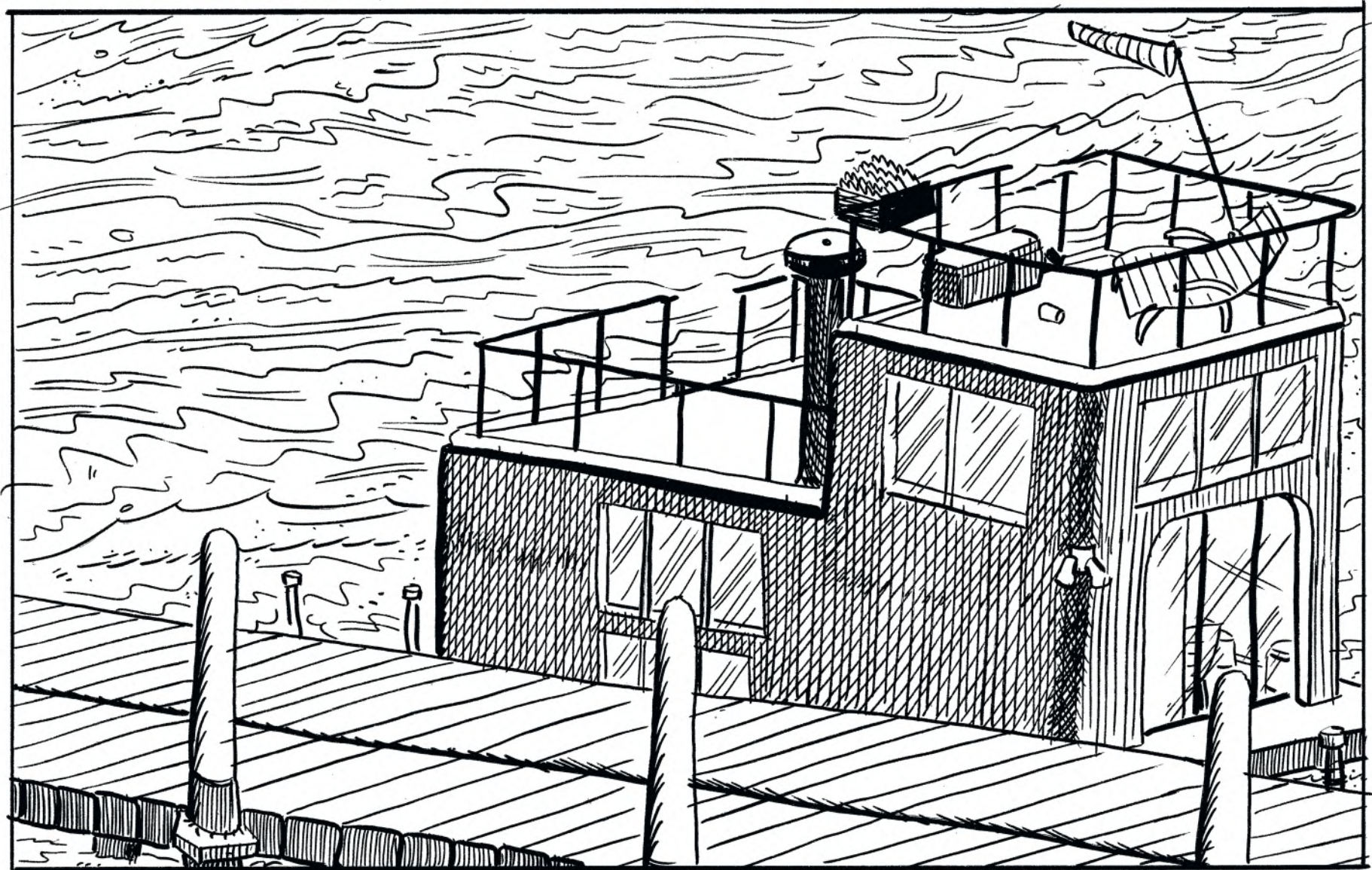


SEARCHING FOR A FORMER CLARITY



A RYAN O'LEARY FILM



IN THE AFTERMATH OF AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE LOSS, LIFELONG FRIENDS STRUGGLE TO GET THROUGH A BACHELOR PARTY WEEKEND.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

