

Logline

A homeless woman in South Beach sits under a tree and watches the life of a family unfold in a house across the street.

Synopsis

A homeless woman in South Beach spends much of her time sitting under a tree, watching the life of a family unfold in a house across the street. When not under the tree, she fights for food and shelter while drifting between reality and delusion. What begins as a seemingly senseless act of voyeurism becomes something deeper when we discover the meaning her routine brings to her life.

Specifications

Project Type:	Short
Run Time:	14 minutes 50 seconds
Year of completion:	2020
Country of Production:	U.S.A.
Genre:	Drama
Language:	English
Subtitles:	English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish
Student Film:	No
Shooting Format:	Digital
Aspect Ratio:	16:9
Film Color:	Color
Screening Format:	2K DCP, 4K DCP, .mov, mp4 (HD)
Sound:	5.1 DCP or Stereo

The Journey

The Woman Under The Tree was shot in September 2019 in Miami Beach and was completed in early 2020.

World Premiere:	37th Miami International Film Festival - U.S. (March 2020)
Official Selection:	29th Woods Hole Film Festival - U.S. (July 2020) Finalist: Best Dramatic Short
International Premiere:	18th International Festival Signes de Nuit: Paris - France (October 2020)
Official Selection:	20th Anchorage International Film Festival - U.S. (December 2020)
Italian Premiere:	25th Capri, Hollywood – The International Film Festival - Italy (December 2020)
South Asia Premiere:	19th Dhaka International Film Festival - Bangladesh (January 2021)
Official Selection:	21st Santa Fe Film Festival - U.S. (February 2021) Finalist: Best Short
Official Selection:	18th Ischia Films of the Year - Italy (February 2021)
Official Selection:	10th Julien Dubuque International Film Festival - U.S. (April 2021)
Spanish Premiere:	6th Galapán International Short Film Festival - Spain (July 2021) Winner: Official Jury and Audience Awards, Best Short
Caucasus Premiere:	8th Fresco International Film Festival - Armenia (August 2021)
South Korean Premiere:	18th Cheongju International Short Film Festival - S. Korea (August 2021) Selection: Closing Film
Serbian Premiere:	10th Prokuplje Film Festival - Serbia (August 2021)

- Indonesian Premiere: 7th Bali International Short Film Festival, Minikino Film
- **Indonesia** (September 2021)
- South America Premiere: 7th Guayaquil International Film Festival - **Ecuador**
(September 2021)
- Official Selection: 12th FECICAM Festival de Cine Español Emergente - **Spain**
(September 2021)
- Official Selection: 11th Piélagos en Corto International Film Festival - **Spain**
(September 2021)
- Official Selection: 19th Festival Internacional de Cine de Ponferrada - **Spain**
(September 2021)
- Official Selection: 9th Santurtzi Film Festival – Santurzine - **Spain**
(October 2021)
- Official Selection: 22nd Mostra de Curtas Noia - *GOYA Awards Qualifying
Festival* - **Spain** (October 2021)
- Official Selection: 6th Festival Internacional de Curtmetratges de Vila-seca
- **Spain** (October 2021)
- Official Selection: 3rd ALMA, Almassora International Short Film Festival
- **Spain** (November 2021)
- Official Selection: 6th Bizitegi - Homeless Film Festival - **Spain**
(November 2021)
- Official Selection: 18th accordi @ DISACCORDI - International Short Film
Festival - **Italy** (November 2021)

Director's Statement

Our short sheds light upon the unexplored reality of the homeless population living in trendy South Beach. It introduces the audiences to the life of Lucia, an elderly woman who fights to survive on the streets of Miami Beach while struggling with mental illness. Homelessness within this community is a noteworthy topic. In a transient place like South Beach, the indigent often fade into the background, overlooked and dismissed by impassive tourists and party-goers. But our film goes far beyond that. At its essence, it is a story about the human condition.

