



# Anne at 13,000 Ft. A FILM BY Kazik Radwanski

TIFF presents in association with FILM MAUDET ANNE AT 13,000 FT. starring DEBACH CASPARIEL MATT BRUNSON DOROTHEA PAAS LAWRENCE DUNNEN JEFFREY A. LAPOINTE ANDREW NIKOLAY MICHAEL VOYSEY ALEX HENNINGSEN IAN REYNOLDS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER NATHAN SILVER C. JACOB WELLS PRODUCED BY DAN MONTGOMERY WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY KAZIK RADWANSKI

MDFP

75 minutes – English – Not Rated

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## Synopsis

Anne (Deragh Campbell, *I Used To Be Darker*) has a seemingly ordinary and stable life as a single daycare worker in Toronto. But after an overwhelming skydiving trip for her best friend Sara's bachelorette party, the ground shifts beneath Anne's feet. She starts to bring a care-free joyfulness to her conservative job, the effects of which spill over into her personal life. At Sara's wedding, Anne meets Matt (Matt Johnson, *Operation Avalanche*) who takes to her offbeat, confrontational charms, but she soon finds herself pushing the limits of what's socially acceptable. *Anne at 13,000 ft* is a rigorous, volatile portrait of a young woman struggling to come down to earth, from director Kazik Radwanski (*Tower*, which premiered at the Locarno Film Festival; *How Heavy This Hammer*, Berlin International Film Festival; *Scaffold*, New York Film Festival) and Toronto's acclaimed MDFF filmmaking collaborative.

## Director's Statement

*Anne at 13,000 ft* is the third feature in a thematic trilogy grounded in character-centric portraits of outsiders who can't connect with others. Since my first short film (*Assault*, 2007), I've always chosen to shoot close to my actor's faces, studying every detail and nuance of their expression. I like to capture subjects' movements and speech so that the faces of their characters become the emotional landscape of my scenes.

*Anne at 13,000 ft* introduces us to 27-year-old Anne who's struggling to find her place in the world. Society has a way of excluding people and making them not feel whole. Self-worth and self-advocacy are fragile and hard for some people to find. I connected with the idea of a character fighting to find a way to simply exist and live a free and fulfilling life.

This film marks a new development in my process, because I wrote the film's character - Anne - for an actress I greatly admire, Deragh Campbell, who has acted in several acclaimed features (*I Used to be Darker*, *Fail to Appear* and *Stinking Heaven*). I met Deragh in 2013 at TIFF and have followed her work ever since. This work is a true collaboration between myself and Deragh, who brings a nuance to the character I couldn't have achieved without her. Furthermore, it's very much a product of the Toronto Film Scene and its current moment. For the first time in a while, in English-Canada, there's a lot of people making an independent and autonomous film with more unique voices emerging. Working here in Toronto, I've had the privilege of being able to work with the same core group of collaborators (producer Dan Montgomery, editor Ajla Odobasic and cinematographer Nikolay Michalov) on all of my films. Together we learn from each film together and continue to grow and refine our craft.

Making this film we wanted to learn from our locations and environment to make something that feels true to the city, and its inhabitants. To capture a sense of realism we shot on location in live environments. The daycare featured in the film is run by my mother, Theresa Radwanski, who appears in the film. Many of the supporting actors work at the daycare as well. To research the film, Deragh spent time working alongside them at the daycare We shot over the course of two years in spurts and we would edit between. This allowed us to pivot and re-align, focusing in on what felt true.

*Anne at 13,000 ft* is my most ambitious work to date, not in terms of budget or scope but because it's the culmination of a process and methods developed over the past decade with the same core group of collaborators.



## About MDFF

MDFF stands for Medium Density Fibreboard Films. Founded by Dan Montgomery and Kazik Radwanski in 2009, MDFF is committed to exploring naturalistic, narrative and documentary forms in filmmaking with a focus on unique, director-driven projects that display a strong sense of cinematic handwriting. The company's short films have screened at some of the world's top film festivals, including the New York Film Festival, Berlinale, Locarno, SXSW, BFI London and Toronto International Film Festival. MDFF's debut feature, *Tower* (2012), premiered at the 65th Locarno International Film Festival and went on to screen at several festivals including TIFF, The Viennale and New Directors/New Films. Their sophomore feature, *How Heavy This Hammer* (2015) played at TIFF, the Berlinale Forum, and was nominated as one of three finalists for the \$100k Rogers Best Canadian Film Award.

For over 10 years the company has carved out a unique niche in the Canadian film landscape, not only as a production company but as a distribution entity as well. Since 2013, MDFF has presented monthly cinematic offerings to local Toronto audiences that would otherwise have gone without theatrical exposure in the city. Under the banner of MDFF Selects, the company has aimed to contribute to the vibrant Toronto film scene and in turn, make space for a kind of filmmaking and community that puts the city on a similar platform as other world-class film cities. Through humble beginnings at well-known (and recently defunct) multi-purpose arts hub Double Double Land, to Camera Bar (originally under creative direction by Atom Egoyan back in the mid-2000's), to historic art deco movie venue The Royal Cinema, the MDFF Selects screening series grew purposefully and organically over the years before teaming up with the TIFF Bell Lightbox and Cinema Scope magazine to launch the latest iteration of the theatrical screening venture. For more information visit [www.mdff.ca](http://www.mdff.ca)





Cast

Anne.....Deragh Campbell  
Matt.....Matt Johnson  
Sarah.....Dorothea Paas  
Mum.....Lawrene Denkers

Crew

Written and Directed by.....Kazik Radwanski  
Produced by.....Dan Montgomery & Kazik Radwanski  
Executive Producers.....Nathan Silver & C. Mason Wells  
Cinematographer.....Nikolay Michaylov  
Edited by.....Ajla Odobasic  
Still Photography.....Mark Peckmezian & Seth Fluker  
Titles.....Caspar Newbolt



## Director's Filmography

Assault (2007) - 11 min  
Princess Margaret Blvd. (2008) - 14 mins  
Out in that Deep Blue Sea (2009) - 16 mins  
Green Crayons (2010) - 10 mins  
Tower (2012) - 78 mins  
Cutaway (2014) - 7 mins  
How Heavy This Hammer (2015) - 78 mins  
Scaffold (2017) - 15 min  
Anne at 13,000 ft (2019) - 75 mins



## Selected Press Quotes

"a calibrated, viscerally lived-in performance that reimagines the expressive possibilities of psychological realism". - FILM COMMENT

"Heralds impressive talents to watch in both Radwanski and Campbell." - SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

"Campbell delivers as a next-gen Gena Rowlands, but escapes the shadows of its precedents with an intimate character study that follows its own taut rhythms." – INDIEWIRE

"Anxiously funny... quietly shattering." – MUBI

"Is it finally safe to say that Kazik Radwanski represents the future of Canadian cinema? "  
- THE GLOBE AND MAIL

"Electrifying... If the Dardenne brothers remade A Woman Under The Influence, it might look a lot like Radwanski's latest." - NOW Magazine

"Campbell's riveting performance as a woman on the verge of vertigo is a sight to behold."  
- TORONTO STAR

"Exhilarating... it barely lets audiences breathe. Campbell's ferociously committed turn as Anne is an astonishing feat." - POV

