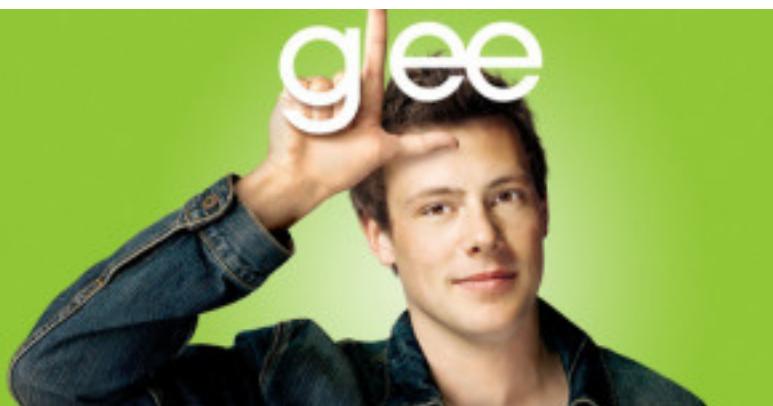


Cory Monteith: Addiction claims another victim



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The definition of glee in part suggests synonyms like amusement, joy, happiness, hilarity. How oxymoronic, really, that an actor from a show called *GLEE* would fall prey to such a tragic life of addiction. Ultimately, Cory Monteith's life was not filled with glee or any variation of the word. It was filled with struggle and addiction. At age 31, Cory's life **ended**. There is nothing joyous or amusing about that.

It may not be a far miss to say that Cory's character (Finn Hudson) on *GLEE* went through transitions and life struggles similar to his real life. Finn appeared in the pilot episode of *GLEE* as the star quarterback – a part of the popular crowd who made fun of the less popular glee club members of the fictional William McKinley High School. Finn struggled with being drawn to dichotomous worlds; he loved being a jock but also had a creative and musical side. He had attractions to both the head cheerleader (Quinn Fabray) and the glee club's female lead (Rachel Berry). Similarly, the actor's real life was full of dichotomy and struggle. He was the child of a divorced mother and father at the early age of 7 and saw little of his father due to his father's military commitment. From my perspective, it makes me wonder what sorts of support systems were in place for Cory. Did he have anyone to talk to about how he felt about the divorce? Did he have a positive male role model in his life? How did his family's struggles affect him as he developed and grew into a young man? Research suggests that Cory began his troubled path

with drug and alcohol dependency as early as age 13 and further conveys that an intervention, lead by his mother, at age 19 resulted in attending a rehabilitation program.

This is troubling from a multitude of perspectives. If he was 13 when the problem started, why did someone not do something for the 6 years before the intervention? SIX years. Speculation may be unfair, not knowing Cory's full family history or what kind of relationship he had with his mother, his estranged father or any of his close friends, but surely someone had to notice the downward spiral that is so evident in the life of an addict. The sad truth is Cory Monteith's family and work peers didn't seem to have the tools to help save him. Or if they did, they may not have learned how to effectively use them.

Intervention is one of the many resources our website straighttalkforparents.org lists as a way in which family and friends can help an addicted person in need. However, it's listed as step #10 on the STRAIGHT TALK STEPS link on the site. Follow this link to the ten STRAIGHT TALK STEPS every parent should know when dealing with a drug addicted child: <http://www.straighttalkforparents.org/straight-talk-steps/it-starts-with-you/>.

From another perspective, I have to wonder why the entertainment industry (film and TV in this particular case) doesn't seem to have a larger presence in regard to prevention and support. Tabloids and entertainment gossip shows are constantly dishing out the dirt on which stars are checking into or getting released from rehabs across the nation. It's sad to realize there isn't much press about what SAG or other industry-related organizations do to help educate or support drug addicted actors and the loved ones affected by their afflictions. Why does it seem the TV and film industry turn a blind eye to these sorts of problems? I can't be the only one that feels this way. If anyone knows of addiction-support related information that may pertain to the entertainment industry, I'd be very interested to know. This would be great information to share with our followers. After all, knowledge is power and the more people know about the resources available to them, the better the chances that someone won't struggle through addiction without the support and help they'd need.

Conceptually, our Drug-Free WorkPlace Solutions program seems like a place to start. I venture a guess that many other states across the nation offer programs like this one. However, I wonder about the kinds of workplaces these programs are servicing. Could something like this work just as well in the entertainment industry? I am of the mindset that any one concept can be tweaked and designed to fit any particular environment. For more information on Drug-Free WorkPlace Solutions, visit: <http://drugfreesolutions.org/>.

For now, if there is anything positive that can come from Cory Monteith's unfortunate death, perhaps it is to shed more light on the need for a greater awareness about addiction and the resources that can be made available to those plagued with it.

Rest in peace Cory. May your soul now be pain-free and clean!



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