



BFI Doc Society Fund and Screen Scotland present
In association with Chicken & Egg Pictures and with support from the Meadow Fund
A Hot Property Production
In Co-Production with Tigerlily Two

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

Running time: 87 minutes, colour, DCP

Premiere at Sundance Film Festival World Documentary Competition 2023



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LOGLINE: IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE? follows Ella Glendining's global search for someone with a body that looks like hers, and explores what it takes to love yourself fiercely as a disabled person in a non-disabled world.

SYNOPSIS: My body is extremely unusual, and I've never seen another like my own. 'Is There Anybody Out There?' is a personal documentary following my search to track down other individuals with the same rare disability as me. The film also explores the experience of being a disabled pregnant woman as well as the emotional process of becoming a mother, when I unexpectedly find out I am pregnant. Perhaps more than anything however, this story is about ableism – about living in a world where you're seen as less than human – and what it takes to love yourself fiercely despite this.

KEY CREDITS

Directed by Ella Glendining

Produced by Janine Marmot

Executive Producers

Lisa Marie Russo, Nikki Parrott, Natasha Dack Ojumu & Mark Thomas

Composer Erland Cooper

Consulting Editor Claire Ferguson

Editor Rachel Roberts

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – Ella Glendining

In my search for others like me, I hope to find something that's always been missing, on both a physical and spiritual level. As well as disability and otherness, this film is about becoming a mother, my own unexpected pregnancy and the birth of my son being documented right from the day I found out I was pregnant. Though on the surface two quite separate stories, they are inherently intertwined, my body – this extraordinary body that grew and birthed my beloved son – being the bridge between them. Making this film has truly been the journey of a lifetime, and there were many surprises along the way. Throughout the four years of shooting, as my life unfolded, so did the story of the film, and it became something very different to what I set out to make. That said, I think we have created something even more beautiful.

I want this film to reach as wide an audience as possible. I want it to humanise disabled people. I hope its non-disabled audience will question the way they think about and interact with disabled people, and for them to be less ableist as a result. And I want it to be a beacon of light for disabled people who are angry and sad. But this film is not just for disabled people, it is for anyone who's ever been made to feel 'other'. As well as being a condemnation of ableism, 'Is There Anybody Out There?' is a celebration of the resilience of the disabled community and of humanity in all its diversity. It is about disabled kinship and disabled pride. It is my love letter to the disability community and its allies. I hope it will be groundbreaking.

BIOGRAPHIES

DIRECTOR – ELLA GLENDINING

Ella Glendining is a Writer and Director dedicated to telling authentic disabled stories. She works in both documentary and fiction and has written and directed short films with backing from Film4, the BFI, Arts Council England, Screen South, and the National Paralympic Heritage Trust. Ella has recently completed her first feature film, 'Is There Anybody Out There?', a personal documentary about her search for others with the same rare disability as her, supported by BFI Doc Society, Chicken and Egg Pictures and Creative Scotland, and produced by Janine Marmot. Ella is currently developing a historical drama feature for the BFI with disabled characters at its core, produced by Janine Marmot. She currently has a short comedy-drama in post-production called 'Pyramid of Disunion' which she wrote, co-directed with Jessi Gutch, and starred in, produced by Justin Edgar for Film4. Ella was a member of the BFI's Disability Screen Advisory Group from 2018 - 2022. Ella was named one of Screen International's Stars of Tomorrow 2020.

PRODUCER – JANINE MARMOT, Hot Property Films

Hot Property was set up in 1995 by producer Janine Marmot. Two films produced by Janine have won a BAFTA, Bodysong and Kelly + Victor.

Films produced by Janine have won numerous awards and screened at festivals around the world including Toronto, Berlin, Venice, Rotterdam and Locarno. Her feature credits include the award-winning: Bodysong and Shock Head Soul by Simon Pummell, Looking for Light and No Greater Love by Michael Whyte, Kelly + Victor by Kieran Evans I Could Read the Sky by Nichola Bruce and Institute Benjamenta by The Brothers Quay.

