

FILMMAKERLIFE

Special Edition 2024

Issue Nr. 60

**CRAFTING
CINEMATIC
DREAMS**

**WHERE
ART
MEETS
FILM**

**ROLF
LINDBLOM**

**REDEFINING
INDEPENDENT CINEMA**



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Monk Arsenije

A film by Svetlana Cemin

DIRECTOR / WRITER: SVETLANA CEMIN PRODUCER: SAINT CLAIR CEMIN CO-PRODUCERS: NEVENA SAVIĆ, IVICA VIDANOVIĆ
ORIGINAL MUSIC: MILOŠ DROBNJAKOVIĆ DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: ĐORĐE STOJILJKOVIĆ, NIAY CONTY; SOUND DESIGN:
MILOŠ DROBNJAKOVIĆ; EDITING: UROŠ MAKSI MOVIĆ; POST-PRODUCTION: CINNAMON FILMS; SOUND GURU STUDIOS



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**AMIRI
THOMPSON**

**CHRISTOPHER "COOLIE"
THOMAS**

**JAMAL
WOOLARD**



IN A WORLD OF CRIME, REDEMPTION COMES AT A PRICE.

Editor's Note

Welcome to a special edition of FilmmakerLife Magazine, dedicated to the visionary filmmaker whose relentless pursuit of artistic excellence has captivated audiences worldwide. In this issue, we shine a spotlight on the extraordinary journey of Rolf Lindblom, a true maverick of independent cinema.



From the inception of his filmmaking career, Lindblom dared to defy convention, embarking on a remarkable odyssey fueled by passion, creativity, and unwavering determination. Selling his possessions to fund his artistic vision, Lindblom's commitment to his craft knows no bounds, as evidenced by his groundbreaking work behind the lens.

In this exclusive feature, we delve into Lindblom's cinematic universe, exploring the genesis of his groundbreaking projects, the challenges he has overcome, and the artistic philosophies that drive his creative endeavors. From experimental web series to feature films imbued with cultural nuances, Lindblom's body of work reflects his

unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of independent filmmaking.

With heartfelt gratitude, we extend our thanks to you and all who contributed to this edition of **FilmmakerLife Magazine**. This issue is a tribute to exceptional artists and storytellers, advocates of cultural transformation, and champions of positive social change. As we celebrate the splendor of our communities, we also envision brighter futures.

We believe that artists are the true storytellers of our time. They navigate the realms of love and truth, reclaiming their pasts with boldness and adorning them with vibrant hues. Their creations transcend boundaries and languages, weaving together a universal tapestry of shared human experiences. Together, we shape history.

Through the imaginative marvels of **FilmmakerLife's** creators and their pioneering works, we connect with audiences worldwide. Their perspectives introduce us to new cultural dimensions, enriching our cherished community. Films have the power to unlock new realms within our hearts and minds.

The FilmmakerLife Magazine



We warmly invite you to embark on this thrilling adventure with us. By participating, you become an integral part of our collective history, infused with inspiration, creativity, and the resilient spirit of **FilmmakerLife**.

Let your brilliance shine forth, embracing your unique voice and vision. Your personal contributions and creativity are woven into this remarkable narrative. Welcome to **The FilmmakerLife Magazine**, a sanctuary where inspiration merges seamlessly with creativity. May this issue enlighten and entertain you, much like the outstanding creations of our filmmakers have captivated the world.

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A Canadian multi-award winning music artist, composer, songwriter, DJ, and producer.

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WINNER
L A F A
LOS ANGELES FILM AWARDS
2021

WINNER
ACCORD
CINE FEST
OCTOBER
2021

WINNER
BEST UNPRODUCED
SCRIPT
BROADSTAIRS FFI
2021

AWARD WINNER
VENICE SHORTS
FILM AWARDS

WINNER
Tokyo
International
Monthly Film
Festival
2022

WINNER
BEST UNPRODUCED
SCRIPT
Hollywood
International Golden
Age Festival
2021

WINNER
BEST FEATURE SCRIPT
HOLLYWOOD
INTERNATIONAL
GOLDEN AGE FESTIVAL
2022

2021
AIMAFF
HONORABLE
MENTION

NOMINATED
NICE
International
Film Festival
2022

NOMINATED
Festigious Los
Angeles - Monthly
Film Competition
2021

PRISMA

AWARD WINNER

ONIRO
FILM AWARDS
New York

ZUMRUT

Inspired by True Events
Sena Tunali Films
Presents
Coming Soon

NOMINEE
BEST SCREENPLAY
LONELY WOLF
LONDON INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2021

NOMINEE
GOLDEN EARTH
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THE TRAIL IS NEVER PAVED SHURA

A FILM BY DAVID DAMIAN FIGUEROA
AND KAYVON DERAK SHANIAN
SHURA WALLIN RANDY MAYER
STEVE FELDMAN RICHARD RAMIREZ
RITA HENNINGER DANKS
AND JAIME BRUSSTAR
EDITED BY ZACH TAYLER
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PEPE SERNA
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY
DAVID DAMIAN FIGUEROA
AND KAYVON DERAK SHANIAN

VICTORIA
FAALE

MAXIMILIANO
LUCIUK

Michael R Productions
presents
A FILM BY
MICHAEL RINGDAL

BRAVE

SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO BE BRAVE

VICTORIA FAALE MAXIMILIANO LUCIUK FINN SCHEFFMAN CHRIS JUAREZ GABRIELA CANTOS SAM MIKAELSSON
ANTONELA DEL REY KARL ADRIAN RINGDAL & INTRODUCING CAROLINA RUDSKI AS RED. PRODUCED BY
TONY LLAPI. CINEMATOGRAPHY BY PABLO MARTIN CARRASCO. SOUND BY JIRKKA JURVANEN.
EDITING BY JIRKKA JURVANEN. WRITTEN, PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY MICHAEL RINGDAL

