

FAITHFUL

A NIKLAS BERGGREN FILM

FAITHFUL



You believe what you want to believe.

(PRE)FORMA-SE ARTISTIC PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A FILM BY NIKLAS BERGGREN CLARISSA HOFFMANN "FAITHFUL"
WRITTEN BY SALIL BHAYANI COSTUME DESIGNER ZHUANGZI LIU EDITOR DAN BUTOVSKIY PRODUCTION DESIGNER SAMUEL PAYNTER PRODUCTION OFFICER BROOKE "COOKIE" SCHULTE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NIKLAS BERGGREN PRODUCED BY LUCAS PAZ WRITTEN BY NIKLAS BERGGREN & ALEXSANDRA MILANOVA
DIRECTED BY ALEXSANDRA MILANOVA PRODUCED BY NIKLAS BERGGREN



Short Synopsis

Lauren dropped out of medical school and sacrificed her dream of becoming a doctor so she could devote all her time to her beloved husband. But then she finds out that he is cheating and her marriage in struggles. She tries to save her marriage, but the truth may not be as it seems.

Medium Synopsis

Lauren dropped out of medical school to spend more time with her beloved husband, despite the advice not to by her best friend Mary-Ann. She wakes up in the middle of the night from a nightmare and finds her husband, Ron, isn't in bed next to her. She walks out into the kitchen and finds Ron talking on the phone with another woman. Devastated, she confronts him, and a fight involving punching ensues.

Lauren seeks help from a therapist, but, sadly, he cannot help. Ron packs his bags and prepares to leave Lauren for good. But she stops him by throwing all his clothes out of his bag and another fight takes place. Mrs. Clarice, Lauren's mother, appears and witnesses the fight. She tries to calm Lauren down by comforting her. Lauren keeps yelling at Ron, only to be interrupted by her mother when she tells Lauren the truth: that Ron has passed away and what she believes to be real, is not.

Long Synopsis

Lauren is in the bathroom, preparing herself to go to bed. She has a flashback of when she told her best friend, Mary-Ann, that she was dropping out of medical school to spend more time with her beloved husband. She finishes up in the bathroom and heads for the bedroom, where she sees her husband, Ron, in bed already asleep. She leans over to give him a kiss on the cheek and says goodnight, but as soon as she turns around, he opens his eyes.

Lauren has a nightmare, of a time she caught her husband kissing another woman. She wakes up sweating and panting, and notice that her husband isn't next to her in bed. She sees Ron talking on the phone in the kitchen. She confronts him about the call but he refuses to answer. Lauren becomes enraged and a fight breaks out between them. The next day, she meets Mary-Ann at a cafe. Mary-Ann quickly notice Lauren's weird behavior and tries to find out why? Lauren tells Mary-Ann about seeing Ron talk on the phone to another woman again. Shocked, Mary-Ann tries to comfort her, but Lauren storms out. Mary-Ann decides to do what she can to help her friend by calling Mrs. Clarice, Lauren's mother, and informs her about the situation.

Meanwhile, Lauren and her husband goes to a therapist to discuss their marriage. They have another small fight in front of the therapist which makes Lauren almost bursting out in tears. Later that day, Ron storms into the room and begins to pack his clothes in a travel suitcase to leave Lauren for good. She comes into the room and stops him by throwing the clothes out of the suitcase. Mrs. Clarice soon after comes into the room and stops Lauren from throwing a tantrum and tells her that what she thinks is happening isn't true: Ron isn't there. She begins to remember the car crash that happened to Ron. And then she remembers that Ron is dead. Mrs. Clarice embraces Lauren into comfort, ensuring Lauren that everything will be alright and that she is there to help Lauren. Lauren looks up one more time and still sees Ron standing in the corner of the room while she is being embraced by her mother.

Crew



Niklas Berggren – Director

Born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden, grandson of the Romanian theatre actor Petre Vasilescu. Niklas moved to Los Angeles in 2014 to study Filmmaking at New York Film Academy. During his studies he learned and worked with many working professionals. He put his experience to good use when his debut short film “Code of Iron”, became an official selection and won an Honorable Mention at L.A. Neo Noir Novel, Film & Script Festival in 2017.

Contact: niklas.berggren@hotmail.com, (818) 850-8995



Lucas Paz - Producer

CEO of (PRE)FORMA-SE Artistic Productions. He's worked as a producer, director, actor and various other departments. His passion for the art goes back to the age of 5 in theater. He has received both a Bachelor's in theatre directing by USP, Brazil. And a MFA in Filmmaking by NYFA, Los Angeles, US. He's also an actor with 23 years of experience, working with many celebrities such as Snoop Dogg, Offspring, and Robyn. Lucas worked on the awarded feature film "The Occupants". He has also received an award for producing the short film "Julia" starring Sabrina Percario.

