

PRESENTS

FACING FORWARD

A FILM BY ABIGAIL DICKINSON

TIME | U.S.A | ENGLISH | COLOR

PRODUCED BY JOSELYN LEON

CO-PRODUCED BY ABIGAIL DICKINSON



Running Time - 9:02

24 FPS & 120 FPS

4K

16:9 Aspect Ratio

Shot on Sony A7iii & Mini Mavic Drone

Edited in Premiere Pro

TRAILER

SYNOPSIS

SHORT SYNOPSIS

This poetic documentary follows Abigail Dickinson on a sailing passage with her sister, Rachel, and father, Clay. In an effort to come to terms with change, she confides in her dad for some of his 'old man wisdom'; how did he deal with growing up and can he make her feel any better about the future to come, where eventually, she will be sailing on her own.



LONG SYNOPSIS

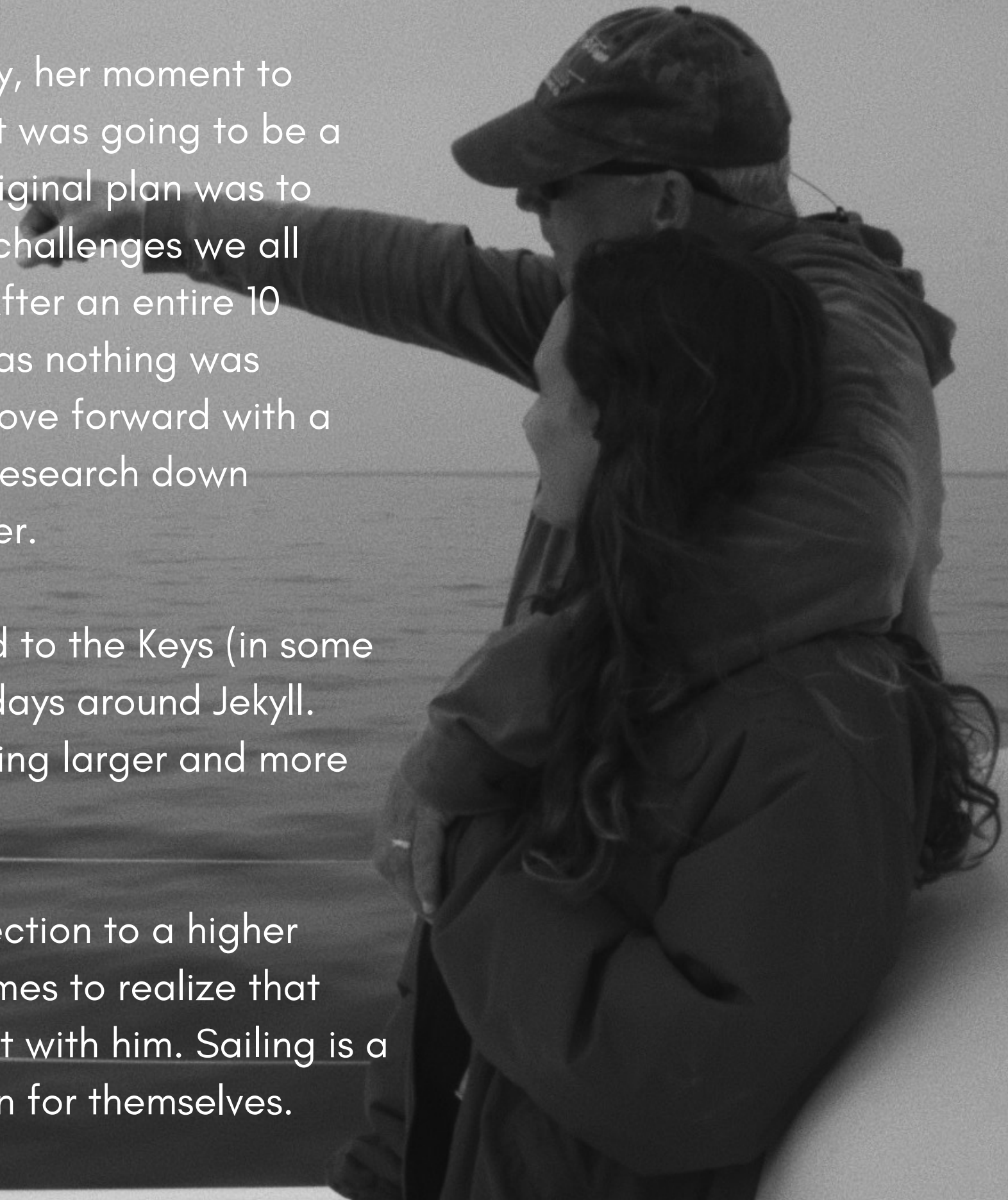
This poetic documentary follows Abigail Dickinson on a sailing passage with her sister, Rachel, and father, Clay. This documentary explores Abigail's desire to prove herself capable of pushing her limits especially when she isn't in control of the outcome. As a senior in college, her life is about to change drastically. In an effort to come to terms with that change, she confides in her dad for some of his 'old man wisdom'; how did he deal with growing up and can he make her feel any better about the future to come? Abigail gains insight into what it means to be getting older and how to accept the black hole that is the future, not run away from it. As she finally puts her words into action she has a life-changing experience. A metaphor for accepting the next chapter, seeing the growth that comes with time, and learning to continue facing forward.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