Rolf Lindblom: A Maverick Filmmaker's Journey through Art and Independence



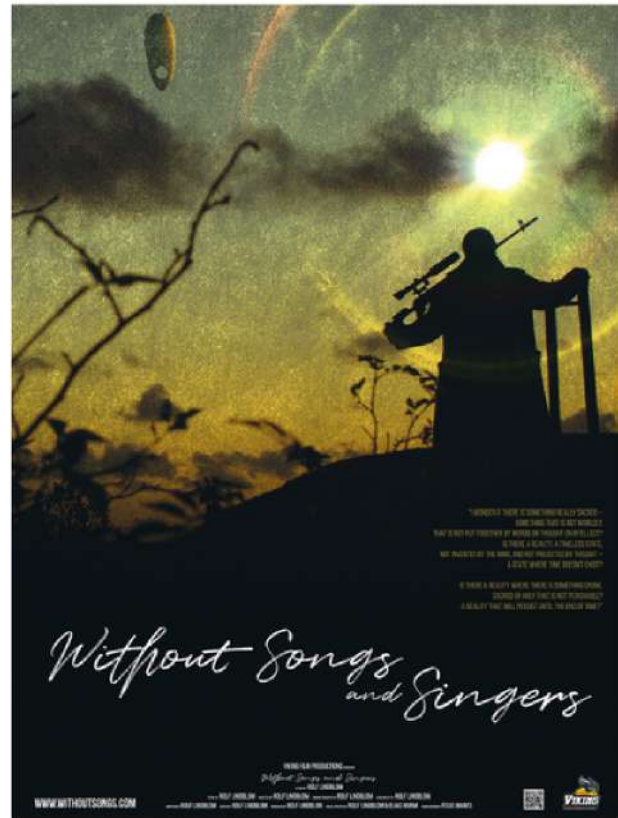
In the vast landscape of independent filmmaking, Rolf Lindblom stands out as a true maverick, crafting his unique cinematic universe with an unwavering commitment to creativity and artistic expression. Lindblom, a Finnish filmmaker, embarked on his extraordinary journey by selling his car and possessions to fund the purchase of a high-quality camera and lenses, marking the beginning of a career that would redefine the boundaries of independent cinema.

Lindblom's distinctive approach to filmmaking is characterized by his use of cutting-edge equipment, shooting all his films on the RED Dragon and employing Schneider-Kreuznach Xenon FF-Primes. This dedication to technical excellence is a testament to Lindblom's pursuit of perfection in every frame, a commitment that has garnered him international recognition and acclaim.



Beyond the lens, Lindblom is a multifaceted artist with a passion for abstract art, evident not only in his paintings and sculptures but also in the visual language of his films. The intersection of visual arts and cinema is a recurring theme in Lindblom's work, creating a seamless integration of his diverse artistic influences into the fabric of his storytelling.

Lindblom's foray into filmmaking began with his short film "Awakening" in 2018, a production that garnered attention and accolades at international film festivals. Following this success, he delved into the experimental realm with the web series "End Unsung" (2018-2020), earning even more recognition and awards from web series film festivals worldwide.



The pinnacle of Lindblom's career so far is his first feature film, "Without Songs and Singers," completed in January 2022. Remarkably, Lindblom not only directed the film but also played the main character, showcasing his belief that every filmmaker should experience the solitary journey of shooting a feature film on their own. The film, predominantly shot in Russian, faced unexpected challenges related to the geopolitical landscape, revealing the complex interplay between art and politics in the world of film festivals.



Despite facing adversity, Lindblom remains resolute in keeping his films apolitical, drawing inspiration from one of his favorite directors, Andrei Tarkovski. Lindblom's dedication to storytelling devoid of political influence is a refreshing stance in an industry often entangled with socio-political narratives.

Currently, Lindblom is eagerly awaiting the release of his second featurette, "KOSMOS," a film entirely crafted by his hands, with sound and music contributions from his collaborator, Felix Marks. The film, shot in Finland and Austria and presented in English, promises to be a visual and auditory feast for audiences around the globe.



Looking forward, Lindblom continues to push the boundaries of his artistry, recently completing the shooting of his next feature film, "Birch/Birth." Set against the backdrop of Finnish folklore and beliefs, the film explores themes of horror, mystery, and drama, with Lindblom choosing to stay behind the camera and entrust the lead



roles to his friends Felix Marks and Ines Rettensteiner, both accomplished musicians and actors.


As Lindblom begins the editing process for "Birch/Birth" in February 2024, he is already gearing up for his next venture, a featurette titled "Diamonds, Diamonds from the Sky." This ambitious project explores the harrowing journey of a cop and ex-drug addict entangled in the depths of drug-related intrigue and extraterrestrial encounters. With Lindblom's scripts constantly evolving during shooting and editing, "Diamonds, Diamonds from the Sky" promises to be a thrilling exploration of the human psyche against a backdrop of science fiction.

In an industry often driven by commercial considerations, Rolf Lindblom's commitment to artistic integrity, independence, and storytelling prowess is a beacon of inspiration for aspiring filmmakers worldwide. As Lindblom continues to carve his path through the dynamic world of independent cinema, his journey serves as a testament to the transformative power of art and the boundless possibilities that emerge when one dares to dream beyond convention.



Connect with Rolf Lindblom

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No.1 on Amazon 





BASED ON THE ACCLAIMED BOOK BY STEVE SNYDER



IT IS OUR DUTY TO REMEMBER...

SHOT DOWN

HOWARD SNYDER AND THE B-17 SUSAN RUTH

A FILM BY MICHAEL R. MAZUR

A MEMPHIS MOVIE PRODUCTION
WRITER - ANGELA D. GREEN | DIRECTOR - DARIUS WALLACE

5TH STEP

CONFESSION HEALS THE SOUL
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**COMING
SOON!**

Funded in part through OL:M's participation in the Elevate Initiative, powered by Frontline Solutions and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

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Can Lisa N Edwards change the way films are funded?



Lisa N Edwards

In Lisa N Edwards's world, technology and creativity converge. As the film industry undergoes a transformative shift with the rise of NFT Films, an unparalleled opportunity for innovation unfolds. Let's delve into the visionary world of Lisa N Edwards, from actress to agent to writer, producer and cryptocurrency influencer and trader, a multifaceted entrepreneur and filmmaker whose groundbreaking project, COINRUNNERSMOVIE.COM is set to redefine Film Financing with NFTs.

Coming from a cryptocurrency perspective, Lisa is on a mission to revolutionise the film financing paradigm

by introducing an NFT funding model that transcends the complexities and illiquidity of traditional methods. This novel approach breaks down barriers that have historically limited opportunities for diverse and original storytelling in the film industry. Lisa tells us, "This is just what Indyfilm needs!"

While most of us don't understand cryptocurrency and Bitcoin, Lisa aims to make it simple with her COINRUNNERSMOVIE.COM project. She is unveiling a revolutionary NFT funding model, leveraging non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and blockchain technology. With this innovative approach, distinct from traditional film financing, COINRUNNERS is set to democratise film funding, offering a more inclusive and lucrative environment for both investors and filmmakers, by allowing sales of "Movie Shares" before the film is complete, allowing for a liquid environment.

Connect with Lisa N Edwards

visualmediagroup.com.au



lisanedwards.com



coinrunnersmovie.com



@LisaNEdwards



Lisa N Edwards

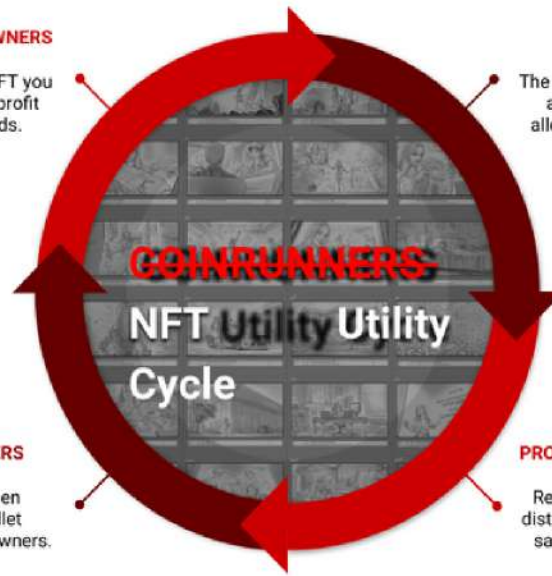


COINRUNNERS NFT OWNERS

Each COINRUNNERS NFT you own entitles you to a profit share of the proceeds.

