

Rescued HEARTS

DOCUMENTARY

THE MIRACLES, MYSTERY, AND SCIENCE
OF HEALING WITH HORSES

WINNER

Tryon International
Film Festival

BEST DOCUMENTARY

WINNER

EQUUS INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

THE HOPE AWARD

OFFICIAL SELECTION

SPIRIT FILM
FESTIVAL

WINNER

LADY FILMMAKERS
FILM FESTIVAL

BEST OF FESTIVAL

AWARD

ILLUMINATE
FILM FESTIVAL

AUDIENCE CHOICE FINALIST

OFFICIAL SELECTION

Carmel International
Film Festival

LIVE WILD FILMS PRESENTS RESCUED HEARTS DIRECTED BY KRISANNA SEXTON
PRODUCED BY DANA CROSCHERE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JEAN DEMPSEY & RYAH KI
EDITOR KRISANNA SEXTON COMPOSER BRIANNA TAM SINGER | SONGWRITER ELENA FLORES
CINEMATOGRAPHERS KRISANNA SEXTON DANA CROSCHERE

www.rescuedheartsfilm.com @rescuedheartsfilm



*"...explores the profound and often **miraculous connection** between humans and horses."*



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SYNOPSIS

Rescued Hearts is a powerful documentary that explores the profound and often miraculous connection between humans and horses.

Inspired by a life-changing moment — when a 7-year-old child diagnosed with autism spoke his first words while interacting with a horse — filmmakers Dana Croschere and Krisanna Sexton set out to uncover the deeper meaning behind this extraordinary bond.

Through deeply moving personal stories, expert insights, and heart-based research, the film explores how horses offer a space where healing and transformation can unfold — a space where healing is never one-sided.

Rescued Hearts isn't just the story of horses — it's the story of all of us, offering an invitation for deeper connection with ourselves, each other, and all of nature.



*"Making this film was
opening my heart in ways
I never expected."*

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

If you had told me a few years ago that I'd be making a film about the healing power of horses, I probably would have laughed. As someone who rarely went outside as a child due to intense allergies and asthma—and who doesn't even own a pet—I often **questioned whether I was the right person to tell this story.**

And yet, here I am, nearly two and a half years after Dana first shared her vision for Rescued Hearts, in complete awe of what this film has become. I believe it has the power to touch millions of lives, and in many ways, **the healing began with me.**

As we traveled the world, meeting extraordinary humans and horses—I often found myself leaving a filming location with tears streaming down my face. At the time, I didn't fully understand why, but looking back, I realize that **making this film was opening my heart in ways I never expected.**

The healing continued in the editing room. Sifting through over 200 hours of footage, I was reminded, again and again, of the gift of authenticity—the freedom to simply be. Horses, in their quiet, accepting presence, offer a space of pure, nonjudgmental love without ever speaking a word. As someone who spent years struggling to love myself due to religious dogma around being gay, **stepping into that space—and witnessing others do the same—was life-changing.**

And now, as Rescued Hearts begins its journey into the world, I see that this healing energy extends far beyond me. Each person who watches—even in rough-cut form—moves through their own waves of healing. I believe **this film is more than a story; it's an experience.** One that, I hope, will continue to remind people of the profound ways love, presence, and connection can transform us all.

Krisanna Sexton

Director, Rescued Hearts

BEHIND THE MAGIC



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

KRISANNA SEXTON

Krisanna Sexton is an award-winning director with Live Wild Films, dedicated to storytelling that embraces authenticity and the transformative power of love.

A filmmaker since the age of 16, her journey took a profound turn at 28 when coming out as gay reshaped both her life and her creative vision. Anchored in love and guided by deep listening, she allows each film to unfold organically, trusting the Universe to lead the way.

Her previous award-winning documentary, *Love Heals*, has touched audiences worldwide, airing on PBS, GAIA, and international platforms.

Working on *Rescued Hearts* has opened her heart in ways she never imagined, and she hopes the film inspires others to awaken to the healing power of love and connection.