IT WAS THE FALL OF 2015 WHEN I LEARNED A CHILDHOOD FRIEND WAS IN JAIL FOR SOMETHING UNCONSCIONABLE. I WAS BLINDSIDED. THIS WAS SOMEONE WHO WASN'T JUST WELL LIKED, BUT LOVED IN MY SOCIAL CIRCLE. SURE, HE HAD HIS ISSUES AND WAS IN MANY WAYS A FUCK UP. BUT ASIDE FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS, HE WAS KNOWN AS A CARING, KIND PERSON. HIS CHARISMA WAS INFECTIOUS. HE WAS THE TYPE OF GUY YOU'D ALWAYS WANT AROUND. HE WAS THE LAST PERSON YOU'D EXPECT TO HAVE TRUE DARKNESS IN THEIR SOUL.

BY THE SPRING OF 2016, JUST DAYS BEFORE HIS 27TH BIRTHDAY, HE HUNG HIMSELF IN PRISON.

SHORTLY AFTER HIS DEATH, MY FRIENDS AND I TOOK A WEEKEND TRIP OUT OF TOWN, AS AN ATTEMPT TO MOURN AND WRAP OUR HEADS AROUND WHAT HAD HAPPENED. LITTLE DID WE KNOW THEN, OUR LIVES AND THE WAY WE LOOKED AT THE WORLD HAD FOREVER CHANGED.

SEARCHING FOR A FORMER CLARITY IS AN EMOTIONALLY HONEST, BUT FICTIONALIZED STORY INSPIRED BY THIS LIFE CHANGING EVENT. WHILE CRAFTING THE SCREENPLAY, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME TO HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF HUMOR. IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO HONOR THE SOPHOMORIC SPIRIT OF MY FRIEND GROUP, WHILE NEVER DIMINISHING THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION. HAVING THIS CAST OF IMMATURE CHARACTERS FACING THE MOST MATURE LOSS OF THEIR YOUNG ADULT LIVES, CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT RIPE FOR PUSHING THE LIMITS OF COMEDY IN THE SADNESS OF THE HUMAN CONDITION.

THIS FILM IS MY WAY OF CONFRONTING THE TRUTH AND TRAUMA OF LIVING SO CLOSE TO A HORROR THAT ALWAYS SEEMED SO FAR AWAY.

SEARCHING FOR A FORMER CLARITY IS ABOUT COMING TO TERMS WITH NOT JUST THE LOSS OF MY FRIEND, BUT THE REALITY OF THE LIFE HE LIVED AND HOW WE GO ON LIVING, IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING.

