



AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE PRESENTS DRYLAND STARRING CHARLIE KANTER WITH JACQUELINE WRIGHT  
SOUND DESIGN BY STUDIO UNKNOWN MUSIC BY KATY JARZEBOWSKI EDITED BY EMILY MENDEZ  
PRODUCTION DESIGN BY NOELLE MALINE CINEMATOGRAPHY BY NICHOLAS TRIKONIS PRODUCED BY BRIAN MANCINI  
WRITTEN BY ANNE METCALF & LIV PRIOR COLLIANDER DIRECTED BY LIV PRIOR COLLIANDER

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WWW.DRYLANDFILM.COM 

# LOGLINE

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*Reeling in the aftermath of her mother's suicide attempt, a young swimmer works through her trauma in the water while desperately trying to break the wall of silence at home.*



## SYNOPSIS

(SHORT)

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When sixteen-year-old Mia returns home from swim practice, she discovers her mother attempting suicide and rushes her to the hospital just in time. But once they return home, there is a suffocating silence between them. Mia keeps the event a secret and continues to train for an upcoming swim meet, suppressing her pain and shame – until the bubble bursts at the pivotal moment, forcing mother and daughter to confront their unspoken trauma.



## SYNOPSIS

(LONG)

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For sixteen-year-old Mia, swimming is her only hope for a way out of the isolated desert town she lives in with her struggling single mother, Joyce. When Mia returns from swim practice one afternoon, she finds Joyce attempting suicide and rushes her to the hospital just in time – saving her life. But once they return home, their relationship is changed forever. A suffocating silence fills the home and Mia keeps the event a secret from the outside world. Mia continues to train with iron focus for an upcoming competition, hoping that her performance at the swim meet will give her mother something to live for. But at the pivotal moment, the bubble of pain and shame bursts, forcing mother and daughter to confront their unspoken trauma.

English / 2015 / Color / 5.1 Surround / 16x9 / NTSC 21:46

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# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

*"I've learned more from pain  
than I could've ever have  
learned from pleasure"  
(Author Sonya Teclai)*



*Have you ever experienced an emotional pain that made you feel like you couldn't breathe?  
Like you were drowning? I have, and that is what DRYLAND is about.*

*I came to the American Film Institute, all the way from Denmark, to become a better filmmaker  
and clarify my voice. Through my first year, it became clear that I had to get more personal and dig deeper.  
So I chose to grab onto one of the most painful moments in my memory and put it on the screen.  
It was terrifying.*

*My grandfather took his own life by carbon monoxide poisoning in the family car a year before  
I was born in 1984. Turns out it runs in the family, and in 2011 my brother and I found our mother who had  
attempted suicide with pills. Luckily she survived. I still almost can't breathe when I reimagine finding her, nor  
the dark time that followed, up until she finally got well again. Our relationship changed forever that day and  
we had to find a new way of communicating. It was hard for both of us to talk about what happened, and how  
we felt about it. There was too much disappointment, shame and anger inside both of us. There was a lot of  
silence and smiles for fake reassurance.*

*Together with my co-writer Anne Metcalf, I set out to break the silence and use the language of cinema  
to process these strangling emotions related to depression and suicide. As we found out, it was hard to 'talk'  
about it, and we needed to find a tool to help us show the words that could not be spoken.*

*When I was five, I fell into a swimming pool and almost drowned. Luckily I survived. Since then I've been  
terrified of water, and every time I face a big challenge in my life I dream that water rushes in like a tsunami,  
taking everything away around me, including my breath, and forcing me to wake up. Around the time of my  
mother's incident, these dreams were frequent.*

*So we decided to use water as a metaphor to show our main character's inner emotional life. We made  
her a swimmer, and, in contrast, associated her mother's world with the dry deserts of California.*

