



# stillness



## **ABOUT STILLNESS**

A love letter to those comfortable with others' grief and pain, *STILLNESS* follows Rose, a photographer who comes to a hospital to take remembrance portraits of a family who have just lost their newborn.

### **A note from Rachel:**

My thirteen year old nephew died of a drug overdose on my daughters ninth birthday in 2016. We had just moved to London, and were starting to feel at home after a transatlantic move and needless to say, this sent us into a tailspin.

Trying to untangle the mess of joy and pain from these two events on the same day, I turned to writing. I wanted to write about holding space for someone in pain – to embrace the discomfort of someone else's sorrow, and lighten their load for a time.

The story follows a photographer who comes to take remembrance portraits for a couple who have suffered a stillbirth. The first issue I faced initially was people just not getting it – when I would tell the story of the film, most would recoil in horror and ask: “Why would you want a picture of a dead baby?” I would ask them back: “Why wouldn't you want a picture of a family member? A daughter, son, cousin, grandchild? It's still loved, wanted. He/she just happens not to be around for long.”





That usually opened people's minds, but there were and still are a few that found it morbid, or just too sad to consider. I imagine for them there is some personal history that makes it hard to contemplate.

I had to get really firmly clear on the "why" of the film. This is the photographer's story. It's about a woman who, for her own personal reasons, her own personal history with loss, gives the gift of her time and talent to another family in pain. She holds the space for them, and by doing so, offers them comfort, and for the father, offers a way into connecting with his son. It comes at a cost to her, it's uncomfortable and scary. And she is bold, gentle and most of all, *present*.

This is what I hope people will take away from the film. We can all be present for those in pain. It is rewarding. I promise you.





## THE TEAM

### RACHEL FOWLER

Writer, Director

Rachel Fowler is a storyteller. Whether as an actor, director, writer, or coach, she celebrates human stories, and the power they have to heal, reveal hidden truths and to transform. She is passionate about making the world more grief-literate and more compassionate, both towards ourselves and each other.

An award winning actor, Rachel has performed on stages across the US, including the Denver Center, The Old Globe and the Alliance. She is a founding company member of LOCAL Theater Company in Boulder, where she served as literary producer for seven years. She also starred in and produced the short film “Mrs. Drake”, which screened in over 20 film festivals and won several awards for best actor, best short and best director.

When her 13 year old nephew died of a drug overdose on her daughter’s birthday in 2016, she turned to creativity to process her grief, writing and directing STILLNESS. She’s developing a series of short films on the theme of grief and holding space for others in pain. She became a Grief and Loss Coach in 2020, inspired by the loss of her nephew, and the collective grief around the world from COVID.











## EVE COHEN

Director of Photography

Based in Los Angeles, Eve draws upon her background in fine art painting and photography to influence and inspire her work in narrative and documentary filmmaking. Her visual aesthetic is fueled by collaboration, empathy and intention.

She has travelled all over the world filming documentary stories for The United Nations, New Balance, Qualcomm and more. Her fiction work typically lands her in the US; shooting feature films on location from Maine to Arizona and in Los Angeles. Eve established herself as a pioneer in Virtual Reality filmmaking with “The Visitor” (AFI 2016, SFiFF 2016) and “Hard World For Small Things” (Sundance 2016, Tribeca 2016). Her position as an innovator in this new frontier led her to “Ashe ‘68” (Sundance 2019, Tribeca 2019) nominated for a Sports Emmy in 2019.

But above all, what Eve really loves is collaborating on projects that blur the line between the real and surreal, grounded in emotion and story. She has recently completed two feature films to be released later this year, Mending The Line (her third collaboration with Director Joshua Caldwell) and The Other Zoey (Director Sara Zandieh).

## FABRIZIO GAMMARDELLA

Editor

Born in Italy in 1985 and passionate about movies since childhood, Fabrizio took his first steps in the entertainment world working as curator of a silent films' archive. He moved to London in 2015, getting involved as a video editor in a variety of productions cutting a wide range of projects, from branded contents to commercials and short films.

Some of the brands he worked for include Maybelline New York, McArthurGlen, Virgin, Just eat, Selfridges, Insider, Lufthansa, Sky, Canon, Beck's Beer, Mac, Givenchy, Harrods. He also had the chance of being involved in productions featuring high profile professionals, such as the veteran editor Sean Barton (Editor of Star Wars return of the Jedi 1983) the iconic top model Kate Moss and the popular TV presenter Tess Daly. He currently focuses mainly on editing feature and short films.

Some of his latest works include "Grey Matter" (feat. Eloise Smith and Stephanie Beacham), "Stillness" (feat. Caitlin Fitzgerald), and "Multiplex" (feat. Lewis MacDougall and Victoria Yeates.)

Editing aside, he's also a multi-award-winning Animation Director. Over the past 7 years he produced and directed two short animated films which got selected in more than 70 International Film Festivals all around the world – including BAFTA and Canadian Screen Award events, and won 15 of them.







A vertical black and white photograph on the left side of the page. It shows a room with a window in the background, a lamp on the left, and a wooden floor in the foreground. The image is slightly blurred and has a soft, artistic feel.

## **JERED SORKIN**

Composer

Jered Sorkin studied his masters in composing for film at The National Film and Television School.

His work includes music for the 2013 Oscar Nominated animation *Head Over Heels* and the 2015 Bafta winner and Oscar nominated *Boogaloo and Graham*. Feature films include the thriller, *A Patch of Fog* starring Stephen graham and Conleth Hill and *The Gold Laden Sheep* and the *Sacred Mountain* showing at London BFI film festival 2019.

