



SETH BAKKE
FILMS

THE
RESCUE

PRESS KIT



FILM SUMMARY

Trapped in silence, a nonverbal young man must fight to communicate as a new therapist sees what no one else can... the subtle signs of a mind trying to break free.

Aaron is a nonverbal young man living with his parents, caught in a cycle of therapy sessions that have yielded little visible progress. Though his family longs to connect with him, communication remains just out of reach. To Aaron, it feels like being held hostage within his own body, unable to express the thoughts he knows are there.

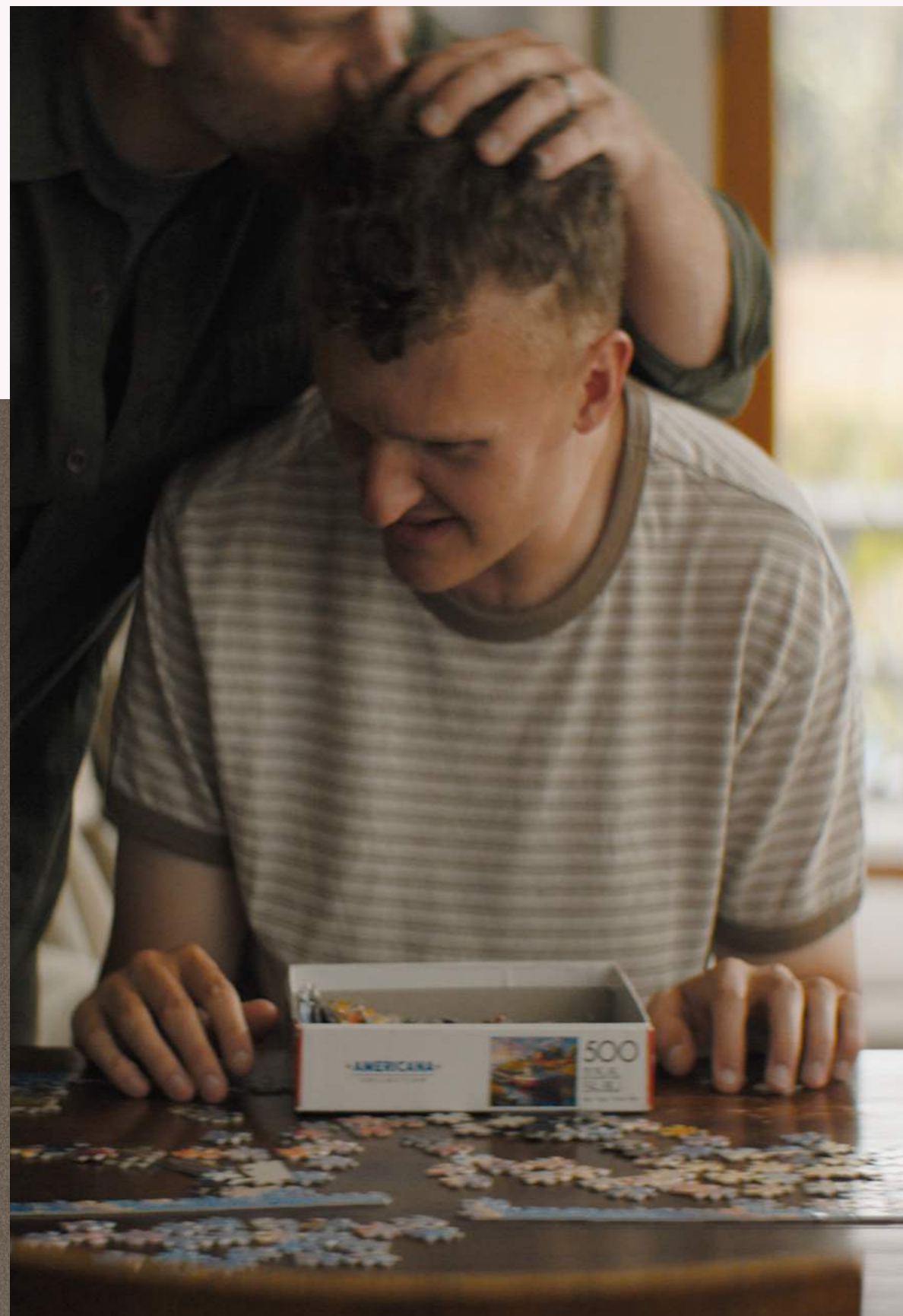
When Diana, a new therapist, enters his life, she approaches Aaron with a quiet attention. Where others see silence, she sees subtle signals: a look of recognition, a fleeting movement toward a desired object. For Diana, these small moments suggest something deeper beneath the surface.

As tensions rise between Aaron's hopeful mother and skeptical father, Diana persists. Her breakthrough comes not through control, but through listening, watching closely enough to understand what Aaron cannot say aloud. When she places a keyboard in front of him, everything changes.

With painstaking effort, Aaron answers a simple question: "What is your name?"

In typing his response, he is finally set free.





REAL STORIES. REAL PORTRAYAL. REAL REPRESENTATION.

The Rescue is a story about autism, inspired by the writings of somebody with autism, portrayed by a person with autism.

The idea for The Rescue began in my own family. I spent weeks caring for my autistic cousin Aaron while my aunt was in the hospital battling cancer. I would watch him communicate through gestures or broken phrases, and want so badly to know what he wished he could say. That longing is what seeded this film, which later found shape through the writings of Peter Tran, where he describes how typing to communicate opened his heart to the world. Between Aaron's quiet presence and Peter's explosive voice, the power of the story became clear: this movie would not be a dramatization of autism, but a glimpse into it.