Contact: lucasfpaz@hotmail.com, (213) 361-5226



Brooke "Cookie" Schulte - Cinematographer

Currently attending New York Film Academy to study in the BFA Filmmaking program. Brooke "Cookie" Schulte is an aspiring cinematographer who has been working in the industry since she was 17 years old. She has a lot of experience working in many different fields in the industry. But now she's starting to make a name for herself and show her great eye and talent for camera, and as a cinematographer.

Contact: brooke.schulte@nyfa.edu, (949) 278-8364



Salil Bhayani - Music Composer

Being mentored by composers like Lucas Vidal (composer of Fast and the Furious 6), Griffin Boice, and other Hollywood composers, Salil has found himself working on various films, video games, songs and audiobooks across the globe. He has produced mock-ups for Norman Ludwin, a renowned orchestrator (worked with Michael Giacchino on major Hollywood films like Jurassic World, Inside Out, ect.) and double bass player. His compositions for the indie game Somewhere by studio Oleomingus received notice on the popular gaming website Rock, Paper, Shotgun.

Contact: salilsbhayani@gmail.com, (857) 350-2845

Cast



Clarissa Hoffmann - Lauren (Lead)

Clarissa is a German actress and writer, known for *Tango Shalom*, *Ce qu'on a laissé derrière nous* (2017), and *Blood* (2017). She attended the Two Year Acting Conservatory at Schauspiel München in Munich, Germany, and the Two year Conservatory NYC *Larry Moss Master Class*, at The Stella Adler Studio of Acting in Berlin and New York. She is an extremely talented actress who has earned two awards. She received NYU Showcase Audience Award for “Say Auf Wiederseh’n” (Short), and Dance Film Association Honorary Award for “Lilt” (Short).

Contact: clarissa.hoffmann@gmail.com, (917) 373-2142



Ellis Miller - Ron (Supporting)

Ellis is an upcoming actor who is known for *Z Fever* (2016), and *Stray* (2017). Not only is he an actor, while acting in the tv-series *Z Fever*, he was also First Assistant Director, Still Photographer, and Script Supervisor.

Contact: ellismiller33@gmail.com, (479) 220-7000



Cynthia Aileen Strahan - Mary-Ann (Supporting)

Cynthia Aileen Strahan is an American actress born in Oakland, California to Susan and Charles. She graduated from San Jose State University in 2013 and is of Chinese and Scottish descent. She was first discovered by a director in San Francisco who cast her as the lead female role in his film, *Valerie*, that debuted at the Castro

Theatre. She has since studied at the San Francisco Acting Academy and has been nominated for Best Performance with her latest film, *Dreams We Share* at Bright Ideas Film Festival.

Contact: cynthiaaileen@gmail.com, (510) 290-7904



Sarah Schulte - Mistress (Supporting)

Sarah is an American actress, and singer known for *Her Name Was* (2016), *Lita* (2016), and *The Galen Projects* (2017) which she also co-directed. She is also the lead singer of the Rock Tribute band to Madonna called Madonnica. And she is a recent graduate from the acting program in California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). Sarah has been acting since she was a child. She's played all kinds of characters ranging from a kooky circus clown to a strong and cunning Lady Macbeth. She's been told by directors that she is easy to work with and that she provides interesting, bold and thoughtful choices to her characters.

Contact: Sarahmustsing@gmail.com, (949) 278-8016



Eve Coquillard - Mrs. Clarice (Supporting)

Eve Coquillard started her entertainment career on camera, but quickly switched to the other side of the lens, working as a feature and television executive/Executive Producer for over twenty years. She began in features at Simpson Bruckheimer then segued to television with the launch of the Fox network. She was involved in the development of such ground-breaking shows as “In Living Color,” “The Ben Stiller Show,” and oversaw the production/development of special events such as the Billboard Music Awards and the Emmys. She moved to Viacom to launch the television arm of MTV Productions, and there developed a slate of programming that featured MTV talent (TLC, Jenny McCarthy) which she sold to the traditional networks. She also oversaw the development and production of “Dead at 21,” the first original drama series to air on MTV. Eve was a partner at C3 (Comcast Content and Communications), producing and selling programming to media outlets, working with Comcast-owned properties (QVC), and developing/creating new distribution channels. Ms. Coquillard was a founding member/owner of C2C Media, a consulting firm whose clients straddled the lines of technology and entertainment. Through her own production company, Ms. Coquillard Executive Produced several syndicated series and pilots for MTV and Fox.

Contact: theevector@gmail.com

FAQ

Q: What inspired you to make *Faithful*?

A: You believe what you want to believe. That's the slogan for the movie, and it's also a phrase I found to be very true from personal experiences. When I was a kid, my dog died, and I didn't want to believe it, so I didn't, until the evidence was clear enough. Same thing when my great grandmother died. I saw her on the bed, but didn't want to believe it, so I left the room.