*Because of my early pool incident, I sadly don't have as much knowledge about swimming as I do about  
suicide. So to ensure we were creating an authentic world, Anne and I spent hours researching young swim-  
mers in the LA area. Most of the girls we met ended up performing as the swim team in the movie, creating a  
dynamic mix of professional actors and non-actors.*

*I would almost call the finished film a poetic love letter to my mother. At least it helped my mother and  
I to fully talk about what happened. DRYLAND also brought out a dialog amongst the team and crew about it's  
themes, as we found out that most of us had experienced some sort of similar tragedy. Together, we created  
DRYLAND, and we hope that the film will spark dialog about depression and suicide.*

*Let's not stay silent and let's support each other.*



# THE FILMMAKERS



## LIV PRIOR COLLIANDER **DIRECTOR/WRITER**

Liv Colliander is a Danish writer and director, based in Los Angeles. She recently earned her MFA in directing from the prestigious American Film Institute, where she was the sole recipient of the Alessandro F. Uzielli Scholarship. Liv has also received awards from Hempels Medarbejder Fund, Knud Højgaards Fund, and Nordisk Film Fund.

Over the past decade, Liv has worked her way up through the Danish film and television industry, working beside some of the country's finest filmmakers, and earning broad experience in the directing and production departments at Denmark's most renowned companies: Nordisk Film, Zentropa, Fridthjof Film, ASA Film, Moland, Bacon CPH, Endemol, and many others.

Liv graduated from the European Film College in 2006, followed by studies at the Short and Documentary Film School in Denmark as a directing fellow in 2006 and 2008. Liv has written and directed over ten short films, among them MANDEN UDENFOR (Odd Man Out), starring Søren Pilmark and several other celebrated Danish actors. The film screened at festivals internationally and aired on Danish television.

Through her films, Liv is interested in exploring humanity's fundamental loneliness, and how that loneliness affects our struggles to fit into the rules of society. She is drawn to characters with identity crises who fight, often humorously, to hold themselves together in the face of our chaotic world.



## ANNE METCALF **WRITER**

Anne Metcalf holds a BA in Theatre from the University of Southern California's School of Dramatic Arts. In addition to writing for film and television, she has also written stage plays, short stories, poems and 37 excruciating drafts of this bio.





**NICHOLAS TRIKONIS**  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER**

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Nicholas Trikonis began as a still photographer and attended California Institute of the Arts, receiving his BFA in Photography. Trikonis worked professionally as a still photographer in the music, fashion and film industries. He began crossing the bridge into motion pictures while shooting film installations for artists Doug Aitken, Omer Fast, Elad Lassry, and David Lynch. This summer, Trikonis shot a narrative short film SPINNERS, and shot his first independent feature film KILL ME, DEADLY.



**BRIAN MANCINI**  
**PRODUCER**

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Brian Mancini is an LA based producer who has been working in the film industry for the past nine years. During this time he has worked on numerous feature films, television shows, short films and music videos in a variety of roles, both in front and behind the camera. In addition to graduating from AFI's Producing Fellowship, Brian is also a graduate of the Second City Toronto Conservatory; he performs in many comedy troupes across LA and Toronto. He was also a performer and instructor within the Second City Education Company. Recently, Brian has produced twelve productions over the past two years and is in pre-production for a feature to start filming in 2016. Brian currently works at both CBS Films and Smart Entertainment in their development departments.

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**EMILY MENDEZ**  
**EDITOR**

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Emily is from Fort Worth, Texas. Editing has been an interest of hers since she decided at a young age that the best way to enjoy family vacations was by making home movies with her siblings. She is a recent graduate of Texas Christian University, with a degree in film, television, and digital media. She has assisted in reality television and has cut multiple short films. Currently, she is getting her master's degree for film editing at the American Film Institute Conservatory in Los Angeles.



