

MAA

a film by Celia Rowlson-Hall

M E M O R Y

• SYNOPSIS •

In this modern-day vision of Mother Mary's pilgrimage, a woman crosses the scorched landscape of the American Southwest. Reinvented and told entirely through movement, the film playfully deconstructs the role of this woman, who encounters a world full of bold characters that are alternately terrifying and sublime. MA is a journey into the visceral and the surreal, interweaving ritual, performance, and the body as sculpture. The absence of dialogue stirs the senses, and leads us to imagine a new ending to this familiar journey. The virgin mother gives birth to our savior, but is also challenged to save herself.

• CREDITS •

Writer & Director: **Celia Rowlson-Hall**

Cast: **Celia Rowlson-Hall,
Andrew Pastides, Amy Seimetz**

Producers: **Aaron Schnobrich, Lauren Smitelli**

Executive Producers: **Riel Roch Decter, Sebastian Pardo
Neal Bledsoe, Karl Kister**

Director of Photography: **Ian Bloom**

Production Design: **Jen Dunlap**

Costume Design: **Allison Pearce**

Editor: **Iva Radivojevic**

Composer: **Brian McOmber**

• PRESS INQUIRIES •

info@memory.is



CELIA ROWLSON - HALL • WRITER, DIRECTOR, CHOREOGRAPHER & LEAD ACTOR

Celia Rowlson-Hall graduated from North Carolina School of the Arts with a BFA in Modern Dance and Choreography. She immediately moved to New York on a fellowship from the Lincoln Center for choreography and also began her career as a professional dancer, earning a prestigious Bessie Award for her performance.

She quickly moved into choreographing for film and television, working with directors such as Gaspar Noe and Lena Dunham. She has also choreographed VMA award winning music videos for bands such as MGMT, Chromeo, and Sleigh Bells.

Bringing her experience of choreography and performance to the screen, over the past few years Celia has written and directed over fifty short films and videos. These videos have garnered several awards including an Emmy nomination and have been screened at festivals such as SXSW, SFIFF, Rooftop Films, Glasgow, French and German television, and art fairs such as the Armory Show, Performa, and the New Museum. <http://www.celiarowlsonhall.com>

Choreographer of the moment. - Vogue

Brilliant. - New York Times

Remarkable and beautiful. - Village Voice

She radiates a fresh and distinctly female voice in film, with a touch of throwback faithfulness to the classic Hollywood greats. - Huffington Post

Rowlson-Hall's scenes pulse with complex emotions, invoking anger and pathos at the same time. She accomplishes in a moment what takes feminist theory libraries of text to communicate. - Hammer to Nail

Her films seduce and manage to transform the custom into the uncanny. - The Wild Magazine

Maya Deren by way of Baywatch. - Film School Rejects

What Celia Rowlson-Hall has done to-date is already seductive and uncanny in the extreme. - Nick Pinkerton, Art Forum

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• CAST •

ANDREW PASTIDES (DANIEL)

Andrew Pastides graduated from the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities before receiving his BFA in acting from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He moved to NYC where his professional career began in the theatre both in the city and around the country. In 2013 he was nominated for IRNE for his work in the theatre.

Andrew has acted in over twenty short films, three of which have screened at SXSW, fifteen of which he also had a hand in writing and producing. His television credits include NBC's Law and Order, USA's Suits, and HBO's Boardwalk Empire among others. More recently Andrew starred in the feature film Hank and Asha, which won the Audience Award at Slamdance 2015. He was given the Best Actor Award from the Napa Valley Film Festival for his performance.

Andrew is in pre-production for his latest short which he has written, will act in, and co-direct.

AMY SEIMETZ (MISTI)

Amy Seimetz is an actress/writer/director who is currently filming Starz series THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE based on Steven Soderbergh's feature film. She is co-writing, co-directing, and co-executive producing the series with Lodge Kerrigan. As an actress Seimetz just wrapped the film LOVESONG opposite Riley Keough and Jena Malone. She was most recently a series regular on AMC'S THE KILLING, and recurring as a love interest to Chris O'Dowd on Christopher Guest's HBO series FAMILY TREE. She made history as the first person to ever receive two Gotham awards for two different films in the categories of Breakthrough Director and Best Actress. Her critically acclaimed performance in Shane Carruth's UPSTREAM COLOR took Sundance by storm and earned her rave reviews including landing her on Variety's 'Actors to Watch'. Her directorial debut feature SUN DON'T SHINE won her a special jury prize at South By Southwest, and was nominated for two Gotham Awards, bringing her total nominations to four. The film received rave reviews including being selected as a New York Times Critics Pick and it landed her on Indiewire's list of 12 Directors To Watch..