MOVIE PRODUCED

The movie is produced and any additional NFT perks are allocated (for e.g. red carpet premiere tickets).



PAID TO NFT OWNERS

The proceeds are then distributed to all wallet addresses of the NFT owners.

PROFIT SHARE GENERATED

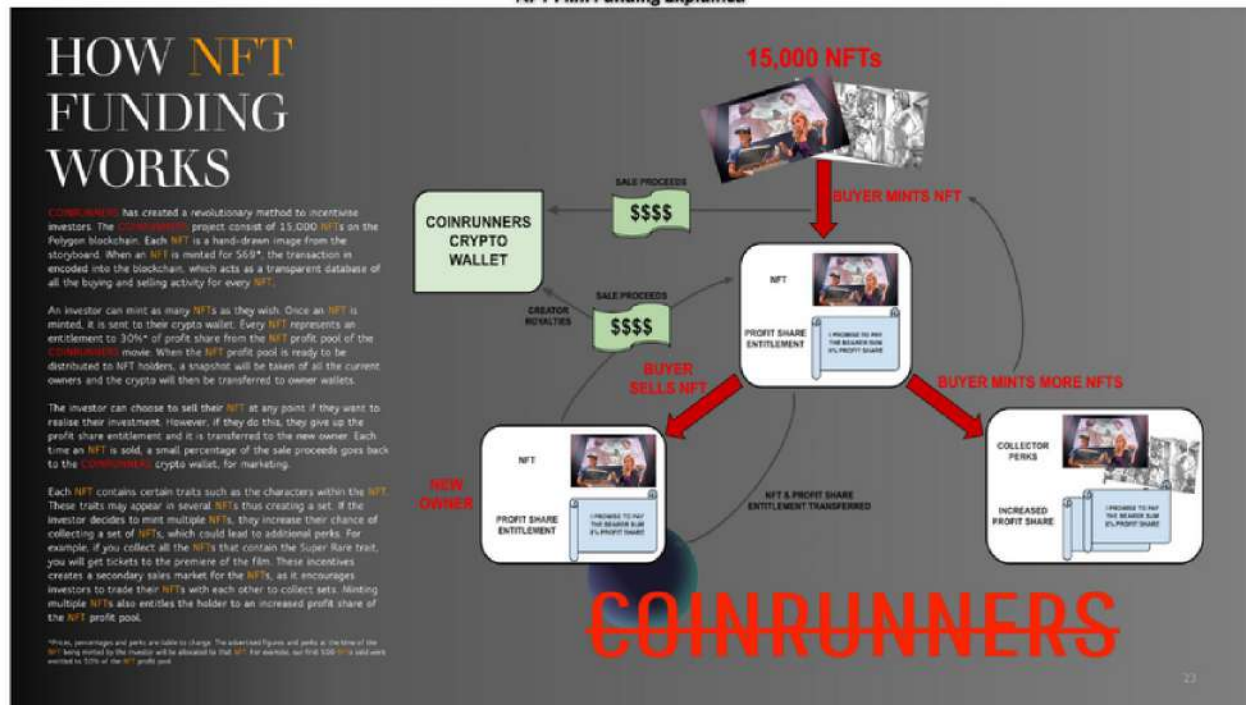
Revenue is generated from distribution to cinemas, ticket sales, streaming sales and blockchain licensing.

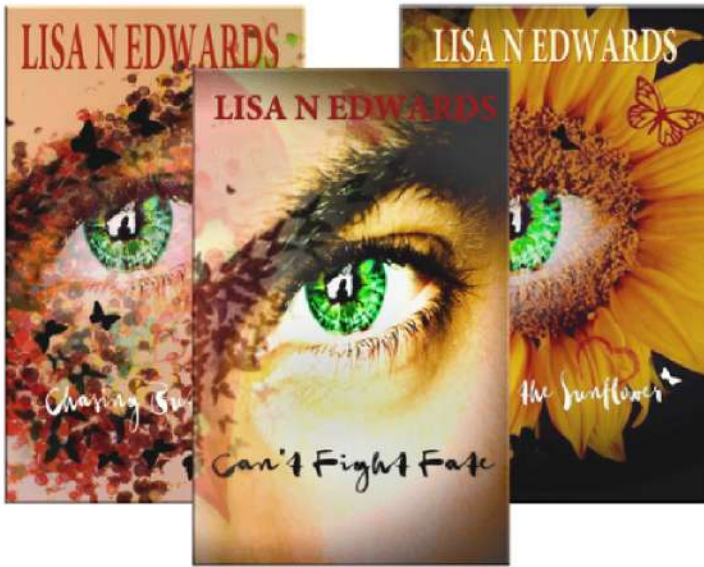
The NFT Funding Model Unveiled by COINRUNNERSMOVIE.COM

Lisa explains, "Most investors know when they invest in traditional funding, their money is locked up and can't be transferred. What's great about NFT Film funding is that the NFTs can be bought and sold before the film even reaches cinemas or a streaming platform."

The introduction of NFT ownership introduces a dynamic profit-sharing structure, allowing NFT owners to resell their rights and potentially profit from their investments. The innovative "Payback Waterfall" process, developed by the COINRUNNERSMOVIE.COM team, stands at the core of this model. It collects revenues generated by the film and distributes net profits to NFT holders based on their ownership shares, creating a vibrant ecosystem that supports the film's success.

NFT Film Funding Explained





Can't Fight Fate Series

Her dynamic entertainment industry career journey from actress to talent agency owner to a prolific writer and producer showcases a unique blend of creativity and business acumen.

Edwards' book ideas are influenced by her past with what she likes to call a "psychic junkie phase", which led to the creation of the "Can't Fight Fate" book series and a TV pilot.

Amidst her diverse portfolio of scripts, Her co-written feature psychological thriller, **BLINK**, adds another layer to her creative legacy, weaving a gripping tale that delves into the intricacies of the human mind, leaving audiences on the edge of their seats with its suspenseful twists and thought-provoking narrative about 4 women on the brink of death with the choice to pick who lives or dies, and **HAWAIIAN NO PINEAPPLE**, a whimsical teenage story, unfolds as a captivating narrative exploring the adventures of early teenage friends as they embark on a journey to solve a neighbourhood mystery.

Beyond her creative endeavours, Lisa N Edwards is a prominent figure in the cryptocurrency space. As an early adopter, influencer, and co-owner of platforms Gettingstartedincrypto.com and ThousandToMillion.com, she brings over 25 years of experience in traditional stocks, commodities, and now exclusively cryptocurrency.



COINRUNNERS emerged from her merging worlds of storytelling and cryptocurrency. A true life experience Lisa lived to tell.

COINRUNNERS, spearheaded by Lisa N Edwards, transcends traditional film financing by fusing creativity with blockchain technology.

The feature film "COINRUNNERS," positioned as a dramatic thriller comparable to "Molly's Game," "Wolf of Wall Street," and "The Big Short," tells the gripping story of a successful cryptocurrency trader navigating the complexities of the market and personal relationships.

With an indomitable spirit and diverse expertise, Lisa has seamlessly navigated various facets of the entertainment industry, leaving a lasting impact in every venture she undertakes. From her early days as an actress to the ownership of a talent agency, Lisa's journey reflects a rare fusion of creative intuition and entrepreneurial drive. Her foray into cryptocurrency, where she stands as a co-owner of influential platforms like [Gettingstartedincrypto.com](https://www.gettingstartedincrypto.com) and [ThousandToMillion.com](https://www.thousandtomillion.com), attests to her forward-thinking approach.

Lisa's influence extends far beyond the film industry. COINRUNNERS is the latest chapter in her illustrious career; it not only represents a groundbreaking initiative in film financing but also exemplifies Lisa's commitment to pushing boundaries and shaping the future of both cinema and technology.

As the film industry undergoes a transformative embrace of blockchain and NFTs, COINRUNNERS, under Lisa N Edwards' guidance, stands at the forefront of this movement.

Did we mention the COINRUNNERS script has 25 awards?





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PHOENIX WASHINGTON

CHRISTOPHER SMITH

AS REAL
AS "REAL TALK" GETS.



A LEG UP

A SHORT FILM BY JOE JENNINGS, JR.

BLINDED BY AMBITION PRESENTS... A LEG UP

STARRING PHOENIX WASHINGTON CHRISTOPHER SMITH

CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOE JENNINGS, JR. & SEAN FREELON CINEMATOGRAPHY BY DEREK BAUER WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOE JENNINGS, JR.

Yuuki O.T.: The Embodiment of Minimal Movement and Contemporary Art in Dance



In the realm of traditional Japanese Kamigata dance, Yuuki O.T. emerges as a figure of profound artistic influence, skillfully blending the minimalistic movements of this age-old art form with contemporary expression. Her journey, showcased in this edition of FilmmakerLife Magazine, is a captivating narrative of cultural tradition meeting modern innovation.

Yuuki's artistic foundation was laid in childhood with dance and tea ceremony, enriched by academic pursuits in architecture, garden design, and landscape at Tokyo University of the Arts. This diverse

background granted her a unique perspective in dance, allowing her to meld traditional Japanese aesthetics with broader artistic concepts.

Her career milestone in 2009 with "Tears of Eos" at Asahi Art Square, Tokyo, marked her as a versatile talent in both dance and film. 2012 further showcased her prowess with her dance photography exhibition at Italy's "Wallpaper Dance" festival and her "Camellia" performance at Japan's Beppu Contemporary Art Festival.

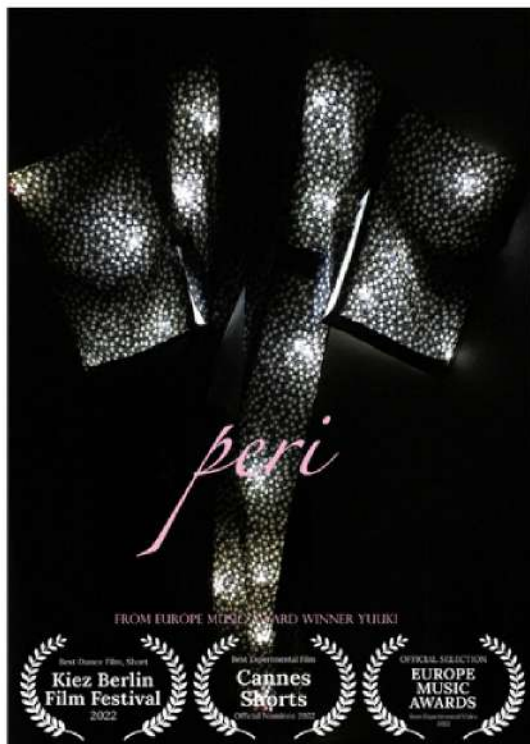


Yuuki's 2013 collaboration with filmmaker Kei T. led to the creation of "aquarium," a dance film that beautifully encapsulated minimal movement and narrative depth. Celebrated globally, it was featured at numerous international festivals, including "Agite y Sirva" in Mexico and "Festival International de Video Danse de Bourgogne" in France. The film was screened in various cities worldwide, from Puebla, Mexico, to Barcelona, Spain, and New Jersey, USA.

Yuuki's reach extended further with "aquarium" being broadcast on ikono TV, making her art accessible in over 30 countries. Her innovative approach to traditional Japanese dance and contemporary cinema techniques garnered global acclaim.



Stage photo of "tears of Eos" (2009, Tokyo)



The release of "peri" in 2021 marked a pinnacle in Yuuki's artistic experimentation. Inspired by traditional Japanese dance movements, this film was intended for an audience beyond Earth. Screened at international festivals across continents, "peri" won several awards, including the Best Dance Short Film at the Kiez Berlin Film Festival and the Best Experimental Film at the Slovak "EUROPE MUSIC AWARD." It also received an "Honorable Mention" at the Budapest Film Festival.



Yuuki's work reflects a deep reverence for traditional Japanese dance forms, reinterpreted in modern contexts. Her films are not just exhibitions of dance but immersive experiences combining visual art, architecture, and narrative. She communicates complex emotions and stories through minimalist motion, creating a dialogue between the past and the present.

Her performances are more than just visual feasts; they are experiences that evoke contemplation and emotional engagement. Yuuki's impact extends beyond the arts, bringing traditional Japanese dance to a global audience and fostering cross-cultural understanding. Her ability to convey cultural heritage while embracing global artistic expressions is a testament to her role as a cultural ambassador.



Yuuki's artistic language transcends mere performance, bridging cultural heritage and contemporary art. Her meticulous choreography, selection of complementary music, and visual storytelling captivate audiences, inviting them into a world of nuanced expression and subtle emotion.

Each performance is an invitation to delve into the world of traditional Japanese dance, reimagined through a contemporary lens.

Her influence in the dance and film world is significant, contributing to the arts and promoting traditional Japanese dance on a global platform. Yuuki's work exemplifies the power of dance as a universal language, capable of connecting different cultures and times.

