



HOUSELIGHT FILMS PRESENTS

ALIVE & WELL

DIRECTED BY KATE BERGSTROM

WRITTEN BY OBIE AWARD WINNER ERIN COURTNEY

LOG LINE

Grace has got to get this dance performance perfect. It's the only way for her to see Katie again. One problem, Katie is dead.



ABOUT THE FILM

HOUSELIGHT

WHERE?

CALLICOON, NY, USA

RUN TIME?

15 MINUTES

LANGUAGE?

ENGLISH

GENRE?

DRAMA *

*WITH A BIT OF HUMOR, HORROR, TAP DANCING, RITUAL & DARK MAGIC...



Grieving the death of her best friend, Grace camps out in an empty house in the woods to recreate her friend's last performance piece. Believing this ritual will raise the dead, Grace enlists help from a local lonely teenager.

**FOLLOW
ALONG**



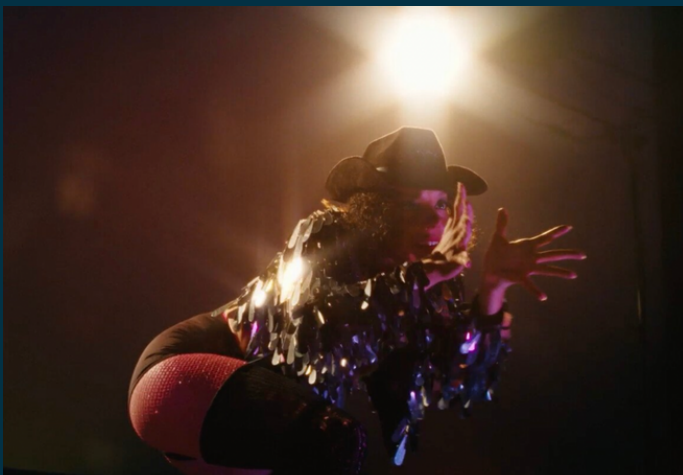
WHY

In the real world, **magical thinking** won't get us very far. In film, we get to make the impossible happen... even bringing back the dead. Narrative worlds make space for the supernatural, the **surreal** and the dark magic that accompanies **grief**, loss and mental illness.

Kate (director) and Erin (writer)'s collaboration began in 2017 when Kate directed Erin's play **Map of Virtue**, a thriller that takes place in the Catskills. Six years later, Kate poured their savings into a 1900's farm house in the exact same area the pinnacle of Erin's play takes place.

During the past six years of friendship and collaboration, personal losses- the loss of a dear friend, the death of a partner- hued the intersection of their artistic practices.

Their investigations of physiological being organically became further imbued with the **dark humor** of magical thinking, existential angst and **ritual reckonings**: what are the boundaries of personhood in grief? In the magic of reckoning with death and the great unknown?



"In film, we get to make the impossible happen... even bringing back the dead."

"...the dark humor of magical thinking, existential angst and ritual reckonings:

what are the boundaries of personhood in grief?"



THE TEAM

KATE BERGSTROM DIRECTOR

Kate Bergstrom is an upstate New York-based director and multidisciplinary artist in theatre, audio, video, performance art and immersive narrative work. Their work has been seen at St. Louis Rep, Trinity Repertory Company, Marin Theatre Company, Cleveland Play House, Ars Nova, Bushwick Starr, La Mama, Culture Hub, Rattlestick, New Dramatists, JACK, Dixon Place, Orchard Project, Opera America and more.

They are an Affiliated Artist and Critic at the Rhode Island School of Design. They are the Founding Director of On The Verge Festival and Festival Director of the Big Eddy Film Festival. They received their MFA in directing Brown/Trinity Rep. Central Coast BroadwayWorld.com's 2016 Person to Watch + 2017 Best Director.
www.katebergstrom.com