ABOUT THE PRODUCER

DANA CROSCHERE

Dana Croschere is an award-winning producer who found her purpose after going through one of the darkest seasons of her life.

She endured two failed spine surgeries as she desperately tried to heal from chronic pain, and it led her on a journey of healing that helped her find her life purpose - creating powerful films.

Dana spent time over the last 15 years volunteering at various ranches, immersing herself in the transformative world of equine-assisted services and witnessing the healing power that was present in these sacred connections with horses.

As she navigated her own healing journey, Dana has always felt drawn to creating a film about the healing power of horses, and *RESCUED HEARTS* is her dream come true.



ABOUT THE COMPOSER

BRIANNA TAM

Los Angeles-based electric cellist Brianna Tam weaves intricate, symphonic soundscapes—layer by layer—using her bare feet on a loop station to captivate listeners in an epic musical experience.

Her goal is to build worlds through music, evoking emotions and ideas that transcend words. By creating these immersive experiences, she hopes to inspire vulnerability and encourage a lifestyle of wholeheartedness and authenticity.

For Brianna, composing for *Rescued Hearts* was an intuitive journey. With no single sound or style defining a person, a horse, or a story, she remained open to possibility throughout the process. She believes something truly powerful was created—one that will resonate deeply with audiences.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"Your Film took my breath away. It will touch the hearts and souls of all who view it."

-Trish Simpson

"Very beautiful, a graceful balance of emotion and science, with a sense of respect for the mysteries of the horse-human bond."

-Linda Kohanov

"Powerful, emotional, and breathtakingly beautiful."

-Nicholas Murray

"I was in tears for most of it. It didn't just move me- it shifted something fundamental in how I see the world. I will carry it with me always. "

-Julia Lamberti

"This film is an absolute stunning work of art."

-Lisa Carpenter

"This film is a wonderful reminder of what's possible when horses and humans connect from the heart."

-Sara Barnes

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What inspired you to create Rescued Hearts?

The inspiration for Rescued Hearts came from witnessing firsthand the profound healing exchanges between humans and horses. This film seeks to explore that symbiotic relationship, shedding light on the powerful and often misunderstood connection between humans and horses.

Where did you travel, and how long did the film take to make?

We filmed over 200 hours of footage spanning 5 countries and 31 cities, and the process took 2.5 years from concept to completion. Each location provided a unique lens into the healing power of horses, from therapeutic settings to deeply personal moments of transformation.

You don't own horses —why did you feel called to make this film?

Coming into this space without pre-existing biases or attachments to specific methods allowed us to approach the story with curiosity and openness. As storytellers, our role was to capture the essence of these relationships and create a film that sparks conversation—one that invites audiences to embark on their own journey of discovery, just as we did.

What was the most surprising discovery during the making of this film?

One of the most surprising revelations was that healing is never one-sided. Many assume that horses exist to help humans heal, but the reality is much deeper. Just as humans carry trauma, so do horses. Yet it seems that even in cases where horses themselves need healing, their interactions with people can still be mutually transformative. This realization expanded our understanding of not only horses but also our own relationships—with nature, with each other, and with life itself.

What is the mission of Rescued Hearts? What impact do you hope it will have?

Our mission is to expand awareness of the profound ways people can benefit from connection with horses—while also considering that horses may simply be amplifying the innate healing power each person already carries within themselves.

At its heart, this film is an invitation to look inward and recognize that every relationship—whether with humans, animals, or nature—is a mirror, reflecting back the opportunity to see ourselves more clearly.





*We discovered that much of this connection exists in the **space between mystery and measurable science.***



What role does science play in understanding horse-human healing?

Throughout our filmmaking journey, we discovered that much of this connection exists in the space between mystery and measurable science. An emerging body of scientific evidence indicates that interaction with horses improves health and well-being and can help people with physical and mental health conditions.

One of the most profound insights that emerged was the role of heart coherence—the alignment of our heart rhythms. What fascinated us is that even people who may never have access to horses can still cultivate this healing connection within themselves through heart coherence practices.

