

# A PLACE IN THE FIELD



WE HAVE FUN ENT. PRESENTS "A PLACE IN THE FIELD" IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH MUTUALLY INCLUSIVE MEDIA, TOMORROWLAND PRODUCTIONS & SONDER PICTURES  
WITH DON DIPETTA, KHORRI ELLIS, MISHEL PRADA, MARLENE FORTE, ASHLEE BRIAN, XOCHITL PORTILLO-MOODY, KELVIN DELGADO  
CASTING NICOLE MEJIA & FARRAH WEST EDITOR COLTON WARREN SOUND DESIGN TISD ORIGINAL MUSIC ALAIN EMILE PRODUCTION DESIGNER KATO LAWTON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY  
KADRI KOOP PRODUCED BY NICOLE MEJIA, HELIYA ALAM, DON DIPETTA, NIYAH EDWARDS, MICHAEL FISHMAN, JULIO LOPEZ VELASQUEZ  
WRITTEN BY DON DIPETTA, KHORRI ELLIS & BLUESMON DEL VECCHIO DIRECTED BY NICOLE MEJIA

The background of the entire page is a dark, atmospheric scene. It features a silhouette of a person's head and shoulders in the lower right foreground, looking towards the left. The background is filled with numerous warm, golden-yellow bokeh lights of varying sizes. From these lights, soft, ethereal beams of light radiate outwards across the frame, creating a sense of depth and wonder. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues and blacks, contrasted with the warm, glowing lights.

## LOG LINE

When Veteran Gio Scuderi receives a package and a letter from an old friend, he sets out on a journey across the American Southwest to fulfill a promise made long ago during deployment.



## E X T E N D E D   S Y N O P S I S

Giovanni Scuderi is mourning the loss of his best friend and fellow soldier. Unable to find the words to explain his grief to anyone around him, he seems shut-off and cold. After work one day he receives a package of his friends' cremated remains and a letter reminding him of a war-time promise he made long ago. He decides to take a cross- country road trip to return his friends ashes to his hometown by the 4th of July.

Before he sets off, his on-again, off again girlfriend asks him to move in with her. Contemplating his future and unsure of his own fate, an old friend shows up to accompany him on the road trip and see their buddy laid to rest.

Once on the road, his monotone, simple world becomes filled with wonder and magic. Breakdowns, mind tricks, deserts and vortex s open up Gio s world to the possibility of hope and healing. But before that can happen he must confront the sins of his past and try to figure out why his friend s life came to an abrupt end.

A Place in the Field is a road trip story about loss, friendship, perseverance and the will to carry on. It tackles the issue of PTSD in veterans through the vessel of magical realism and the lens of female-filmmakers.

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## A B O U T   A   P L A C E   I N   T H E   F I E L D

A PLACE IN THE FIELD is a character driven drama that explores the love between two friends who bonded while on tour in Afghanistan. It is a story about finding yourself in a world where you no longer feel that you belong in.

Suicide is a huge issue facing the Veteran community. With the average of 22 deaths a day stigmas around PTSD and their treatment are still a huge issue facing our country. A Place in the Field wishes to address the struggle veterans face when home but in a more grounded departure from the normal Hollywood stigmas. A film made for anyone struggling with loss and PTSD, APITF wishes to inspire hope and show that healing and forgiveness are possible.

The journey and effort to create A Place in the Field was about healing, both for the characters in the film and for the cast and crew. We set out initially to a Rockwellian 4th of July celebration in Exeter, California. The bursts and strings of lights from the fireworks shot us to the eastern Sierra, where we navigated not only dynamics of a crew who had really never worked together before, but the dynamics of a changing world in early COVID. There was fear of the unknown, but the hope of creating a lasting story and the passion for our art drew us closer together.

It was when we steered our caravan East toward New Mexico that things really started to come together. In a pod of 1 people, separated from humanity and society, surrounded by some of the most beautiful and unforgiving terrain and weather, the team was at its most vulnerable. In our shared vulnerability came strength strength in numbers, strength in experiences, and a genuine care for those around us. It felt as if we were creating a world for the characters in the film, but at the same time recreating our own worlds and carving out a new existence and a new way to live.

Trauma is persistent, whether for Giovanni Scuderi or any person watching A Place in the Field , and the entire cast and crew of this film learned over the course of filming that any trauma can be overcome with love, communication and a willingness to thrive in ambiguous and sometimes awkward moments. This film is for those who are willing to step outside of themselves and trust the people around them, because people are good, and at the end of the day, we all want the best for each other and are willing to work hard for that.



