

FINDING DAD



Synopsis

A documentarian and filmmaker hires an actor to portray herself and go in her place to Augsburg, Germany in an attempt to reconnect with her estranged and reluctant father.





The Film

Is our fate predetermined by the actions and inaction of our parents? One filmmaker sets out to discover if the circumstances she was born into will leave her doomed or set her free.

Finding Dad is a film that follows the journey of a young, aspiring director who decides to make a movie about her quest to meet her biological father for the first time. She hires an actress to play herself while she documents their interactions and discoveries along the way. As the two embark on their journey, they uncover new clues about her family's past and present, as well as their own personal struggles. **Finding Dad** is a film about the blurred lines between reality and fiction, and how the simple act of story-telling has the monumental power to heal us, connect us, and, ultimately, show us the way.

watch
the trailer





Director Bio



Phelan is a half-American, half-German director who explores intimacy and connection through her own vulnerability as a queer creative woman.

Her narrative style— which has attracted partnerships with brands such as White Claw, Nike, Verizon, Twitter, and Puma— skillfully balances meticulous attention to detail with a keen and loving eye for the messiness of the human experience. Her style gives herself and viewers permission to be imperfect and unresolved.

In her short film *Be Here to Love Me*, Phelan explores flawed connections through a surreal recreation of her own lived experience. In her short documentary *Looking for Love*, Phelan investigates the age-old question of “what is love and community?” In her feature-film debut *Finding Dad*, she masterfully blurs reality using found footage techniques and everyday communication styles, inviting viewers to break the fourth wall and see themselves reflected in a story about love, connection, and what it means to belong. She currently resides between Paris and New York.

Featured in :

ADWEEK *VoyageLA*

Behind the scene



Director Statement –

Finding Dad is a film that explores how the baggage of my parents has affected my life. At first, I didn't intentionally try to set out on a journey of healing and self discovery, but over the course of the filmmaking process I began to actually heal from the pain of my childhood.

Our parents teach us how to navigate life and they lead by example. If they lack the tools and skills to deal with their negative patterns, how am I supposed to learn to deal with my own? At least that's what I think caused a ripple effect in developing my own unhealthy coping mechanisms in order to manage all the baggage of the adults around me. These mechanisms prevented me from obtaining what I truly wanted — love, acceptance, belonging, and family. At some point in my mid twenties I realized that I needed to make a change or stay stuck, and I just couldn't bear staying stuck.

Leading up to this point, I hadn't been too pleased with the trends I had noticed in my romantic relationships. I never felt secure in any of them and I often felt like I was fighting my partner just to be with me. They were also usually explosive and short lived. Like a mirror image of the

