

# CLOUD GAZING

A Film by Dianne Diep

WHAT WILL YOU IMAGINE?

LITTLE ZEPHYR FILMS PRESENTS "CLOUD GAZING"  
STARRING SHANNON WHALEN AND DIANNE DIEP PRODUCED, DIRECTED AND SCORED BY DIANNE DIEP  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CLAUDIA BURGI ASST. DIRECTOR SOPHIA DEGTYAR PROD. SOUND MIXER DEBOLLEENA MAITRA GAFFER ASST. CAMERA KATIE LAU  
EDITOR STACY KIM SOUND EDITOR JENSTAR HACKER COLLECTOR MARY PERRINO COMPOSER JOANNE HARRIS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DELPHINE DALLO

## LOG LINE

After her umpteenth move in NYC, a woman and her best friend embark on a journey through imagination to a place of child-like wonder.



# SHORT SYNOPSIS

In the tradition of many indie film classics both newer and old (such as *Lost in Translation*, *My Dinner with Andre*, *Clerks* and Richard Linklater's *Slacker*, *Boyhood* and *Before* movies), Dianne Diep's debut is best described as a highly unconventional character study. A charming, funny yet thought-provoking examination of friendship and on how our perceptions can morph based on which context we choose to view them through.

During the filming, Whalen who plays 'Dylan' found herself at odds with the corporate machine when the shirt she (along with the entire crew) felt was perfect for both the screen and her character could not get clearance to use the apparently-too-recognizable design. Diep, the clearly semi-autobiographical 'Mia' as well as Director, Writer, Producer and even illustrator of the drawings sprinkled throughout *Cloud Gazing*, had to succumb to just that: a plain purple t-shirt. These are exactly the sort of fiercely unique, new and diverse voices (Ms. Diep is an Australian born of two Vietnam War refugee parents) that we should be supporting and with characters as charming and complex as she has given us, you will probably find it almost impossible not to root for this filmmaker to achieve the kind of success that will allow her the ability to make whatever artistic choices (wardrobe or otherwise) that she desires into reality.

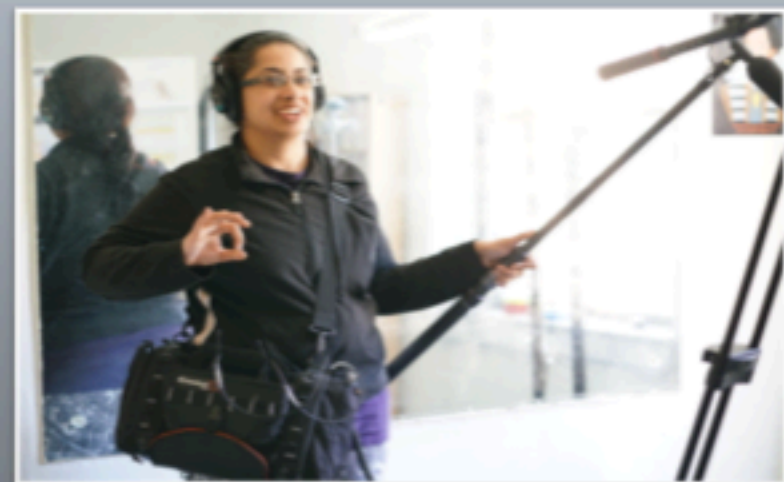


## SHANNON WHALEN



**THE ACTRESS.** Born in San Diego, California to a couple of Navy Doctors, and spent her childhood traveling the world until landing in New York in 2011. Memorable projects from 2019 include *Cloud Gazing* by Dianne Diep, *Old Dad* by Jim Harkins and *Psychomanteum* by Ashrakat Elsayed. Some of her favorite things include watching the Jets (why, or why?), modeling for painters and sculptors, and eating nachos. She has worked as a barista, a receptionist and whitewater guide on the mighty Hudson. She believes life is an adventure and she looks forward to the ride.

## DEBOLEENA MAITRA



**THE PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER.** Directed and worked on films across the United States, Singapore, India, and the United Arab Emirates. As a production sound mixer, she has worked on several features, digital campaigns and numerous short films. She is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts with a Master of Fine Arts degree in Film Production. She has also studied at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York and is currently in development of her first feature film.

