

A FEATURE FILM BY VINZ FELLER

Starring Mike Colter

The hike no one asked for.

I AM HER(E)



SHINING FILM AG, GREEN WRITINGS LLC, AND INCOGNEGRO PRODUCTIONS PRESENT I AM HER(E) WITH MIKE COLTER AND LINDA GEISER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BILLY PORTER, DJ GUGENHEIM, AND PEPPERMINT PRODUCERS SOPHIE TOTH, KIM DANG AND MIKE COLTER

EDITOR AARON YANES WRITTEN BY VINZ FELLER
WITH BRITTANY S. KELLY DIRECTED BY VINZ FELLER

FILM INFO

LENGTH	90'
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH, SWISS GERMAN
LOCATION	SWITZERLAND
BUDGET	\$ 5 MILLION
PRODUCTION COMPANY	SHINING FILM AG, GREEN WRITINGS LLC INCOGNEGRO PRODUCTIONS
PRODUCER	SOPHIE TOTH, KIM DANG, MIKE COLTER
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	BILLY PORTER, D.J. GUGENHEIM, MISS PEPPERMINT
WRITER/DIRECTOR	VINZ FELLER
WRITER	BRITTANY S. KELLY
CAST	MIKE COLTER, LINDA GEISER

LOGLINE

An estranged father returns to Switzerland from New York to reconnect with his child after his ex-wife dies. They embark on a dangerous hiking trip to the Swiss Alps in an attempt to fulfill her late mother's wishes of them reconnecting. But will a deal they both make be enough to get past their differences and become a family again?

SYNOPSIS

Consumed with grief over the loss of her mother, JESSE (16) does not want to deal with any additional drama. But when her estranged father MARCUS (44) shows up at the funeral with his new wife in tow, it's the perfect recipe for conflict.

Jesse and Marcus have lost touch over the years and are at odds. Marcus has a difficult time accepting that his biological born son is now his daughter Jesse. When a letter her mother wrote on her deathbed surfaces, the two are suddenly thrust together.

Jesse's mother's dying wish is to have her ashes spread near the legendary Matterhorn mountain in Switzerland.

When the pair makes a deal neither of them can refuse, they embark on an ambitious multi-day glacier tour with a group of hikers and a quirky guide. But their journey takes unexpected twists and chaotic, even dangerous turns. And when secrets spill out in the open and Jesse splits away from the group, her father is forced to step up to finally be a parent. But a catastrophic and life-threatening accident grounds them both. They find themselves stranded, wounded and alone in the Alps. Now, these two must find a way to rely on each other if they want to make it out alive.

THE CHARACTERS

JESSE

JESSE (16) an intelligent, assertive and witty teenager. But grief stricken, anxious and depressed since her mother's death.

Since Jesse's coming-out as transgender she has received a lot of support from friends and family but has also experienced a lot of backlash and hate. Jesse doesn't really trust her father but she yearns for a parent who loves and accepts her unconditionally.

MARCUS

MARCUS (44) a charming, handsome, smart and proud father. But deeply affected by his ex-wife's passing and feeling guilty for having failed as a father up until now.

Being the first-born son of a Jamaican Family that immigrated to the US, Marcus is having a very difficult time coping with the fact that his biologically born son is now a girl. But he's trying and he's trying really hard not to lose what's most dear to his heart; his child

ANNA

ANNA (75) the kind, accepting and demanding matriarch of the family. But exhausted and full of grief over the loss of her eldest daughter, Jesse's mother.

Friends and family lovingly call her "The General". A former therapist, Anna quickly becomes Jesse's biggest champion and supporter. But she realizes that she can neither replace her Granddaughter's mother, nor her father.

PIA

PIA (deceased) creative, loving, gentle and outgoing. But Pia has always been willful and somewhat rigid in her ways.

After separating from Marcus, she moved back in with her mother and started over. After years of struggling, she made peace with the fact that she was a single mother and focused on raising her daughter. When she was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer, her main focus became to ensure that Jesse's father would be an important part of his child's life.

THE CAST

MIKE COLTER

AS MARCUS

Mike Colter most recently made a major transition from TV to movie star with his lead role alongside Gerard Butler in the 2023 Lionsgate hit film *PLANE*. The action-thriller was one of the highest grossing independent films since 2020 and as a result of its success a sequel with Mike's character at the helm called *Ship* will begin production later this year.

