

A cinematic still from a film. A woman with dark hair is driving a truck. She is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. The camera is positioned to show her from the side, looking into the driver's seat. Her reflection is clearly visible in the side-view mirror. The background is a blurred landscape, suggesting the truck is in motion. The overall color palette is muted, with a lot of blues and greys.

A FILM BY MIKAELA BRUCE

NOT AFRAID

LOGLINE

After a blow up during basketball practice, Olivia struggles to face a deeper devastating reality in rural Montana.

SYNOPSIS

After a long period of absence, OLIVIA is eager to get back on her high school JV basketball team, or at least that's what she thought. Reality hits when she starts practicing with her team again and painful memories from her past resurface. She finds herself suspended and falls into a pattern of avoiding her team to shelter herself from a devastating reality.

Olivia's endlessly supportive aunt BETTY will see her through this, and every hurdle she faces following a family tragedy one year earlier.

AWARDS

FRESH PERSPECTIVES IN CINEMATOGRAPHY





AWARDS

Indigenous Film & Culture Award - Windrider Institute
Received at the Windrider Summit & Sundance Film Festival Experience, Park City 2024.

GRANTS

Abel Cine Fresh Perspectives Grant Recipient.

The Fresh Perspectives in Cinematography grant program was offered exclusively to previous cohorts of the ASC Vision Mentorship Program. Along with our partners at ARRI and the ASC.

Project Featured during Cine Gear Expo LA (June 2023).
[Fresh Perspectives in Cinematography Grant Recipients Announced | AbelCine](#)

FESTIVALS

World Premiere
LA SKINS FEST - Nov 2023

EVENTS

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center: 2023 Women Are Sacred Conference
[Women Are Sacred Conference | NIWRC](#)

BIOS





MIKAELA BRUCE

WRITER & DIRECTOR

Mikaela Bruce is a LA based writer-director. She earned her Bachelor's degree at the University of Hawaii in Cinema Studies and completed her degree internship on the set of "LOST." Shortly after she moved to Spain and completed a Masters in screenwriting from the University of Charles III in Madrid.

Her narrative short *Pasarea (The Bird)* - a poetic lament on the subject of sex trafficking - screened at over 20 festivals globally and is currently in use in Romania and Spain as an awareness resource for schools. Her follow up film, *Hermana (Sister)* a period thriller, premiered at Spain's Premiere shorts Festival, Medina del Campo (Goya qualifying), and featured work by key collaborators: Annie-award winning editor Pablo García Revert (Klaus) and composer Jesi Nelson (Star Wars Biomes, Jinn).

Beyond Words, a 3 minute visual exploration of the place of emotions in art, premiered on Film Shortage and features voice over talent by Andia Winslow (A League of their Own). Mikaela teaches on the intersection of film and spirituality at Olivet University and was selected for the inaugural cohort of artists to participate in the Resilient Artist Program at the Brehm Center (Fuller Seminary).



V.C. RHONE

CO-WRITER & PRODUCER

v.c. rhone is an Award-GIVING Creative Executive and Founder of Dominion InnerTainment – delivering entertainment for the soul. v.c. produces, writes, and directs stories that embrace social scenes in a way that’s provocative and undeniably empowering. v.c. is an **NBC TV** Writers Program Semifinalist and a ScreenCraft Finalist. Her feature screenplay, Becky Breneman’s *Bangin’ Bat Mitzvah*, is in the top 7% of all screenplays on Coverfly.

Her award-winning documentary *Pie a la Mode* has screened at 17 festivals worldwide and her docuseries, *Pause for Hope*, features a heartfelt interview with a cast member from the Golden Globe nominated film, *She Said*.

She completed her undergraduate studies in Film and Television at **NYU** where she studied under Academy Award Winner, **Carol Dysinger** (*Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone If You’re a Girl*). She is mentored by **Karissa Valencia** (*Netflix’s Spirit Rangers*). She has worked with Primetime Emmy Nominee, Jim O’Doherty (*3rd Rock from the Sun*, *Kickin’ It*, *The Tracy Morgan Show*) and Academy member, Leah Daniels Butler (*The Wonder Years*, *Coming 2 America*).



JUNIOR PEREIRA

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Junior Pereira is a Brazilian-Spanish cinematographer that is based in Los Angeles. Junior has a background in photography and design that ultimately led him toward film. His multinational background allows him to approach each story with a sense of curiosity and empathy.

He began his career as DP on the historical docudrama *Lost Legacy Reclaimed*, a 7-part independent Docudrama shot on location throughout Spain. Following this Junior collaborated on the period drama short, *Hermana* (Sister), where he was able to more fully develop his visual style. *Hermana* went on to premiere at Spain’s top short film festival-Medina del Campo. In 2022 Junior was awarded an **ASC Vision Mentorship with cinematographer Stephen Katz**.

Junior is also a member of the Local 600 and works in the camera department on commercials, features and TV shows such as *The Santa Clauses* (Disney +), and most recently *1923* (Paramount +).