ERIN COURTNEY WRITER



Erin Courtney is a core faculty member in the MFA in Writing for Screen and Stage program at Northwestern University. The Tattooed Lady, a musical co-written with Max Vernon premiered in the Fall of 2022 at the Philadelphia Theatre Company. Her play Ann, Fran, and Mary Ann was recently published by 53rd State Press. Erin Courtney's play A Map of Virtue, produced by 13P and directed by Ken Rus Schmoll, was awarded an Obie and described as "one of the most terrifying plays of the past decade" by Alexis Soloski in the New York Times. A Map of Virtue was nominated for a GLAAD award and has had numerous productions across the country. Her play I Will Be Gone, directed by Kip Fagan, premiered at Actors Theater of Louisville, Humana Festival in 2015. She has written two operas with Elizabeth Swados, The Nomad and Kaspar Hauser. Her other plays include Alice the Magnet, directed by Pam MacKinnon, and Demon Baby, directed by Ken Rus Schmoll. She earned her MFA in playwriting at Brooklyn College with Mac Wellman, and her BA from Brown University where she studied with Paula Vogel. She is an alumnus of New Dramatists, a MacDowell fellow, an affiliated artist with Clubbed Thumb and she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2013.

JAYNE MCLENDON PRODUCER

Jayne is an actor, singer/songwriter, and founder of Houselight, a theatre and film production company. As an actor, recent TV & film credits include Don't Look Up with Mark Rylance & Meryl Streep, Hayseed, Prom Car '91 (FilmQuest Best Supporting Actress Nomination) & "The Changeling" upcoming on Apple TV+. She has worked at theaters across the country including Trinity Rep, Northern Stage, Detroit Rep, White Heron Theatre & The Malibu Playhouse. Jayne received her BFA from NYU Tisch & MFA from Brown/Trinity Rep. Favorite roles include Mae in Mud and The Pilot in George Brant's one woman show Grounded.

In a past life Jayne was a back-up singer on Jimmy Kimmel Live! and for bands including Jared Leto's 30 Seconds to Mars. Her recent single, "Grace", is available wherever you stream your music. She is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA, AEA & ACTRA.



THE TEAM CONTINUED



MATTHEW BOYD
DP



MEL NG
PRODUCTION DESIGNER



KATIE ROSE MCLAUGHLIN
CHOREOGRAPHER



ZACK BOGER
EDITOR

THE CAST



KERIME KONUR
KATIE



ELISE KIBLER
GRACE



CHARLIE ADKINS-COURTNEY
BRIAN





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THE POSTER](#)

"Performance is in our blood, our gaudy low-brow **glitter** and cigarette filled **bones**, and somehow made its way with us into the woods. The threat and possibility of toying with magic, the frankenstein-esque hubris and obscenity of how a normal person faced with an **unimaginable loss** defies logic - and thus *Alive & Well* was born. The magic of the hamlet of Callicoon, NY that generously held us- the haunting historic theatre, the market, the river, the woods- that made the diy **magic** real."

KATE BERGSTROM

DIRECTOR


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FAQ'S

HOW DID WE ASSEMBLE THE TEAM?

Erin asked Kate to direct this short film after first collaborating together in 2017 at Brown University. Kate had been classmates with Jayne McLendon, producer, in the Brown/Trinity Rep MFA program, and suggested bringing her on board as producer. Many team members were then found through referrals and recommendations. Kate, Erin and Jayne naturally gravitate towards theatre makers, and brought on board choreographer Katie Rose McLaughlin (Hadestown) and production designer Mel Ng (MFA UCSD costume design).



WHAT'S SO AWESOME ABOUT CALLICOON?

Kate lives part-time in Callicoon, and remains happily haunted by the small hamlet. We are grateful to have filmed at several local locations including [The Callicoon Theatre](#) and [The Callicoon Pantry](#). We trained or carpooled everyone in from the city (or midwest), and stayed together in a large local airbnb. Our theatre maker can-do spirit was alive & well throughout the shoot.

WHO ARE THE ACTORS?

Erin wrote the lead role of Grace with Elise Kibler in mind. She has appeared on Broadway (The Heidi Chronicles, This is Our Youth) and worked with Kate in the Off-B'way production of Is Edward Snowden Single? Kerime Konur (Katie) is a talented dancer and artist that came highly recommended by our choreographer Katie Rose McLaughlin. Charlie Adkins-Courtney (Brian) is making his acting debut in this film!



SOME BTS



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UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN