

DAWN



DAWN

2020 / USA / 8 MIN /
COLOR / SILENT

**directed and
photographed by**

KATHERINE CASTRO
NONA CATUSANU
LIZA GIPSOVA

starring

NICOLLE MÁRQUEZ

story by

NONA CATUSANU

produced by

TIM WU



WEBSITE: [HTTPS://DAWN.CURIOUSERCREATIVE.COM](https://dawn.curiousercreative.com)

INSTAGRAM: [HTTPS://INSTAGRAM.COM/REDDAWNTRIO](https://instagram.com/reddawntrio)

CONTACT: [REDDAWNTRIO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:reddawntrio@gmail.com)



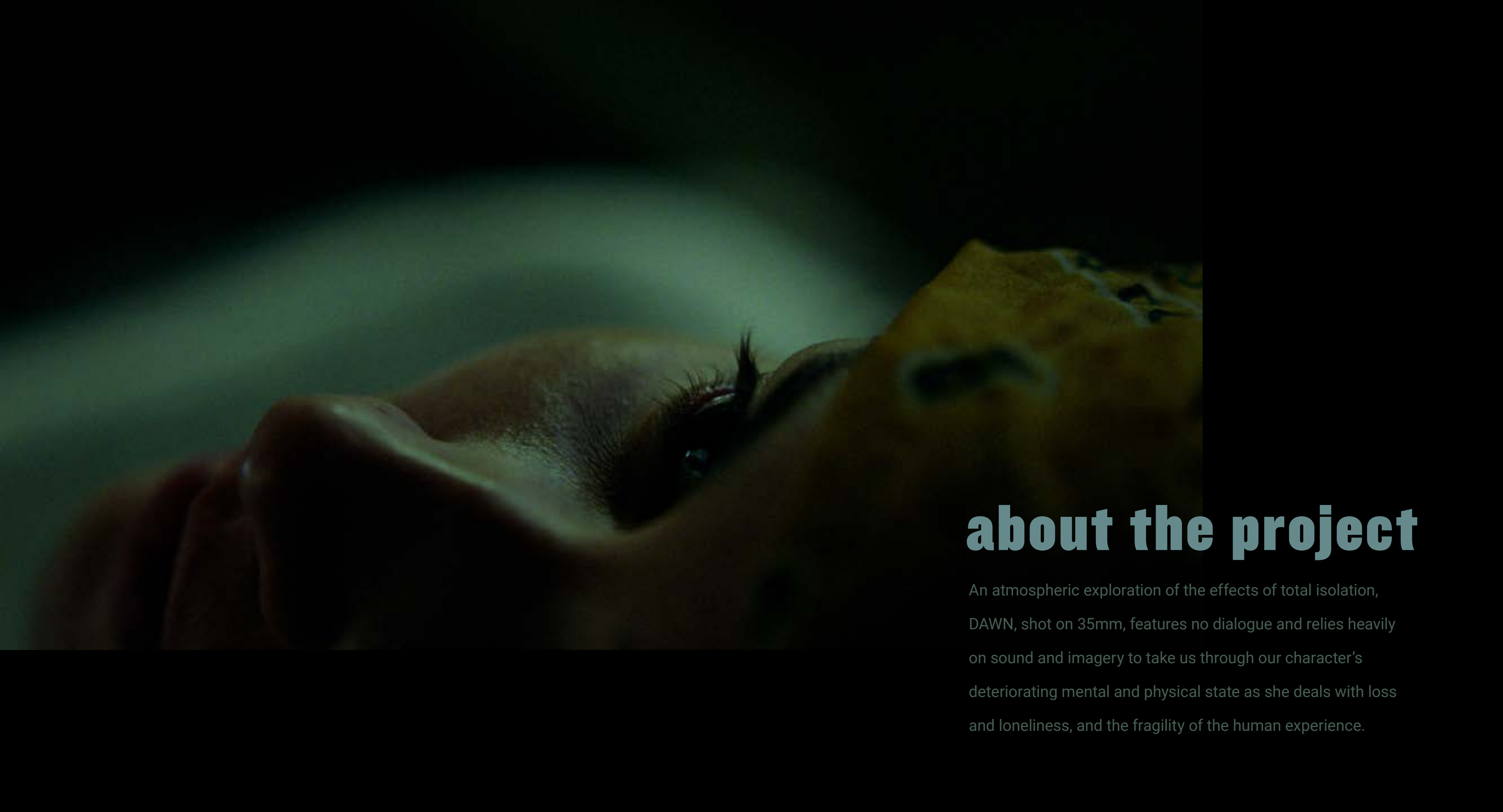
logline

a woman faces her final obligation in the last days of an isolated, post-apocalyptic world.

A person with a backpack stands in a rural setting, looking towards a car parked under a carport. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn, with bare trees in the background.

synopsis

After an undetermined cataclysmic event, Dawn finds herself isolated and growing increasingly sick as her medicine diminishes, and her body weakens. As she is nearing her end, she is haunted by a promise made to a departed friend. She must journey outside her home for the last time to fulfill that promise and find peace.



about the project

An atmospheric exploration of the effects of total isolation, DAWN, shot on 35mm, features no dialogue and relies heavily on sound and imagery to take us through our character's deteriorating mental and physical state as she deals with loss and loneliness, and the fragility of the human experience.



themes

ISOLATION

LOSS

LONELINESS

HOPE

RELEASE





artist statement

DAWN is the inaugural project of RED DAWN TRIO, a collective of three cinematographers, Katherine Castro, Nona Catusanu, and Liza Gipsova, based in New York City.

Initially we bonded over the commonalities in our individual working experiences as mid-career female cinematographers having come up in the camera department, and saw the same limitations in our work to our growth as artists.

We developed DAWN as a response to the lack of opportunities available to us to shoot on 35mm film, in a technical and aesthetic exercise.





What started as an exercise in cinematography ultimately became a radical collaboration exploring new ways of working with our peers in a way that department heads rarely have the opportunity to; the polar opposite of the style of work we had seen coming up.

The project and the finished film is a celebration of celluloid and collaboration.



lead | NICOLLE MÁRQUEZ



Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Nicolle Márquez is an actress with performance training achieved in the United States and Argentina. She began her career in Buenos Aires, as a physical theater actor exploring through biomechanics, acrobatics, and modern dance.

[@nicollemarquez](https://www.instagram.com/nicollemarquez)

writer, director & dp | NONA CATUSANU

Born in Romania and raised in NYC, Nona Catusanu-Popp is a cinematographer, visual artist, and director. She graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a Bachelor's degree in Film and TV and went on to study in the Cinematography Master's Program at The Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU) in the Czech Republic.

Nona has mounted productions both large and small across three continents, including long and short-form narratives, documentaries, commercials, and music videos for such diverse clients as VOX, Billboard Magazine, The New York Times, and Vice, among many others.

[@nonaiscool](#)



director & dp | KATHERINE CASTRO



Katherine Castro is a New York City-based Cinematographer. After studying architecture and photography while living in the Dominican Republic, Katherine returned to Boston in 2008 where she began working in film and TV as a Local 600 Camera Assistant. Applying her design and photography background along with the invaluable lessons she has acquired over the years working in production, Katherine brings a unique style and viewpoint to her cinematography. Her work spans narrative, music video & documentary and has recently been screened in film festivals such as Indy Film Fest, Woods Hole Film Festival & Asian American International Film Festival in NYC.

[@castrofoto](https://www.instagram.com/castrofoto)

director & dp | LIZA GIPSOVA

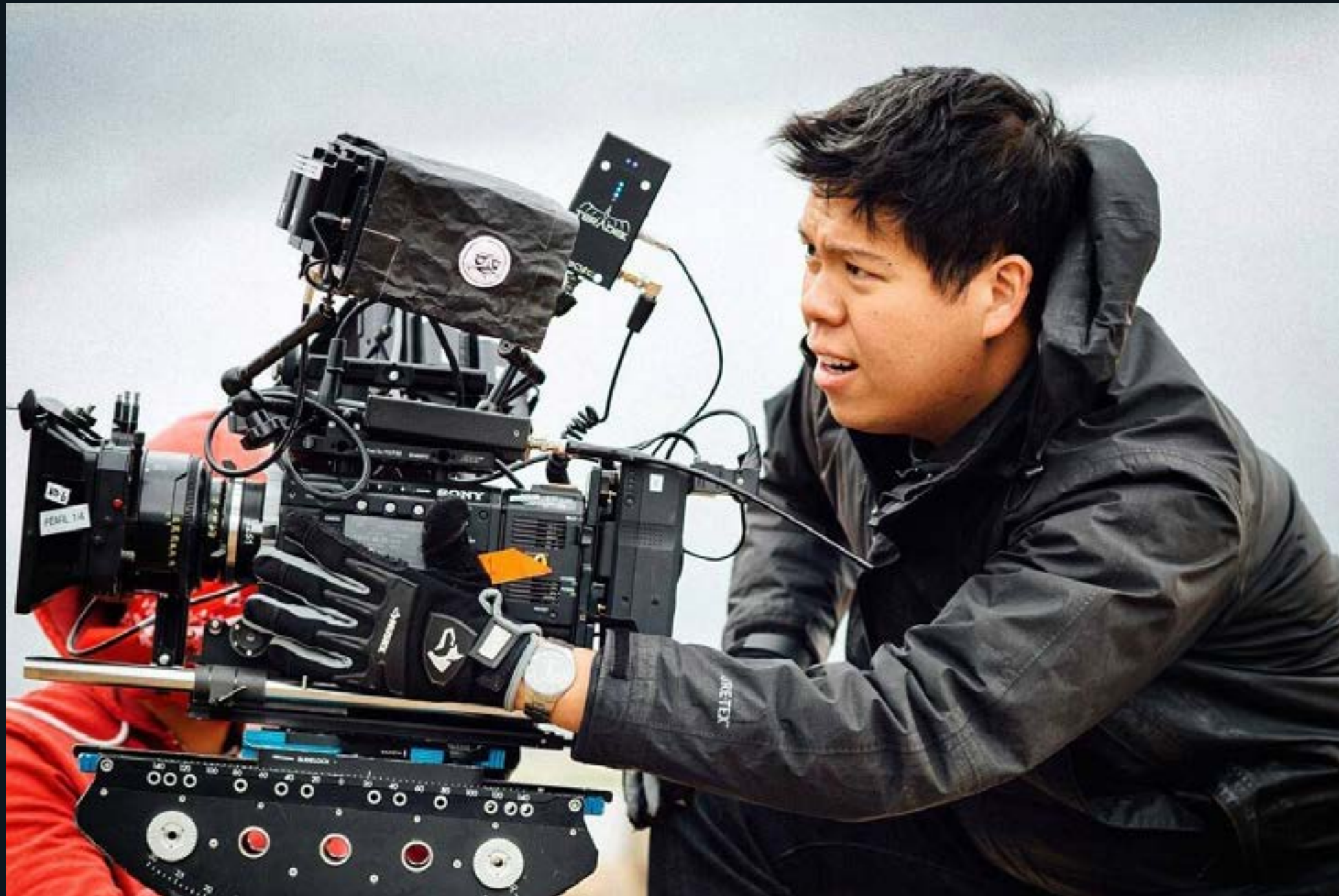
Liza Gipsova is an award-winning NYC-based cinematographer fascinated by humans, light, and stories of identity, location, and the why. She draws from an exhaustive background in traditional, digital, photographic, and theater arts, before coming up in the ranks of the camera department and co-founding Curiouser Creative Studio, a visual media production company.