Director - Karishma Kohli is based in Mumbai, India. She began her career at Yash Raj Films, where she met her mentor Kabir Khan. She collaborated with Kabir in several films, including hits such as *Tubelight*, *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*, and *Ek Tha Tiger*. After eleven successful years as assistant and associate director, Karishma made her directorial debut with the reality series *The Mini Truck*, followed by *Minime*, a travel show she directed and shot for TLC India. She also directed *The Reunion*, a web series released by Times Now/ Zoom TV. Most recently, she directed the web series *Mentalhood* for ALT Balaji, starring Karisma Kapoor. She studied at the New York Film Academy.

Director of Photography - Daniel Kaplan was born and raised in Miami. He graduated with an MBA in Marine Affairs and Policy at the University of Miami. After graduating he decided to drastically alter his career path by landing a job with a local television production company, *The Corner of the Cave*. While at *The Cave* he worked as DP and AC on television shows for networks like the History Channel, Discovery Channel, and Oxygen Network. Currently, Daniel works for Onboard Media, a company that produces original content for LVMH Moët Hennessy, Carnival Corporation, and other renowned corporations. All the while, Daniel has enjoyed creating his own original short documentaries.

Production

The Woman Under The Tree is a U.S.A. production, produced by Under The Tree Productions, LLC.

Writer / Producer - Roberto Donoso is an Ecuadorian-born filmmaker based in Miami. He graduated from Wilmington University, where he studied Business Management all while fueling his covert love for the arts with elective subjects like Literature, Philosophy, Aesthetics of Film, and Photography. After a 10-year career managing people and processes at a leading Fortune 500 company, Roberto switched

paths to pursue his passion for storytelling. In addition to co-writing and producing *The Woman Under the Tree*, he is working on the manuscript of a historical novel.

Writer / Producer - Prashant Thakker was born in Mumbai and is based in Miami. His work has won multiple awards. In 2018, his comedy screenplay, *Nut-ivity*, currently in production, won "Best Screenplay Pitch" at the America Film Market and "Best Screenplay Pitch" in 2017 at the Miami Media and Film Market. His drama screenplay, *Siblings*, co-written with Karishma Kohli, won "Best Screenplay Pitch" at the 2018 Miami Media and Film Market. Prashant collaborated as a writer in the feature film *Horror Time*, produced by James Franco. In 2010, he co-produced the award-winning film *I Am*. Most recently, Prashant script-supervised the Alt Balaji web series, *Mentalhood*. He studied creative writing at the University of Miami and screenwriting at Studio4 in Los Angeles and New York.

Actor / Producer - Rupinder Nagra was born in Punjab, India and brought up in Canada. He is well-known for his portrayal of Amal Kumar in Richie Mehta's *Amal*. This role garnered him a Canadian Academy Acting nomination and the film went on to win over 20 awards internationally. He has worked on several films such as Karan Johar's *Kurbaan*, Hansal Mehta's *Omerta* and *Simran*, the Danish film *De Ontsnapping* and *The Etruscan Smile* (directed by Oscar Nominated Oded Binnun & Mihal Brezis). His theatre credits include *The Other Place* (London, UK - directed by Claire Van Kampen) and *My Brothers & Sisters* (London, UK - directed by Craig). Having a background in Improv/Comedy he worked for several years with the hit Improv Comedy troupe *Step-UP* (Toronto, Canada).

Producer - Fabiola Rodriguez is an independent media producer with experience in content-producing and broadcast journalism. For eleven years, she worked at WPBT2 South Florida Public Media, Miami's PBS affiliate, where she first produced children's content and later news and political programming. While there she earned three Telly Awards and three Emmy nominations, with one win. She left WPBT2 to pursue opportunities in the narrative space. In 2018, Fabiola was part of the producing team behind *Huracan*, a psychological drama directed by Cassius Corrigan. The feature film had its world premiere in the 2019 Miami Film Festival, playing at the historic Olympia Theatre to a sold-out crowd. Fabiola has also worked as crew on productions such as Prime Video's *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, A24's *Waves*, ABC's *Grand Hotel* and independent films such as *Critical Thinking* and *Reefa*. Her feature film project *Ludi* was selected to be part of IFP's Narrative Lab, while Fabiola was selected to partake in the New Orleans Film Society's Southern Producers Lab. She graduated

from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies.

