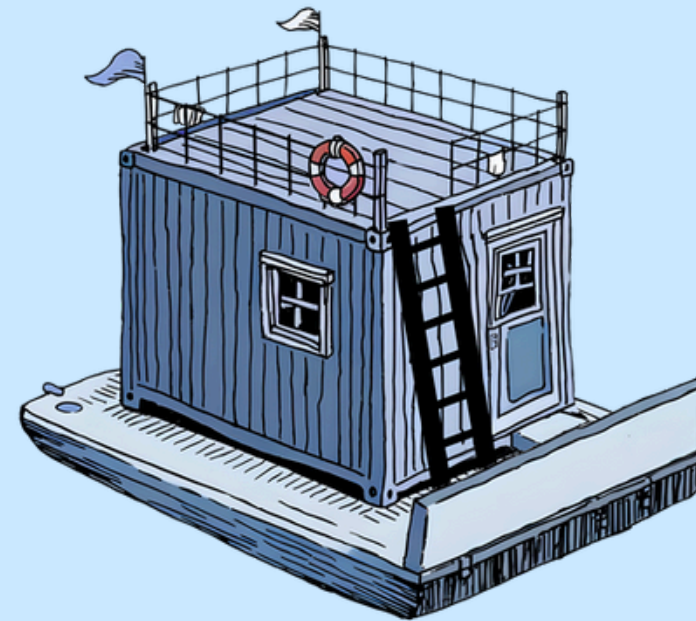


THE LAST HOUSEBOAT



Contact: Colin D'Amelio
cdproductions85@gmail.com
www.thelasthouseboat.com

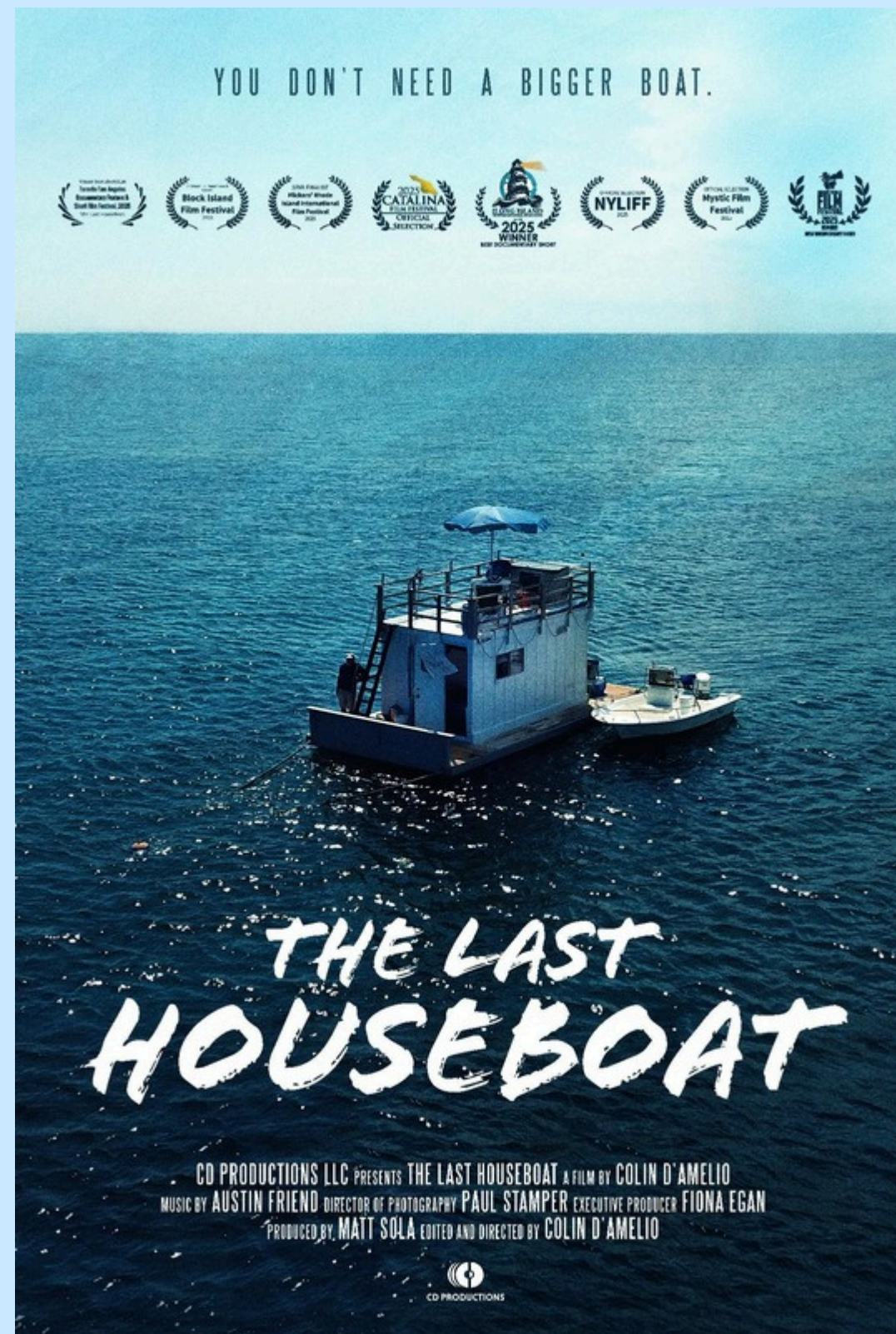
Duration: 30:51 Minutes
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Color
Country of Production: USA