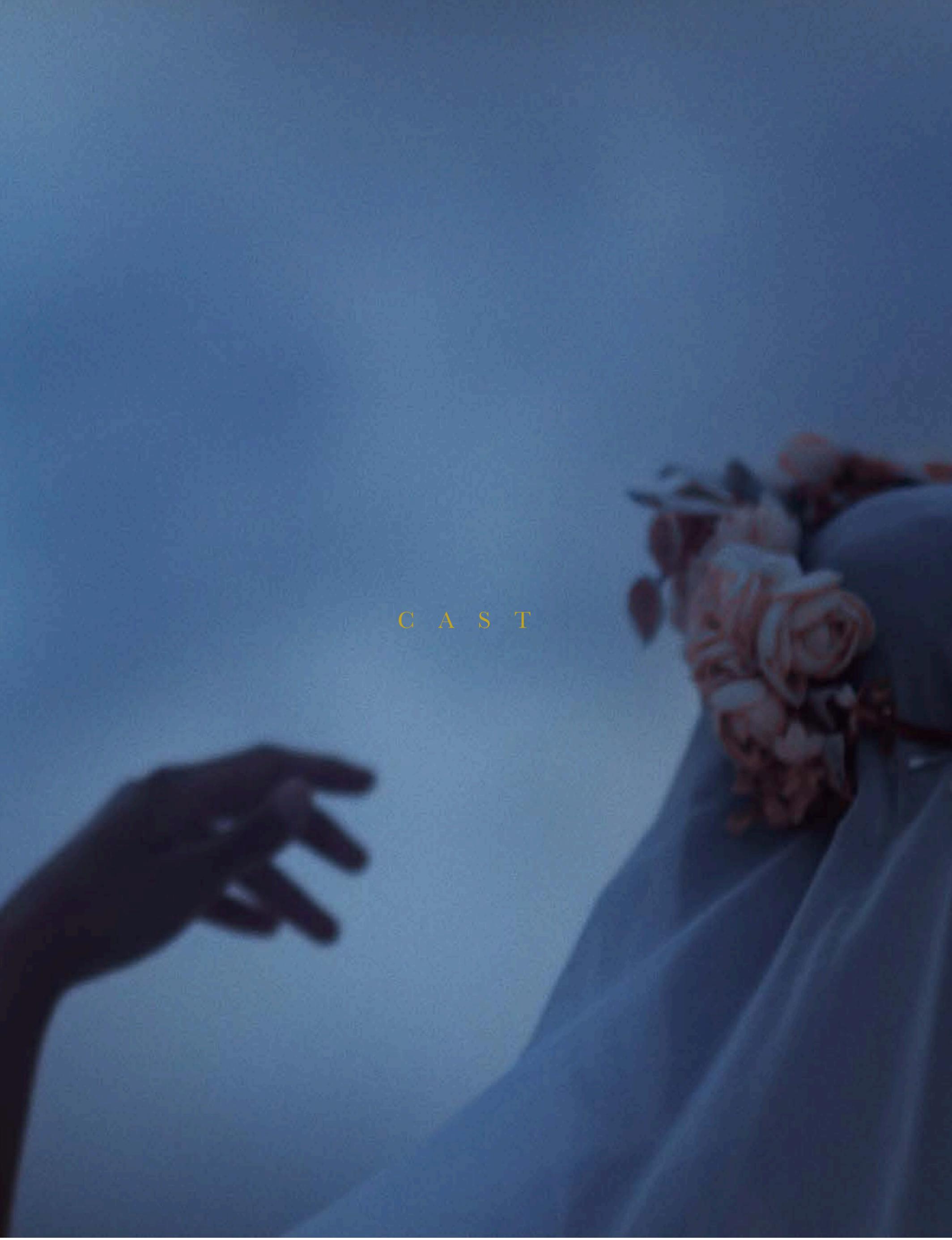
## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

22. That is the number of suicides a day that occur amongst the Veteran community. Being a survivor of much trauma myself, I deeply related to the struggles of PTSD that veterans go through. I wasn't aware that there was so little help provided to them after coming back from fighting for America until I was brought on to make this film. I immediately wanted to know more about the time spent alone. Do they react in the same way I do where flashes from terrible events consume their brains to the point of being crippling? Of course, the more I spoke with the community, the more I realized that everyone handles things differently. Some veterans were stable and were able to get their life back on track after war but some were completely lost and couldn't seem to find hope in life.