Continuing his rise in film, Mike will star and executive produce *MURDER CITY* which is the second movie filmed under Village Roadshow Pictures' Black Noir Cinema, co-founded by NBA great Kevin Garnett.

In addition, Mike just wrapped the Netflix spy thriller *OUR MAN FROM JERSEY* starring alongside Mark Wahlberg and Halle Berry. Mike continues to star in the hit Paramount + series *Evil* where he has been nominated for two back-to-back Critics' Choice Awards (Lead Actor in a Drama Series) for his role as priest-in-training David Acosta.

Prior to this, he is best known for playing the pivotal role as Luke Cage, the first black lead superhero for the Marvel TV universe.



THE CAST

LINDA GEISER

AS ANNA

Linda Geiser is known to many Swiss people through her long reign as the matriarch Johanna Blanc in a popular Swiss TV series entitled “Lüthi und Blanc.” Linda is currently also the oldest working actress in Switzerland and shows no sign of slowing down at 85.

Linda attended acting school at the University of the Arts Bern and moved to the US in 1961. She has lived in NYC since that time and established herself in theatre. She studied acting at HB Studio and in 1964 made a controversial appearance in Sidney Lumet’s *Pawnbroker*.



THE FILMMAKERS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BILLY PORTER



Billy Porter is an award-winning actor, singer, director, composer, and playwright. He won an Emmy Award for Lead Actor in *POSE*, and most recently received his third Emmy nomination for this role. A Hollywood Walk of Fame inductee, Porter has numerous theatre credits, including the role of “Lola” in the Broadway musical *Kinky Boots*, which he originated in 2013 and for which he won the Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle awards, as well as the Grammy for best musical-theatre album. Recently, Porter appeared in Amazon’s *Cinderella* re-make, the second season of CBS All Access’ *THE TWILIGHT ZONE*, and *AMERICAN HORROR STORY: APOCALYPSE*. He also recently starred in *OUR SON* alongside Luke Evans, and directed an episode of Fox’s anthology series *ACCUSED*. His directorial debut *ANYTHING’S POSSIBLE*, was released on July 22nd on Amazon Prime Video.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER D.J. GUGENHEIM



DJ Gugenheim, with 20 years of production and development experience, he recently finished producing Billy Porter's feature directorial debut ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE. While President of Andrew Lauren Productions he produced Claire Denis' HIGH LIFE, starring Robert Pattinson and Juliet Binoche and Brady

Corbet's VOX LUX starring Natalie Portman and Jude Law. Prior to that, he was EVP at Lotus Entertainment where he Executive Produced KIDNAP starring Halle Berry as well as NOVEMBER CRIMINALS with Chloe Moretz and Ansel Elgort among others. He has also held positions at Universal-based Captivate Entertainment where he worked on BOURNE LEGACY as well as Paramount Vantage, CAA and for director Joel Zwick (MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING).

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PEPPERMINT



Peppermint's star has continued to rise since her smashing success as first runner up on Season 9 of Rupaul's Drag Race. Soon after she became the first trans woman to originate a principal role on Broadway when she was cast as Pythio in the groundbreaking Broadway musical Head Over Heels.

For over a decade Peppermint has dominated the New York club scene with her high-energy performance and engaging personality.

Peppermint has performed all over the world and collected many honors. She's most known for high energy mic skills and her live vocal performances of pop standards as well as original material. Peppermint has an uncanny knack for connecting with a dedicated and eclectic audience. She's been featured on MTV's The Real World Brooklyn, Ugly Betty and Season 9 of Rupaul's Drag Race.

She has also performed alongside Chaka Khan, Martha Wash, and Ultra Nate' Peppermint has helped raise over \$100,000 for the Human Rights Campaign (including a large bid from Vanessa Williams). She is deeply involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS and participant in the M.A.C. Aids Fund and the HIV Vaccine trials network.

PRODUCER SOPHIE TOTH



Sophie Toth studied media and communication, film, social and economic history at the University of Zurich. During her studies she worked in a postproduction company as an inhouse producer before she practiced the same profession in The Netherlands. After returning to Switzerland,

Sophie oversaw product placements for Swiss television productions and worked as a freelancer producer before joining Shining Film as a permanent employee in 2013 and becoming a partner in 2020. Since 2020, she has built up and devoted herself to the fiction division of Shining Film and her first series Tschugger already turned out to be a cult. Now she's working on several fictional projects.