S	E	A	R	C
H	I	N	G	
F	O	R		A
F	O	R	M	E
R		C	L	A
R	I	T	Y	

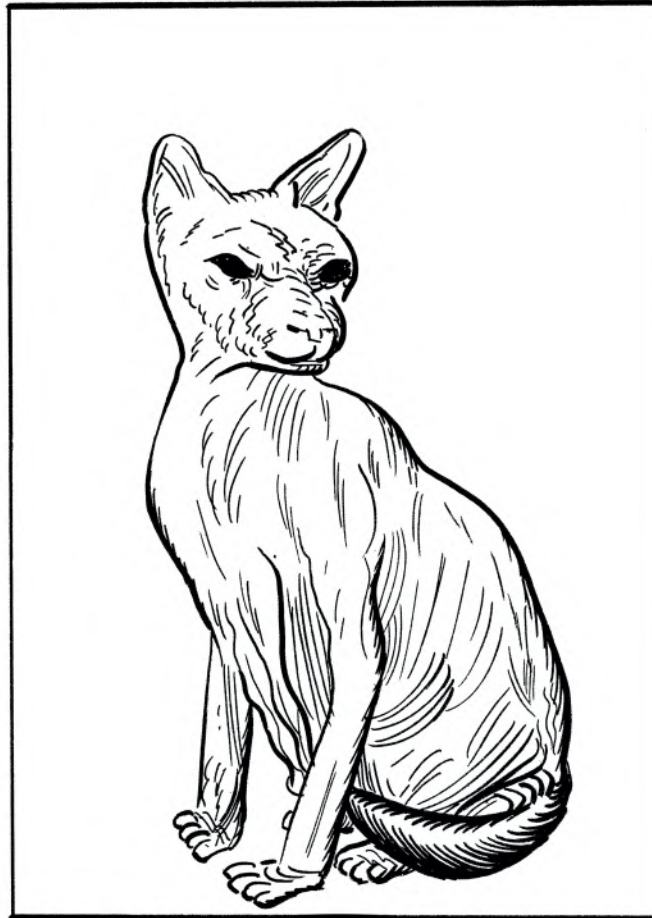
CHARACTERS

OLLIE

OLLIE'S GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS MILDLY POPULARIZING THE CATCHPHRASE "SICK DICK" DURING HIS JUNIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL. IMPULSIVE AND IMMATURE, HE USES SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS AS A WAY TO AVOID DEALING WITH HIS ISSUES. HE PRETENDS TO BE CONTENT WITH WHERE HE'S AT, BUT IS SLOWLY REALIZING HIS DREAMS WILL LIKELY NEVER COME TRUE.

CHRIS

CHRIS IS THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE GROUP. WITH BACHELORS AND MASTERS DEGREES FROM TWO DIFFERENT IVY LEAGUE SCHOOLS, IT'S UNSURPRISING HE'S THE FIRST ONE TO GET ENGAGED AND TO BE ON HIS WAY TO FATHERHOOD. HIS FEW VICES ONLY COME OUT WHEN HE'S WITH OLD FRIENDS. LIVING IN ANOTHER STATE, HE DOES THE BARE MINIMUM TO STAY IN TOUCH.



HOWIE MANDEL

FRANKIE

FRANKIE IS A PROUD FEMINIST WITH A CAPITAL "I". WHILE HER ACTIONS AND VOCABULARY MAY SEEM PERFORMATIVE AT TIMES, SHE DEEPLY CARES. OPINIONATED, SHE RARELY BITES HER TONGUE. FRESH OUT OF A LONG TERM "OPEN" RELATIONSHIP WITH SCOTT, SHE'S PROUD TO STILL BE FRIENDS. HER CURRENT PRIORITY IS CARING FOR HER "FOSPICE" CAT HOWIE MANDEL.

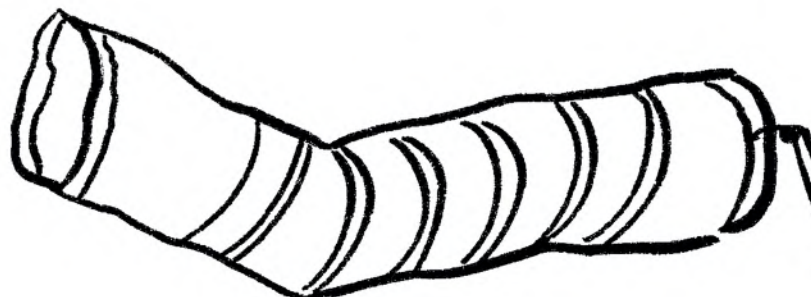
LAURA

LAURA IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE GROUP. WITH A MATURE WORLDVIEW, SHE SEES PEOPLE FOR WHO THEY ARE AND ISN'T AFRAID TO CALL THEM OUT ON THEIR SHIT. AFTER DAVEY'S DEATH, SHE STEPS UP AND TAKES CONTROL AS A WAY TO BURY THE TRUTH OF WHO HE REALLY WAS, WHILE STILL MOURNING THE FRIEND SHE KNEW DAVEY TO BE.

SCOTT

CHARACTERS

SCOTT AND DAVEY WERE BEST FRIENDS SINCE THEY WERE KIDS. AGREEABLE TO A FAULT AND INCREDIBLY TALENTED, HE'S A PRIME EXAMPLE OF WASTED POTENTIAL. HE'S QUIET, BUT THOUGHTFUL WHEN HE CHOOSES TO SPEAK. DESPITE NOT TECHNICALLY BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP ANYMORE, HE'D DO ANYTHING FOR FRANKIE.



DAVEY

DAVEY WAS ALWAYS THE LIFE OF THE PARTY. KIND AND CHARISMATIC, HE'D GIVE YOU THE SHIRT OFF HIS BACK WHILE MAKING A JOKE ABOUT IT. PUTTING OTHERS BEFORE HIMSELF WAS A NATURAL COMPULSION. DESPITE AN OBVIOUS LOVE FOR DRUGS, HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY WERE SHOCKED TO LEARN THE DEPTH OF HIS DEMONS.