More than that, The Rescue is about the universal human longing to be understood, especially when communication becomes strained or impossible. Every person in my family wanted to understand Aaron the best, to be the one who unlocked communication or cracked the invisible code. But the truth is harder and more beautiful than that: understanding does not come from force, or from wanting breakthrough more than we want presence. It comes from listening. Sometimes with ears, but often with eyes. We may never fully grasp the inner world of someone like Aaron, but we can try, and celebrate every moment of connection no matter how small.

I made The Rescue as a tribute. To my cousin Aaron. To Peter Tran. To the voiceless voices fighting to be heard. And to the reality that being truly, deeply, actively, lovingly listened to...

...is one of the greatest gifts we can give to another human being.





ASSISTANT BY DAY, DIRECTOR BY NIGHT.

Seth Bakke is a filmmaker fascinated by the striking sanctity of life's ordinary moments. These seemingly small details become his entry points into character, where the mundane turns sacred and the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

Seth is currently building industry experience under producer Jerry Bruckheimer (Top Gun: Maverick, Pirates of the Caribbean, F1: The Movie), gaining a front-row seat to large-scale filmmaking while refining the intimate visual language that defines his own.

His developing style blends naturalistic dialogue with symbolic imagery, deep staging, and long, patient shots that pull viewers closer rather than hold them at a distance. Like a parable, his stories reveal meaning gently, allowing viewers to see themselves more clearly through the narrative. He is not simply telling stories — he is elevating the everyday, capturing the quiet pulse of being alive, reminding us that small things are not small when we dare to look closely.



KEY CHARACTERS



Aaron Smith as Aaron

A nonverbal individual with autism portraying a role inspired by lived experience, bringing rare authenticity to the film.



Rachel Alig as Diana

An experienced actress known for her emotionally grounded performances across film and television, bringing precision and empathy to the role of a perceptive therapist. Known for her work in *Invisible* (2025) and *Omaha* (2025).



Jeff Tendall as Garrett (Dad)

A seasoned performer whose work often captures complex, grounded paternal figures. Known for *Farewell Fire* (2023) and *Beast Under the Bed* (2020).



Cheryl Dent as Julie (Mom)

A nuanced performer bringing emotional depth and vulnerability to a mother navigating hope and uncertainty. Known for *Duster* (2025) and *Armed* (2018).



KEY CHARACTERS



STILLS

Additional media including BTS photos, poster, and trailer available via digital press kit link.



CONTACT

EMAIL

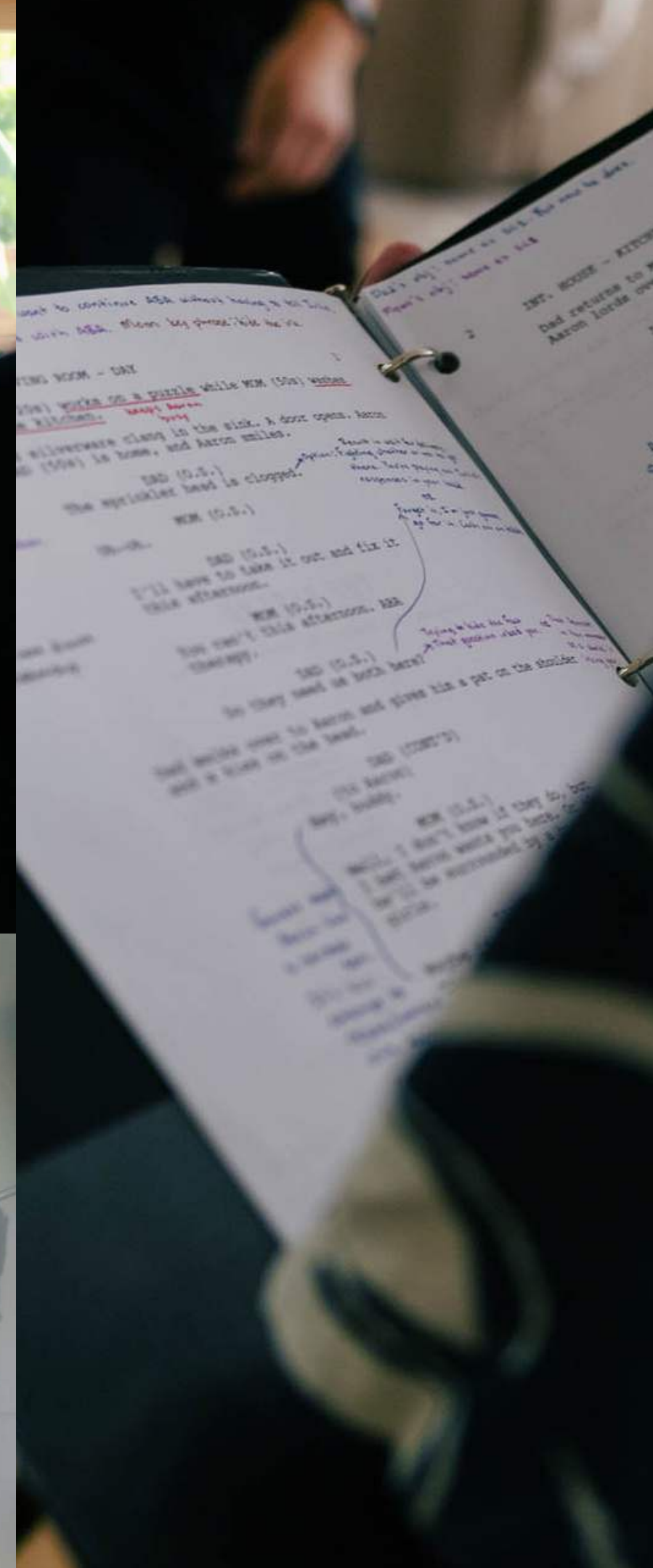
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THANK YOU!