PRODUCER KIM DANG



After graduating at University of Zurich with a major in Mathematics and minor in Film, she went into math research in the field of random matrix theory, and her PhD thesis earned her an assistant professorship at Yale University in the USA.

Simultaneously, she was cast in various theatre plays in Switzerland and was part of the selection committee of the International Shortfilm Festival Winterthur in Switzerland for 7 years, which became an Oscar-qualified film festival.

She pivoted her career in 2015 to exclusively dedicating her time to film making, based out of New York City. Her first feature film as producer was Everything is Wonderful, starring an international cast and it premiered at Thessaloniki Film Festival. She's been working in TV and Film as producer assistant and various production managing positions throughout the US.

Her projects include among others Jim Jarmusch's The Dead Don't Die, Derek Cianfrance's HBO limited series I Know This Much Is True, Robert and Michelle King's CBS production Evil, Andrew Ahn's Searchlight / Disney Production Fire Island and Rian Johnson's TV show Poker Face.

She's been picking up acting in NYC since 2022.

WRITER/DIRECTOR VINZ FELLER



Vinz Feller was born in Bern, Switzerland in 1975. He graduated from The School of Visual Arts (SVA) in 2001 with a major in directing and editing. He's directed multiple award-winning narrative films and commercials notably with mentions from the National Board of Review of Motion

Pictures (NBR), the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Regional Finalist of Student Academy Awards) and the Swiss Department of Cultural Affairs. All of his movies have been screened at numerous renowned film festivals worldwide, including the Tribeca Film Festival and Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival, Locarno Film Festival and many more.

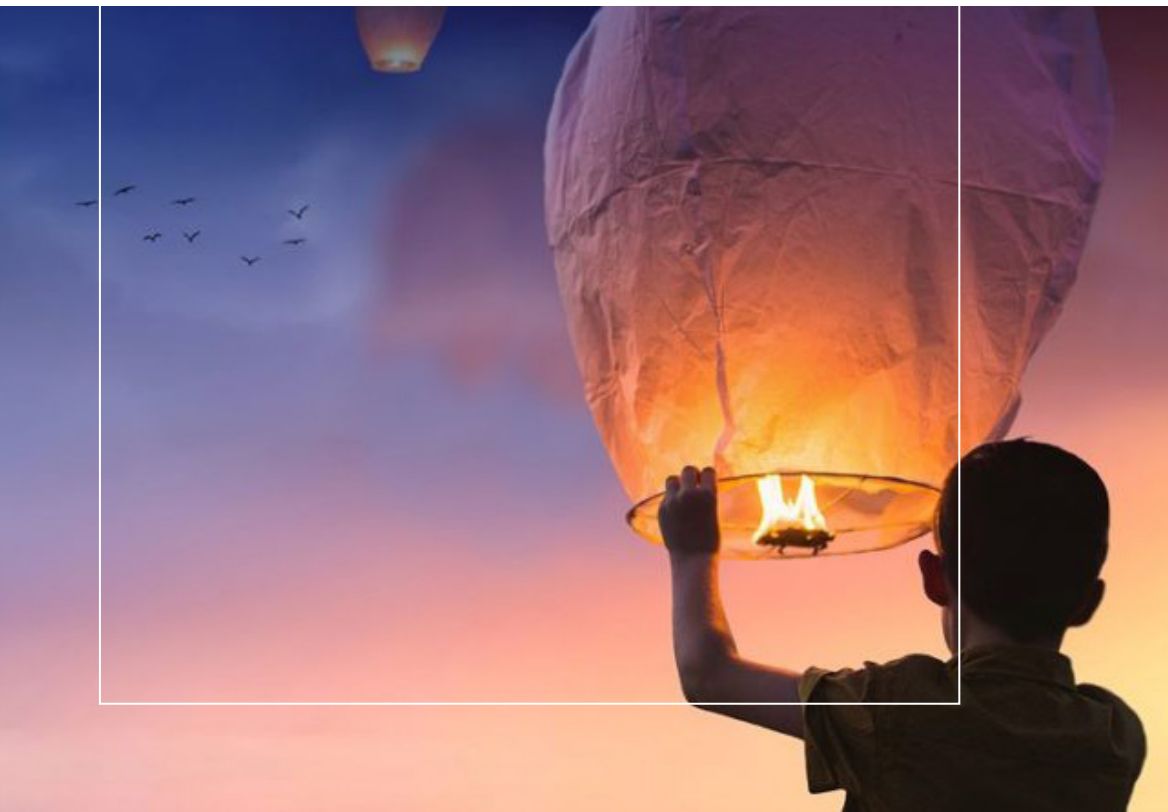
In addition to his directing work, Vinz is also a sought-after TV and doc editor, having worked in non-scripted television and doc series for more than 15 years. More recently he has worked on shows for Netflix and Facebook with Emmy Award Winning Host Mike Rowe but has worked for many networks from History Channel, National Geographic Channel, Discovery, MTV and VH1 with over 200 hours of programming under his belt.

