

Direction, goals and thoughts for the journey's purpose

I have the Midwest flowing through my blood. Born and raised in Milwaukee, I have an affinity for the seasons, local watering holes, living near massive, unsalted bodies of water, and finding things to do when the weather is not. Watching film fits into healthier category better than anything else. Somewhere during my childhood I grew very attached to moving pictures on the big screen. The post-teenage years were when I started to pay attention to it in a way that felt like a teacher. I would superimpose myself as the characters on screen and play out scenarios as if they were happening to my own little world and developed thought patterns on how to deal with life's issues based on them. My mind worked like a reel. A drive in the car with the radio on would have me wander off into a made up story that played out like a music video. After high school, I choose the visual arts for a career, and it was during those years in art school that I suddenly realized, if only for a few moments, that I could take control and create my own on-screen realities as a profession.

Life took its course since then. I responsibly earned a degree in the commercial arts and developed a career in graphic design and art direction, while carrying on with a side business as a one-woman band wedding videographer. Despite 'life' happening I've always had the call of filmmaking gnawing away, especially in recent years as I began to involve myself with the local Milwaukee Film Festival, taking vacation days simply to go and watch films all day or spend an entire Saturday at a film workshop.

That leads me to today and why I'm here. What makes me tick and have an incredible yearning for being a part of making films is the human condition, depth of characters and how we all find ways to evolutionize and progress in life. I'm deeply attached to inspiring and informative documentaries or features that are carried by the weight of rich characters with profound circumstances on-screen. I don't see film as mere entertainment. I love to learn lessons from film, to have my eyes opened. The more purpose they have the better. That is the type film I'm attracted to and want to make, and in some instances that overarching concept flows directly back into my personal life. I've been surrounded by some individuals who've had lives that don't seem real at times because they've been through so much. I want to use their stories to expand others' perspectives. I've also made an ethical decision that has impacted my life to the point it's hard to not want to share it to open up others' worlds, the way mine was. Film is the perfect outlet to express direct human emotion and to relate to other's through watching them "be" on-screen.

My main focus is Directing, Producing and Screenwriting. It's a complete thrill to set forth on the journey at the age of 39. I aim to make film, to help others make film and simply add to the creative pool with whatever I've got to give. There's a lot floating around in this brain after all these years.

In summary, I'm driven to develop a strong knowledge of screenplay writing, expand on my natural tendencies to direct and create a solid understanding of all aspects of producing. If I had to choose which of these three outlets I have the strongest inclination at succeeding in it would be as a Producer based on my big picture thinking, quick learning style and organizational skills (I'm a right brain left brain type). I'm most excited to learn about writing since I'm quite green in that area.

Synopsis ideas

#1: working title: Mend

A young, testosterone-driven, midwestern man dives deep into back breaking work and low-level addictions to combat PTSD from a childhood overrun with tumultuous memories. He prefers solace until finds healing in the most unlikely of places when he meets Tulla, an eight year old girl who's childhood is about to take a sour turn of its own, unless he intervenes.

The story of lost soul meets old soul takes place in the urban squalor of Milwaukee.

#2: working title: Four Sisters

A budding young physician is surprised when she has to care for her estranged mother who she has not seen in decades, now hospitalized with a terminal illness. Her bitterness begins to fade as she is 'let in' on who she is and where she comes from through a series of flashback memories her mother recalls about her self and her three sisters' lives.

#3: working title: Rowdy Girl

A Texas cattle rancher falls into financial and personal hardship on the farm, as his wife begins to disown everything they had been doing for a living, putting a wrench in their relationship. An unlikely solve occurs when his wife offers to buy the herd from him and turn their longstanding farm into a sanctuary. Going from cattle slaughter to cattle lovers reflects on their own perspectives of each other, and a new love story evolves.

Based on a true story.