JEN BUCKLEY MURPHY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Jen Buckley is an enrolled member of the Chippewa Cree Tribes out of Rocky Boy, Montana. Jen is a self-taught, independent photographer who is currently doing a Murdered Missing Indigenous Women and People Photo Series that raises awareness on this devastating issue. Jen works under her business, Tveraa Photography, which is a charter non-profit. Her mission will not stop until systemic change happens. She believes that the only way for that to take place, is pushing from a grassroots level. Jen has extreme pride for her culture, being a vessel to educate on this issue, her three amazing daughters and her loving husband. Her work has been featured on billboards throughout Montana, The Today Show and much more. Jen also served as a chaplain with International Alliance of Chaplains and has been a tribal liaison with Montana tribal communities. For more information on her work, visit www.mmiwproject.org



LUNA ZHANG
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Luna is an adventurous serial entrepreneur and business executive. She has extensive experiences and well-respected reputations in the business world. Now she has brought her competencies into filmmaking. She has a comprehensive network in the entertainment industry, focusing on deal-making, investor relationships, partnerships, and distributions.

Luna is a film and television producer who has a variety of projects on her slate. She has been heavily focusing on women empowerment. Her projects include a few women empowerment feature films, a TV mini series, documentaries, animations, and so on. She also invests in short films made by female and non-binary filmmakers.

Luna has an MBA from University of Southern California, and certificates in Entrepreneurship and Leadership from her extended study in Harvard University.



CAST



JASHAUN ST. JOHN

St. John is known for her breakthrough role in 2015's coming-of-age drama *Songs My Brother's Taught Me*, the debut feature of Academy Award winner Chloé Zhao. Her follow up film "The Short Story of the Long Road" was an official selection at Tribeca Film Festival.



KYLA TUCAYA GARCIA

Kyla is known for her breakthrough performance in the award-winning pilot "Blackwater" in the title role as Birdie Blackwater. She also co-stars in 'New Amsterdam' alongside Tantoo Cardinal. Kyla continually works in theater, is an award-winning audiobook narrator and holds a BFA in acting from Rutgers University.



CHARLEY FLYTE

Recent work includes co-starring roles in *Rutherford Falls* and *American Crime Story*. Charlotte received her Bachelor of Arts in Film and Media Studies from John Hopkins University. She later moved to NYC to study acting at the T. Schreiber Studio. She later joined the Native Voices at the Autry Ensemble in Los Angeles.

CREW & CREDITS

Produced by **v.c. rhone**
Cavalo Films
Dominion InnerTainment

Directed by **Mikaela Bruce**

Written by **Mikaela Bruce and v.c. rhone**

Executive Producer **Jen Buckley-Murphy**
Executive Producer **Luna Zhang**

Starring **JaShaun St. John**
Starring **Kyla Garica**

Director of Photography **Junior Pereira**
Production Designer **Masha Lyass**
Editor **Robert Lanford**

Olivia Not Afraid **JaShaun St. John**
Betty Not Afraid **Kyla Garica**
Jessica Not Afraid **Charley Flyte**
Coach Seth **Brace Evans**
Student #1 **Carolina Garcia**
Student #2 **Amaree Hernandez**
Student #3 **Destiny Lopez**
Student #4 **Elva Alvarado**
Student #5 **Valeria Calderon**
Student #6 **Juan Esparaza**

Original Music **Supaman**

First Assistant Director **Kelly Cassinerio**
Set Decorator **Shania Gez**

Assistant Set decorator **Jazmine Flores**
B Unit Camera Operator **Matthew Rivera**
1st AC **Max Harsant**
2nd AC **Andrew Alvarez**
Sound Mixing **Marcus Ricaud**
Key Grip **Alexander Laudeman**
Jordan Hodges
Grip **Wendy Hodges**
Dolly Grip **Cody Reed**
Location Manager Frazier Park **Brian Raymond**
Hair & Makeup **Mika Michelle Garcia**
Set Photographer **James Clark**
Visual Effects **Jorge Macias**
Visual Effects Photography **Theresa Hodge**
Colorist **Jake White**
Key PA **Caroline Jelley**
Production Assistant **Dayna Clark**
Production Assistant **Kelli Neal**
Post Production Sound **Patrick O'Neil Duff**
Digital Artist **Laurie Stewart**
Casting Support **Breakdown Services**
Camera Equipment by **AbelCine**
 "Godly Warriors" written by **Christian Parrish**, Performed by Supaman and Passionate Mc, Courtesy of **Christian Parrish**
 "I Hope you Know" written by Christian Parrish, Performed by Supaman and Ashley Hall, Courtesy of Christian Parrish
 "Jessica" Written by **Cortney Matz**, Performed

by **Cortney Matz**, Courtesy of Cortney Matz

Original Painting "Still Dancing" **Jon Labillois**
 Original Photography **Jen Buckley-Murphy**
www.mmiwproject.org

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Los Angeles Film Studies Center
Stephen Katz
Marlow Nuñez
The Grip House
Alexander Swicard
Rebecca Brewer
Amy Fox
Alexia Diaz
Laura Waters
Victor Boscatt

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Our team would like to send our deepest thanks to the Not Afraid Family.





SAG-AFTRA.



CAVALO FILMS






CONTACT

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