Rekindled

An award-winning magical comedy that debunks the romanticism behind all-consuming love.

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written by Kelly Vrooman
produced by Jane Hollon

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official selection RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2017

official selection CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2017

official selection PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL SHORTFEST 2017

official selection ATHENS INTERNATIONAL FILM + VIDEO FESTIVAL 2017

AWARD WINNER canton film festival 2017

official selection ploiesti international film festival 2017

official selection media film festival 2017

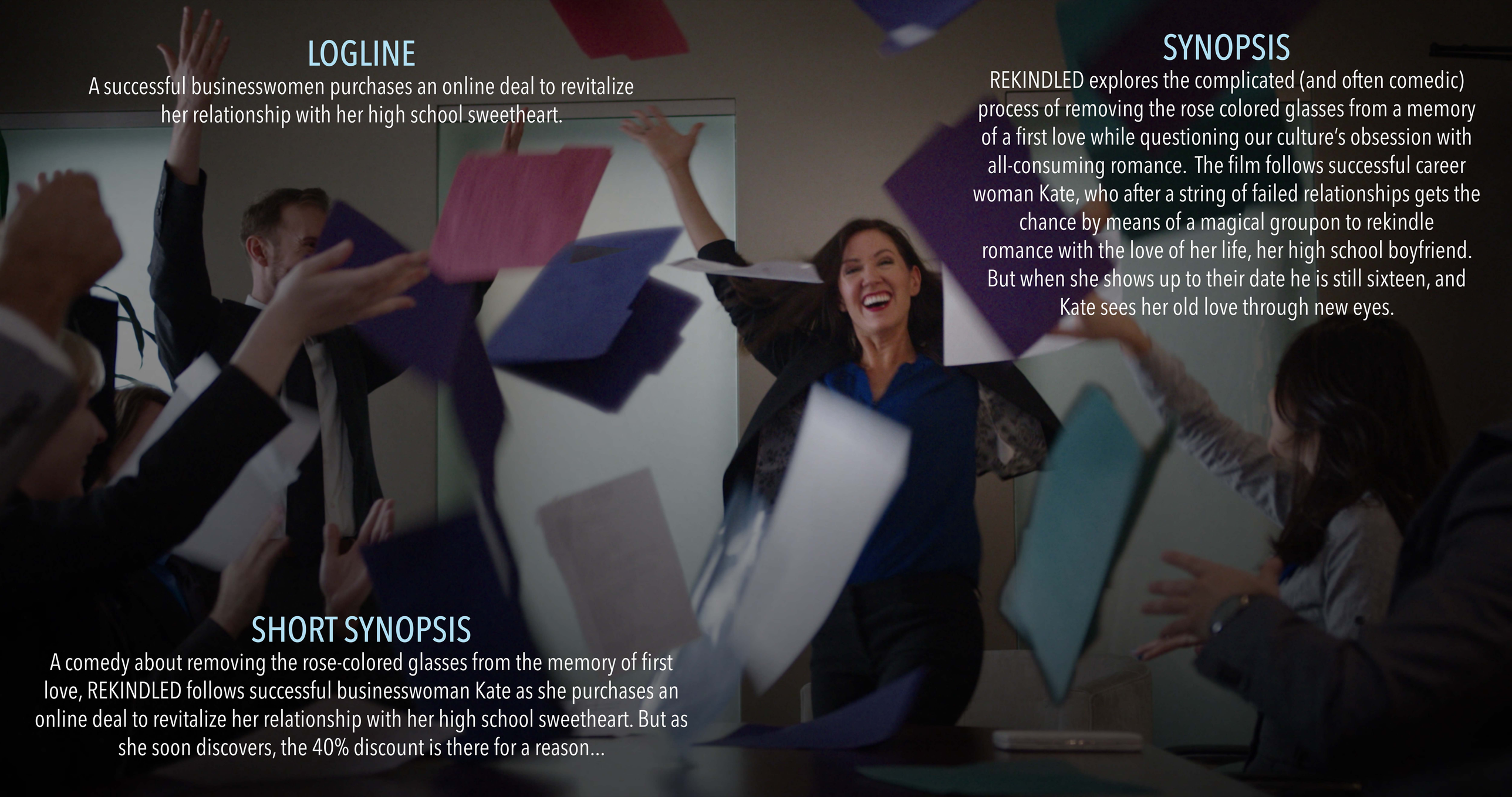
official selection sci-fi london film festival 2017

official selection emerge microcinema 2017

official selection funcinema 2017

REKINDLED

premiered in April 2017 at Cleveland International Film Festival. Two-and-a-half months later, it's already played in 11 festivals including official selection in four Academy Award-qualifying events. Rekindled also won the jury prize for "Best Narrative Short" at Canton Film Festival.



