

PRESS KIT: FAMILY REWRITTEN



FAMILY REWRITTEN

SYNOPSIS

LOGLINE

When the thread that holds her family together suddenly snaps, Camilla, age 17, finds herself in foster care.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Despite battling Cystic Fibrosis, Camilla, age 16, identified as a typical middle-class American teenager until the thread that held her family together suddenly snapped. Just months before her 18th birthday Camilla found herself in foster care, but instead of feeling ashamed, she made a conscious decision to not let the situation define her.

LONG SYNOPSIS

As a child, Camilla was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis, a genetic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. She needs a high calorie diet and access to electricity to do her daily therapy. At age 17, she comes home to find the fridge empty, the apartment dirty, and the electricity turned off. She decides to move into her best friend Maja's house to seek refuge.

Camilla and her older sister, Christina, grew up in a stable, middle-class home. When Camilla's mother loses her job, life begins to spiral out of control. Her father begins to drink more heavily and the house falls into disarray.

The Administration for Children's Services visits Camilla's house after hearing a report about the conditions in the home. Camilla's father is irate and claims they "kidnapped" his daughter. Meanwhile Maja's parents finally learn the true reason for Camilla's nightly sleepovers and begin to make long term plans to legally become her foster parents

TECH SPECS

15 minutes, 16:9, Stereo Sound Mix

SOCIAL MEDIA:

<http://fostercarefilm.com/familyrewritten>
<http://facebook.com/fostercarefilm>
<http://twitter.com/fostercarefilm>
<http://vimeo.com/fostercarefilm>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/FosterCareFilm>

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TRAILER:

<http://fostercarefilm.com/familyrewritten/>

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FAMILY REWRITTEN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DOES THIS FILM FIT INTO THE LARGER SCOPE OF YOUR WORK WITH KIDS IN FOSTER CARE?

The initial concept was to create an animated documentary short, but once we started going through our footage we realized we had way more material than could possibly fit into one film. We selected a particular story to focus on for the animated documentary but realized the other stories we collected were too important to end up on the cutting room floor.

As a result, we are now making a series of live action short films about foster care as well as the animated documentary. We are using these live action films to promote education and awareness about foster care, and we have developed a program around it called the Foster Care Film and Community Engagement Program (FCFCEP). "Family Rewritten" is the third film in this series.

WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS FILM?

After three years working with a developmentally-delayed child, I picked up my phone to hear a little voice saying, "Mama." This was Ana's first word and her foster mother had called me, her Court Appointed Special Advocate, to share the experience. As a CASA volunteer, I've spent years working with children, their families and the court system to help find kids a permanent home, good educational opportunities and needed medical and social services. As I heard Ana find her voice, I wondered how, and whether, other foster youth ever truly found theirs. So I decided to answer this question using the tools I knew best, animation and film, to give foster youth a chance to be heard.

HOW DO YOU FIND YOUR SUBJECTS/INTERVIEWEES?

I reached out to foster youth via social media and received an overwhelming response. It became even more apparent to me that foster youth wanted to be heard. After a few months, I had collected far more stories than I could possibly fit into a single film. So, as interest grew, the project grew with it.

HOW ARE FOSTER YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN THIS FILM AND THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE?

We are not just helping youths' voices be heard through film. We're giving foster youth the opportunity to work behind the scenes as camera operators, production assistants, writers and more. We're also giving foster youth an opportunity to speak to social workers, lawyers, judges and other change-makers in the foster care community by having them be key participants in our community screenings and presentations.

WHAT TYPE OF IMPACT DO YOU HOPE TO HAVE WITH THIS FILM?

By giving Camilla a vocal platform, we helped her find her voice and become an advocate for change. Camilla did not just tell us her story, she was given a video camera and an opportunity to record her story and the aspects of life which were most important to her. Through the filmmaking process, our goal is to give foster youth the confidence and skills to become a voice for the voiceless.

With this film, we plan to educate general audiences about kinship foster care, and show how race, religion and mentorship can play a role in developing one's identity. Among case-workers and advocates, we hope to reinforce the importance of sibling relationships for youth in foster care.

FAMILY REWRITTEN SOUNDBITES

"Throughout the whole process so much happened in such little time. It's a part of my life but it doesn't change who I am or define who I am"

- Camilla Tecszy

"I think, like, it's just important to realize that just cause you are biologically made to have kids doesn't mean you have to. Not everyone is meant to be a parent."

