



My
Guardian Angel

SHORT FILM PRESS KIT

A young girl with blonde hair in pigtails, wearing a pink headband and a necklace, is sitting in the back seat of a car. She is looking out the window with a curious expression. The car's interior, including the headrest and window frame, is visible. The background is blurred, suggesting motion or a shallow depth of field.

Logline

After befriending a unique and stylish classmate, a bright and positive schoolgirl tries to unravel the mystery of her new friend's bullied existence.



Genre

My Guardian Angel is a G-rated, family styled, coming of age film targeted toward elementary and middle school demographics.

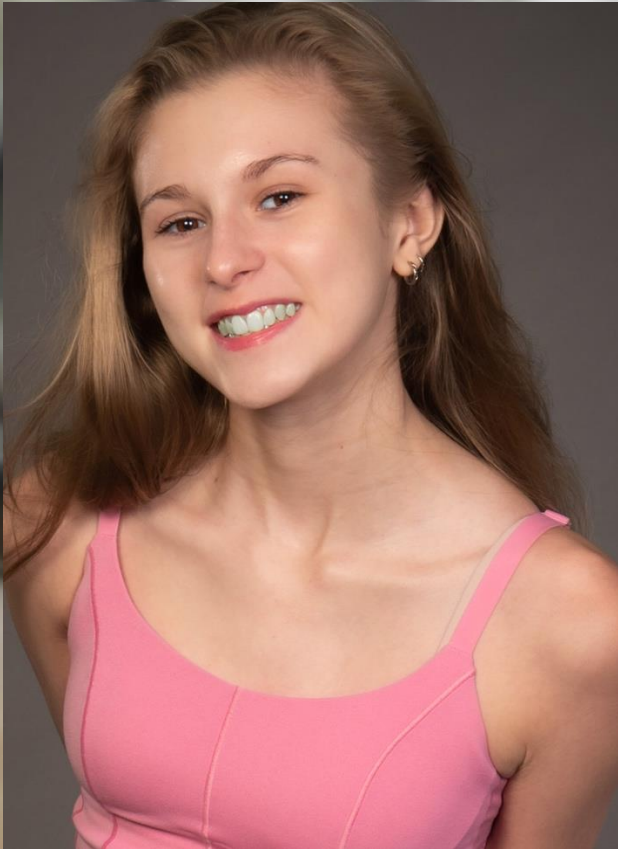


Synopsis & Theme

Kirina, a vibrant and optimistic elementary school girl, embarks on a new chapter filled with hopes of adventures and lasting connections as she transitions to a new school. Upon eagerly meeting her teacher and classmates, she encounters Aurora, a unique and stylish theatre enthusiast battling illness, and an instant bond forms as they share a passion for the arts. Yet, amidst their budding friendship, Kirina witnesses the unjust treatment Aurora faces from her peers. Determined to be a beacon of support, Kirina courageously stands by Aurora's side, refusing to let negativity overshadow their limited time together.

True friendship is seeing the best in someone and finding the courage to stand up for them no matter the cost.

Director's Statement



My inspiration for My Guardian Angel is personal. When I was young, I switched schools and met Teeja. We instantly connected, like sisters, and spent hours talking. She taught me so much, and this film honors our friendship, showing how one good friend can make a difference. At her funeral, I never had the chance to speak, and that has stayed with me.

This film is my eulogy to her, expressing what I couldn't then, while also raising awareness about educating future generations on children with diseases or disabilities.

Beyond that, My Guardian Angel aims to teach children about acceptance, inclusion, and friendship, fostering empathy and understanding early on. I hope the film helps the audience relate to the characters, empathize with their struggles, and understand the lasting impact of bullying. Ultimately, I want viewers to leave with new perspectives and a deeper appreciation for the value of seeing and accepting others for who they truly are.

