

PREMISE OF THE FILM
“ATHINA: MY CHILDHOOD IS OVER”
revised 10/2/05

Athina is a fourteen-year old girl who is pregnant and preparing to become a mother. Athina understands that her childhood is over and that she will have many new responsibilities. Athina, along with her divorced parents (who also had Athina when they were teenagers), talk candidly about their situation, including the social, economic and emotional impact of this pregnancy.

We follow Athina before she gives birth, as she prepares for her baby shower, the baby shower event, then after the birth when she is in the hospital, then bringing the baby home, and a little of her new daily life with her baby (school, babysitting, etc).

To further complicate the situation, the father of her baby is quite young as well and doesn't seem to want to take responsibility: he keeps expressing doubts that he really is the father. We get the sense that this attitude could be fueled by his mother, who accuses Athina of having slept with many different boys. This creates conflict between the two mothers, resulting in the boy's mother requesting a paternity test. We see Athina being pulled in many different directions.

The conflict culminates on the day of the baby shower: the baby's father unexpectedly calls Athina and announces that, despite their fallout, he wants to attend the shower. Athina's mother refuses. Then the boy's mother requests to throw Athina her own baby shower at the baby's father's house.

The challenge of telling this part of the story is that we never see either the baby's father or his mother on camera. This information is revealed only through phone conversations and in interviews with Athina, her mother and father, each with their varying explanations and perspectives on the situation.

There is a lot of footage and a lot of different approaches you can take with this material. You could focus your story on just the teenage pregnancy following the emotional toils and huge responsibilities involved. You could focus on the baby shower and the conflict that arises when the baby's father decides he wants to attend. You could focus the story on the shared responsibility of a teenage pregnancy--how it goes beyond legal issues and involves the emotions of two young kids and the conflicts of their parents.