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## **Conklin: Documentary puts faces to self-injury phenomenon**

**Melanie Conklin**

[mconklin@madison.com](mailto:mconklin@madison.com)

A year-and-a-half ago, **Wendy Schneider** heard that a friend's daughter had tried to commit suicide. Talking with this friend, Schneider learned that the girl had been deliberately cutting herself for four years. Schneider, the owner of Coney Island Recording Studios and Sparkle Dog production company in Madison, says she hadn't previously heard of the term "self-injury." Now, she knows it well and says it's disturbingly common.

Schneider is in the final stages of making a movie called "CUT: Teens and Self Injury." By interviewing experts, parents and teens, she's learned volumes about the sad and disturbing phenomenon.

"Interviewing my friend's daughter, she told me that out of 125 kids in her school, she knows 25 who cut," says Schneider. "The behavior itself has a very potent, almost addictive quality."

Her movie has star power too. Garbage's **Shirley Manson**, who Schneider says is a "recovered self-injurer," is interviewed. As is rock band Plumb lead singer **Tiffany Arbuckle Lee**, who became aware of the problem from fans on her Web site's message board, which got 5,000 hits on the topic. This led her to record the song "Cut" for her latest album and to link to Schneider's movie site, which is [www.cutthemovie.com](http://www.cutthemovie.com).

Schneider is currently filming the final interviews and hopes to finish by early October. She's also working on lining up the ever-elusive financing and finding a way to distribute the film.

"I could do the festival circuit, that's wonderful, but I want it to reach school nurses, nurses in emergency rooms, teens . . . I would love to go into schools, show this film and speak."