The background of the image is a photograph of a red car's trunk. Inside the trunk, there is a white bag with a pink cherry blossom pattern, a blue jacket, and other items. The trunk is lined with a dark, textured material. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Technical Info

Runtime: 00:25:39

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Formats: 4K UHD Prores 4444XQ & 1080P H.264

Language: English

Shooting Locations: Sarasota, Florida

Production Timeline: 5 Day Production Shoot -
November 2024

Audio Format Specs: 5.1 Surround & Stereo



Nya Chambless

Writer | Director

Nya Chambless, a Sarasota native, discovered her passion for acting at age 2 after seeing Annie on stage. Her debut was in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at Player's Theatre. Nya's diverse career includes indie films, commercials, and stage productions, with notable roles in Ruby at WBTT, Once at Florida Studio Theatre, Bridge to the Other Side, Florida Man, Shape of the Past, and the children's TV pilot The Growing Garden. She also performed improv with LA Connection Comedy Theatre Troupe for two seasons.

Nya has written and directed three short films, including Just Believe, which screened in 15 countries and won 11 international awards. She's trained with industry professionals such as Nate Jacobs and Bob Marks. Her latest film, My Guardian Angel, was officially selected for the Sarasota and Ft. Myers Film Festivals. Now in 9th grade with honors, Nya continues to refine her skills in acting, filmmaking, singing, and dance.

Jerry Chambless

Producer



Jerry Chambless, owner of Illum Productions, has over 20 years of experience in the arts and entertainment industry as an award-winning producer, writer, director, creative director, and animator. He began his career in advertising with agencies like Leo Burnett and Saatchi & Saatchi and worked with General Electric in the industrial sector. In the late 90s, he joined Calabash Animation Studios, collaborating with clients like General Mills, Brach's, and Starkist earning an Academy Award nomination for a studio short.

Returning to Sarasota in the early 2000s, Jerry focused on directing live-action narratives and branded content like the Growing Garden, No Fear and Drawn to the Broken. He has worked with independent directors producing projects like Bridge to the Other Side, Surviving Lunch, and Beautiful Noise pushing narratives that make an inclusive difference.

In addition to his professional work, Jerry led the IB film program at Riverview High School in Sarasota, expanding it to the only 3-year program worldwide, and taught Film as an adjunct professor at Ringling College of Art & Design for over a decade. Jerry also mentors' students on professional productions.



Natasha Thornton

Director of Photography

Natasha Thornton works as a cinematographer, camera operator, digital and traditional photographer, storyboard artist, illustrator, and film editor. Her projects include music videos, corporate image, short and feature films, commercials, educational media, multimedia projects, biographies, and documentaries.



Adrian Walther

Music Composer

Adrian Walther, an award-winning film composer originally from Toronto, Canada, brings over 20 years of experience to his craft. Born into a musical family, Adrian's journey began as a touring and recording musician across diverse genres before transitioning seamlessly into film scoring. His passion for merging music with storytelling is evident in his versatile ability to create emotive soundtracks that elevate the narrative of feature films, documentaries, and advertising campaigns. His dedication to collaboration extends beyond accolades, as he cherishes working closely with directors and producers to enrich filmmaking through music. Adrian also mentors aspiring musicians, sharing his expertise to foster growth within the industry, cementing his reputation as a respected and invaluable figure in film composition.



Christian Huthmacher

VFX Senior Composer

Christian Huthmacher is an Emmy-Award Winning Animator and VFX Artist who's professional experience spans work with renowned brands and intellectual properties such as the NFL, Marvel, Star Wars, Nerf, SpongeBob, NASA, The Loud House, LEGO, Transformers, and the Kids' Choice Awards, through roles at Nickelodeon, Hasbro, and his own freelance projects.

Currently based in Sarasota Florida, Christian is a Professor of Visual Effects whose courses helped Ringling College of Art and Design reach the the rankings of #1 school in the world for Motion Graphics, and #2 in U.S. for Visual Effects.