Even when my grandmother passed away in November, 2016. A big part of me wished it wasn't true. Many people have many different ways of handling situations like these, some handle them better, some worse. One of the most recent and well known situations that are very relatable would be the passing of Linkin Park frontman Chester Bennington.

The human mind is our strongest and most precious part of our bodies. But it's also our most exploit part. We need to take care of our minds more and make sure they stay well and healthy. Because if our minds crumble, so do we. That is the message I wanted to reach out to people with this film and that is why I wanted to create *Faithful*.

Q: This was your first time working with such a large crew. Was that something you thought was working in your favor, or do you prefer working with a smaller crew?

A: It was a great experience. For my previous short film *Code of Iron* I had half the amount I had for *Faithful*. I think the advantage of having a small or large crew depends on the location and what you need to shoot. Actually while shooting *Faithful*, two of the days we didn't have the full crew called on set just because of the location we were restricted and a larger crew would slow us down.

But for the other two days while shooting in the house we had everyone called on set because we were very limited on time and needed to rotate on where and what crew would work on. So while we were setting up and shooting in the bathroom, we first had Art Department dress the kitchen and living room, and once they were done G&E would set up lights. All of this while we are shooting something else.

We were very limited on time and needed to make the most of it, and with great communication with the heads (DP, Gaffer, Key Grip, and PD) we managed to make the most of it and got it all done on time.

Q: There were quite a few obstacles you had to face during the production. Can you tell us some of these obstacles and how you solved them?

A: We had everything and I was positive we were 100% ready. But then one month before we shoot, while I'm working on these other projects that I was working on. Things started happening. One crew member after the other started dropping out for different reasons.

The locations I wanted and thought were locked, suddenly weren't available anymore and we needed to find replacements fast. I was very lucky that I had friends who were free during the dates I was shooting and was helping me out and I'm very thankful for them. Also very thankful to Lucas because he did a lot to help me solve the location issues. And all this is just the tip of the iceberg.

But even tho as frustrating as these obstacles were, I'm happy to have experienced them. Because they made me grow as a filmmaker. It forced me to learn how to deal with stressful situations and solve them on the spot. And obstacles I've learned is something you will always have when trying to make a movie. They say that the greatest filmmaker is the greatest problem solver. And I feel that is very true after finishing *Faithful*.

Q: What kept your morale up and made you keep going despite all these obstacles?

A: I had friends and family who were very supportive to me and were constantly pushing me. I had also saved up money for this project for a little over a year and I really didn't want to make them go to waste either. But probably the biggest morale booster I had was my late grandmother. She had just recently passed away and she was always on my mind, and I wanted to make a movie that I think she would be proud of.

Q: What is your favorite film?

A: I've been asked that question so many times, and I still can't give an answer. There are just too many great movies made that I can't just pick one. But some of them would be *Seven*, *Infernal Affairs*, the original korean *Old Boy*, *Fight Club*, *Road to Perdition* and many more.

Q: Who has been some of your greatest influences as a filmmaker?

A: I'm a huge fan of visual storytelling and I think one of the best today is David Fincher. I really like his style and he makes me engaged in the stories because he doesn't waste time showing information I don't need. Everything he puts on the screen gives the audience information they need to see to understand the progression of the story.

I'm also a huge fan of the cinematographer Conrad Hall. Not only did he have a great eye for camera, but he also knew how to light and shoot the scene based on what was going on. One of my favorite scenes ever shot, is the shooting scene towards the end in *Road to Perdition*, when Tom Hanks and Paul Newman's characters says their final goodbyes. It's so perfect because Hall managed to capture the essence and atmosphere that was fitting for the scene.

Q: Now after the production of *Faithful* is finished, and you graduated from New York Film Academy, what comes next for you?

A: I'm currently working as a freelance cinematographer while also writing 3 feature scripts that I hope to direct myself in the future.

Q: You say you want to direct, but you work a lot as a cinematographer as well. Which role do you prefer and what is your end goal?

A: I do love both directing and cinematography. Right now I'm trying to focus more on the cinematography aspect because I feel like I can learn so much more that will help me on projects I direct. But my end goal and my dream is and always has been to be a director.

Q: What would you say is your style or specialty in film?

A: I love darker stories, like horror, thrillers ect. Because then I can go more visually creative. I love stylized light set-ups because it looks way more interesting than something that the audience perceives to be real. To me, real is expected and easy to foresee and that is way less impactful.

Q: How can people contact you for future projects and see your work?

A: They can follow me on my social media pages, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, or send me an email. They can also visit my cinematography website.

Email - niklas.berggren@hotmail.com or faithfulshort@gmail.com

Facebook - facebook.com/NBcinematographer or facebook.com/FaithfulShort

Twitter - twitter.com/NB_Cinema, [@NB_Cinema](https://twitter.com/NB_Cinema)

Instagram - instagram.com/nb_cinema