SYNOPSIS

Built in the 1970s by a devoted grandfather, the boat at the center of this story became a beloved summer retreat for three generations—a floating symbol of family, tradition, and Rhode Island coastal life. Once part of a small community of handmade vessels, it eventually stood alone as the last of its kind in the bay, quietly preserving the stories of a bygone era.

When unforeseen circumstances forced the family to dismantle it, they were left with more than the loss of a boat—they were saying goodbye to their anchor. The Last Houseboat is a reflective meditation on legacy, resilience, and the tides that bind us to the places and people we love.



NAUTICAL NUMBERS

2016: The first year footage was archived and the birth of this film.

8x16: The size of the boat where the slept, ate and made their memories

12x22: It's platform where they tied off their boats, jumped off and fished

5: The number of bunks in the houseboat, or benches, storage holds, or card tables

53: The number of years they bucked the system to keep their home on the water

11: The amount of days it took to tear it all apart



"This was my lifestyle...I was first put on the [houseboat] when I was thirteen."

"It was really the nucleus of our family."



THE LAST HOUSEBOAT MEET THE FAMILY!



JOHN SOLA (THE FATHER)
"THE FOUNDER"



JOHN SOLA (THE SON)



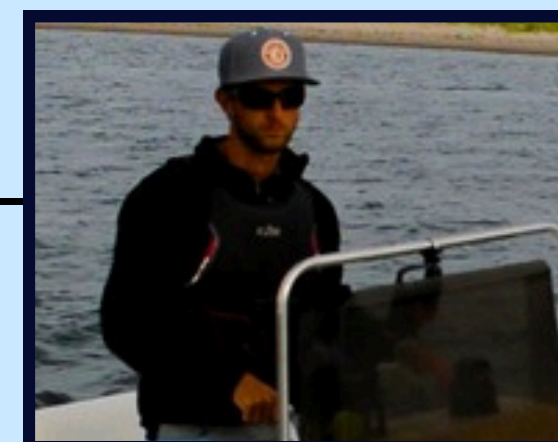
KEN SOLA



MARIE SOLA



MARIO SOLA



MATT SOLA

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I've always been drawn to stories where place and memory intertwine. When the Sola family began dismantling their wooden houseboat — a fixture in Rhode Island waters for more than fifty years — I knew it was more than a simple goodbye to a vessel. It was the closing of a chapter in a family's history, one that spoke to the universal struggle of holding on while letting go.

For me, this film is about more than a boat; it's about family and the spaces we create for each other. My hope is that *The Last Houseboat* inspires viewers to reflect on their own traditions and the stories they want to preserve.

THE LAST HOUSEBOAT



THE LAST HOUSEBOAT OUR TEAM

AUSTIN FRIEND - MUSIC COMPOSER

Austin Friend is a seasoned musician and professional audio engineer from Long Island, NY. With over twenty years of musical experience and a decade dedicated to mixing and producing for local artists and television, he's passionate about pairing sound with story. Austin finds his greatest joy in crafting the perfect musical composition to elevate a film's emotion and atmosphere.



DAVE HUSTON - SOUND DESIGN AND MIXING

An award-winning audio engineer with over twenty years of experience, Dave's worked with artists like Coldplay, Destiny's Child, and Dream Theater. For the past 18 years, he's been a senior audio engineer at Paramount, mixing content for major artists, brands, and shows including Janet Jackson, Alicia Keys, Pepsi, and the MTV Video Music Awards.



FIONA EGAN - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Fiona's love for film and theater has been a lifelong passion. She has produced multiple CD Productions projects as well as professional live theater shows with The Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, CT. Fiona remains actively involved in regional film festivals and will be the executive producer on CD Production's next narrative short, filming in 2026.



PAUL STAMPER - DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Paul began working with video editing and visual effects software in 2006. By 2009 he was creating live action videos. In 2010 he produced and directed a full-length feature film ("Never Forgetful") which was screened at Real Art Ways in Hartford, CT. He is the co-owner of Elite View Studios facilitating many different projects ranging from shorts to feature films.





ACCOLADES & AWARDS



BEST SHORT
FILM



BEST SHORT
DOCUMENTARY



LIGHTHOUSE
AWARD



PRESS

LOCAL DIRECTOR MAKES FILM ABOUT WOODEN VESSEL BUILT IN RHODE ISLAND IN 1970

<https://www.presstelegram.com/2025/11/13/on-the-water-local-director-makes-film-about-wooden-vessel-built-in-rhode-island-in-1970/?share=adsohnhodasdomesseo>

QUEENS WORLD FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF 15TH YEAR WITH GATHERING OF CREATIVE COMMUNITY AT BOROUGH HALL

<https://qns.com/2025/10/queens-world-film-festival-kicks-off-borough-hall/>

"STAGE SCREEN AND IN BETWEEN" AT THE LONG ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM EXPO

<https://youtu.be/Q-rZVKoz4Wo?si=TEKiNuJRRjbG8uB3&t=1361>

"TOP FILMS, FILMMAKERS HONORED AT LONG ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM EXPO"

<https://www.longislandpress.com/2025/07/14/long-island-film-expo/>

EXTENDED INTERVIEW WITH WILDSOUND FESTIVAL

<https://youtu.be/u52yQO-Bc9M>





Q + A WITH THE DIRECTOR

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO MAKE THIS FILM?

I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH THE HOUSEBOAT AND EVERYTHING IT REPRESENTS SINCE I FIRST SET FOOT ON IT AS A CHILD. IT FELT LIKE A TRUE ESCAPE FROM THE WORLD—AN EXPERIENCE UNLIKE ANY OTHER. FROM THE START, I BELIEVED THIS VESSEL HAD A BEAUTIFUL STORY THAT DESERVED TO BE TOLD. HAVING ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE TO THE SOLA FAMILY, WHO OWN THIS BELOVED HOUSEBOAT, MY INITIAL GOAL WAS SIMPLY TO CREATE A SHORT PIECE AS A KEEPSAKE FOR THEM—A TRIBUTE TO THEIR TRADITION. BUT THAT IDEA QUICKLY EVOLVED, GROWING INTO THE LAST HOUSEBOAT, A DEEPLY PERSONAL SHORT DOCUMENTARY SPANNING OVER 30 MINUTES.

FROM THE IDEA TO THE FINISHED PRODUCT, HOW LONG DID IT TAKE FOR YOU TO MAKE THIS FILM?

THIS FILM WAS TRULY A LABOR OF LOVE. SOME OF THE EARLIEST FOOTAGE DATES BACK TO 2016, ORIGINALLY SHOT FOR A DIFFERENT PROJECT BEFORE BEING ARCHIVED. OVER NEARLY A DECADE, THIS DOCUMENTARY TOOK SHAPE—BUILT THROUGH YEARS OF GATHERING RESOURCES, FOOTAGE, AND STORIES TO BRING IT TO LIFE.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR FILM IN TWO WORDS!?

FAMILY TRADITIONS



WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE YOU FACED IN COMPLETING THIS FILM?

CD PRODUCTIONS IS BASED ON THE WEST COAST, WHILE THIS FILM PRIMARILY TAKES PLACE ON THE EAST COAST, WHERE MOST OF ITS SUBJECTS LIVE. THE GREATEST CHALLENGE WAS NAVIGATING THE DISTANCE AND COORDINATING WITH FOUR OR FIVE DIFFERENT FAMILY MEMBERS TO GATHER ASSETS—WHETHER PHOTOS, VIDEOS, TEXTS, OR PHONE CALLS. MANAGING LOGISTICS ACROSS TIME ZONES AND LOCATIONS ADDED AN EXTRA LAYER OF COMPLEXITY TO THE PROCESS.

WHEN DID YOU REALIZE THAT YOU WANTED TO MAKE FILMS?

I'VE BEEN OBSESSED WITH FILMS SINCE I WAS A KID. MY DAD WOULD INTRODUCE ME TO CLASSICS ON TCM, AND I WOULD CREATE SHORT FILMS FOR SCHOOL PROJECTS—WHETHER OR NOT THAT WAS WHAT THE ASSIGNMENT CALLED FOR. WHILE MY PASSION TRULY TOOK SHAPE IN COLLEGE, WHERE I HONED MY SKILLS, FILMMAKING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CONSTANT IN MY LIFE AND A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND EVERYTHING I DO.

WHAT IS NEXT FOR YOU? A NEW FILM?

SO MANY THINGS! I'M ALWAYS WRITING AND COLLABORATING ON NEW PROJECTS. OUR NEXT BIG VENTURE IS A NARRATIVE SHORT FILM ABOUT A DEACON WHO BEGINS TO QUESTION HIS FAITH FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE. WE PLAN TO LAUNCH A CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN SOON, WITH HOPES OF STARTING PRODUCTION BY EARLY 2026.

DIRECTED AND EDITED BY
Colin D'Amelio

PRODUCED BY
Matt Sola

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Fiona Egan

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Paul Stamper

MUSIC BY
Austin Friend

CAST

Ken Sola
Marie Sola
John Sola
Mario Sola
Matt Sola

David Sayles
Valerie Sayles
Susan Breen
W. George Breen
Charles Volent
Mike Lynch

SOUND DESIGN AND MIXING
Dave Huston

GRAPHICS
Jeff Chong

ANIMATION AND SPECIAL EFFECTS
Ethan Minsker

THE LAST HOUSEBOAT
CREDITS

COLORING
Jeremy Stebens

VHS DIGITAL TRANSFER BY
Todd Gukelberger

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS
Sabina Zygmunt
Scott Biscaro
Calli France

CRAFT SERVICES
Marie Sola

PHOTO CREDITS
W. Ray Freden
Ethan Minkser
Hurricane 1938 by Discovering Westport
Dr. Anderson and Family

THE LAST HOUSEBOAT
SPECIAL THANKS + MUSIC

SPECIAL THANKS

Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
Tomas Virgadula
Dan + Kathy D'Amelio
Ethan Minsker

"RAYS OF LIGHT"

Written by Alexander Agudelo
Benjamin Drumm, Kevin McLyntyre
Nicholas Crescenzo

Performed by The River Provides
Courtesy of The River Provides Studio

**The River Provides is a local Rhode Island band, their music can be found on Spotify and Apple Music*



THANK YOU!

CD Productions LLC
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Contact: Colin D'Amelio
cdproductions85@gmail.com
www.thelasthouseboat.com