LOGLINE

A successful businesswomen purchases an online deal to revitalize her relationship with her high school sweetheart.

SYNOPSIS

REKINDLED explores the complicated (and often comedic) process of removing the rose colored glasses from a memory of a first love while questioning our culture's obsession with all-consuming romance. The film follows successful career woman Kate, who after a string of failed relationships gets the chance by means of a magical groupon to rekindle romance with the love of her life, her high school boyfriend. But when she shows up to their date he is still sixteen, and Kate sees her old love through new eyes.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A comedy about removing the rose-colored glasses from the memory of first love, REKINDLED follows successful businesswoman Kate as she purchases an online deal to revitalize her relationship with her high school sweetheart. But as she soon discovers, the 40% discount is there for a reason...

BACKGROUND

REKINDLED is inspired by true events which Kelly Vrooman wrote about as part of a series produced by The Huffington Post and "Take Back the Night" in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Director Erin Brown Thomas read Kelly's article "How Good Girls Get Educated in Bad Girl Things" and approached her about collaborating on a comedy revolving around the issue of respect in relationsihps.

Hey Girl... Have you heard what people are saying about Rekindled?

"Playfully clever!"

- Jeff Shell, Chairman of Universal Entertainment Group

"Fun, funny, and incredibly well-made -- with great performances to top it off!"

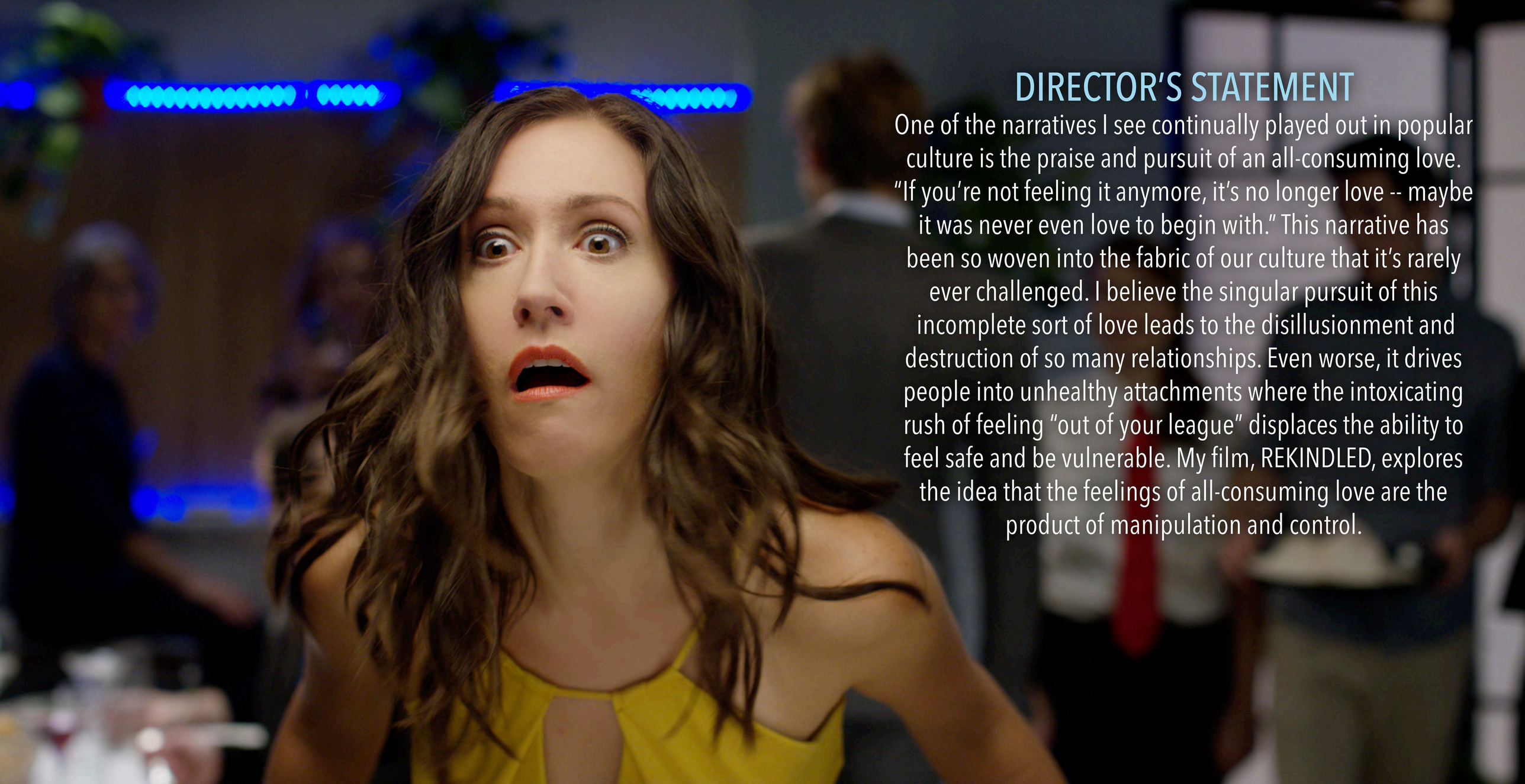
- Jeremy Howe, Writer/Producer -- *The Big Bang Theory*