It was Abigail's senior year attending SCAD and finally, her moment to make THE "legacy film". While she immediately knew it was going to be a documentary, there was pushback to the story. The original plan was to make a film about her dad, connecting sailing to the challenges we all face daily. She was told, "Why would people care"? After an entire 10 weeks of research, planning, and attempting new ideas nothing was sticking. Abigail decided to follow her intuition and move forward with a new approach to her original storyline. The weeks of research down different avenues helped solidify her vision even further.

She sailed with her father and family from Jekyll Island to the Keys (in some of the rainiest, coldest weather) and again for three days around Jekyll. Slowly the story began to unfold and became something larger and more universal than anticipated.

Sailing is not only a connection to the ocean, a connection to a higher power, but Abigail's connection to her father. She comes to realize that these are the fleeting moments to cherish the time left with him. Sailing is a great metaphor for life and anyone can apply a lesson for themselves.



ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Abigail Dickinson - Director, DP, Executive Producer

Abigail Dickinson is an up-and-coming director, producer, and cinematographer. She graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a B.F.A in Film and Television and a minor in Producing, working diligently on various documentary projects. Her work focuses on compelling story arcs and thought-out visuals. She gravitates towards telling stories that would otherwise go unnoticed, one of which was nominated for a Student Emmy in 2022. Alongside her career, Abigail is also an advocate for ocean and nature conservation, often creating work that helps to inspire change. With a fresh perspective and a drive to succeed, Abigail will continue to create documentaries and branded content films that go beyond the ordinary.



Joselyn Leon - Producer

Joselyn Marie is the producer of Facing Forward. She is a film and TV major with a double minor in producing for film and business. While she hasn't worked on many documentaries yet, she has plans to produce and help create many more in the future. Working with Abigail on this project has been so much fun and she is grateful for the experience.