NOËLLE MALINE  
**PRODUCTION DESIGNER**

Noëlle Maline lives and works in Los Angeles, CA, as a Visual Artist and Production Designer. She graduated from California Institute of the Arts with a degree in Fine Art, Installation and Experimental Sound. Noëlle has received multiple awards for her art and sound installations, including the Art of California Gold Award. For over ten years, she has been the Concept Art Director for numerous stage designs and the Creative/Art Director of MuséeI6 Gallery and Museum in Oregon and California. Her most recent work beside as the Production Designer on *Dryland*, has been as the Production Designer on *Eat Me*, a feature film written by Jacqueline Wright and directed by Adrian Alex Cruz. And she also continues exhibiting her art and interactive installations in galleries and on tour around the United States.

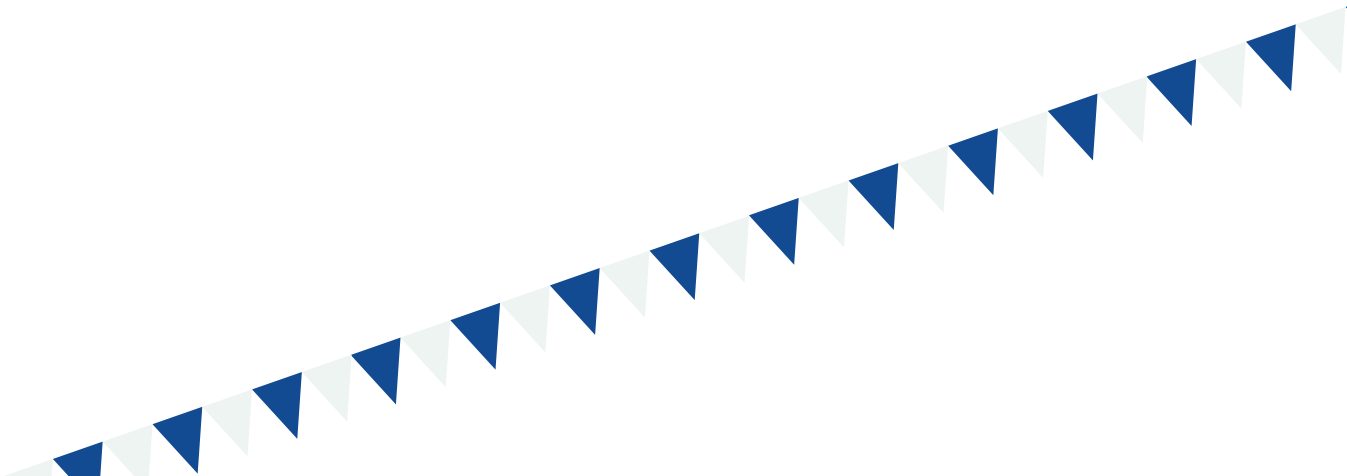


KATY JARZEBOWSKI  
**MUSIC COMPOSER**

Katy Jarzowski is a film, concert, and multimedia composer. She is honored to have had her work acknowledged by numerous institutions and collaborative opportunities. In 2014, she was chosen as a composer fellow for the Sundance Institute's Music and Sound Design Lab at Skywalker Sound under the direction of Peter Golub and with such distinguished and inspiring advisors as Alan Silvestri, James Newton Howard, and Harry Gregson-Williams. Katy also took part in the ASCAP/NYU Film Scoring Workshop with advisors Mark Snow and Sean Callery and the BMI Commercial Music Workshop. Katy has composed original music for several documentary and narrative features, including the independent film *Aram, Aram* (dir. Christopher Chambers) which was released in 2015 and premiered at the LA Film Festival.

Katy received a BA in both Music Composition and Film Studies from Yale University and completed a Masters in Music Composition with a concentration in Film Scoring at NYU, where she was awarded the Elmer Bernstein Award in Film Scoring.

Katy is forever grateful to her parents for being unapologetically militant cinephiles and her grandparents for passing their musical genes over one generation to the next; she thanks them every day for their enthusiastic support.