LOCATION

THE ROCKAWAYS ARE THE IDEAL LOCATION FOR SEARCHING FOR A FORMER CLARITY BECAUSE FEW PLACES CAPTURE THE SENSE OF MELANCHOLY BETTER THAN AN OFF SEASON BEACH TOWN. TECHNICALLY BEING A PART OF NEW YORK CITY, WHILE BEING DISTANT FROM THE RECOGNIZABLE SKYLINE, CREATES A FEELING OF DETACHMENT THAT COMPLIMENTS THE JOURNEY OUR CHARACTERS ARE ON.

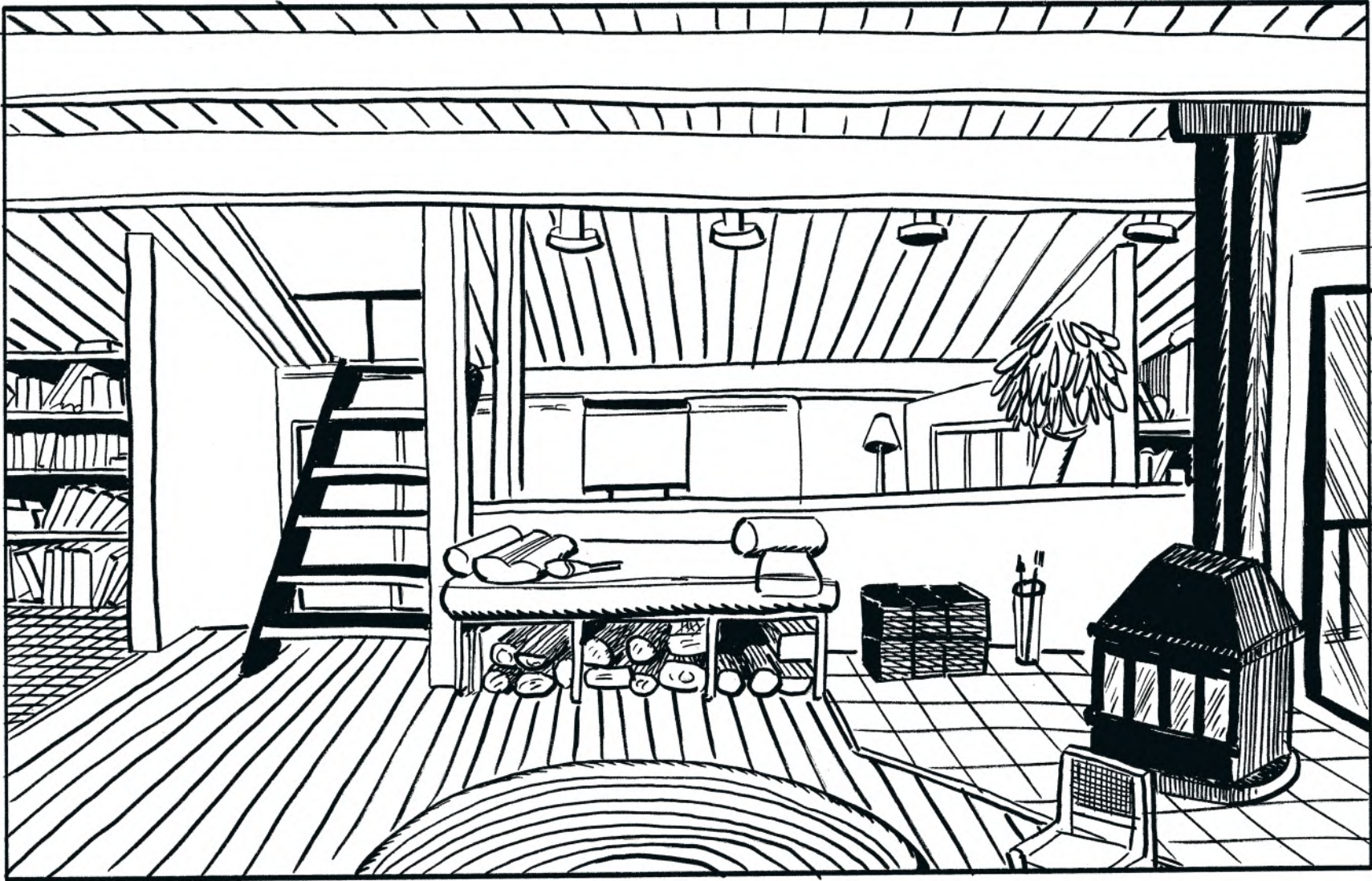


LOCATION

THE BARGE AKA LUCILLE II IS CHRIS' FAMILY VACATION HOME. THIS 3,000 SQUARE FOOT HOUSE BOAT LOCATED AT MARINA 59 ON JAMAICA BAY SERVES AS THE PERFECT PLACE TO SET OUR STORY. IT'S QUIRKY ENOUGH TO HAVE ITS OWN IDENTITY, LARGE ENOUGH TO BE PRACTICAL FOR A FILM PRODUCTION, YET SMALL ENOUGH TO PUSH THE TENSION OF OUR CHARACTERS TO THEIR BREAKING POINT.



INT. BARGE



VISUAL STYLE, LOOK AND FEEL



MY GOAL WITH SEARCHING FOR A FORMER CLARITY'S AESTHETICS IS TO CREATE A LIVED IN WORLD. STEADY HANDHELD CAMERA WORK WITH LIGHT FILM GRAIN WILL GROUND THE STORY, GIVING THE ACTORS MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY TO PERFORM, WHILE ALSO ADDING A TANGIBLE TEXTURE TO THE IMAGE. THE FILM WILL BE SHOT IN THE 1.85 ASPECT RATIO FOR MAXIMUM CLAUSTROPHOBIA. EVERY COSTUME, PROP, LIGHTING, AND PRODUCTION DESIGN CHOICE WILL BE MADE WITH THE INTENTION OF GETTING THE VIEWER LOST IN EACH MOMENT OF THE STORY. THE HOME MOVIE FLASHBACK SCENES WILL BE SHOT ON CONSUMER GRADE CAMERAS, WITH PURPOSEFULLY AMATEUR CAMERA WORK FOR MAXIMUM REALISM.

FILMMAKER BIOS

RYAN O'LEARY WRITER/DIRECTOR