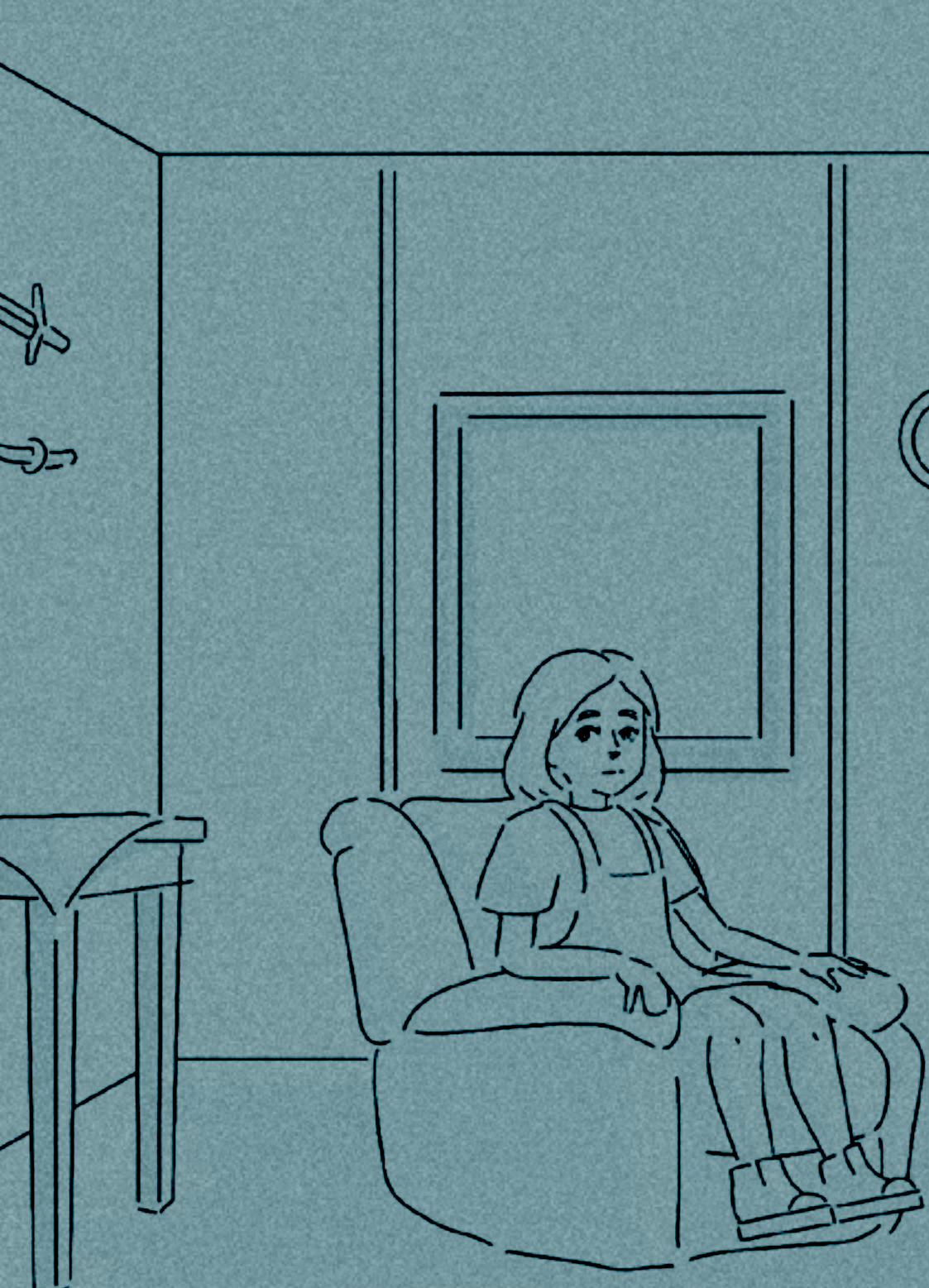


environment I was raised in, there it was staring me in the face - my parents bullshit taking its own form in my friendships and love life. It wasn't just with my partners where I felt insecure. I don't think I ever felt secure and things really started spiraling when drugs and depression entered my life. Like it or not, I

had to hold myself accountable and take responsibility for the negative behaviors I had inherited from my mother and father.

So, I went to Germany in an attempt to find my estranged father and to make a film about it. At the time this seemed easier to commit to than focusing on my own recovery. Camera in hand, I flew to Augsburg where I knew my father last lived. As I filmed and explored, my deeper reasons for being there began to dawn on me. I was on a desperate search for answers to life long questions. This film took me four years to make and over the course of it I met my father for the first time. I had one hour-long conversation with him that hit me like a semi truck, only for him to cut all contact with me a month later and, even crazier still, he died a year after that. This film was the only thing that I was left with and the only thing that made sense. It became the way that I processed all that had just happened.





FINDING Dad

This is my life, illustrated in a way to force me to face my deepest fear in order to let it go. I hope that whatever burdens you can be lifted. In reality, my journey has not been so linear. Some days are easier than others, and with that I keep going.

findingdad.com

FINDING DAD

DIRECTOR BRIT PHELAN

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

MAX REEVES / CHLOE BERMAN / MONROE CLINE
CATHERINE BERGIN / HAYLEY OROZCO / BRIT PHELAN
SIERRA FUJITA PUETT / FAUSTA PHELAN / LEXI KIRSCH
LIV MAI / SHAUNA DAVID

VOICE ACTORS

JAZZ WALKER – THERAPIST
OLIVE LORRAINE – DELTA AIR LINES REPRESENTATIVE
ILIJA BENTSCHKEFF – TAXI DRIVER
PHILLIP SCHMITT – KLAUS

EXTRAS

OWEN SCARLETT / SIMONE HOLLIDAY
ALEXIS AMUNDARAIN / MARISSA MAIORANA

CAMERA OPERATORS

BRIT PHELA / MARSHALL DOUGLIS / JERRY SUN
MATTHEW HAVES / BLAKE MOHR / JOHN JAY
BRIT PHELAN / RAQUEL WAJNER / JAMAR GRESHAM
CORENTIN MACE / FAUSTA PHELAN

ART DEPARTMENT

MADELEINE MALOY – PRODUCTION DESIGNER
CAROLINA PEDROZA – ART DIRECTOR
BRENT MASON – CONSTRUCTION COORDINATOR
ELIJAH FLORES – CARPENTER
CHRIS LAFFERTY – SET DRESSER
SETH ORIGITANO – SET DRESSER

GRIP AND ELECTRIC

KYLE SLOAN – GAFFER
MANDO VAZQUEZ – GAFFER
TAYLOR MAHONEY – GRIP
SHAWN SCOTT – GRIP

PRODUCTION

LITTLE KNOW PRODUCTION
BRIT PHELAN – PRODUCER
VICKY FORSYTH-SMITH – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

MICHAEL MORALES – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
LINDSAY ST. CLAIR – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
LAURA VALLANCE – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
THIEN DAM – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
JENNY KIM – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
BRITTNY MOORE – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
MAKENNA COMBS – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
FAUSTA PHELAN – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
ARTY PHELAN – ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
SONNY CASTANEDA – PA
JONATHAN GONZALEZ – PA

EDITING

BRIT PHELAN – EDITOR
OLIVER NGUYEN – ASSISTANT EDITOR
XANDER MOZEJEW/SKI – ASSISTANT EDITOR
HECTOR FELIX – ASSISTANT EDITOR
JEREMY GREDONE – TRAILER EDITOR
YVETTE DUBIN – TRAILER EDITOR

VFX

LUCAS GUEROIS – VFX & MOTION DESIGN
MARIUS BONTET – CHARACTER DESIGN & ANIMATION

COMPOSITING

KEVIN WOO

COLORIST

JEREMY LAUVIGE

SOUNDS

BLAKE CHRISTIAN – BOOM OPERATOR
ROB DENNLER – SOUND EDITOR,
DESIGNER AND RE-RECORDING MIXER ALEX ZHORT
– ADDITIONAL POST SOUND CODY SKULLY –
ADDITIONAL POST SOUND PHINEES ROBERT – ADR ENGINEER

MUSIC BY

JORDAN ELENA / DAVID KATZ

SPECIAL THANKS

JENNY KIM / JAKE KWASIBORAKI / EDOARDO VITALETT / ALY CAVER

My goal in storytelling is to connect with viewers. I hope my film inspires you along your own journey.

BRIT PHELAN

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