## CHARLIE KANTER

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Charlie Kanter is a 17 year old, born and raised in Los Angeles. She currently attends her senior year at Westlake High School. She began her acting career at the age of 6 in the feature, "Cake: A Wedding Story". From there she has played roles in other independent features including "Sweet Tooth" and "Gone". Her role in "The Appearing" at age 13 was her motivating factor to pursue acting and she has been working on her craft since. She just wrapped her latest feature film, "Trafficked", where she depicted the brutality and horrors of sex slavery. In addition to her acting, Charlie participated as a varsity cheerleader as well as a full time high school student. She holds interest in writing and community service and plans to attend a 4 year university after high school in addition to working on her acting career.



## JACQUELINE WRIGHT

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Jacqueline Wright is a graduate of Cal Arts. She is a writer and actress. Her plays have been produced/developed with Theatre of Note, Ensemble Studio Theatre (New York & Los Angeles), Occidental College, California Institute of the Arts, Echo Theatre Company and HBO's Comedy Arts Festival. As a performer/playwright Wright has received numerous awards and nominations including two LA Weekly Performance Awards, writing nominations for Best Adaptation & Comedy Playwriting, an Ovation nomination and a LA Drama Critics Circle performance nomination. Her play EAT ME received six LA Weekly nominations, including best play and lead female performance. Her screenplay EAT ME was a finalist for the Sundance screenwriters lab. Wright can be seen in BURN AFTER READING, NORTH COUNTRY and in an upcoming feature film FESTER. She is currently in post production for her feature film Eat Me.



# BEHIND THE SCENES



Director (Liv Prior Colliander) rehearses with Mia (Charlie Kanter) together with stunt coordinator (Carl Ciarfalo)



Cinematographer (Nicholas Trikonis) preparing the hydro crane move.



Mia (Charlie Kanter) prepares for an emotional moment before diving into the water while the AC slates the first take.



Director (Liv Prior Colliander), cast (Charlie Kanter), swimmers and extras preparing for the next take.



Director (Liv Prior Colliander) and cinematographer (Nicholas Trikonis) discuss the blocking of a steady cam scene.



Mia (Charlie Kanter) and Joyce (Jacqueline Wright) in the films final confrontation.

# STILLS









# END CREDITS



American Film Institute Presents

## ***DRYLAND***

DIRECTED BY  
**LIV PRIOR COLLIANDER**

WRITTEN BY  
**ANNE METCALF  
& LIV PRIOR COLLIANDER**

PRODUCED BY  
**BRIAN MANCINI**

CINEMATOGRAPHY BY  
**NICHOLAS TRIKONIS**

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY  
**NOELLE MALINE**

EDITED BY  
**EMILY MENDEZ**

MUSIC BY  
**KATY JARZEBOWSKY**

## ***CAST***

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Mia              | Charlie Kanter       |
| Deidra           | Jacqueline Wright    |
| Coach Francois   | Tom Shane            |
| Diana            | Diana Care           |
| Doctor           | Stephen Grove Malloy |
| Richard          | Alan Davis           |
| Female Lifeguard | Josie Dapar          |
| TV Show Narrator | David Henry Gerson   |

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Stunt Coordinator | Carl Ciarfallo |
| Swimming Double   | Timea Birau    |
|                   | Diana Care     |

## **EXTRAS**

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Kerstin Alm        | Taharan Major      |
| Grace Chu          | Amanda Mcmanus     |
| Joe D'Ovidio       | Ottoniel Mejia     |
| Dennis Deppisch    | Tariek Momburn     |
| Derrick Ellis      | Micah Mora         |
| Teresa Escobedo    | Margaret Newborn   |
| Nathan Fanco       | Deangelo Paschal   |
| Joshua Flizondo    | Rosalene Rhoades   |
| Jordan Franco      | Richard Rhondes    |
| Ryan George        | John Rodiger       |
| Stanislav Grabarev | Amalia Rose        |
| Tony Grant         | Grace Sanchez      |
| Orlena Hart        | Nahid Sandari      |
| Nicole Hill        | Kent Sasagawa      |
| Maxwell Hill       | David J. Soto      |
| Madison Hill       | Julie Tahash       |
| Morgan Hill        | Catherine Taylor   |
| Arcola Kyle        | Kingsley Uwode     |
| Glynis Liston      | Travis Vanderslice |
| Ed Magik           | Kaicee Young       |