RYAN O'LEARY IS AN AWARD WINNING INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER FROM NEW JERSEY. AFTER A SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL RUN IN 2014, HIS FEATURE FILM DEBUT *THE BACKSEAT* ACQUIRED DISTRIBUTION WITH OSIRIS ENTERTAINMENT AND IS AVAILABLE ON VARIOUS DIGITAL PLATFORMS. HIS MOST RECENT FILM *THE LOST WEEKEND* SCREENED AT FESTIVALS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE, AND AUSTRALIA, PICKING UP NUMEROUS AWARDS ALONG THE WAY. HIS FILMS HAVE STARRED TONY AWARD WINNING ACTORS ANDRÉ DE SHIELDS AND REED BIRNEY, AS WELL AS SAG AWARD WINNERS CATHERINE CURTIN AND ROBERT CLOHESSY. RYAN CURRENTLY HAS TWO FEATURE FILMS IN DEVELOPMENT *THE LOST YEAR* AND *SEARCHING FOR A FORMER CLARITY*.



PRAISE FOR *THE BACKSEAT*

"A REALISTIC AND ENTERTAINING TAKE ON A TEENAGE ROMANTIC DRAMEDY" - MARK BELL, FILM THREAT

"THE BACKSEAT IS A STAND OUT IN A SEA OF FORMULAIC COMING OF AGE ROM-COMS" - RACHEL WILLIS, SCREENRELISH

"IF WE WERE TO TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT WE FELT BACK WHEN WE WERE KIDS, WHEN EVERY LITTLE PROBLEM HARBORED THE END OF THE WORLD, WE FIND THAT O'LEARY HAS REALLY DONE SOMETHING REMARKABLE WITH *THE BACKSEAT*" - TYLER SMITH, BATTLESHIP PRETENSION

FILMMAKER BIOS



ANTHONY PEDONE PRODUCER

ANTHONY PEDONE IS A CREATIVE PRODUCER/DIRECTOR WHO GOT HIS FIRST TASTE OF INDEPENDENT FILM ON THE SET OF RICHARD LINKLATER'S *DAZED AND CONFUSED* WHILE STUDYING MUSIC COMPOSITION AT SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY.