Troy Logan

Sound Mixer | Post Audio

Troy Logan is an award-winning, Sarasota-based sound designer and location audio engineer. Since graduating from his alma mater, Ringling College of Art and Design in 2022, Logan founded TroyLo Sounds, a one-stop shop for location and post-audio services in Sarasota. Logan is an Avid Certified Pro Tools Specialist whose work spans numerous narrative features, documentaries, and commercials.



Daria Droteva

Kirina

Daria Droteva is a young actress known for her work in both film and television. She first discovered her passion for acting at the age of five after participating in a local musical theatre production. By age nine, Daria had already appeared in several film and television series, including her roles as Ceci in *Outer Range*, Chloe in *Family Portrait*, and Abby Blagg in *Killer Relationship with Faith Jenkins*. In addition to acting, Daria is fluent in Russian, sings in her school choir, plays the piano, and enjoys tumbling. Daria aspires to take on more complex dramatic roles and hopes to someday explore directing.



Katie Makovec

Aurora

Katie Makovec is a fifth grader from Winter Haven, Florida. She is very proud to be cast as Aurora in *My Guardian Angel*. This is her second short film. She started performing in musical theatre at Theatre Winter Haven at the age of seven. Some of her favorite roles were Young Anna in *Frozen Jr* and Matilda in *All Shook Up Jr*. She is active in her school's concert choir and was recently selected to participate in the FEMEA Central Regional Honor Orff Ensemble.



Brindisi Capri

Mara

At just 10 years old, Brindisi Capri has already made her mark in acting and modeling. Starting at age 6, she gained experience through commercials, industrials, and print work. In 2023, she transitioned to film acting, discovering a deep passion for the craft. Her debut was in the thriller *The Rows*, directed by Seth Daly, where her endurance and dedication led to a standout performance. Brindisi has quickly built a reputation for taking on challenging roles with remarkable depth and authenticity.



Eva Wisniewski

Paige

Eva stands for "giver of life," and she lives up to her name. As an academically gifted child, singer, and actress, Eva Wisniewski is well-spoken beyond her ten years and confident on the stage. Eva likes coding, math, crocheting, and animals. She has a dog, two cats, and a corn snake. She wants to be a lawyer when she grows up.



Todd Bellamy II

Mr. Steven

Todd Bellamy II is an actor, singer and dancer from Sarasota, Florida. He is a recent graduate of Florida A&M University as a Theatre Performance major and is looking to further his career as an artist. His most notable productions include Fences (Cory), The Waiting Room (Pat Innes), Pass Over (Moses), and Chicken & Biscuits (Reginald Mabry).



Victoria Flounders

Mary

Victoria Flounders is a Sarasota-based actress, devoted mother of three, and a senior in the Theatre Performance program at the University of South Florida. With a deep passion for theatre, honed through her training at the State College of Florida Theatre Program, Victoria has brought a diverse range of memorable characters to life, including the sharp-witted Dr. Dorothy Watson in Miss Holmes and the whimsical Peter Pan in Peter/Wendy. Her love for storytelling has led her to perform on stages across Sarasota. With a special appreciation for stories that resonate with young audiences, she is grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a heartfelt and meaningful production.



Katherine Michelle Tanner

Jeanne

Katherine Michelle Tanner is a multi-award-winning actress, singer, director, composer, choreographer, filmmaker, writer, and teaching artist. She is best known for her performances in the one-woman plays *The Amish Project* (Off-Broadway and US Tour) and *Mann's Last Dance*. Florida audiences may recognize her from productions like *Proof*, *August: Osage County*, *Hamlet*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Katherine's film credits include *My Guardian Angel*, *Bridge to the Other Side*, *Waiting on Mary*, *The Crimson Cloak*, and the Academy Award-nominated *Respire Mon Amie*. She has written plays such as *Shakespeare's Lovers*, *Mann's Last Dance*, and *Women of Broadway*. She holds a triple major from St. Olaf College and an MFA in Acting from FSU's Asolo Theatre Conservatory. Katherine is the Founder and Artistic Director of Tree Fort Productions Studio and its nonprofit counterpart, Tree Fort Productions Projects.