In summary, Yuuki O.T.'s journey is a compelling tale of artistic excellence, showcasing the fusion of tradition and modernity. Her work demonstrates the endless possibilities of creative expression, transforming the minimal into the magnificent. Yuuki's story is not just about dance but about the relentless pursuit of artistic expression and the power of traditional art in the contemporary world. Her future endeavors continue to captivate, as she transforms traditional art forms into transcendent experiences.



Connect with Yuuki O.T.

- 📷 [yuu_ki.jp](https://www.instagram.com/yuu_ki.jp)
- 🎬 [Yuuki O.T.](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1045744/)
- 🌐 [artist.yuuki-gallery.net](https://www.artist.yuuki-gallery.net)



*Japanese Traditional Dance Film
Directed and Dance by Yuuki
Camera: Kei T.*

aquarium



A PERSONAL ACCOUNT FROM A ROYAL MARINE

THE ROYAL
MARINES
DISPOSITION

FROM DEFEAT
TO VICTORY

JOHN ALDEN



As Organism - Synopsis

Join Rachel Sellers and Alan Watts for a journey in scale from the subatomic world to the edge of the cosmos as they open your eyes to the possibilities of the universe as a single organism.

With this understanding of the world around us we can learn to comprehend our perceived enemies point of view and hopefully treat our fellow man a little better. There isn't much hope for society and civilization as we know it if we cant get along. We are in the midst of a global societal collapse and it is important to show films like this so we can possibly slow it down and maybe even stop it before its too late. STOP HATING PEOPLE BEFORE YOU MEET THEM. Please?

Cast/Crew

Director: Moe Taylor

Writer: Moe Taylor

Cast:

Ray Garner, Matt Lehnert and Rachel Sellers

Producer: Moe Taylor

Assistant Director: Kathryn Taylor

Cinematography: Moe Taylor

Sound: Moe Taylor

Editor: Moe Taylor

Animation Department:

Ekta Ratnakar and Moe Taylor

Specifications

Primary Genre: Documentary

Secondary Genre: Short, Television

Country: United States

Language: English

Year: 2021

FILM REVIEW



Written, directed, edited and produced by Moe Taylor, 'As Organism' is a high concept short film that seeks to take its audience on a journey from the subatomic world to the edge of the cosmos as it opens the possibilities of the existence of the universe as a single, connected As Organism. Narrated by Rachel Sellers, 'As Organism' seeks to broaden the horizons of human understanding regarding their place in the cosmos. Does it succeed in this regard? Only time will tell but Moe Taylor's short manages to impress in more ways than one.

It is commonly seen that films with such lofty ideals and high concepts often get muddled in the wake of their own exposition and end up far short of where they ought to be. However, As Organism manages to buckle this trend with ease; Moe Taylor's film uses the perfect blend of visuals, narrative cohesion and exposition to clearly elucidate what it is trying to achieve. The result is a product that is both easy on the eyes and stimulating for the mind;

a combination rarely achieved in the industry plagued by recycled stories made for the lowest common denominator.

For all of the film's various home runs, it is also true that some of the ideas presented in the film are complex for some. However, the brilliance of the production lies in the fact that Moe is able to weave the narration in such a way that these aspects and arguments seem highly plausible. Using science and logic, 'As Organism' also dives into complicated theories of physics and uses them to further its plot, impressing with a level of sophistication seldom seen in works of such genre.



In tandem with presenting such big ideas, the film has an equally expansive visual scope. Brilliantly using stock footage to follow along with the narration, Moe Taylor uses the visual medium to make an absolutely banger of a film. Each frame is carefully selected to support the narration and the tight editing makes the two seamlessly flow together. The animation that is used in tandem with the stock footage is equally impressive and all of these gimmicks are perfectly edited in a sequence that feels logical. Accompanying the fantastic visuals is the mesmerising score and sound editing which gives a truly epic cinematic feel to what we are witnessing onscreen.



To conclude, 'As Organism' is a fascinating film. Not only is it anchored by a great central theme, the execution of its central idea is what makes it tick. The film will make you pause and nudge you to think of what it means to exist here and now, where we are heading and what awaits us in the future. As Organism is science fiction futurism done right and it ends up both impressing and inspiring the audience.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY



Moe Taylor began his film career as a broadcast journalist in the United States Navy where he had the opportunity to film news stories in over forty countries. After that he moved on to a producer position for NBC before settling into freelance work for his husband and wife production studio BrainDagger Films. He has always been interested in mind expanding documentaries about the secrets of the universe and is proud to add his own voice to the genre.

5.0
RATING



KNOWLEDGE IS GOOD
BRAINDAGGER FILMS PRESENTS

AS ORGANISM

A FILM BY MOE TAYLOR



DIRECTED BY MOE TAYLOR STARRING RACHEL SELLERS, RAY GARNER,
MATT LEHNERT LEAD ANIMATION BY EKTA RATNAKAR
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR KATHRYN E F TAYLOR PRODUCED BY BRAINDAGGER FILMS



change



a film by joe jennings jr

BLINDED BY AMBITION PRESENTS...CHANGE

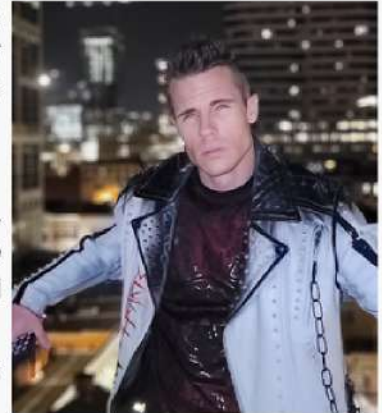
STARRING KAREN DUVAL JAMILA GRAY TODD DANIEL NATHAN CLAY

CO-PRODUCED BY JOE JENNINGS, JR. & SEAN FREELON FOR BLINDED BY AMBITION ENTERTAINMENT

PRODUCED BY ZETTLER CLAY IV CINEMATOGRAPHY BY DEREK BAUER WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOE JENNINGS, JR.

Discovering the Creative Odyssey **MATTHEW DAVIS, AKA NO JULIET**

Ladies and gentlemen, today we have the privilege of sitting down with the multi-talented Matthew Davis, also known as No Juliet. With a career spanning acting, music, filmmaking, and more, we're about to embark on a fascinating journey into his life and artistry. Welcome, Matthew.



Matthew, your artistic journey has been nothing short of extraordinary. Could you share with us how you discovered your passion for the various facets of the entertainment industry, from acting to music and filmmaking?

My fascination with the entertainment industry stems all the way from when I was six years old. Some of my earliest memories are me begging my mom to let me watch the new Van Damme movie that just released, because they're a tad violent, and that inspired me to get into the martial arts at a very young age and also start practicing my acting abilities. Even though I had no idea what I was doing, luck would have it that it did pay off a few years later. I went to an audition at John Robert Powers Talent Agency in Los Angeles and out of roughly 10,000 kids they were going to choose one girl and one boy for a full ride scholarship through their modeling and acting program. I was the boy they chose which blew me away. That solidified the idea in my mind and I knew I was meant to entertain. I've been chasing the dream ever since.