Unfortunately, the wounds of war are invisible. With this film, I wanted to showcase how two people with the same experience can ultimately encounter different fates. Furthermore, I discovered that 40% of veterans are Latinos. Being from Honduras, this really astounded me, especially because I haven't seen them represented in film. I set out to make a veteran story that honored our culture through the rhythm and soul of Latin music as well as the use of magical realism and poetry. The goal for this film is for the audience to get a glimpse into the soul of a human who has suffered loss and trauma but is willing to take the steps to heal. Something we can all relate to.

Telling a veteran story through a female lens lends itself to a different cinematic experience because my focus wasn't on the action. It was on what the characters were trying to overcome. I am often drawn to the duality of characters. I want to see their flaws as well as what they do to mend the relationships they've broken. I truly believe that with a community effort we can help heal wounded veterans around us. We just need to take the time to listen and have the patience to understand that it can be a lifetime journey. Those experiences shape the totality of the human. There is beauty in the broken and it can be a great tool to connect humans.

Ultimately, I hope this film gives us the opportunity to have a conversation and to show kindness to the souls that have so bravely fought for us.



C A S T



#### DON DIPETTA | GIO SCUDERI | PRODUCER | CO-WRITER

Don DiPetta is an American actor, writer and producer. He recently starred in the world-wide video game franchise, MAFIA, from the creators 2k. He has co-created and written an award-winning web series, 'We're NOT Friends' and has acted in a number of TV and film roles. Most Notably in the Academy Award winning feature, 'Green Book.'

Don can soon be seen in the highly anticipated Starz series 'Gaslit', a Hillman Grad Production's 'A Thousand and One,' and Sony's 'Lyly Lyle Crocodile.' Currently he is producing a short film by Nicole Mejia participating in the 2022 LALIFF Inclusion Fellowship, presented by Netflix. 'A Place in the Field' was Don's first written feature.



#### KHORRI ELLIS | HERBERT DAVIS | CO-WRITER

Khorri Ellis, born and raised in Los Angeles- CA, grows from a creative family tree of writers, artists, directors, actors and clowns. In his home there was always a project or production to contribute to in some way whether it was creating an original score for a friends film, co-writing scripts with his brother, and even becoming Assistant Director to the creation and production of Gabriel Marcel del Vecchio s Satori, a ballet created to debut it s world tour at The Coliseum in London s West End. When he was cast as Tybalt in a college production of Romeo and Juliet, he fell in love with acting. Khorri has found his passion in telling stories that empower the human experience, embracing the light and tackling the dark aspects within ourselves.



#### MISHEL PRADA | JESSICA GARZA

Prada began acting as a child, performing in church and school productions. Her first lead role was in Fear the Walking Dead: Passage, which received a Creative Arts Emmy Award nomination. She introduced herself to Stranger Things casting director Carmen Cuba after the ceremony, and Cuba called Prada later to read for a role in the Starz drama Vida, which was in production.

Prada was offered the role of Emma, a Mexican-American woman who moves back to her gentrifying neighborhood in East Los Angeles after the death of her mother. She is a founding member of a female art collective called Damarosa, which looks at the artistic work of influential women in literature. She portrayed Hermosa Lodge on season four of The CW teen series, Riverdale and is in production for The Continental, a John Wick prequel series.



F I L M M A K E R S



#### NICOLE MEJIA | DIRECTOR | PRODUCER

Nicole Mejia recently graduated from the American Film Institute Directing program where she was awarded the Audi Fellowship for Women, a full scholarship. Nicole creates stories about the resilience of the human spirit through drama, thriller and magical realism. Her first feature, *A PLACE IN THE FIELD* was shot safely during the pandemic. Her AFI thesis film *MY LIFE STOPPED AT 1* is nominated for the ASC Heritage Student Award. She is currently in post-production for *MANCHA*, a short film that won the LALIFF NETFLIX Fellowship and will premiere in June at LALIFF.



