



ALONE WITH OTHERS

What does it feel like to exist?

ETHNOGRAPHIC DOCU-FANTASY • 58 MIN 16 SEC • A FILM BY NATALIE BUDKIN

OVERVIEW

ETHNOGRAPHIC DOCU-FANTASY

2025 / 58 MIN 16 SEC

DIRECTOR AND CINEMATOGRAPHER:
NATALIE BUDKIN



LOGLINE

Contemporary America, seen through the eyes of a being trying to understand the human world for the first time.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Selkie, the film's animated heroine - a mythical girl from the ocean - enters the human world. Her journey begins in Provincetown, where the Mayflower first anchored more than four centuries ago with the Pilgrims aboard, and continues across America: through landscapes, communities, collective rituals, and private moments.

NOTE

Selkies are mythical seal-beings from the folklore of the Northern seas. By shedding their seal skin, they can pass between the ocean and the human world.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT



While making my debut feature, I wanted to make the familiar strange again — to look at the world from a distance, as if seeing it for the first time.

That is how Selkie emerged: a mythical ocean being, an animated heroine, and my alter ego. Having shed her skin, she enters the human world and moves through unfamiliar spaces and communities.

I was not interested in explaining America, or in treating it as a closed reality. I was looking for rhythms, repetitions, and unexpected connections between people, places, and phenomena.

The film became a journey across America as seen through the eyes of a creature who does not belong to the human world, yet is drawn to it.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Natalie Budkin is a non-fiction and experimental filmmaker, video artist.

She graduated from the Russian State University of Cinematography (VGIK) and later studied non-fiction filmmaking at the Higher Courses for Scriptwriters and Film Directors (VKSR).

Her films are built from documentary observation, staged and archival material; montage, rhythm and sound determine how these different forms meet.

ALONE WITH OTHERS is her debut feature. Her 35mm experimental short NATURE MORTE is part of the Video Art Collection of the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Bogotá (MAC).



“I look for rhymes in gestures, phenomena and movement. Sometimes they already exist in reality; sometimes an image has to be created for them to become visible. Through rhymes, reality reveals itself differently.”

SELECTED STILLS



Scenes from the film ALONE WITH OTHERS

Press materials / Film by Natalie Budkin

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