

Suncatcher

Directed by PARKER CROFT

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2018 / USA / 12 mins / Color
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Synopsis

For months Kira has been living out of her car in Venice, California. Facing a constant struggle to keep her head above water, Kira's world collapses when she returns home from work one evening to find her car stolen. Vulnerable and alone, Kira must navigate the harrowing uncertainty of a night on the streets.

Featuring the world famous poetry of Jalal al-Din Rumi, as translated by Coleman Barks in its first cinematic adaptation, *Suncatcher* is a piercing exploration of mindfulness in the face of crisis. A haunting meditation that captures both the stunning beauty, and perilous isolation, of life on the fringes of Los Angeles' coastal westside.



Suncatcher...

For their first narrative short since founding Paper Horse Pictures, husband-and-wife filmmaking team Parker and Elisa Croft found inspiration from a timeless source.

“I had just started to work consistently as an actor for the first time in my life. The dream I had been pursuing since childhood was finally starting to happen... and I was miserable.” chuckles Parker, the director of *Suncatcher*. “One day I’m walking my dog, Grandpa, and my mom calls and reads me *The Guest House* by Rumi and it just demolished me. By the time she finished, I was weeping uncontrollably outside of 7-11, in the best possible way.”

“The poem gave me the permission to face how I really felt and, in many ways, opened the door to my transition to behind the camera. I shared it with Elisa, who immediately connected with it as well, and the seeds for a cinematic adaption were planted.”

THE TRIO

After reaching out to longtime friend and collaborator Aaron Golden, the trio sat down to build a narrative around the 13th century Sufi mystic’s most famous work.

Drawing from Rumi’s imagery of a guest house and its temporary inhabitants, they found a powerful juxtaposition in the ever-worsening homelessness crisis of Southern California.

“Our last police chief called it the worst crisis in America,” details Golden. “There are over fifty thousand homeless people in the county and climbing. We decided to make a movie about one of them.”

THE GUEST HOUSE

Before they could dive into the world of *Suncatcher*, however, the team needed to secure the rights to the poem. They reached out to Coleman Barks, author of the most prolific English translation of *The Guest House* and a student of Sufism since 1977. After reading their script, Mr. Barks graciously gave his blessing for the first cinematic adaptation of his work and the project was off and running.

KIRA & HOLLY

The team knew the success of the film hinged on finding an actress who could bring Kira’s warmth and resilience to life.

“It’s a tricky role,” describes Parker. “Often times characters in tough circumstances become tough themselves. We wanted to tell the story of a person fighting against that pull.”

Fortunately, they didn’t have to look that far for someone who fit the bill.

“Elisa filled in for the role during our first camera tests and it instantly clicked,” describes Golden. “She has an undeniable vulnerability on camera and she doesn’t hide from her feelings, she steps into them.”

“Well, I spent a lot of time by myself on that beach growing up” laughs Elisa. “I knew I could get that part right at least.”

To fill out the other half of the main cast, *Suncatcher*’s vivacious coffee shop owner Holly, they needed an actress who could not only portray Holly’s keen eye and gentle heart, but could also deliver the powerful language of Rumi’s *The Guest House*.



They discovered Shiobann Amisial at her first casting call in L.A. Though they were floored by the authenticity she brought to both her acting and reading, it was her chemistry with Elisa that really sealed the deal for the team.

LIFE IMITATES ART

Suncatcher was shot in and around Los Angeles over the course of four frenetic days, with each crew member taking on multiple roles.

“The sunrise sequences were particularly tight,” recalls Parker, “We’d have about forty-five minutes to shoot everything we needed, so we had to stash our gear along the pier. There wasn’t enough time to even go back and change a lens.”

For Kira’s home-on-wheels, they used Aaron’s car, a decision with truly surreal repercussions.

“We got back to our cars after finishing our last shot... and mine was missing. I assumed it had been towed, but after checking with the cops, we realized it had actually been stolen.

I’ve lived in LA for ten years and my car gets stolen when I’m making a film where my car gets stolen?” laughs Golden. “I think I’m gonna write my next film about a guy who finds a bunch of gold in his backyard.”

FACING THE MUSIC

To find a score that would elevate *Suncatcher*’s themes of isolation and endurance, the team turned to Mississippi-born artist Sanders Bohlke. Drawing inspiration from composers like Nicholas Britell and Jonny Greenwood, Bohlke crafted a score featuring a soft, wandering piano atop a lush, ambient soundscape.

“We first met Sanders years ago while creating the soundtrack for *Falling Overnight*. His work has this soulful, delicate sound that was perfect for *Suncatcher*,” describes Parker.

“Throughout production, we’d have weekly conversations where we’d send pictures and music back and forth... it was a very fun and organic process. At the end of the day, it would have been a different film without him.”