Production Stills



BTS Stills



Poster

MGA_Poster



My Guardian Angel

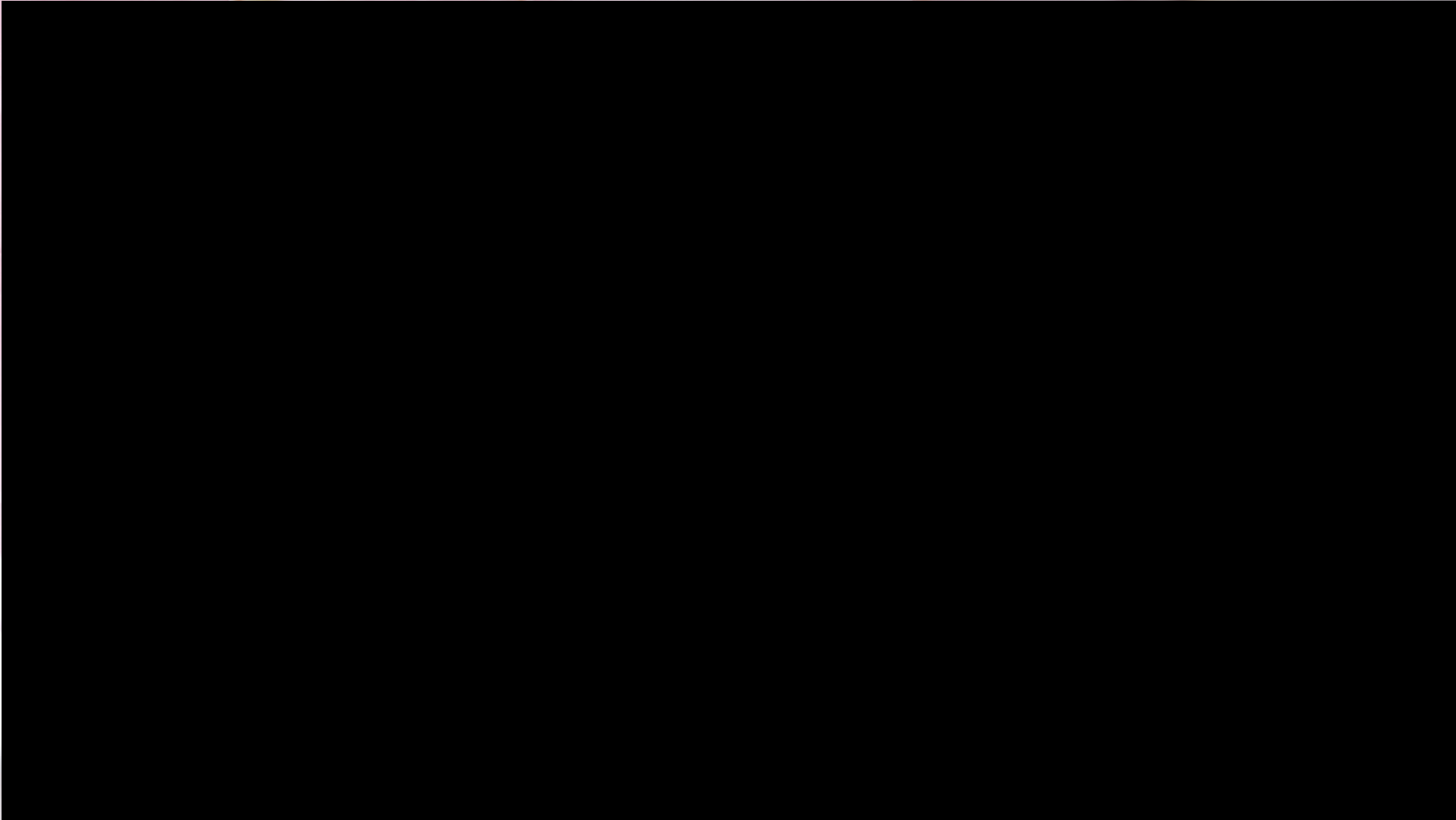
True friendship shines brighter than any shadow.