"REKINDLED is a delightful, laugh out loud, comedic romp that charmed our audiences at the 41st Cleveland International Film Festival!"

- Paul Sloop , Cleveland International Film Festival

"REKINDLED is one of the **best pieces** of magical realism for the modern woman. The world that Erin Brown Thomas and Kelly Vrooman created is straight out of a **Tina Fey** series and cleverly cracks you up from start to finish while nudging you to confront your own definition of fairytale "true" love.
We are in love with this short and can't wait to see what these ladies do next!"

- Greta McAnany, Co-Founder of Blue Fever Streaming Platform



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

One of the narratives I see continually played out in popular culture is the praise and pursuit of an all-consuming love. "If you're not feeling it anymore, it's no longer love -- maybe it was never even love to begin with." This narrative has been so woven into the fabric of our culture that it's rarely ever challenged. I believe the singular pursuit of this incomplete sort of love leads to the disillusionment and destruction of so many relationships. Even worse, it drives people into unhealthy attachments where the intoxicating rush of feeling "out of your league" displaces the ability to feel safe and be vulnerable. My film, REKINDLED, explores the idea that the feelings of all-consuming love are the product of manipulation and control.

Empowering Women

REKINDLED embraces diversity strongly in the following ways: the film was directed, written, produced, shot, production designed (the list goes on) by women. In fact, the only production department head who is not female, is gay and black. The director of the film has a medically documented learning disability. We hired a ninety-one year-old woman for the role of Mrs. Pyunik. Several of our department heads are female members of the LGBTQ community. The film was written to inspire women to see the signs of abuse and manipulation in relationships. Our writer Kelly, who is the star of the film, travels around the country talking to teenage girls about respect in relationships.

ERIN BROWN THOMAS is a director/editor/writer/producer, whose work in film and televsion has taken her across the United States and around the globe. She has worked in one or several capacities on projects with Selena Gomez, Eminem, Topher Grace, Sarah Silverman, Zach Galifianakis, The Olsen Twins, Casey Wilson, Tony Hale, Andy Richter, Reggie Watts, & SNL's Kyle Mooney and Beck Bennett. Her commercial clients have included the United States Marine Corp, the J. Walter Thompson ad agency, Interscope Records, Universal Music Group, Radio Disney, Belvedere Vodka, Apartment Therapy, Gensler, and Nestle.

Most Recently, Erin directed Erika Christensen (PARENTHOOD) and Doug Jones (PAN'S LABYRINTH) in ADOPTED: THE ORIGINAL SERIES, a comedy (in post production) in the vein of Modern Family.

Additionally, TOKYO PROJECT, a film she edited for Executive Producer Lena Dunham (GIRLS), and Emmy-winning director Richard Shepard, premiered at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival. The film stars Elisabeth Moss (HANDMAID'S TALE; MAD MEN.)

Erin directed several other films including: HOTWIRE, an action short film starring Teri Reeves (CHICAGO FIRE); CHASING HAYES, a small town love story starring Kent Boyd (SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE); FAMILY, a narrative short entirely in Russian; WILDMAN ATHLETICA, showcasing the aerial silks talents of Christa B. Allen (REVENGE) and Troian Bellisario (PRETTY LITTLE LIARS); and the visually haunting ONCE UPON A DREAM. Erin's work in music videos has won awards in several international festivals and has been featured on MTVu and vh1.com, shooting indie artists to the front of public attention. COURAGE IS was picked up by ABC Family for broadcast nationwide.