About the Cast & Crew

ELISA CROFT

Coming from a background in marketing, Elisa co-founded Paper Horse Pictures in 2016. Since then, Elisa has been producing music videos for bands like The All-American Rejects, commercial campaigns, and short films like *Suncatcher* which she also co-wrote and starred in.

SHIOBANN AMISIAL

Shiobann attended the College of Saint Elizabeth where she earned a Bachelor's of Arts in Arts and Communication with a concentration in Drama. Within weeks of moving to Los Angeles, Shiobann was cast in *Suncatcher*. Currently, she can be seen on Anderson.paak and Kendrick Lamar's latest collaboration *Tints*, Eminem's *Venom* and TruTV's *Laff Tracks*.

PARKER CROFT

Co-founder of Paper Horse Pictures, Parker has been working in film and television for over a decade. He has directed music videos for The All-American Rejects, commercials, and short films like *Suncatcher* which is set to premiere in 2019. Parker wrote and produced the film *Falling Overnight* which won fifteen awards at the twenty-six festivals it played. Parker has also appeared in over twenty films and TV shows including: *Big Little Lies*, *American Horror Story*, *Nip / Tuck*, *Roadies*, *Once Upon A Time*, and *Pitch*.

AARON GOLDEN

Originally from Ontario, Canada, Golden received his BFA in Theatre from the University of Illinois. He wrote, acted in, and produced *Falling Overnight*, which won fifteen awards at twenty-six festivals before a successful run on Netflix and Amazon Prime. His work with Paper Horse Pictures includes *Suncatcher*, *What You Need*, and The All-American Rejects' *Send Her To Heaven*. Additionally, Golden has worked as a production sound recordist with Gatorade, Youtube TV, North Birch Productions, and the NBA.

LAWRENCE GENEN

The founder of DocLaw Films, Lawrence is also a Board-Certified Psychiatrist and Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He executive produced Vader the Villin's music video *Jekyll* and is currently producing a slate of short films for release in 2019.

SANDERS BOHLKE

Sanders' search for honesty has taken him across an expanse of musical territory. Along the way, he's written scores for films like *Fair Trade: The First Step* and had his music featured in CW's *Vampire Diaries* and *Falling Overnight*.



Cast

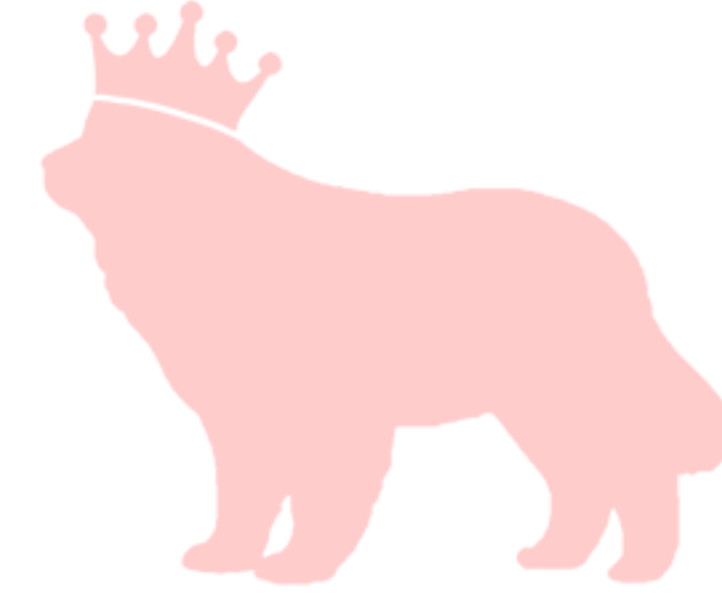
Kira ELISA CROFT
Holly SHIOBANN AMISIAL
Clay CHRIS BLIM
Officer Vazquez CORY SAMANIEGO
Zach MATTHEW-LEE ERLBACH
Heather ASHLEY ALBRIZIO
Driver JUSTIN SANDS
Philippe JEROME CHARVET
Terri GRANDPA
Good Shepard Operator (Voice) GAIL GOLDEN
Police Station Operator (Voice) AARON GOLDEN
Indigo Client (Voice) DAN GOLDEN
Mike (Voice) PARKER CROFT

Filmmakers

Director PARKER CROFT
Screenwriters AARON GOLDEN, PARKER CROFT, ELISA CROFT
Producers ELISA CROFT, PARKER CROFT, AARON GOLDEN
Executive Producer LAWRENCE GENEN
Composer SANDERS BOHLKE
Director of Photography PARKER CROFT
First Assistant Photographer SAM NEAGLEY
Boom Operator AARON GOLDEN
Sound Mixer AARON GOLDEN
Editor PARKER CROFT
Assistant Editor ROB CAVEDO
Sound Designer MICHAEL CAPUANO
Re-recording Mixer EVAN MENAK, MICHAEL CAPUANO
Dialogue Editor EVAN MENAK
Colorist JOSH BOHOSKEY
Color Producer EVAN BAUER
Color Coordinator BLAKE RICE



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