- Camilla Tecszy

"The bottom line is that we both love our mom, and we know she loves us we're just having difficulty showing that to each other right now and that's not something anyone should be feeling guilty about - either her nor us. You know sometimes you just need space."

- Camilla Tecszy

"I'm just really grateful to be able to feel like a new family is possible, They really taught me that just because you had one biological family, like that's not your only chance. I've really learned the many definitions of a family."

- Camilla Tecszy

"I grew up with a mentality that just like living day by day... Everything was so unexpected; I don't know if I'll wake up in the morning without electricity, so the fact that even now I can say that next year I'm going to college, I'm going to be there for four years. That's really amazing for me that I can plan for myself and take control of my future."

- Camilla Tecszy

"A *powerful* tale."

- Anonymous
Independent Filmmaker

"I feel so lucky that people like me were provided an outlet to talk about this. I am *forever grateful.*"

- Camilla Tecszy
Former Foster Youth

"Wonderful, *deeply moving.*"

- Anonymous
Kanbar Institute, Tisch School of the Arts

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

YASMIN MISTRY, *Director/Producer*

Yasmin Mistry is an Emmy-nominated animator and filmmaker. Her work has been displayed worldwide including recent showings at the White House, United Nations and the Louvre, as well as at film festivals such as Cannes, SXSW, Tribeca and Clermont-Ferrand. She is the recipient of the Puffin Foundation's 2013 film grant, the Brooklyn Arts Council's 2014 – 2016 film grants, and the Jessie Streich-Kest Memorial Grant. When not working as an artist, Yasmin dedicates her time to the foster youth of New York City. As a Court Appointed Special Advocate, she received the 2012 Advocate of The Year Award for her dedication to obtaining services for foster care children with special needs. Yasmin was inspired to create this film when she realized the voices of the children she worked with were not being heard and their stories never told.

MAXINE TRUMP, *Editor/Writer*

Maxine is a director, story producer, and co-owner of Hitman Productions. She directed the New York Times Critics' Pick feature documentary "Musicwood," which screened at over 30 film festivals worldwide. Prior to this, she worked at the BBC in London as the development executive for non-fiction and scripted programs. She is the winner of several BDA & Promax awards.

LAURA FONG, *Assistant Editor*

Laura is an associate producer for PBS Newshour Weekend. Her prior work on CNN's episodic series "Inside Man" helped garner CNN a 2013 IDA award for Best Limited Series and a 2014 IDA nomination for Best Episodic series.

JACKSON EAGAN, *CINEMATOGRAPHER*

Jackson is a Cinematographer best known for his work on *Water in the CloudForest*, *The Zeno Question*, and *Nightfire*. He was a finalist for the 2014 American Society of Cinematographer's Linwood Dunn Heritage Award.

RUSS SPAID, *ANIMATION*

Russ is an Emmy-nominated artist with 20 years of experience in visual design field. He has worked for clients such as HBO, Cinemax, AMC, ABC News, USA Network, and Time Warner.

MEL WHERRY, *ILLUSTRATOR*

Mel was an a children's art teacher for 7 years and currently works as a freelance artist doing mixed media art, illustration, photography, graphic design, makeup art, and tattoo design.

JETON MURTISHI, *COMPOSER*

Jeton is an award winning multi-instrumentalist and classically trained composer who has performed worldwide with the Albanian State Ensemble.

