

A/WAY PRESS RELEASE

UNIQUE DNA



CONTACT:

DEREK.S.GARCIA@GMAIL.COM

ALWRIGHT25@GMAIL.COM

(347) 277-5536 | UNIQUEDNAFILMS.COM

A FILM THAT BLURS THE LINES BETWEEN DOCUMENTARY AND NARRATIVE

INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER

JUNE 12, 2024

LOGLINE:

After suffering a profound loss, travel journalist Anna, is sent on assignment to Martinique sparking a candid reflection on her unsettled life.

The highly anticipated independent film *A/way* recently had its World Premiere at the Art of Brooklyn Film Festival. The film won Outstanding Narrative Feature Film, Outstanding Director of a Narrative Feature Film for Derek Shane Garcia, and Outstanding Performance in a Narrative Feature Film for Rosie McDonald.

SUMMARY:

After the death of her mother, travel journalist Anna, is sent on assignment to Martinique sparking a candid reflection on her unsettled life. Blending the lines between documentary and narrative, *A/way* focuses on the stories of people Anna profiles in Martinique (played by non-actors). Anna discovers her path forward, coming to terms with her grief. This film examines one's place in life. Is this all there is, or is there another way?

A / way



UNIQUE DNA FILMS PRESENTS A DEREK SHANE GARCIA FILM PRODUCTION ROSIE McDONALD AARON LEE WRIGHT MCKENZIE SALVATIERRA-CUSTIN

AND EVA DORREPAAL 'A/WAY' LEA CHARLES-BONTIEN IRENE BREMIS OLIVIA NIDAUD GHISLANE GAZON OLIVIER LARCHER

PRODUCTION DESIGNERS MILO McDONALD OLIVIA NIDAUD MUSIC BY GINGER DOLDEN PETE LANCTOT EDITOR DEREK SHANE GARCIA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LIAM LEE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS VINNY BRACCO TEN LOH WILLIAM MCCUE PRODUCED BY MARC ENETTE AARON LEE WRIGHT DEREK SHANE GARCIA

CO-PRODUCERS KEISHA KATZ AND CAROLINE PARKER BOYD SCREENPLAY DEREK SHANE GARCIA JAMES MOCCIA ROSIE McDONALD DIRECTED BY DEREK SHANE GARCIA

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DIRECTOR'S BIO:

Derek Shane Garcia is a filmmaker based in Brooklyn, NY. Derek got his start as a Tribeca Film Fellow at the 2009 Tribeca Film Festival. In 2013 he graduated with a BFA in Film from SUNY Purchase's Film Conservatory.

Derek is well-versed in documentary film, having made two films for CBS Sunday Morning News and Channel Thirteen for Ken Burns Projects that have aired nationally. Derek has been nominated and won several awards at various film festivals. His films have been selected in Chelsea Film Festival, (where he was awarded Best Director in 2018) Tribeca Film Festival, Brooklyn International, Taormina Film Festival, Cork International Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, HBO International Latino NY Film Festival, Williamsburg International Film Festival, Art of Brooklyn Film Festival and Soho International Film Festival.

DEREK SHANE GARCIA IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS.

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

Garcia's vision and approach to narrative storytelling was significantly influenced from his career in documentary film production. Working with documentary, Derek has learned how to find stories in everyday moments. When given the opportunity to shoot in Martinique, (thanks to producer Marc Enette's connection to the location) Derek recognized the trip would be the foundation to tell a compelling story. Derek wanted to highlight happenstance scenarios of Martinique locals, with his actress Rosie McDonald, playing Anna, a budding journalist.

Rosie wrote questions to the interviewees before going to Martinique. When meeting the subjects, Rosie created a unique perspective that aligned with the overall narrative. After returning to New York, Derek started writing scripted material to fill out the film. While editing, he went to work, weaving interactions in Martinique with what was happening in Anna's life. What came from this mix of small scenes and interviews, is a beautiful, non-linear narrative that exposes the lives of different women and their experiences. *A/way* draws inspiration from Italian neorealism and American independent cinema, piecing a fictional narrative that conveys the film's truth and essence.

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