Your music has garnered awards from 'Best Original Song' to 'Best Music Video' at festivals worldwide. Can you tell us about the significance of these accolades in your career and creative journey?

I'd say they are very significant for the fact that I'm a man who wears many hats. Most of the people that see my content and hear my music think I have a team of people working under me and that's not entirely accurate. Although I do outsource tasks from time to time, the majority of my

work I do myself. The old saying "if you want something done right, you have to do it yourself", is something I live by. A lot of people say I'm a perfectionist however I just know the end result I'm looking for and I won't stop working at it until the project is there. Awards are equivalent to recognition. They show me the work I've done connects with others, in a meaningful way. I look at it as if something I do earns an award, that award is for the fans and the people who helped me get the project there. They certainly inspire me to continue forward. I just released a new original single 'No Way' and my music just keeps on getting better.

Overcoming addiction and serious near-death experiences is no small feat.

How have these challenges influenced your music and the message you hope to convey to your audience?

My goal in anything that I do is always pretty much the same. It is to show other people who have been where I have been, or are still there, that no matter how low your rock bottom may be, if you are still breathing you have the ability to change the outcome of your life. My redemption was a way for me to reinvent myself.





Moving from acting to music in your teens is a significant shift. What motivated this transition, and how did it impact your creative direction?

When I was in middle school I started singing and recording my music, made demo CDs to hand out to people at school. I've always had a passion for music as long as I can remember. Music helped save my life so many times. When I was younger, I didn't fathom I could do both acting and music so I had made up my mind in my early teens that I was going to succeed at music regardless of anything else I did in my life. I watched my mom start a band in LA and I watched them break up, and the aftermath of what happened. I felt obligated to become successful as a recording artist. In some ways I'm doing it for her, especially since she made the sacrifice to give up her own musical dreams in order to raise me. I watched my single mom, work three jobs most of my life just to keep food on the table and a roof over our heads. It made the thought of failing unbearable.



I lived a life for almost a decade that I was not proud of, and I truly didn't even recognize myself. So, in the process of my videography, writing music, learning audio engineering, and becoming a father I was able to find myself once again. No matter how careless I once was, the fact is something greater than myself kept bringing me back. Eventually you start to understand there's no such thing as a coincidence. So, there's a reason much larger than myself as to why I'm here, talking to you now. That is all I know for sure. The rest, I simply try to maintain a good moral compass and be the best version of myself I can possibly be. Everything else seems to fall in place.



Serving in the Army is an impressive commitment to your country. How has your military experience informed your music and filmmaking, especially in addressing veteran-related issues?

I was an army brat, both my mother and father were in the military, so I felt obligated to serve in the armed forces as well. We were still at war in the Middle East when I enlisted at 17, and I felt a calling to do what I could for my country. I didn't get to serve as long as I wanted to due to a serious injury, and I was honorably discharged. Many veterans end up with addiction and PTSD from serving and once they're discharged there aren't a whole lot of options for them to get the mental help they need.

The veterans I'm talking about are at war mentally with themselves, and that's a war I know all too well. I'm hopeful my story can inspire some of them and I can help by building a platform and using it to create awareness for the veterans' issues.

You've earned a black belt in two martial arts disciplines and now pass on those lessons to your daughter. How do martial arts principles tie into your life and creative journey?

Martial arts, very literally, saved my life as a young teen growing up without a dad (he left when I was four) and I had no positive male role models in my life. I think it takes a man to show a boy how to become a man. That is what the grandmaster I trained under did for me. Not only did it keep me focused on something positive but it taught me many things like integrity, honor, humbleness, patience and courage. I was undiagnosed ADHD growing up and martial arts helped me learn ways to overcome that setback and clear that hurdle in my life. I then was able to turn that condition into a strength because I am able to focus on something a lot longer than most people. In a world where our attention spans are getting shorter, I encourage anyone to try martial arts. I hope my daughter can learn as I did to stand up for what is right and become a stronger person as well.

Your hand-painted leather jackets have gained recognition from celebrities and influencers. How did this unique merchandise line come about, and what do you hope it brings to your brand?

It's funny you ask that because to be honest my very first, hand painted



leather jacket was done almost five years ago because I couldn't afford to buy one at the time. I never would have thought it would have grown into what it is today. There are only a few people in the world that do what I do, it's a very niche market. We send jackets all over the world and have a long list of celebrities and influencers that are waiting on jackets so it's a developing brand that has taken on a life of its own. I finally struck a deal and have just released my own 'No Juliet' branded leather jackets which are great quality with lots of great features. Over the years I've really been able to perfect the process and they make one of the best personalized unique gifts. I also started to branch out and paint other leather products like purses, boots, and shoes. When I linked my jackets to my music and made them the same brand it really



Your media company, Artistic Lens Media, seems to be a new venture. Could you describe the types of projects you're involved in and your vision for this company?

I've always had a very cinematic imagination. I can see things in my head and then I try to bring those thoughts into reality by working with what's in front of me. I was making so many commercials, and social media content, and music videos for other people and businesses that it just made sense to start a company. It also allows me to share my skills with other businesses who like my content and want something similar for their own brand. I am currently working on projects for multiple businesses including just wrapping on a commercial for Lamborghini of Sarasota I love to shoot visually amazing content that will leave an impression with whoever sees it. Although I'm still very early in my filmmaking journey, one day, Artistic Lens Media will be a very well-known brand.



started taking off at that point. My wearable art is something unique that no other artist in the world does. A lot of people are blown away when they find out I sing, act, paint, and do all of my own video production and content creation. It's not something I can take all the credit for, there is something much greater than myself that is driving me in the direction that I'm headed.



"From near death to never more alive... from the fire comes new life."
This quote is powerful and emblematic of your journey. Can you share a pivotal moment or turning point that encapsulates this sentiment for you?

When we were branding 'No Juliet' I tried to think of a slogan that could embody the depth of the pain I had experienced throughout my life and then the feeling of coming out of that pain and making it my armor and transforming it to something beautiful. The Phoenix and Cross in my logo also represent this. One of the most traumatic experiences I've ever been through was coming out of the gas station and getting into the car to find the person I was with blue, and unresponsive. I remember how frantic I was and how loud I yelled their name. I don't think I've ever yelled that loud in my life trying to wake



them. But it didn't work. I remember dragging them out of the car onto the pavement and everybody standing around looking at us wondering what had happened. I remember performing CPR until I could barely lift my arms and the paramedics that arrived told me if it wasn't for what I had done the person would not have made it. This was a huge wakeup call in my life and, in many ways, changed the trajectory in which I was heading. The final moment everything changed was when I was DJing at a nightclub and someone slipped something into my drink. I'm not sure if they were trying to do me a favor or hurt me, all I know is the next thing I remember is waking up in the ER, with no one around me not knowing where I was. The nurse told me I had been dead for three minutes. It was at that moment things clicked in my head and I realized if I kept living the way I was, I wasn't going to live much longer. It's trauma like this that many people in recovery have been through and that same trauma that keeps us from

returning to that life. "From near death to never more alive" explains how I have died before- due to my addiction- and how I was able to get sober and overcome it and feel more alive than I ever have... With the help of my higher power and my recovery. "From the fire comes new life" simply means sometimes it takes walking through hell in order to truly be reborn. We fall so that we learn how to pick ourselves back up again. This is the key to everything in life.

What advice would you give to aspiring artists and creatives who look up to your journey and seek to navigate the entertainment industry with as much passion and resilience as you have?

My advice: Don't burn bridges, always do good business, and make sure your motives are pure. If you are solely motivated by money or fame you will most likely quit before you make it. Yes, those things can be perks, but you will never make it to that point if you're only worried about monetary gain. Do what you do because you love it and always try to be authentic, not chasing trends or trying to be like anyone else. Eventually things will fall in place if you don't give up. Surround yourself with people who are supportive of what you're trying to do. Cut off the ones who are negative and tell you to, "be realistic". These people will not help you in any way, only hurt you and discourage you from your goal.



Also build a network of people who share the same common goal as you do. Stay positive, if you're down then guess what? It's only up from here.

You can listen to the newest single, 'No Way', music, jackets, and other merchandise at: nojuliet.com

Thank you, Matthew, for sharing your incredible journey and insights with us today. Your story is truly inspiring, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for you.

Explore Matthew Davis's latest single, "No Juliet- No Way", along with its official music video. You can manually type the title on YouTube or visit the following URL:

<https://youtu.be/7mGlqejM0ac?si=-WFrk5ERnoYAOZKD>.





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Amber Dawn Lee: The Unconventional Visionary of Filmmaking



In an industry often characterized by its adherence to traditional narratives and established norms, Amber Dawn Lee stands out as a paragon of rebellion and innovation. Her journey through the world of filmmaking is not just a career path; it's a testament to her unwavering spirit and unique vision, a story that unfolds like a motion picture, vivid and unapologetically authentic.

A Life Framed by the Lens: The Making of a Maverick

The seeds of Amber Dawn Lee's love for filmmaking were sown in her childhood, nurtured by her father's habit of capturing moments through photography. This early exposure to the art of visual storytelling shaped her perspective on life, encouraging her to view her experiences as a series of cinematic scenes, each with its own narrative and emotional depth. This unique outlook is not just a coping mechanism; it's a radical approach to storytelling that has set her apart in the industry.

Embracing the Digital Era: Vlogging and Beyond

As the film industry evolves with technological advancements, Amber Dawn Lee has adeptly embraced the digital age. Her venture into vlogging and online content creation, exemplified by her successful short film "Hookers For Jesus," demonstrates her ability to adapt and thrive in new media landscapes. This film, with its impressive viewership, underscores her skill in engaging with audiences beyond the traditional realms of cinema.



Overcoming Obstacles: The Journey of 'Black Tar Road'

Amber Dawn Lee's path to creating her first feature film, "Black Tar Road," was fraught with challenges, from script alterations to budget constraints. Yet, her determination and multifaceted talent enabled her to overcome these hurdles. Taking on

multiple roles in the film's production, she exemplified the resilience and versatility that define her as a filmmaker.

Art from Adversity: 'Children Of the West'

Amber Dawn Lee's upcoming project, "Children Of the West," is a deeply personal narrative drawn from her own experiences. Raised in a fundamentalist cult, she channels her traumatic past into a poignant cinematic creation. This film, currently in the funding stage, promises to offer a rare glimpse into a hidden underworld, told through the lens of someone who has lived it.





Imparting Wisdom: A Message to Aspiring Filmmakers

For those aspiring to follow in her footsteps, Amber Dawn Lee offers simple yet profound advice: dive into filmmaking, learn from mistakes, and embrace the journey. She advocates for a focus on storytelling and vision over technical perfection, encouraging budding filmmakers to find their unique voices in the industry.

A Rising Star in Hollywood: 'CARMELITA' and Beyond

Amber Dawn Lee's trajectory in the film industry continues to ascend. With a significant role in the upcoming production "CARMELITA" by **MoviesMakingaDifference** set for 2024, she is poised to leave an indelible mark on Hollywood. From her early fascination with photography to her emerging prominence as an actress and filmmaker, her journey epitomizes the essence of a true rebel in film – one who captures life in all its complexities and presents it unfiltered on the silver screen.

In sum, Amber Dawn Lee's career is a vivid tapestry of resilience, innovation, and raw storytelling. Her approach to filmmaking, characterized by a relentless pursuit of authentic expression and a refusal to conform to conventional standards, marks her as a trailblazer in the industry. As she continues to create, explore, and inspire, Amber Dawn Lee remains a symbol of what it means to be a rebel filmmaker – someone who not only makes movies but also crafts narratives that resonate with the very core of human experience.