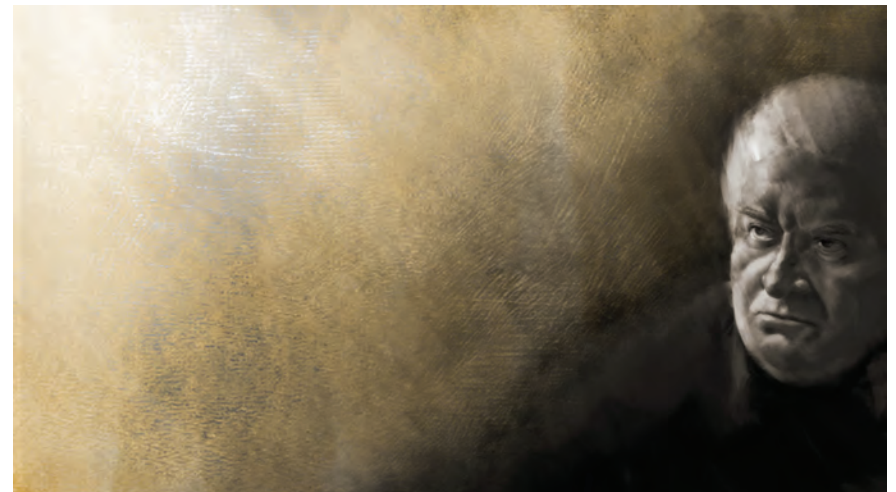
OCTAVIA VAUGHN, *ASSISTANT PRODUCER*

Octavia is a freelance Assistant Producer, Assistant Director, and Production Assistant. When not working in film, she dedicates her time to helping those in need as a respite care worker.

AMANDA DE JESUS, *Social Work Consultant*

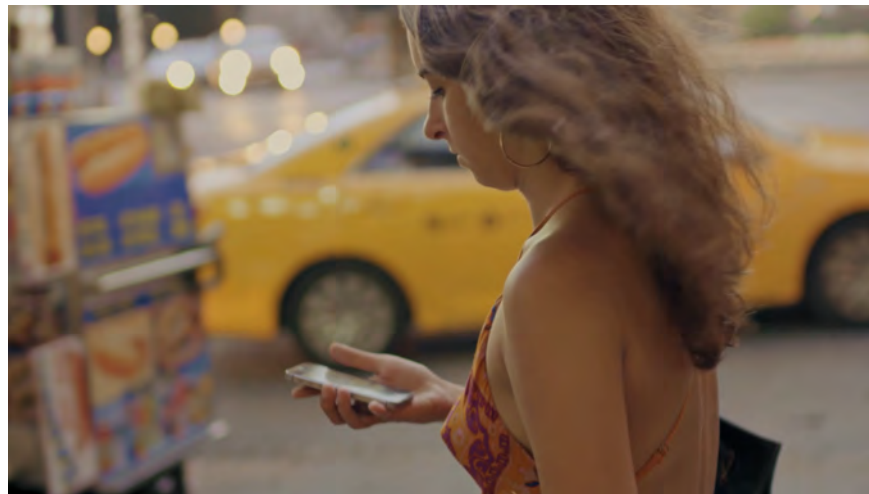
Amanda is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW-R) and psychotherapist. She received a Masters of Social Work from Hunter College with additional training from The Ackerman Institute for the Family and from The Metropolitan Institute for Training in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. She currently provides psychotherapy for adults, adolescents and children experiencing mental health and behavioral difficulties.

FAMILY REWRITTEN PRODUCTION ART



Cystic Fibrosis definition (top left), Collage (top right), Collage of Camilla's biological family home (bottom left), Camilla's biological father (bottom right)

FAMILY REWRITTEN PRODUCTION PHOTOS



Camilla with Kim, her foster mother (top left), Camilla (top right), Writing (bottom left), Camilla (bottom right)

FAMILY REWRITTEN

CREDITS

DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY:

Yasmin Mistry

EDITED AND WRITTEN BY:

Maxine Trump

CINEMATOGRAPHY:

Jackson Eagan
Rhett DuPont
Dan Wang

ASSISTANT PRODUCER:

Octavia Vaughn

LEAD ILLUSTRATORS:

Mel Wherry
Philip Sun

ADDITIONAL ART:

Chae Chin Lee
Alicia Chen

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Laura Fong

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Livia Cheibub

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT:

Andrew Haner

FEATURING:

Camilla Tecsy

APPEARANCES BY:

Kim Flodin
Farhan Ali
Maja-Lisa Flodin-Ali
Yasmine Flodin-Ali
Lesley Frey

ANIMATION:

Russ Spaid
Yasmin Mistry

POETRY BY:

Camilla Tecsy
Princess Wilcox

SOUND MIX:

Erich Rettermayer

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION:

Jeton Murtishi

SOUND MIX:

Erich Rettermayer

COLOURIST:

Pedro Vivas Hernández

ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE:

Beachfront B-roll
Ecamcito

SPECIAL THANKS:

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Inbar Sharon
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Christina Tecsy
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