Did you intend for your own healing journeys to become part of the film?

No, that wasn't the original plan at all considering we initially saw *Rescued Hearts* as an observational documentary. But as we engaged in these experiences—especially Dana's deeply personal healing moments with her father—it became clear that we couldn't remain neutral observers. We were inevitably part of this journey, and the film naturally evolved to include our own transformations alongside those of others.

Does *Rescued Hearts* take a stance on any specific horse welfare issues?

No, the film is not about drawing hard lines or telling people what to believe. Instead, we sought to create a space for thoughtful conversation by showcasing diverse perspectives and approaches. Horses, like people, are not one-size-fits-all, and neither is their relationship with humans. We wanted to explore different ways people connect with horses while ensuring that the foundation of love, respect, and freedom of choice remains central.

Why do you think this film resonates with so many people, even those who aren't horse lovers?

At its core, *Rescued Hearts* is about more than horses—it's about healing, love, and connection. It asks bigger questions about how we show up in our relationships—not just with animals, but with ourselves, with others, and with the world around us. The film serves as an invitation for people to explore their own hearts and reflect on how they interact with life itself.

What is your distribution plan for *Rescued Hearts*? Where can people see it?

To stay updated on screenings and virtual events, make sure to subscribe on our website. Currently, the film is continuing its film festival run, and we will be hosting our own worldwide premiere in the fall of 2025 before considering broader streaming opportunities.

At the heart of our distribution strategy is a powerful grassroots effort, allowing organizations to host screenings, raise awareness, and elevate the work they are doing in partnership with horses.

Our goal is to reach millions and create a worldwide impact, ensuring this film becomes a catalyst for connection, healing, and meaningful change.

FEATURING



NAHSHON COOK

Nahshon Cook Horsemanship



CANDICE WEBSTER

Healing with Horses



MICHELLE PETERSON

Medicine Horse Healing



DR JOANNE CACCIATORE

*Professor & Researcher
Arizona State University*



EMADA TINGIRIDES

Deputy Chief, LAPD



PATRICK + AVERY SULLIVAN

Gamilah Unbridled



JUSTINE MAKOFF

*President
Free Rein Foundation*



KELSEY DAYLE JOHN (DINÉ)

*Faculty Member + Researcher
University of Colorado Boulder*



TARA COYOTE

*Author &
Eponaquest Instructor*



MUSTANG MADDY

Wild Horse Trainer



AMBER MARSHALL

Actor, Heartland



JOELL DUNLAP

*Founder, Executive Director
Square Peg Foundation*



CAROLYN RESNICK

*Author, Self Realization
Through the Ways of Horses*



ROSEMARY WYNDHAM-JONES

*Founder, Dune Lakes Lodge
& Equine Specialist*

EXPERTS



DR. VERONICA LAC
*Licensed Professional Counselor
Founder, The HERD Institute*



ANN BALDWIN, PHD
*Professor Emerita &
Horse/Human Researcher*



GREGG BRADEN
*Scientist, Author, &
Educator*



ELLEN KAYE GEHRKE, PHD
*Professor & Horse-Human
Researcher*



LYNN THOMAS, LCSW
Horses For Mental Health



DR. REBECCA BAILEY
*Psychologist
Polyvagal Equine Institute*



ELIZABETH MCCORVEY, LCSW
Mental Health Therapist



SHEVA CARR
*CEO, Heart Ambassadors &
Co-Director, HeartMath
Healthcare*



ROLLIN MCCRATY, PHD
*Director of Research
HeartMath Institute*



KATHY ALM
CEO, PATH International



WARWICK SCHILLER
*Horseman, Clinician,
Author*



FRANK DAVIS, PHD
Psychologist





TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Shooting Format: Digital (4K Ultra HD)
- Aspect Ratio: 16x9
- Audio Format: Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound
- Length: 1 hour and 58 minutes
- Original Language: English

CONTACT INFORMATION

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