IN 2012 PEDONE RECEIVED A FILM GRANT FROM THE O'CONNOR AND HEWITT FOUNDATION OF OVER \$500,000 TO CREATE THE **TEXAS INDEPENDENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIIP)** THE PROGRAM FOCUSES ITS ATTENTION AND RESOURCES ON SUPPORTING WOMEN, LGBTQ AND FIRST TIME FILMMAKERS. THAT SAME YEAR HE ALSO FOUNDED THE VICTORIA TEXAS INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL IN AN EFFORT TO ATTRACT FILMMAKERS TO SHOOT THEIR FILMS IN TEXAS.

THE FIRST PROJECT TIIP INCENTIVIZED WAS *THE STRONGEST MAN*, DIRECTED BY KENNY RICHES. TSM WORLD PREMIERED AT **SUNDANCE** IN 2015 AND WAS RELEASED WORLD-WIDE BY **SUNDANCE GLOBAL**. HE THEN CO-WROTE AND DIRECTED A SEMI-AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL FEATURE ENTITLED *AN AMERICAN IN TEXAS* (WINNER OF THE **DUTCH GOLDEN STONE AWARD** AND DISTRIBUTED BY **GRAVITAS VENTURES WORLDWIDE**); PRODUCED *SANZARU* (**IFP NARRATIVE LAB, SLAMDANCE 2020**); AND CO-PRODUCED MARC LEVIN'S *ONE NATION UNDER STRESS* (**HBO DOCS**).

PEDONE CURRENTLY RESIDES IN LA, AND WORKS OUT OF THE LEGENDARY BEASTIE BOYS RECORDING STUDIO, ROYAL STUDIOS LOCATED IN ATWATER VILLAGE.

CURRENTLY PEDONE IS PRODUCING A DOC SERIES *A TOWN CALLED VICTORIA* (DIR. BY LI LU, **IFP DOC SERIES LAB**); PRODUCING A NARRATIVE FEATURE *MY HEART CAN'T BEAT UNLESS YOU TELL IT TO* (DIR. BY JONATHON CUARTAS, **SUNDANCE KNIGHT FELLOW, TRIBECA 2020**); SERVING AS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND EDITOR ON *CHASING CHASING AMY* (DIR. BY SAV RODGERS); AND IS DIRECTING A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT HIP-HOP MUSIC PRODUCER, AND PRISONER OF THE WAR ON DRUGS, WELDON ANGELOS.