## CAITLIN FITZGERALD

Rose

Caitlin FitzGerald is an American actress and filmmaker. She won best director for the Short Film "Mrs Drake" at the Milwaukee Film Festival.

Caitlin can currently be seen in Patrick Somerville's HBO Max limited series "Station Eleven: for director Hiro Murai, and Shonda Rhimes's hit Netflix limited series "Inventing Anna". Previously she starred in Aaron Sorkin's feature film "The Trial of the Chicago 7", the HBO series "Succession", the Starz series "Sweetbitter", Sophia Takal's independent feature "Always Shine", and the third season of Emmy-nominated series "Unreal".

Caitlin is also known for her work in the Showtime series "Masters of Sex", and had a season-long arc on the finale season of Sundance TV's "Rectify". Additional credits include "Adult Beginners"; Nancy Meyers' "It's Complicated"; Whit Stillman's "Damsels in Distressed"; and Ang Lee's "Taking Woodstock."







## **SULE RIMI**

Isaac

Sule Rimi is an actor, on stage and on screen. He is known popularly for “Black Earth Rising” (2018), “Death in Paradise” (2011) and “Strike Back” (2010).

His more recent theatre acting credits include those for the Royal National Theatre; in Bijan Sheibani’s “Barber Shop Chronicles” in 2017, with a consequent tour in the UK and beyond, and Nadia Fall’s production of Three Sisters in 2019, Almeida Theatre; in “They Drink It In The Congo”, directed by Michael Longhurst and “Mary Stuart”, directed by Robert Icke, in 2016-17, Donmar Warehouse; in Josie Rourke’s “Measure for Measure” and Lynette Linton’s “Sweat”, which also transferred to the West End, in 2018-19, the Old Vic; in Rachel Chavkin’s production of “The American Clock and All My Sons”, directed by Jeremy Herrin in a co-production with Headlong, both in 2019, and the Royal Court; in “Glass. Kill.Bluebeard.Imp.”, directed by James McDonald in 2019. In 2020 he was scheduled to perform in Ellen McDougall’s In The Blood at the Donmar Warehouse.

## **RHEA BAILEY**

Olivia

Rhea Bailey is a British actress. She is best known for her roles as PC Mel Ryder in “The Bill” between 2008-10, and as Caz Hammond in “Coronation Street” in 2015-16.

Her other television roles include Chloe Simms on the soap opera “Crossroads”, former student Yasmin Deardon in BBC school drama “Waterloo Road”, Jade in the Torchwood episode “Out of Time”, Jazz in the movie Credo (also known as “The Devil’s Curse”) and DC Lisa Goodall in the ITV series “Blue Murder”.

Rhea Bailey is currently writing her own film projects and has signed with Literary giants Curtis Brown. She has recently appeared in Celebrity Pointless. Performed live at Edinburgh Festival in the BBC Radio 3’s ‘Ladies Room’ and Last year she played DCI Onuweku in the British Comedy ‘Dead Canny’ along side Denise Welsh on UK TV Dave.







## LUCY SHEEN

Susan

Lucy Sheen is classically trained actor who graduated from the renowned Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama (as it was known then) with a BA (Hons) in Theatre Arts. Lucy works across stage, screen, TV, radio, voiceover, commercials, new-media and virtual reality.

Her first major professional acting role upon leaving drama school was the lead in the groundbreaking British feature film “Ping Pong” directed and co-written by Po Ch’h Leong. Lucy has performed at The Royal Exchange, The National, The RSC and The Bristol Old Vic, The Park Theatre, Soho Theatre, Bath Theatre Royal, Brighton Theatre Royal, Richmond Theatre, The Orange Tree, Kings Theatre Glasgow, Kings Head Theatre London and the Old Red Lion Theatre London.

Lucy has been fortunate to work with many of Britain’s top actors, including Dame Helen Mirren, Sir Ian Holm and Glenda Jackson. She has also worked alongside the Oscar winning George Chakiris and more recently Bryan Cranston. Her more recent stage appearances include “A Pupil” (Park Theatre), and “Unburied” (The Bunker).

## PAUL REID

Tom

Paul Redi is an actor most well known for the role of Robert alongside Rafe Spall in the horror feature “The Ritual” (2017), “Raw” (2008) and “Boy Eats Girl” (2005).

Some of his recent works include John Carney’s forthcoming feature “Flora And Her Son”, alongside Eve Hewson, Joseph Gordon-Levitt & Oren Kinlan; a main role as D.I. Rory Mahon alongside Antonio Banderas and Alice Eve in the feature “The Last Girl”; and the recent final series of “Derry Girls” for Channel 4 and Hat Trick.

Paul’s further credits include the TV series “Harry Wild” alongside Jane Seymour; the role of Aaron alongside Hazel Doupe in Kate Dolan’s horror feature “You Are Not My Mother”, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival to excellent reviews; the comedy feature “Nan” directed by Josie Rourke; Oggie Gildersleeve in “The Alienist”, directed by David Caffrey for Paramount & TNT; and “The Imaginarium”, directed by David Bruckner.

He will next appear on stage in Chekhov’s First Play with Dead Centre, directed by Ben Kidd and Bush Moukarzel at the Irish Arts Centre, New York. Stage credits include the role of Martyn Wallace in the Corn Exchange’s “Dublin” By Lamplight directed by Annie Ryan, and notably the part of Gar (Public) in “Philadelphia”, and in “Here I Come!” directed by Lyndsey Turner at the Donmar Warehouse.













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