ILLUM PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH GRIEF DIALOGUES A NYX CHAMBLESS FILM "MY GUARDIAN ANGEL"
DARIA DROTEVA KATIE WAKOPEC BRANDISI CAPRI EVA WISNIEWSKI VICTORIA FLOUNDERS TODD BELLAMY II KATHERINE W. TANNER
WRITTEN BY NYX & JERRY CHAMBLESS DIRECTED BY NYX & JERRY CHAMBLESS PRODUCED BY JERRY CHAMBLESS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NATASHA THORNTON PRODUCED BY GRIEF DIALOGUES ELIZABETH COPLIN ARMORUSTER FAMILY FOUNDATION FAMILIO FAMILY WRITTEN BY NYX & JERRY CHAMBLESS

ILLUM GRIEF DIALOGUES Armbruster Family Foundation APRIL 2025
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Trailer

MGA_Trailer



Media | Publicity

SWFL Fresh Press with Eric Raddatz

[SWFL_FreshPress-s03-ep01](#)

ABC 7 - Suncoast View

[Suncoast_View_NyaChambless-061724](#)

A-List Talks with Adam Armbruster

[A-List_Talks_Nya-JerryChambless-0225](#)

Festivals

Sarasota Film Festival Official Selection & Special Event: April 12th. 2025

<https://www.sarasotafilmfestival.com/film/my-guardian-angel/>

Fort Myers Film Festival Official Selection: May 14th - 18th 2025

<https://fortmyersfilmfestival.com/>

Production Company & Sponsor



Illum Productions is a full-service production studio specializing in film, branded content, broadcast, theatre, social media and print production.

Illum's award-winning creative staff and artists have twenty plus combined years in producing, directing, cinematography, film, commercials, art, design, conceptualization, animation, visual effects in narrative, broadcast, illustration, training media, advertising and print design.

Illum's creative drive, expertise and dedication have earned them several international, national, and local awards for excellence in producing, directing, visual effects and computer-generated imagery, creative direction, cinematography and design.

GRIEF DIALOGUES

Grief Dialogues, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to fostering conversations about dying, death, and grief through art and education, founded by acclaimed playwright Elizabeth Coplan, has joined forces as a sponsor for My Guardian Angel!

Grief Dialogues, the Seattle-based nonprofit, creates theater, storytelling, cinema, and the visual arts to spark meaningful conversations about death, dying, and grief. Through original plays, performances, workshops, films, and community events, Grief Dialogues creates a space where people can explore the complexities of loss, share their personal experiences, and discover new perspectives on life.

Executive Producers

Armbruster Family Foundation

"The Armbruster Family Foundation is proud to support this remarkable film. Our family goal is to advance young creative talents who are seeking to tell stories that also change the world!"

Famiglio Family

"We care deeply about supporting the very thoughtful and compassionate vision of this film. Ms. Chambless exemplifies all things inspiring for our film community in the coming years!"

Elizabeth Coplan

"I am proud to support My Guardian Angel, a film that embodies the Grief Dialogues: Out of Grief Comes Art movement. Inspired by a real-life friendship, it transforms loss into a powerful story of love and resilience. Nya Chambless's ability, at such a young age, to turn grief into art is truly inspiring. By raising awareness of childhood cancer and fostering empathy, this film proves the healing power of creativity. It is an honor to share its message of hope and connection worldwide."



NYA CHAMBLESS

NYACHAMBLESS@GMAIL.COM

941.960.3324

JERRY CHAMBLESS

JERRY@ILLUMPRODUCTIONS.COM

941.928.8356

My Guardian Angel