## **CREW**

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Line Producer           | Beatrice von Schwerin |
| Unit Production Manager | Alex Dew              |
| Production Coordinator  | Sara Nassim           |

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| First Assistant Director      | Nunzio Fazio  |
| Second Assistant Director     | Jim Whitworth |
| 2nd Second Assistant Director | Shelly Lauman |

|                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Casting Directors | Sara Wallace and Jaime Gallagher |
| Extras Casting    | Deanna Roseen                    |

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Camera Operator             | Kai K. Krause    |
| B Camera Operator           | Darrett Sanders  |
| First Assistants Camera     | Jeremy Asuncion  |
|                             | Adam Leene       |
| Second Assistant Camera     | Jerome Morrow    |
| Camera Production Assistant | Danielle Badillo |
| Steadicam Operator          | Sam Law          |
| Still Photographers         | Nelson Blanton   |
|                             | David Gerson     |

Script Supervisor Hallie Overman

Accountants Halee Bernard  
Bochen Zhang

Key Grip Benji Dell  
Best Boy Grip Adrian Estrella  
Grips Braden Barton  
Mathew Eldridge  
Eric Flesh  
Kris George  
Robert Hansen  
Oliver Lukacs  
Kevin Peterson  
Gabriel Pozos  
Nicholas Rasp

Dolly Grip Brian John Kellogg  
Crane Grip Bobby Bouchet Hansen  
Crane Operators Steve Miller  
Simon Terzian

Gaffer Shadi Chaaban  
Best Boy Electric Walter Lin  
Electricians Uri Brito  
Nick Bupp  
Sebastian Johnson  
Sean Storer  
Charles Tae

Location Manager Carine Nguyen

Assistant Editor Noelle Cruce

Production Sound Mixer Fred Schultz  
Brad Bryan  
Boom Operator Erin "Skycrane" Paul  
Patrick Williams

Art Director Robert Brecko  
Set Decorator Joe Rothert  
Property Master Megan Sunzeri  
Art Production Assistant Kyle Doering  
Storyboard Artist Royce Brown

Costume Designer Emily Moran  
Costumers Christina Viktorowna  
Holly Hollcomb

Make-up Eden Mills  
Hair Stylist Morgan McDonell

Post Production Sound Services By Studio Unknown, LLC  
Dialogue Editor Kevin Hill  
Supervising Sound Effects Editor Matt Davies, MPSE  
Sound Effects Editor Rich Bussey  
Sound Designer Matt Davies, MPSE  
Foley Artist Matt Davies, MPSE  
Foley Recordist and Editor Rich Bussey  
Re-Recording Mixers Kevin Hill, CAS  
Rick Santizo  
Audio Post Production Coordinator Jaime Horrigan  
ADR By SonicPool

Sound Mixer For Music Tim Starnes  
Musician Isaiah Gage

Colorist Bruce Goodman

VFX Artist Diego Stehle  
Special Effects Coordinator Tom Ceglia, Affect Me Inc.  
Special Effects Foreman Simon White

Graphic Designer Julie Panton

Transportation Coordinator Michael Hellerstein  
Drivers Walter Spohn  
John Fuller  
Chris DiMarco

Production Assistants Forest Anderson  
Zach Anderson  
Emily Andrews  
Lorena Armenta  
Alejandro Benito  
Steven Dente  
Morgan Duran  
Lorin Fields  
Caitlyn Goins  
Gustaw Laskowicz  
Alex Maximov  
Frank Pfeifer