• CREW •

IAN BLOOM (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)

Cinematographer Ian Bloom has shot several feature films including 2013 Sundance NEXT indie "American Milkshake," award-winning Bahamian film "Children of God," and "Nor'easter" for which he won the Haskell Wexler cinematography award at Woodstock in 2012. He also worked on the indie hits "Rabbit Hole" and "Blue Valentine," as well as the short film "Cigarette Candy," which won best short at the 2010 SXSW film festival. Bloom has shot many commercial projects including Oprah Winfrey's Master Class and NOVA Science Now.

BRIAN MCOMBER (COMPOSER)

As a drummer and musician, Brian McOmber has performed and/or recorded with many artists including Björk, David Byrne, Deer Tick, Dirty Projectors, Ryan Olsen (Gayngs, Polica), Mira Calix, St. Vincent, Alarm Will Sound, The Roots, and Yeasayer. He was a full-time member of Dirty Projectors from 2006-2012 and has performed at venues such as Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall, Disney Hall, Coachella, Fuji Rock (Japan), Glastonbury (UK), Primavera (Spain) and Goiania Noise Fest (Brazil). Dirty Projectors were nominated for a Grammy in 2012, and their single, "Stillness is the Move", can be heard on the Jay-Z curated videogame soundtrack to NBA Live 2K13.

As a composer for film, Brian's works have premiered at festivals such as Cannes, Sundance, SXSW and the Chicago Underground. An enthusiastic collaborator, he has tapped many musicians for his film scores including Tim Kingsbury (Arcade Fire), Jesse McMathewson (KENMode), Satomi Matsusaki (Deerhoof), Kurt Ballou (Converge), and Nat Baldwin (Dirty Projectors).

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• MEMORY •

Memory is a full service independent production company specializing in developing and producing, high quality feature film, television and digital content. Focused on discovering and mentoring new talent as well as collaborating with established filmmakers, Memory creates innovative, thought provoking entertainment distributed on a variety of new digital platforms. Based in Hollywood, Memory is dedicated to telling stories on a global scale for a discerning and savvy international audience.

RIEL ROCH DECTER (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)

Riel Roch Decter is a Canadian born, Los Angeles based producer and the co-founder of Memory, a new boutique media company. Riel began his career as the Director of Production & Operations for the independent production company Olympus Pictures working on award winning films such as Stuart Blumberg's *Thanks for Sharing*, John Cameron Mitchell's *Rabbit Hole*, and Mike Mill's Oscar winning film *Beginners*. In 2012 Riel produced two feature length films for Olympus; *Bottled Up* written & directed by Enid Zentelis starring Oscar winning actress Melissa Leo, which premiered at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival, and *The Wait* written & directed by M Blash and starring Jena Malone and Chloë Sevigny which premiered at the 2013 SXSW Film Festival. Riel has also produced numerous award winning short films including *Night Giant* written and directed by Aaron Beckum and *Throat Song* written and directed by Miranda de Pencier. *Throat Song* won the 2013 Canadian Screen Award for best live action short film, Canada's highest film and TV honor, and was short listed (1 of 10) for a 2013 Academy Award nomination in the short film category.

Recently Riel produced the feature length rock documentary LIFE AFTER DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979 about the Toronto dance punk duo's tumultuous rise, break up and reunion. Currently Riel is in post production on the supernatural comedy feature ANOTHER EVIL written and directed by Sundance Alum Carson Mell.

Riel graduated from Montreal's Concordia University with a Major in Economics. In addition he attended the prestigious London School of Economics to study Management and Entrepreneurship. Riel is a 2014 Sundance Creative Producing Lab fellow.



SEBASTIAN PARDO (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER)

Sebastian Pardo is a Los Angeles raised and educated independent film producer who began his career producing for Roman Coppola's renowned music video and commercial production company The Directors Bureau. From there Sebastian went on to produce PALO ALTO for first time director Gia Coppola.

Released in 2014 and based on the book written by James Franco: Palo Alto Stories, the film stars James Franco, Emma Roberts, and featuring Val Kilmer and Chris Messina. It premiered at the 2013 Telluride Film Festival, before playing at the 70th Venice International Film Festival as well as Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), before being released by Tribeca Films in the spring of 2014.

Since co-founding Memory with Riel Roch Decter at the start of 2014, the duo have produced three short films, as well as released a feature length documentary LIFE AFTER DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979 about the rise, break up and reunion of Canadian dance punk band Death From Above 1979. In November the pair completed principle photography on Writer and Director Carson Mell's Sundance supported feature film ANOTHER EVIL.

Sebastian attended University of Southern California, and graduated from Dodge College of Media Arts at Chapman University with a BFA in Film Production with an emphasis in directing.

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