Soviet-born and raised in the Washington, DC area, Liza attended American University in DC for her undergraduate degree, with a cinematography intensive at FAMU in Prague, Czech Republic. Her work spans narrative, commercial and documentary disciplines in long, short, and episodic formats.

[@gipsova](#)



producer | TIM WU



Tim Wu is co-founder of Illium Pictures and serves as the company's executive producer, overseeing all of its commercial and narrative productions. Since beginning Illium in 2012, he has grown its commercial clientele to include Conde Nast, Time Inc, The New York Times, A&E, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Billboard, Maybelline, ConAgra, Campbell's, Microsoft, TruTV, Subway, Nickelodeon and many more. On the narrative end, Tim's recent projects as a feature producer include Mickey Keating's *DARLING* (Fantastic Fest 2015), which was acquired by Screen Media, and Natasha Kermani's *IMITATION GIRL* (Frightfest 2017), which was acquired by Epic Pictures and Dread Central as part of their inaugural Dread Central Presents slate. A graduate of NYU's UGFTV program, Tim is also a member of the IATSE Local 600 Camera Union and Society of Camera Operators.

[@wunotwoo](https://www.instagram.com/wunotwoo)

editor | LUISA PIÑA

When she was a young little human, she enjoyed entertaining people, finding it amusing to shock others with unconventional behaviors. Whilst in the search of abnormalities to feed her imagination and dreams she stumbled upon surrealist filmmaker David Lynch. She fell in love with cinema through Lynch's eyes. She loves the idea of telling a story without revealing the whole secret. Later on, after completing her Bachelor Degree in Arts in Media and Social Communication, Luisa moved to Australia from Venezuela to do a Master Degree at Griffith University. Reborn, her last writing and directed project, took her to the Short Film Corner 2013 of the Cannes Film Festival, and was part of the 2015 Melbourne Queer Film Festival. She is now located in New England where she is working as Film Editor, whilst writing her first feature film coming soon.

[@vablp](#)



colorist | ADRIAN DELUDE



ADRIAN DELUDE, COLORIST, is a graduate of the American Film Institute with a MFA in Cinematography. He has worked as a colorist at Company 3 for the past 17 years. With his background in filmmaking Adrian finds the collaborative nature of helping other artists realize their vision the best part of the job.

[@adelude](#)

composer & sound designer | ADAM GRANNICK

ADAM GRANNICK, COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER, is an editor, director and violinist whose films, both documentary and narrative, have won multiple awards in film festivals around the country. He is the current Video Production Manager at the 92nd Street Y, and the former Multimedia Producer for the Moral Courage Project, where he produced a series of over 50 short documentaries that gave platforms for everyday courageous individuals to share their stories of speaking truth to power. He holds a BFA in Film and Television Production from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

[@filmelodic](#)





behind the scenes





additional credits & info

steadicam operator

MATTHEW DIGREGORIO

gaffer

BETS WILKINS

grip

VENTIKO

sound mixer

WINSTON HOY

locations

CHRISTINE SHALJIAN

shot on location

LONG ISLAND, NY

production

ILLIUM PICTURES

CURIOUSER CREATIVE STUDIO

PITCH HER PRODUCTIONS

technical

COUNTRY: USA

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH/SILENT

GENRE: EXPERIMENTAL/SCI-FI/DRAMA

RUN TIME: 7:55

ASPECT RATIO: 1.85

ACQUISITION FORMAT: 35MM

with the support of

ARRI RENTAL GROUP

KODAK MOTION PICTURE FILM

LIGHTBULB GRIP & ELECTRIC