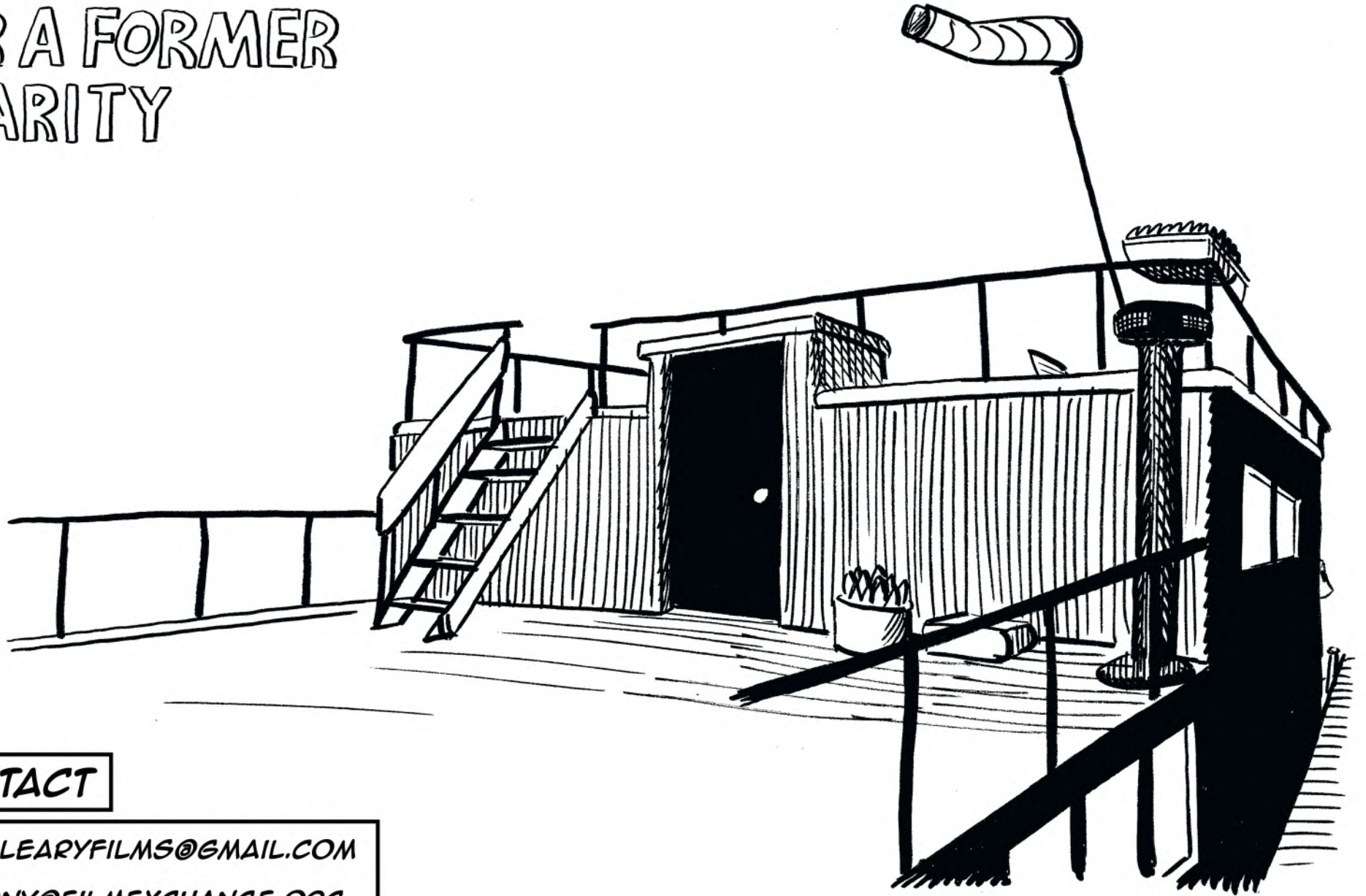
FILMMAKER BIOS



ASHLEY GEORGE PRODUCER

ASHLEY GEORGE IS AN AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER BASED IN NEW YORK. RECENT FILMS DIRECTED BY ASHLEY INCLUDE FEMALE REVENGE HORROR SHORT "DIABLA", WHICH IS ON THE FEST CIRCUIT NOW TAKING HOME AWARDS SUCH AS THE GOLDEN SKULL FOR BEST SHORT FILM AT MORBIDO FILM FEST (CDMX) AND WOMEN IN HORROR FILM FESTIVAL'S BEST OVERALL SHORT, IN ADDITION TO 2017'S QUEER COMING-OF-AGE 90S SHORT FILM "SOMETIMES, FOREVER". SHE HAS PRODUCED DOZENS OF SHORT FILMS AND SHOWS SUCH AS "LODESTAR" WITH JAMES MCCAFFREY, "AMERICAN MORNING" WITH EMMY-WINNER RICHARD SCHIFF, "ALL HAIL BETH" FOR BRIC TV, "MOUTHPIECE" FEATURING JASON SUDEIKIS, AND MOLLY GANDOUR'S "GAZEBO". SHE PRODUCED POST MALONE'S DIVE BAR TOUR WITH FAT JOE AND SUBLIME, AND ALSO COLLABORATED WITH WARNER MUSIC AS 1ST AD ON THE VISUAL EP "COTTONWOOD" FOR PLATINUM MEMPHIS ARTIST NLE CHOPPA. HER WORK HAS SCREENED AT FESTIVALS SUCH AS FANTASIA, FILMQUEST, MILWAUKEE, OUTFEST, NIGHTSTREAM AND CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL.

SEARCHING FOR A FORMER CLARITY



CONTACT

RYANOLEARYFILMS@GMAIL.COM

ANTHONY@FILMEXCHANGE.ORG