Janine is also developing a slate of feature films through Hot Property Films with partners including FilmFour, BFI, DOC SOCIETY, FILM 4, CREATIVE EUROPE and SCREEN IRELAND. Projects include Ella Glendining's CURIOSITIES OF FOOLS with the BFI, set in the Court of King Charles 1st and Queen Henrietta Maria, centring on the world of a disabled Court Theatre troupe, Grant Gee's fiction film about legendary jazz musician Bill Evans, EVERYBODY DIGS BILL EVANS, with Anders Danielsen Lie (THE WORST PERSON IN THE WORLD) attached to play Bill Evans, and Alan Maher of Cowtown Pictures co producing with support from the BFI and Screen Ireland. FAR OUT, a psychological thriller set in the Antarctic, with producing partner Emily Morgan, and director Emily Young, developed with Film 4, and a TV series FIGHT, adapted from a story by William Gibson and Michael Swanwick, written by Simon Pummell and Margot Knijn and with Canadian producing partner Damon D'Oliveira and director Clement Virgo (BROTHER) attached.

CONSULTING EDITOR – CLAIRE FERGUSON

Claire's most recent documentary feature, Destination Unknown, which she both directed and edited, received rave reviews from critics: "Powerful", The Guardian "Gripping", The Times "Heartbreaking", Independent "Moving, unrelenting", Financial Times "Powerful", Time Out "Deeply moving", Radio Times "Extraordinary", Daily Express Online "Profoundly". Other award winning credits include, COUNT ME IN, AMA, THE ISLANDS AND THE WHALES, SPEED SISTERS, GROWING UP DOWNS and Nick Broomfield's AILEEN, THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A SERIAL KILLER.

FILMOGRAPHY

Count Me In (2020, Mark Lo)
General Magic (Sarah Kerruish & Matt Maude 2018)
Ama (2018, Lorna Tucker)
Destination Unknown (2017, Claire Ferguson)
The Islands of the Whales (2016, Mike Day)
Everything or Nothing (2012 Stevan Riley)
Aileen: Life & Death of a Serial Killer (2003, Nick Broomfield)

EDITOR – RACHEL ROBERTS

Rachel Roberts is a film and television Editor with a passion for intimate, character-led stories. She works across different genres, but particularly loves documentaries.

Originally from Scotland, Rachel is a graduate of the National Film and Television School, where her projects were nominated to both the British Documentary Awards (Griersons) and International Documentary Association Awards.

Her work has screened at festivals including Sheffield Doc/Fest, Encounters and as part of Vimeo Short of the Week. She has also collaborated on several documentary series for the BBC and Channel 4.

Is There Anybody Out There? is her first feature film as Editor. She lives and works in London.

COMPOSER – ERLAND COOPER

Erland Cooper is a Scottish composer, producer and multi-instrumentalist originally from Stromness, Orkney.

As a solo artist, he has released eight acclaimed studio albums, including a trilogy of work inspired by his childhood home, as well as themes of nature, people, place and time. His work combines field recordings with traditional orchestration and contemporary electronic elements. Through music, words and cinematography he explores landscape, memory and identity. He develops these themes further by partnering with well-known artists, writers and poets. Cooper also works across mixed media projects including installation art, theatre and film. Most recently he's widely known for burying the only existing copy of the master tape of his first classical album in Scotland, deleting all digital files and leaving only a treasure hunt of clues for fans and his record label alike to search for it. Celebrating the centenary of the BBC Philharmonic, Cooper debuted his first work for the concert hall.

CINEMATOGRAPHER – ANNEMARIE LEAN-VERCOE

Annemarie has shot award winning feature films, documentaries and TV for all the major broadcasters in the UK, BBC, ITV, SKY, Channel 4 and internationally for Netflix. Most recently she shot Bafta winning Suffragettes with Lucy Worsley, The Athena (Sky 1), Free Rein (Netflix).

Annemarie studied cinematography at the NFTS

where she was the recipient of the Freddie Francis Scholarship, & won cinematography awards for two consecutive years at the Kodak Awards. She is the first cinematographer ever selected for Screen International's Stars of Tomorrow, which highlights Britain's top film talent.

She has worked several times with acclaimed directors Michael Winterbottom & Matt Whitecross.