S O F I A  
D E G T Y A R



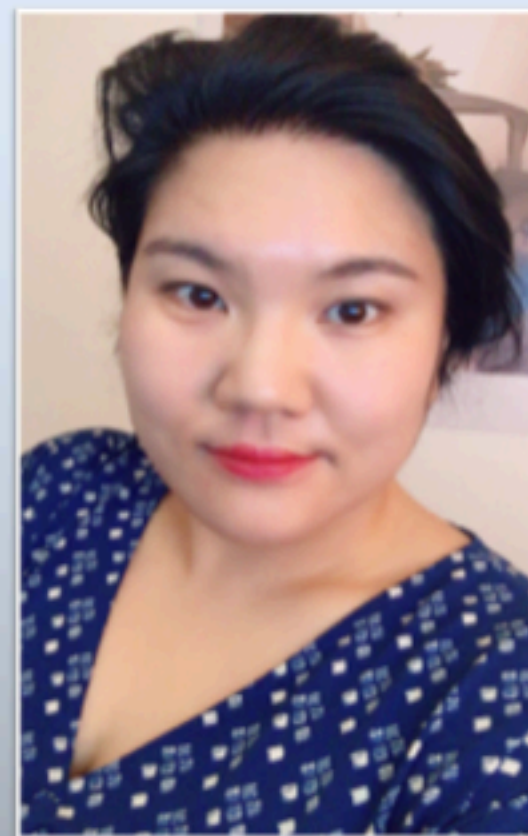
**THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & PRODUCTION ASSISTANT.** A Brooklyn raised & based producer by way of Moscow. She works on the intersection of cultural programming and partnerships to get the right people in the room and create impactful moments of connection. She has worked with clients like Google and the New York Times, and is currently pursuing event and content production on a freelance basis.

D I A N N E  
D I E P



**THE WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER & ACTRESS.** An Aussie expat living in NYC for the past nine years, she shot *Cloud Gazing* to get her feet wet as a first time filmmaker (on the contrary, she's drenched to the bone and quite philosophical about this). She cooks a mean chicken soup and as a humble gesture wants to make new friends who can help her make more films that bring a deeper empathy, compassion and humor to a world that feels heavy (at times) on differences.

S T A C Y  
K I M



**THE EDITOR.** An award-winning film editor and story producer specializing in long-form documentary. Known for her captivating aesthetic and cinematic language, she strives to tell stories through character development and emotions. A Senior Editor for VICE MEDIA since 2010, Stacy was previously Senior Editor for Indigo Productions, Editor for Tight Media, and Editor/Broadcast Designer for MTV Networks. In addition to documentaries, Stacy has experience with short-form narrative films, music videos, video arts and promotional short-form commercials. Her works have screened at Tribeca Film Festival, Virginia Film Festival, Washington Film Festival, Museum of Modern Art, BAM, Lincoln Center, MTV, VHI, Nickelodeon, Discovery Channel, Learning Channel and Viceland. Stacy's works have received awards including a Webby, Silver Lion at Cannes, and Best Editing grand prize at Rhode Island Film Festival for *Revolving Doors* (2017). She is currently working on an animation, documentary hybrid short film called *23x1*, which is about in-depth examination of the effects of solitary confinement on the human mind

# JO ANNE HARRIS



**THE COMPOSER.** Conducted and recorded film scores at Abbey Road, East West, The Village, and Avatar with artists such as Grammy winning Kurt Elling and members of the Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. Her television work includes score for: *Mal de Ojo* (HBO), *20/20*, *Primetime*, and *Dateline*. She has orchestrated scores for blockbusters *City of Lies* and *The Infiltrator*. Other highlights: conducting ensembles for the Shinnyo-En Lantern Lighting Festival at Lincoln Center, writing string arrangements for Chris Cester (of the band Jet) and working on the music team of *Sylvia* (Broadway). Recently, she served as music director and keyboards at Joe's Pub for a 6-night run of *Triplight* (a new musical by Greta Gertler - Gold and Ally Collier). She is a 2015 ASCAP "Composer to Watch", and her concert music includes a winning entry of the Dallas Winds brass fanfare competition. A graduate of Concordia College, JoAnne studied choral composition and conducting with René Clausen. She currently teaches orchestration for cinema at CUNY Brooklyn College. She is currently working on concert commissions for college wind ensembles across the country, and scoring short films for kick ass female directors in New York and LA.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



*Cloud Gazing* is a proof of concept for a cinematic six-episode web series entitled *Mia: Unraveling*, a "slice of life" between episode three and four to be exact!

Shot in late March 2019 with a \$5K budget. All-women crew.

Made with **heart** in NYC. Spreading its love on the festival circuit.

