

A woman with dreadlocks is sitting on a blue couch in a room. She is wearing a colorful striped sweater. In the background, there is a painting of a landscape and a potted plant. The scene is lit with soft, natural light from a window on the right.

A FILM BY LAUREN ELIZABETH SCHWARTZBARD

ALANA HILL DIANE MOSTELLO

A PAID CONNECTION



A PAID CONNECTION

Running Time:

9 minutes

Directed By:

Lauren Elizabeth Schwartzbard

Written By:

Lauren Elizabeth Schwartzbard

Produced By:

Lauren Elizabeth Schwartzbard

Production Company:

The Schwartzbard Studios

Edited by:

Lauren Elizabeth Schwartzbard

Cinematographer:

Kevin Johnson

Composer:

Gordon Snyder



LOGLINE

When her therapist of 15 years announce she is retiring, a broken 32-year-old woman will not let her go without a fight.

SYNOPSIS

Caroline has been seeing her therapist Judy for almost half of her life. Caroline goes into her session thinking it is a regular week and is shocked when Judy announces her retirement but doesn't mention her declining health. Caroline doesn't trust a new therapist to get her through a suicidal period in her life the way Judy has. In desperation, Caroline offers to pay Judy under the table to keep seeing her. Judy refuses and Caroline leaves without saying another word.

OUR STORY

This film has to be made because there are not enough works exploring the particular relationship between a patient and her therapist. It is a relationship built over time that is incredibly one-sided. A therapist knows so much about her patient, more than many friends or family of said patient know. But patients know very little, if anything, about their therapists.

I want the viewer to experience pain while watching this film. Pain over the end of a relationship and pain over the revelation that the end of the relationship will hurt one person far more than the other. I want the viewer to go along on the journey with Caroline as she reminds Judy, and is reminded herself, of what the two of them have been through together only for Judy to clarify that it is her job to be there for Caroline and she is paid to do so. I do not want to demonize therapists in this piece and so Judy is fighting her own battle and due to the professional nature of her relationship with Caroline, she cannot share it.





Alana Hill as ***Caroline Farley***

I study acting at Playhouse West-Philadelphia with Tony Savant, where I get to live in the moment every single day! Over the past almost 3 years I've fallen more and more in love and respect with the acting and filmmaking craft. The relationships and people I get to meet and live with every day make life worth its every moment. I love getting to be vulnerable for this craft, and working on 'A Paid Connection' was a nice high dive for me to practice jumping from.



Diane Mostello as ***Judy Stevens***

Diane Mostello is thrilled to play Judy in *A Paid Connection*. She recently returned to acting after working as a compliance analyst in the financial industry and raising two children. Upcoming projects include *The Butterfly* with Red Flight Pictures and *The Cathedral* with Venice Biennale Cinema Lab. Diane earned a BA in Theatre Arts and Communications from Boston College and is a graduate of Circle in the Square Theatre School. She lives in New York City.

WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER, Lauren Elizabeth Schwartzbard

I find that I am drawn to telling personal and painful stories. After projects about eating disorders and abusive relationships, it seems fitting to tell a story about therapy. I myself have been in therapy for several years now and have seen at five different therapists during that time. At the end of my freshman year of college, I had to say goodbye to my therapist, and it was very hard for me. I had no real way to deal with my emotions because people don't typically talk about their experiences with therapy. After simmering for a little over a year, those feelings re-emerged and inspired this film. Writing this script has allowed me to understand myself better.



CREDITS

Directed by:

Lauren Elizabeth Schwartzbard

Written by:

Lauren Elizabeth Schwartzbard

Produced by:

Lauren Elizabeth Schwartzbard

Director of Photography

Kevin Johnson

Editor

Lauren Elizabeth Schwartzbard

Music by

Gordon Snyder

Production Sound Recordist

George Hawke

Executive Producers

Janet Schwartzbard

Carol Schwartzbard



CAST

Caroline Farley

Judy Stevens

Alana Hill

Diane Mostello



1st Assistant Camera:

Grip/Gaffer:

Still Photographer:

EPK:

Insurance:

Camera & Grip Equipment:

Lighting Equipment:

Katie Harkins

Jacob Kressly

Michelle Schwartzbard

StudioBinder

Temple University

Temple University

Temple University