imdb.com

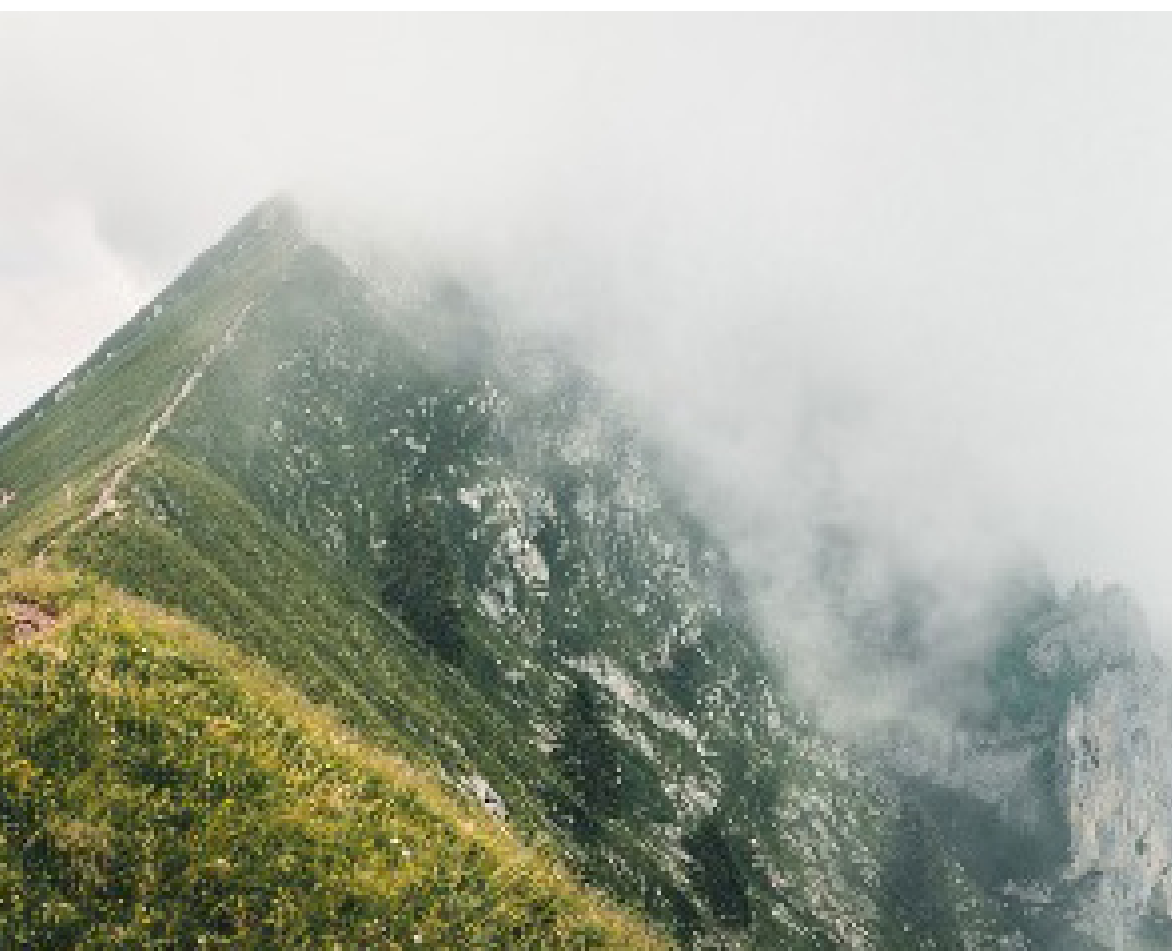
ABOUT INCOGNEGRO

From actor-advocate-author-director-fashion icon-producer-singer-recording artist-writer BILLY PORTER, and his producing partner, D.J. GUGENHEIM, comes INCOGNEGRO, company built around Billy's brand of elevated, forward-thinking, culturally relevant material and intended to showcase his talents and taste across a variety of platforms. INCOGNEGRO's mission is to bring content to life that is inclusive, heartwarming, funny, poignant, intelligent and stylish. They have a first look deal with FX in TV and have recently Executive Produced the award winning TREE OF LIFE and BLACK AS U R.

VISUAL IMPRESSIONS







STORYBOARD



Anna introducing Marcus, and attempting to bridge the gap between him and Jesse.



Jesse and Marcus hike together, Marcus occasionally stumbling to keep up.
JESSE: You say that but I don't feel that.



Marcus apologizes to Jesse.
MARCUS: What do you want me to do? (beat) I'm sorry ok. I messed up.



Cut after the apology, it stops Jesse in her tracks.
MARCUS: I'm sorry I hurt you.



Jesse turns to look at Marcus, but reluctantly and not all the way around.
JESSE: You did. You really did.



Jesse turns back and keeps hiking.



Slight down shot on Marcus, frustrated by Jesse moving away.
MARCUS: Stop always running away!



They keep moving, but never meet each other's gaze.
JESSE: Isn't that what you did? What you always did? When life got complicated you walked -- You're such a hypocrite.



Zoom in and pan as they walk. Marcus tries to grab Jesse's backpack.
MARCUS: Stop walking!



Jesse spins and slaps Marcus's hand away angrily.
JESSE: DON'T TOUCH ME.
MARCUS: Calm down.
JESSE: I AM CALM. And I'm done here. I'm done with you. I don't need you.



Jesse starts talking away again.
MARCUS: But you do!



Marcus takes steps towards foreground.
MARCUS: I DO!



Jesse stops dead in her tracks. She cuts her hand across to emphasize "ever".
JESSE: And I will never live with you. Ever.



Marcus points at Jesse as they keep hiking. He continues to struggle with footing.