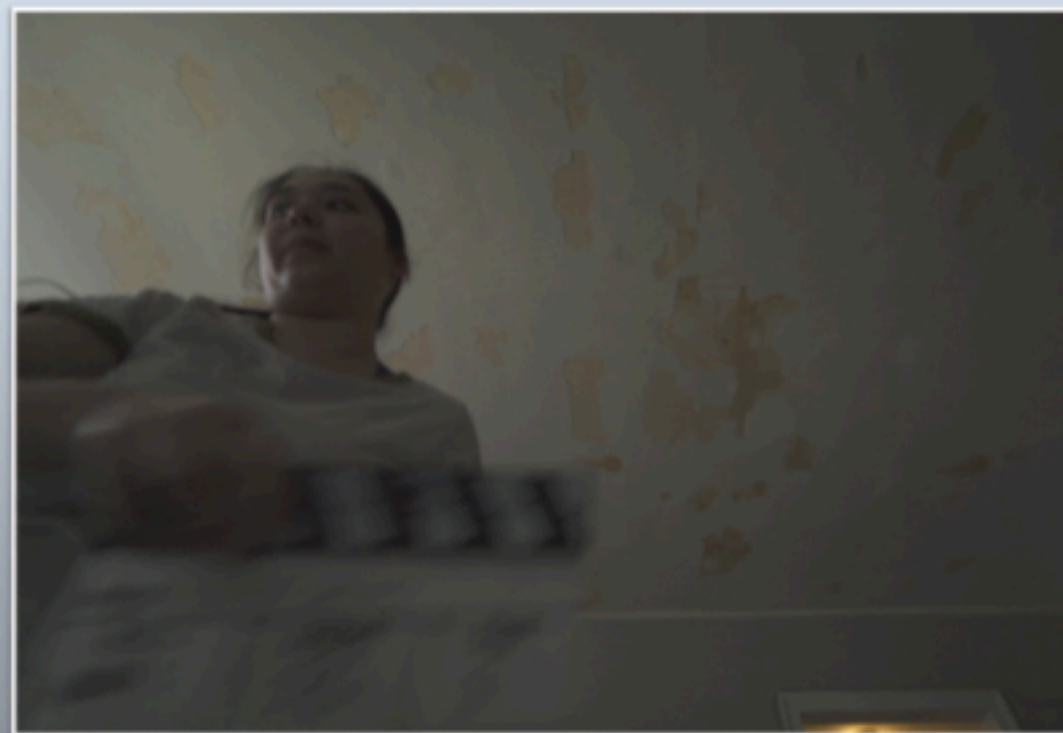
Mia is the central protagonist to my series and I felt compelled to introduce her to you through *Cloud Gazing* in what can be deemed as tongue-in-cheek. I wanted the best of all worlds for a one-day shoot as I learned the ropes; switching hats as a producer and director working with a crew for the first time, to actress playing moment to moment from scripted pages then off-the-cuff improv with Shannon. My artistic choices in holding off revealing the two women's faces close to the end was purely out of curiosity, I wonder... when you're invited to listen to an Aussie accent banter long enough, do you start to picture a Nicole Kidman, a Cate Blanchett or a Toni Collette? For a moment, did your eyes go to Shannon's red hair before drifting back to mine? Did it give you pause to readjust your lenses when you finally identified the Aussie as a short, round, Asian woman instead?



Now it's all good writing a part for myself to play as an actress but my curiosity goes even deeper than that, I also wanted to know if I have the capacity to direct and produce "well". For a couple of years now, I hustled hard as a Captain in the crazy, competitive, catering world to save as much money as I could to make *Cloud*. My hands and feet hurt from the onslaught but I don't care, I just want to make sure my money is going to the right places and to women who just want to be given a chance to show you what they've got.



Don't get me wrong - I love men! I want to collaborate with curious and adventurous individuals and collectives, men *and* women, but for my first baby film I wanted to bring together an all-women crew for my own personal mission statement: I, myself, can level out the playing field from where I stand in my little world of filmmaking. It feels right to do so and one day, provided the stars are aligned and other key factors, say if I *do* get to have my pilot shot for my series, it will be 50/50 women and men, fair and square. I believe in fair democracy, you know?



For instance, *Cloud* could have steered off course many times from pre-production to post but with the astute guidance of my kind and patient Consulting Producer, Phil Newsom, he has helped me navigate through some choppy waters. He has withstood my bajillion questions and thrown the ball right back in my court. I am blessed to have a seasoned producer sneak in right at the beginning of my crazy process and as a result, I am hungry to make more films.

Thanks for catching me in free fall, Phil.

Grasshopper values her Mentor.



I thank my ladies of principal photography and post-production, without you all this film wouldn't have been made, simple as that. I've learned true lessons from each one of you that are absolutely necessary for me to become a stronger and better filmmaker for my future projects.

Lastly, I thank you for taking the time to watch and consider *Cloud Gazing*, that right there is the gift in itself and I am grateful.



"There are stories to be told that are still untold and characters to be portrayed that haven't been portrayed correctly. So there's work to be done." - *Shonda Rhimes*



"There came a point where I just thought, 'My God, life is going by so fast, I have to stand up for what I believe in. I can't be so frightened anymore.' I don't want to be some old lady saying, 'I shoulda made that movie.'" - *Barbara Streisand*

"I am a woman with a raging, vulnerable heart, staring at her calling point-blank in the eye C'mon, I'm here! Let's do this." - *Dianne Diep (Writer & Director, Little Zephyr Films)*