Lead - Alina Interián was a co-founder of Teatro Avante, where she produced many of the company's early plays. In the 1970s and 1980s, she earned critics and audience praise for her starring turns in *Electra Garrigó*, *Las niñas ricas de Camagüey* (The House of Bernarda Alba), *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Agnes of God*, *Extremities*, and *The Miracle Worker*, among others. In the late 1980s, she turned to literature and joined Miami Dade College, where she founded the Center for Literature and was the moving and creative force behind the growth, recognition and prestige the Miami Book Fair enjoys today. She directed the event for twenty-five years. Alina returned to theatre in 2015 in the revival of René R. Aloma's *Alguna cosita que alivie el sufrir* at the 30th International Hispanic Theatre Festival of Miami, in the role of Ana, which she played in the piece's first production, also by Teatro Avante, in 1986. In 2016 she played the role of Lina Berman in *El puerto de los cristales rotos*, and in 2017 played the lead role in *Notas que saben a olvido*. Her more recent work includes Ana in *Nowhere in the World*, and Sister Angela in *Bayamesa*. *The Woman Under The Tree* is Alina's latest project and cinematographic debut.

Credits

DIRECTED BY

KARISHMA KOHLI

WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY

ROBERTO DONOSO

PRASHANT THAKKER

PRODUCED BY

RUPINDER NAGRA

FABIOLA RODRIGUEZ

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

DANIEL KAPLAN

EDITED BY

JORGE TORRES

COMPOSER

JOSE PARODY

CAST

ALINA INTERIÁN

(In order of appearance)

RUPINDER NAGRA

ARAYA KAUSHAL-NAGRA

RHIAN KAUSHAL-NAGRA

SUSAN DEAN

GINA MANCINI

CRAIG BRAJEVICH

JUDY WHIDDEN

MIA SCORNAVACCA

DAVID DE LA FE

JOSEPH RIFE

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

ROBERTO DONOSO

1ST AC

KYLE BENGSTON

2ND AC

MARCUS MAYORAL

D.I.T.	ADAM LIGHTERMAN
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR	PRASHANT THAKKER
SOUND	LOUIS BERDASCO
GAFFER	KEVIN GUZMAN
KEY GRIP	SERGIO GALLEGO
PROP MASTER	JOSEPH RIFE
HAIR & MAKE-UP HEAD	MICHAEL PETTINE
KEY MAKE-UP ARTIST	JOVANNI FONSECA
ADDITIONAL MAKE-UP ARTIST	GINA MANCINI
HAIR STYLIST	ANTHONY BORINO
BTS VIDEOGRAPHER	GABRIEL HERNDON
CRAFT SERVICE	RYAN BEHARRY
KEY PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	MICHELLE RYAN
BASECAMP PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	STARR TRIBUE
POST PRODUCTION SOUND	EDUARDO STANBURY
	ARTHUR MATHIAS BEYER
SURROUND MIXING	CODY ENGSTROM
COLORIST	ADAM LIGHTERMAN

SPECIAL THANKS

CAPITAL ONE CAFÉ - SOUTH BEACH, CAVALIER HOTEL, CITY OF MIAMI BEACH,
COSMIX SCHOOL OF MAKEUP ARTISTRY, EXTREME JIBS CAMERA CRANE
RENTAL, STARBUCKS - MIAMI BEACH, SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC
CHURCH - MIAMI BEACH, PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA - MIAMI BEACH

CONTACT & SOCIAL MEDIA

THE WOMAN UNDER THE TREE

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