MARCUS: You're lost. You need guidance. You need a man, a father figure in your life.
JESSE: (dismissively) You? Pathetic.



Marcus is getting very frustrated.
MARCUS: You're my child. And by the way I have custody, not your Grandmother.



The camera no longer smoothly pans, it destabilizes after the cut as Marcus hurries towards Jesse in the foreground.
JESSE: I'd rather die.



Marcus hurries up and tries to grab again. The first "Keith" brings pain to Jesse's face.
MARCUS: You need a parent. And yes I wasn't always around but I am here now. Stop.
(beat) Keith!



The second "Keith" turns her pain to anger, and Jesse whips around with full force and pushes him back.
MARCUS: KEITH!



Jesse turns to him and shouts, angry and tearing up.
JESSE: It's JESSE.



Marcus flails his arms desperately trying to maintain balance. Jesse takes a step away from him instead of assisting him.



Close up on Marcus's feet. He loses his balance and his left foot slips over the edge of the narrow path.



Marcus is terrified as he falls backwards away from frame.



Marcus falls backwards out of the bottom of frame.



Marcus leaves the ledge, and Jesse is unmoved. Camera tracks Marcus as he falls.



Marcus tries to move his body onto his stomach and tries to hold onto whatever his fingers can reach but there is nothing but loose rocks and dirt. He digs his fingers deep into the dirt to slow down his trajectory to no avail.



Marcus loses control of his orientation and tumbles head over heels down the slope.



His body continues downwards until it crashes into a huge boulder marking the end of the slope. Thud. The impact is immense. Then the screen goes BLACK as Marcus is knocked unconsciousness.



CUT TO BLACK.
The wind is howling. The distant cry of a circling hawk can be heard. It's pitch black, only sounds; the metal clinking of carabiners and the thump of a rope hitting the dusty ground. And finally the heavy, quick and nervous breathing of Jesse.



Jesse storming off into the flow of traffic, away from Marcus and their conversation.

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