Jared Prokuski  
James Roderique  
Earnest Nsimbi Zamba  
Jared Zook

Swimming Consultant Francois Harris  
Studio Teacher Rosemary Avila

Catering Schoolhouse Catering  
Craft Services Olga Aldama  
Megan Romero  
Set Medic Jason Talmadge  
Park Monitors Martin Cardenas  
Carlos Cassillas  
Donna Choi  
Jennifer Fay  
Marquis Piader  
Eilileen Rodriquez  
Les Shue  
Emily Tsakoumakir  
Jessica Kellogg  
Marcos Manriquez

## ***SECOND UNIT***

First Assistant Director Will Lambe  
Second Assistant Director Daniel Leighton  
2nd Second Assistant Directors Gustaw Laskowicz  
Jordan Russell

Boom Operator Steve Evans

1st Assistant Camera Karla Marie  
2nd Assistant Camera Lou Baldanza

Key Grip Craig Boydston  
Studio Teacher Laura Galinson  
Craft Services Staci McFarland

## ***MUSIC***

DARLING

Written by: Johnnie & Joe  
Performed by: Johnnie & Joe  
Courtesy of: Source Audio

## ***THE FILMMAKERS WISH TO THANK***

### **EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS**

Claus Colliander  
Eva Prior

### **ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS**

Roy D Metcalf  
David Shaw  
James Alefantis

### **FRIENDS**

Elizabeth Abbe  
Takako Akizawa  
Alexandra Alizadeh  
Fredrik Alstierna  
Ole Andersen  
Jane Staugas Bray  
Brad Brown  
Andrew Cameron  
Cynthia Chris  
Jeff Clark  
Dennis Clarke  
Mark Colliander  
Karen Colliander  
Larry Corsa  
Nancy Porter Deposit  
Alexandra Dew  
Alexis Duez  
Patrick Zaubitz  
Lisa Smith

KEH Group  
J. Duckert Holding A/S  
TG Management A/S  
Det Lille ErhvervsRejsebureau  
Vanessa Elgrichi  
Helga Ernudottir  
Connie Evans  
Rachel Fowler  
David Henry Gerson  
Amy Goddard  
Emily Goss  
Niels A. Hansen  
Nick Hartop  
Jacob Heldt  
Else Prior Holtaway  
Andrew Hu  
Misty Hyman  
Charlotte Jensen  
Marc Pryharski  
Julius Thelmer

Karina Kirkeby  
Mette Kjaergaard  
Julie Larson  
Elli Legerski  
Daniel Leighton  
John Lopez  
Eric Mancini  
Salvatore Mancini  
Julie Messina  
Mark Metcalf  
Jeri Riddle Miller  
Guy Mulford  
Lanny Nilsson  
Yekaterina Odintsova  
Brian Petersen  
Tanya J.J. Sand  
Frederik Schröder  
Ellen Seiter  
Jody Worth

## VENDORS

Avon  
Castex  
Chapman & Leonard  
CinePower & Light  
Cinerep  
Citywide Aquatics  
Clairmont Camera  
FilmLA  
Hollywood Camera  
Hollywood Honeywagon  
HydroFlex  
Independent Studio Service  
Limitless Studio Service  
Ryder  
Warner Bros. Property Department  
West Coast Water



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Edited on Avid Symphony

Camera equipment courtesy of Hollywood Camera.

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Produced at the AFI Conservatory in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Master of Fine Arts Degree or Certificate of Completion.

Liv Prior Colliander, AFI Directing Fellow  
Brian Mancini, AFI Producing Fellow  
Emily Mendez, AFI Editing Fellow  
Anne Metcalf, AFI Screenwriting Fellow  
Nicholas Trikonis, AFI Cinematography Fellow

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FOR FURTHER  
INQUIRIES



# *DRYLAND*

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