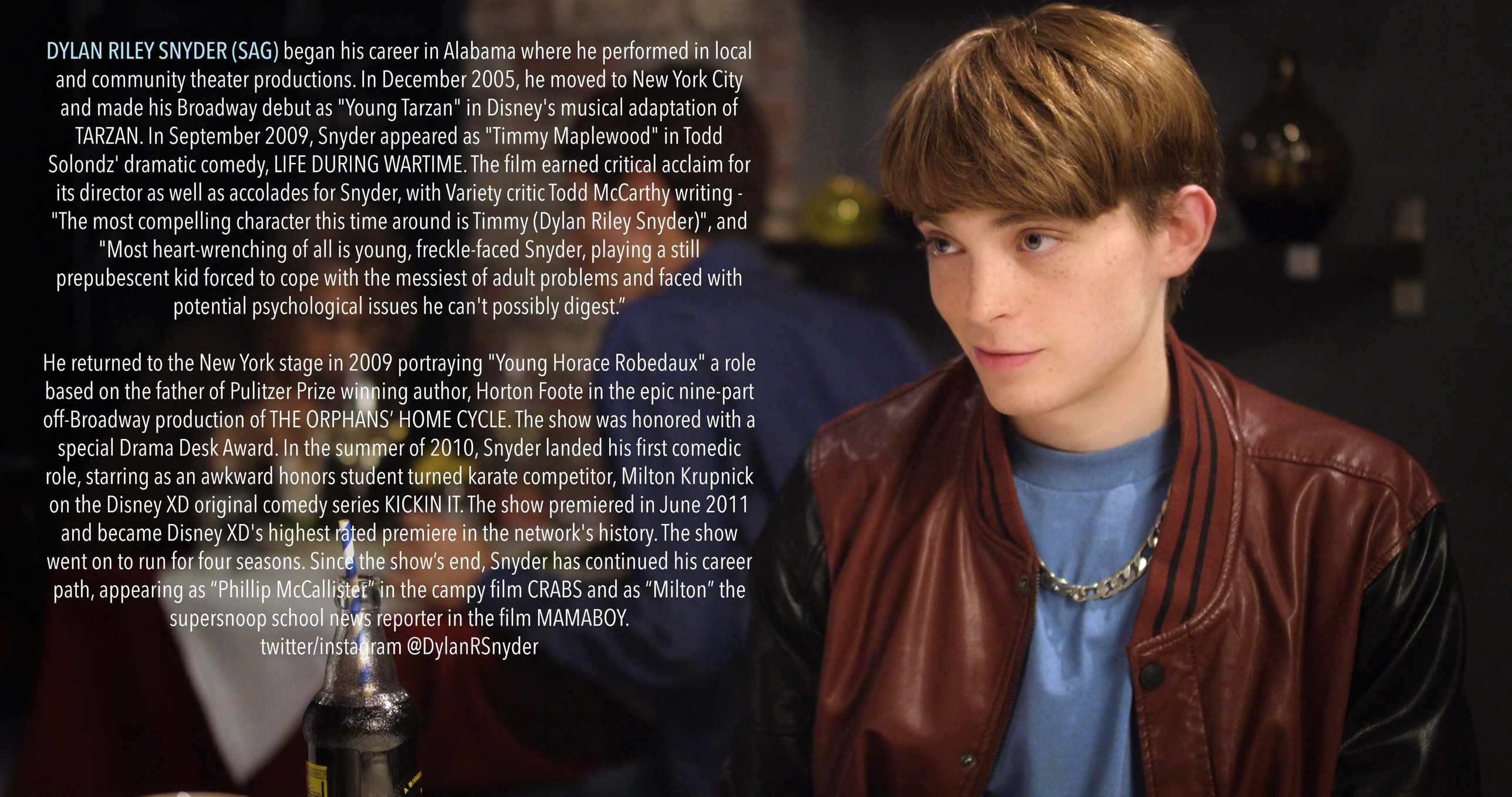
Erin is currently writing two narrative features which she will direct, both with established producers attached– NICOLE, which is a love story that can be described as Her meets Being John Malkovich; and SPLIT–which explores the way sexual shame bifurcates female relationships.

