



THE HORSES

A short film by Liz Cairns



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In 2017, my family's horses were euthanized by the SPCA. All but one. In the aftermath of this event, I went from neighbour to neighbour, asking to borrow a horse to put with the sole remaining gelding who had just lost his herd. I was startled by how quickly news of the euthanization had spread. Although the story is drawn from personal events, I wrote and directed this piece to contemplate how we project our moral selves onto animals, and the imperfect frameworks that we have developed to ensure their care. With the camera on an elastic tether to the main character, we follow her on her journey through the small equestrian community where I once lived. The film ends with the main character contemplating the ambiguity of her own moral action. Shot on 16mm film in Vancouver, British Columbia.



BIO

Liz Cairns is a writer and director from Vancouver, BC and a graduate of the Director's Lab at the Canadian Film Centre. Her short films have played at festivals internationally, including TIFF, Austin Film Festival, Interfilm Berlin, Female Eye Film Festival and VIFF. In 2017, she was invited to the Berlinale Short Film Station at the Berlinale, one of ten selected out of thousands of applicants. Liz is currently developing her first feature film, INEDIA, with Experimental Forest Films.

FILMOGRAPHY

THE HORSES

2021, 12 minutes, 16mm film

HIS NAME IS WILLY

2017, 14 minutes, Video

VIFF 2017

Austin Film Festival 2017

Made in-residence at the CFC's Short Dramatic Film Program

MY FAVOURITE SEASON

2015, 13 minutes, Video

VIFF 2015

31st Interfilm Festival 2015

Visionaria Festival 2015

Cinema on the Bayou 2015

Spokane International Film Festival 2016

Carrousel International du Film de Rimouski 2016

Moonrise Film Festival 2016

Dawson City Film Festival 2017

WITHERING HEIGHTS

2014, 9 minutes, Video

VIFF 2014

Breakthroughs Festival 2015

Cardiff Film Festival 2015

Hill Country Film Festival 2015

SAD BEAR

2010, 10 minutes, Video

TIFF 2010

Austin Film Festival 2010

Dawson City Film Festival 2011

PRODUCTION CREDITS

WRITER & DIRECTOR

Liz Cairns

PRODUCER

Sara Blake

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Jeremy Cox

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Kara Hornland

CASTING DIRECTOR

Andrew Gillingham

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Tyler Hagan

LOCATION SOUND

Vladimir Fedulov

HAIR & MAKEUP

Tatiana Ivens

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR

Sophia Delgigilo

STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER

Suzanne Friesen

1ST AC

Ryan Ermacora

GAFFERS

Jordan Findlay
Tess Bukowsky

KEY GRIP

Bryn McCashin

SWING

Zachary Lacosse

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Kellen Jackson
Johara “Jo” Boukabous

EDITOR

Lewis Bennett

SOUND DESIGNERS

Michelle Hu
Tim Atkins

MUSIC BY

Spencer Creaghan

COMPOSITOR

Conrad Olson

COLOURIST

Sam Gilling

SPECIAL THANKS:

Margot Vilvang, Margot Van Allen, Annie, Dr. Laura White, Pauline De-croix, Trevor Christie, Jean Parsons, Kaya Hunter, Gorman Lee, Alicia Jeffrey, Anita Leonoff, Alyssa Routtenberg, Kristina McKay, Kelsey Campbell, Madeleine Davis, Gillian Kennedy, Tony Massil, Ryan Flowers, Andrew Gillingham, Carol Whiteman, Emily Diana Ruth, Aaron Mirkin, Erica Smith

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Keslow Camera
Pacific Backlot Production Services
Matrix Production Services
Signal Systems
Lorne Lapham Sales and Rentals
Produced with the co-operation of the Union of B.C. Performers



CAST

KELLY

Kelly Van Der Burg

JEANIE

Debra Sears

OBERON

Oberon

NEIGHBOURS

Shelley Janze

Roz Murray

J Anthony Sparacino

Melissa Montgomery

Lyza Ulrich

SPCA OFFICERS

Shelley Janze

Roz Murray

J Anthony Sparacino

Melissa Montgomery

Lyza Ulrich

POLICE OFFICER

Ken Boyd

EXTRAS

Hayden Clark

Isabella Clark

Sienna Clark

Lucia Thain

Ava Madeline Frica