

LONGING FOR THE SEA

My life has been unconventional, and characterized by a constant yearning to seek that which is authentic, innovative, bold and meaningful. Besides a lifelong passion and commitment to the arts – theater, dance, music, multi-media and experimental performances, creative writing and, of course, film – I am deeply committed to spiritual unfoldment, holistic healing, social justice, honoring our biosphere and the upliftment of global society as a whole.

From my earliest experiences of regular weekend movie marathons (watching 10 or more flicks back-to-back on our rented VHS player), film has spoken to me as the uber-vehicle of artistic, humanistic and other-worldly expression. Regardless of the genre or theme of the film, I have always been drawn by its preternatural power to probe, inspire, titillate and awaken the untapped within. There is something mystical about it, whether or not mystical revelation is the conscious intent of any particular film. It is simply innate to a medium that combines the power of multiple (if not all) artistic disciplines and invites the viewer to go on a complete journey of ‘transcendence’ – whether through laughter, sorrow, adventure, romance, violence or destruction. And all based on the universal power of story, myth, and archetype; both the basis and result of our individual and collective human experience.

I have been a director - a leader, a creator - of artistic and avant-garde experiences from a young age. Most notably, after leaving high school 2 years early to attend college and focus on critical thinking and the arts, I created a radical multi-media performance (theater, dance, music, masks, 10-foot puppetry, screen projections and subversive audience participation) exploring the sub-conscious tendency of humans to objectify difference into "otherness". In my twenties, the connection between modern technology and art had me obsessed as I created a massive and multi-layered multi-media solo show called “*Artist Am I? An interactive exploration of the artistic process of being human and the human process of being artistic.*” And as I have focused my artistic passions towards the medium of film – initially in-front-of and then behind-the-camera - my path has led me through virtually all stages of filmmaking, from development to production to post.

But it is the experience of directing film that has allowed me to amalgamate all of my artistic endeavors, hands-on technical abilities, affinity for management and leadership, as well as my fascination of the human condition, into a unified calling.

Being given the opportunity to direct is an honor that I do not take lightly. It’s a position inherently based on trust, on many different levels: trust in your producers and crew, trust that every last detail is on track during all phases of production, trust in the actors and in the story itself, but most importantly, trust in your self, your vision, talent and intuition. And, of course, it requires you to be deeply trustworthy to others. A good director is someone capable of leading and inspiring a collaborative effort without forsaking the singular vision that she is being asked, or called, to manifest. To crudely paraphrase Antoine de Saint Exupery, in what I believe to be one of the best parables for a director, ‘if you want to build a boat, don’t first assign people tasks and put them to work collecting wood; *make them long for the sea*’.

Filmmaking, for me, is the boat, and the sea is that vast emotional, psychological and even spiritual territory that the film begs you to explore. I endlessly long for that sea, and want to continue building boats from which to explore the human experience in all of its glory and all of its gall.

Bottom line - I am extremely motivated and pretty much continually burst with creative ideas and the wherewithal to make them happen. I have a steadily growing slate of ideas and scripts in various stages of development for features, TV pilots and documentaries, and I am eager to birth these ideas into fully-realized, lucrative, entertaining and inspiring gems of little and big screens all over the world.

I am ready to set sail.