Finally, Erin continues to collaborate with Kelly Vrooman. The dream team are developing both feature properties and a televison show inspired by REKINDLED.

- twitter /instagram @thisisorganic

KELLY VROOMAN is a series regular on THE CHICA SHOW on Sprout and NBC Kids. Some of her favorite TV credits include JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE and SUNNY SIDE UP for which she won a **Kids Screen Award** for **Best Host**. Kelly is an accomplished improv comedian who currently holds the record for most wins at the legendary weekly improv competition at iOWest in Hollywood with 69 straight weeks! Her online sketch comedy with Equals Three Studios and her own Facebook fan page have garnered over 100 million views and counting. Kelly is a Kennedy Center Irene Ryan Scholarship nominee for acting She has appeared in over 25 plays across North America and can now be seen performing comedy on stage in Los Angeles at *The Pack Theatre* and Amy Pohler's *UCB Theatre* where she was a finalist for the Thomas Angel Foundation Scholarship for women in comedy. Her writing has been featured in publications including The Huffington Post. Kelly is constantly releasing original online comedic content and is currently creating two TV shows for kids and an adult sitcom based on when she accidently lived in a tent with nudists.

- twitter/instagram @kellyvrooms



DYLAN RILEY SNYDER (SAG) began his career in Alabama where he performed in local and community theater productions. In December 2005, he moved to New York City and made his Broadway debut as "Young Tarzan" in Disney's musical adaptation of TARZAN. In September 2009, Snyder appeared as "Timmy Maplewood" in Todd Solondz' dramatic comedy, LIFE DURING WARTIME. The film earned critical acclaim for its director as well as accolades for Snyder, with Variety critic Todd McCarthy writing - "The most compelling character this time around is Timmy (Dylan Riley Snyder)", and "Most heart-wrenching of all is young, freckle-faced Snyder, playing a still prepubescent kid forced to cope with the messiest of adult problems and faced with potential psychological issues he can't possibly digest."

He returned to the New York stage in 2009 portraying "Young Horace Robedaux" a role based on the father of Pulitzer Prize winning author, Horton Foote in the epic nine-part off-Broadway production of THE ORPHANS' HOME CYCLE. The show was honored with a special Drama Desk Award. In the summer of 2010, Snyder landed his first comedic role, starring as an awkward honors student turned karate competitor, Milton Krupnick on the Disney XD original comedy series KICKIN IT. The show premiered in June 2011 and became Disney XD's highest rated premiere in the network's history. The show went on to run for four seasons. Since the show's end, Snyder has continued his career path, appearing as "Phillip McCallister" in the campy film CRABS and as "Milton" the supersnoop school news reporter in the film MAMABOY.

twitter/instagram @DylanRSnyder

Aaron Schwartz (SAG)

Aaron Schwartz is a New York native who began his career at an early age. He is known for playing the lead role of Gerald Garner in the 1995 Judd Apatow feature **HEAVYWEIGHTS** and in the cult classic **THE MIGHTY DUCKS**. Aaron also played Clem Lanell in eight episodes of THE ADVENTURES OF PETE & PETE as a guest star in THE COSBY SHOW. He had a recurring role as doorman Vanya on The CW's dramaseries GOSSIP GIRL and its spin-off web series CHASING DOROTA. Aaron most recently can be seen in Marvel's **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOl. 2**.

- twitter/Instagram @aaronschwartz11

Asher Grodman (AEA, SAG) – screen credits include independent films such as HANDSOME HARRY (with Steve Buscemi, Jamey Sheridan), MO and BUZZKILL as well as television shows such as AS THE WORLD TURNS and LAW & ORDER. He's worked extensively in theater; some credits include the title role Amadeus Mozart in AMADEUS (South Coast Rep), PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (CenterStage), BABY DOLL (Ensemble Theater Company) and STONES IN HOS POCKETS. Asher is also the writer/director/producer of THE TRAIN starring **Academy Award Winner** Eli Wallach. THE TRAIN has played in more then twenty film festivals and has won numerous awards including "Best Short Film" at Sedona Film Festival and was a runner up for "Best Narrative Short Film" at Cleveland International. Asher holds a BA from Columbia University in Film and English and received an MFA in Acting from the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. For more information, visit www.ashergrodman.com
- twitter/Instagram @ashergrodman