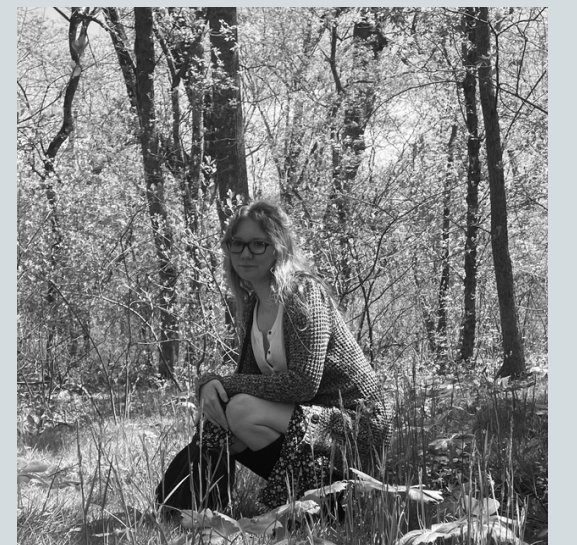
Mitchy Floyd - Editor

Mitchy Floyd is a soon-to-be graduate of SCAD with a major in Film & TV and a minor in Dramatic Writing. Her passion for storytelling led her into post-production where she soon developed a love for documentary. After college, she hopes to continue editing for non-fiction.



Carson Bannister - Sound Designer

Carson Bannister is a sound editor and loves working in post-production. She fell in love with sound through movies, movies like Terrence Maliks and Andrei Tarkovsky. Since then she wanted to be a part of the magic of sound in filmmaking.



CREDITS

Dylan Ferguson - Music Composer

Jacob Oliver - Motion Media

Fenn David - Colorist

Ciara Radwell - ADR Mixer



FEATURING

Abigail Dickinson: 22-year-old film alum of the Savannah College of Art and Design, with a passion for non-narrative storytelling. She loves anything that has to do with the outdoors, as it is where she finds herself the most comfortable. She's an observer and rather quiet, taking in the world around her. While seemingly calm and collected on the outside, she has the same fears as everyone else and has to find ways to cope. She does this through time spent outdoors, with God, and with her family, allowing her to create the art she loves the most. She fills her mind with grand questions about the world and is always curious to find out the answers for herself.

Clay Dickinson: A 65-year-old going on 30. The wisest man anyone will ever meet; he has read every book under the sun. He is a grateful and reflective man. After refinding his love for sailing about 8 years ago, he made it his goal to excel at it. Now a captain, he shares his passion with his family. He has a lot of lessons to share, a lot of life lived, and a lot of love for his middle daughter. He is more complex than he lets on but once you get him talking, there's no stopping him. Having lived through a very difficult childhood/adulthood, he wants nothing more than to make his daughters feel loved and seen. He is able to pull off being extremely respected and a complete softy at the same time.

Rachel Dickinson: A 24-year-old natural-born intellect, Rachel is a lifelong learner. She is constantly reading to keep her mind engaged and her thoughts in order. She is impeccably strong both inside and out, and Clay's right-hand man when it comes to sailing. She too enjoys spending most of her time outside and on the water. She is quiet at first but hilarious and unfiltered once comfortable. She values hard work, meaningful friendships, and worldly education.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How did you juggle filming the action as well as helping to sail?

I would always have my camera close by and ready for the action. We have a lot of footage of me running around because I have been pulled into actually helping with something, it's fun to look back on. I would try to have my father let me know when he was going to do something so I could get my camera.

What was one of the most challenging parts?

The unknowns of sailing was a challenge. Not knowing if the weather was going to be good or if we would have any wind to sail at all until a few days prior was nerve-wracking. But, if we are talking about a real challenge - that would be flying a drone in wind, over water, when its "home" continues to move in a forward direction; that can make anyone a little sweaty.

What was the most rewarding part of this project?

I think finally trusting my cinematography abilities was the most rewarding for me. I truly love filming but doubt my skill when comparing myself to others. I am very proud of my ability to capture this story in a rather unconventional environment. This is tied with seeing my crew come together and work cohesively and timely to tell a good story.

Was there a big story change from production to the edit?

I had a first rough cut that is so different from what the final became it's not even funny! In terms of the story arc, however, I wouldn't say the change was monumental and I am not surprised it happened this way.

After going through the edit and critiques, it was clear that my relationship with my father was something bigger and more meaningful than what I was presenting. Taking a shift and focusing on our connection through sailing, I believe created a more clear throughline and enhanced the original message I was going for regarding growth.



BEHIND THE SCENES