FILMOGRAPHY

Charlotte Link (2020, Till Franzen)

Kat & The Band (2019, E.E. Hegarty)

Suffragettes (2018, BAFTA winning, Emma Frank)

Us Among the Stones (2019, Dictynna Hood)

The Grab (2019, Deva Palmier)

Silent Witness (2017, Thaddeus O'Sullivan)

Honeytrap (2014, Rebecca Johnson)

Everyday (2012, Michael Winterbottom)

Moving To Mars (2009, Mat Whitecross)

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: NIKKI PARROTT & NATASHA DACK, TIGERLILLY

Tigerlily Productions have a stellar track record in creating award winning and innovative films both in factual and fiction. On the factual side, our output ranges across arts, music, current affairs and history, including most recently the Imagine for BBC1 about artist Olafur Eliasson, WORKING WITH WEINSTEIN the first film about Harvey Weinstein for C4, INSIDE PREMIER INN the most highly rated Dispatches ever about Premier Inn, OPERA MUMS a film with the English National Opera and performance artist Bryony Kimmings for BBC, and MEDITATIONS FROM THE MONASTERY for BBC4 which involved negotiating sensitive access to three monasteries in the UK. Other films include several internationally distributed and theatrically released feature documentaries, many for the prestigious BBC STORYVILLE strand, ranging from THE LOVERS AND THE DESPOT in North Korea to ONLY WHEN I DANCE in Rio's favelas to DOLCE VITA AFRICANA in photographer Malick Sidibe's studio in Bamako, Mali to FOOTPRINTS in Afghanistan about cluster bombs to AFTER THE APOCALYPSE about the aftermath of the Soviet Union's nuclear testing programme to NAPLES 44 about Italy's wartime history. We've also made more intimate documentaries such as MR ALZHEIMERS AND ME about

children who have grandparents with dementia and MISSING DAD about the experience of kids with parents in prison.

CREDITS

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

FRONT CREDITS

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NIKKI PARROTT
NATASHA DACK OJUMU
MARK THOMAS

*

Composer
ERLAND COOPER

*

Cinematographer
ANNEMARIE LEAN-VERCOE

*

Consulting Editor
CLAIRE FERGUSON

*

Editor
RACHEL ROBERTS

*

Produced by JANINE MARMOT

*

Directed by ELLA GLENDINING

*

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

End Credits

*

In Memoriam
KAREN BETHELL
1963 -2022

*

Directed by
ELLA GLENDINING

*

Produced by
JANINE MARMOT

*

Sound Designer and Dubbing Mixer
ADAM WOOD

Colourist
BEN MULLEN

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DAVID LEISHMAN

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SERIOUS FX

*

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KATIE O'MAHONEY

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Consulting Producer
JANE RAY and CAT FLAP MEDIA
END OF CARDS
ROLLER:

With grateful thanks for the participation of
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PIERS WARREN
SCOTT STANFIELD
RIVER GLENDINING STANFIELD
NAOMI BETHELL
RENEE McCANN
DYLAN McCANN
KEITH TUCKER FRCS. Orthopaedic Surgeon (Now retired)

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YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM & TIKTOK

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BORN DIFFERENT
YOUTUBE
PRODUCTION: BARCROFT TV

FREAKS
DIRECTOR, TOD BROWNING
METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

FOR YOUR CHILD & MINE
PRODUCTION: KEN HUTCHINSON PRODUCTION
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WORLD IN ACTION: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF KEVIN DONNELLON
ITV PRODUCTION: GRANADA TELEVISION INTERNATIONAL

ATV TODAY: SPINA BIFIDA
ATV / ITV MIDLANDS
PRODUCTION: ATV

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"FRANK SINATRA"
PERFORMED by CAKE
c/o 1996 Volcano Entertainment III, LLC
Licensed by Sony Music Entertainment UK Limited
Written by JOHN McCREA

Published by Stamen Music (BMI)

“QUEEN”

PERFORMED by PERFUME GENIUS

Licensed courtesy of Matador Records Limited

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL HADREAS

©Published by Hipgnosis SFH Limited

Administered by Kobalt Music Publishing Limited

“IT’S OH SO QUIET”

PERFORMED by BJÖRK

Licensed by ONE LITTLE INDEPENDENT

Written by HANS LANG and ERICH MEDER,

English lyrics by BERT REISFELD

Published by PEERMUSIC MUSIKVERLAG GMBH
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THROUGH SCREEN SCOTLAND

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