BETH NAPOLI (cinematographer) earned her MFA from Florida State's College of Motion Picture Arts. Her work has screened at dozens of festivals domestically and internationally. THE LONE WARRIOR was selected for Poland's PLUS Camerimage International Festival of the Art of Cinematography in 2010. WAKING ELOISE screened at the American Pavilion's Emerging Filmmakers Showcase at Cannes Film Festival in 2011. She has worked as a cinematographer, consultant and teaching instructor for RED Digital Cinema. Most recently, she shot the short film CARRION, which unveiled the first footage from RED's 4.5K Raven camera. She also shot RED's short film ETERNA for their booth at the 2016 NAB show. Some of Beth's recent projects include INSTALAND, a pilot directed by Tim Cruz; THREE IN JUNE, directed by Allison Mattox; and HOTWIRE, WILDMAN ATHLETICA and REKINDLED, all directed by Erin Brown Thomas.

JANE HOLLON (producer) knew she wanted to be a filmmaker from a very young age – specifically, the first time she watched A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN. She attended the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, where she studied all aspects of filmmaking and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree. After graduating, she moved back to her home town of Baltimore, where she worked in production for three years on several shows and movies such as HOUSE OF CARDS, VEEP, GAME CHANGE, and CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER. Her experiences in the industry helped her realize that she wants to focus her career on producing independent features. As a producing fellow at AFI, she produced ten short films for AFI's prestigious Directing Workshop for Women, including FOG. She was the 2015 recipient of The Jeffrey Katzenberg Fellowship Award, a full scholarship for her second year at AFI. Currently, she's working as a freelance producer and has completed several web series, commercials and short films. Two of her recent shorts, REKINDLED and LOCKDOWN, are on the festival circuit.

ALIZA ROSEN (executive producer) has been producing, directing and writing documentary television for more than twenty years. She is currently the Chief Content Officer for X-G Productions, a Los Angeles-based production company specializing in scripted and unscripted content in the crime and law enforcement genre. She is an executive producer on the recent CBS documentary series THE CASE OF: JONBENÉT RAMSEY. Prior to X-G, Aliza was Executive Vice President of Development for Philadelphia based S3 Productions. She developed, produced and sold many shows, including the documentary series FARM KINGS, CURVY GIRLS, and formats THE LAST GOODBYE and KILLER PROFILE. Prior to S3, Aliza co-founded Watercooler Productions, where she created and produced shows in many genres, including the Namic Award nominee documentary series MY LIFE TRANSLATED for MTV. At Banyan Productions, she supervised production on a variety of lifestyle series and prior to that she did stints at VH1 and Oxygen, where she produced the groundbreaking documentary series WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?! examining famous women's relationship with power, such as Gloria Steinem, Ann Richards, and Diane Sawyer. Aliza also served as a Producer on the news-magazine show PUBLIC EYE WITH BRYANT GUMBEL. Her podcast REALITY OF REALITY is available on iTunes.

FUN FACTS!

PILE 'O GUYS

We filmed the sex scene right before the "pile of guys" scene. When the director and AD went to fetch the guys from holding and ask them to get "camera ready," we found that they were already all in their underwear, bonding. They had been that way for over an hour, since they got their briefs from our costumer, Cassidy. They all had a blast with the role.

Later that night, after we wrapped, our director Erin asked the producing team where one of the guys came from - she didn't' remember casting him. Turns out, no one from the crew knew where he came from! Days later we found out that one of the actors brought his friend to set, and in order to fit in, his friend stripped down to underwear while hanging with the guys in holding. He made a bold move and came to set with the rest of the actors when they were called. No one noticed - he had a great look and was given a line.

CASTING SHANE

Originally, we had cast Tate Ellington (QUANTICO) for the role of Shane the waiter. In the days leading up to production, we did a read-through of our script with some actor friends, looking for anything to tighten. Asher Grodman, an actor our director met on the festival circuit the previous year, came to the read through and knocked our socks off. A day later we lost Tate to a job he had to take in NYC. While we were sad to lose him, we were thrilled to have a role available to offer Asher. He was wonderful to work with.

STOLEN PROPERTY

We had to postpone our first day of shooting because our actor's home was broken into. He was super apologetic and our savvy producer, Jane Hollon, arranged things so we were able to pick everything up the next day.

A few days before shooting our production designer's car was broken into and her laptop was stolen with all her notes.

During post production, our writer's car was broken into and her laptop was stolen. - this one didn't affect production, but rule of 3's, right?