Connect with Amber Dawn Lee



Amber Dawn Lee



amberinthevalley

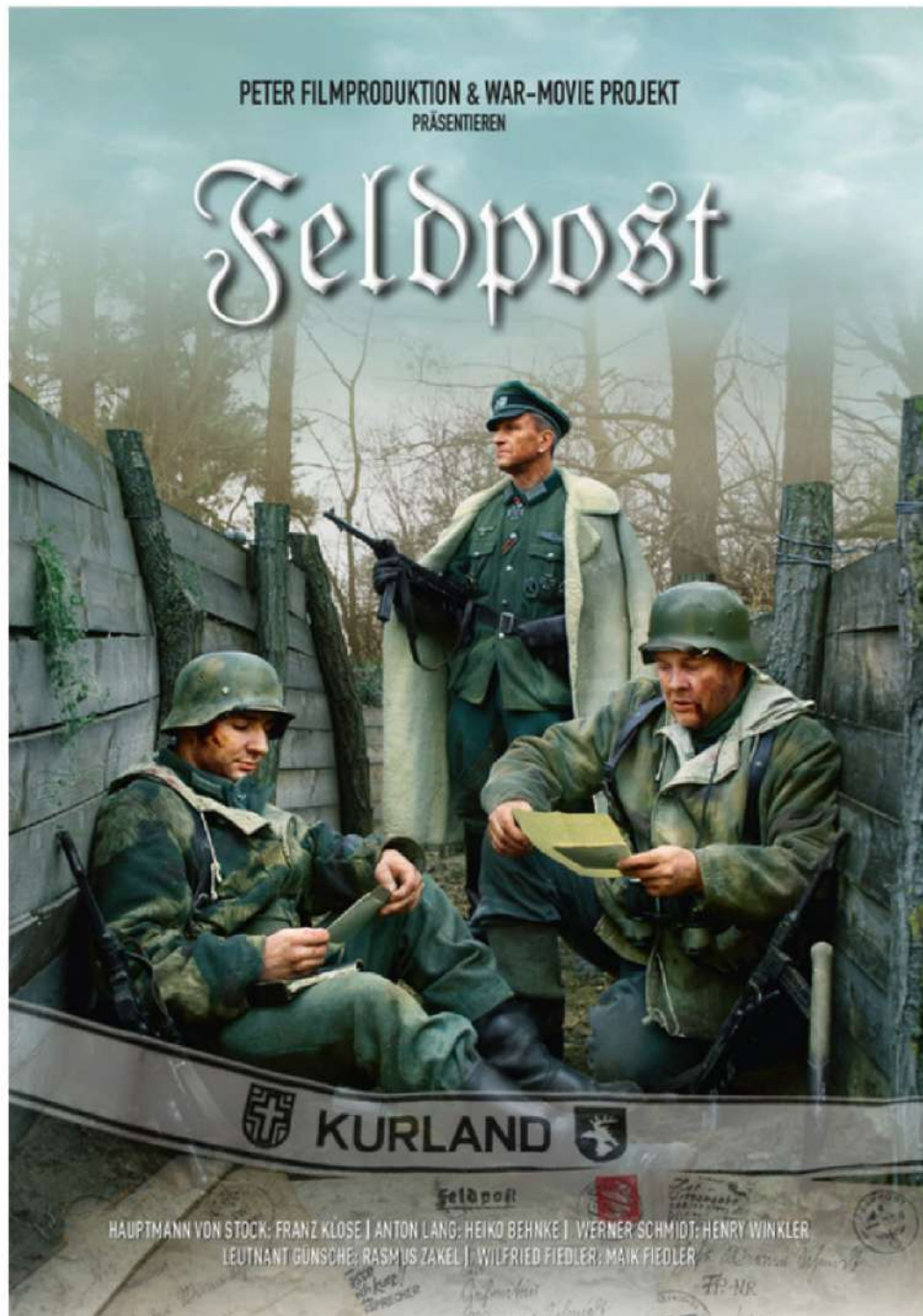


Photography of Amber Dawn Lee by Bruce Smith and Ed Zabel
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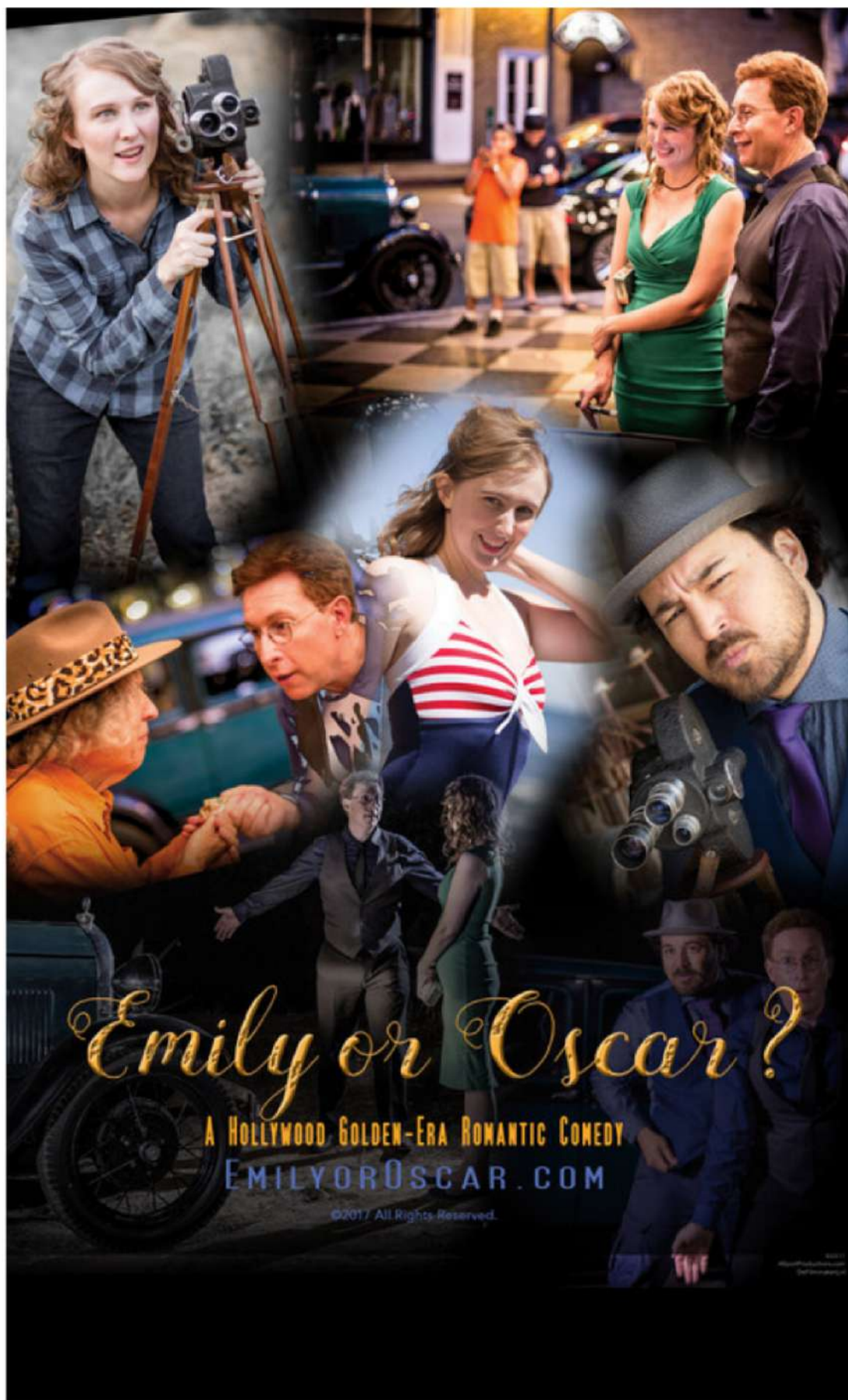
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"Feldpost" (field post) takes you to the German-occupied Latvian Courland in 1944. There, the soldiers Anton Lang and Werner Schmidt accompany you from the beginning of the first Courland battle in October, through the time in the Courland Pocket to the capitulation and dramatic escape in May 1945. The only connection to the outside, to the world beyond the Courland Pocket, to the events on the western front and to home is the field post. This drama succeeds in conveying a piece of everyday wartime life. A story of camaraderie and cohesion in a desperate situation is authentically told on a small scale, without losing sight of the larger context.





ANCHOR IN THE STEPPE

DOCUMENTARY



WRITTEN BY YURI MASLAK, OLGA TUGAEVA
DIRECTED BY OLGA TUGAEVA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY OLGA TUGAEVA
PRODUCTION DESIGNER YURI MASLAK MUSIC BY SERGEY MOISEENKO
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