#### BLUESMON DEL VECCHIO | CO-WRITER

Bluesmon del Vecchio is a writer, creative, academic, and soldier. Born in Los Angeles to a family of artists and entertainers spanning back generations, Bluesmon naturally expressed his adolescent rebellion by pursuing an education in international politics and the study of war. Defying the wishes of his father, arch-creative and clown Gabriel Dell, he eventually went so far as to join the US Army. Feeling homesick whilst deployed in Eastern Europe, Bluesmon's rebellious period came to an abrupt end as he found himself writing the libretto of the ballet *Satori* by flashlight, while trekking across NATO's frigid eastern flank. Following *Satori*'s premiere at the London Coliseum, Bluesmon gave in to his passion for writing, and has been creating and collaborating ever since. He was honored to write alongside his brother, Khorri Ellis, and dear friend, Don DiPetta, partners from the beginning, and only regrets that he could not avoid being on camera.



#### KADRI KOOP | CINEMATOGRAPHER

KADRI KOOP is an Estonian cinematographer sharing her time between LA, NYC and Europe. She has a background in documentary filmmaking and loves to work in the intersection of documentary and fiction, often fusing the two sensibilities in her approach to cinematography. Kadri thrives in foreign production climates and has work experience in Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, English and Estonian. Work has taken her all over from Latin America & the Caribbean to Asia. Kadri holds a graduate degree from Stanford University in documentary film and from the American Film Institute in cinematography. Her most recent graduate work *SPACESHIP* won the Gotham Award and sealed a distribution deal with Focus Features and JetBlue, as well as, to date has, brought home the ASC Heritage Award, and the College Television Award nominations.



#### HELIYA ALAM | PRODUCER

HELIYA ALAM received her film and TV studies degree from USC School of Cinematic Arts. She mastered multiple crafts such as producing, writing, editing, and directing throughout her career. She has worked closely with companies such as Diablo Entertainment production, post production - Sundance Route One Entertainment Development as well as big studios such as Fox Broadcasting Company casting and Warner Bros. writer producer. She has worked on feature films in various capacities Executive producer, producer, co-producer, director. Her films include *The Birthday Cake*, *On Our Way*, *The Sinners*, *A Place In The Field*, and *Gym Rat*. As a filmmaker, Heliya focuses on telling stories that matter, give voice to the underrepresented individuals and bring to life complex characters.



#### KATO LAWTON | PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Kato Lawton is a Californian Production Designer working bi-coastally out of Atlanta and LA. She is a recent graduate of the American Film Institute, where she earned an MFA in Production Design. Before making the jump to film, Kato worked in live theater as a set designer for independent theater groups such as Impact Theater, The Anatomy Collective and Lucid Street Theater, and worked as a scenic artist at Steppenwolf Theater, The Ashby Stage, and many more. Kato holds a BFA in Painting and Printmaking with a concentration in Scientific Illustration from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. A Place in the Field is the first feature film Kato has designed, and she looks forward to finding more opportunities to build worlds for meaningful stories.



#### COLTON WARREN | EDITOR

Colton Warren holds a BA in Film and Media Studies from the University of Oklahoma and an MFA in Editing from the American Film Institute.

His editing credits encompass a wide range of narrative shorts, features, and documentaries, including the Emmy winning environmental film, I STAND: THE GUARDIANS OF THE WATER. His two recent features, A PLACE IN THE FIELD and OUT OF EXILE, with Peter Greene and Ryan Merriman, are set to be released later this year.



#### ALAIN EMILE | COMPOSER

Alain Emile is a multi-instrumentalist composer from Puerto Rico based in Los Angeles, CA. His minimalistic composition approach incorporates organic tones and sound design techniques to achieve a distinctive sonic brand for every project.

He has composed for films that have premiered at national and international film festivals, including 'The Kobal Report' by Javier Bartolozzi, an Official Selection of the 2017 Festival de Cannes Short Film Corner. He recently scored the feature film 'A Place in The Field' directed by Nicole Mejia and Rance Randle's Documentary 'Young Bucks' which focuses on the Bill Pickett Rodeo. Currently he is working on 'MANCHA'. A short film by Nicole Mejia participating in the 2022 LALIFF Inclusion Fellowship, presented by Netflix.

Alain also releases music independently under the moniker Pablo Swiss. His debut album was listed as one of Bandcamp's best ambient releases of that year.



S T I L L S









B T S  
S T I L L S











## C R E D I T S

WE HAVE FUN ENT. PRESENTS A PLACE IN THE FIELD

STARRING DON DIPETTA, KHORRI ELLIS, MISHIEL PRADA, MARLENE FORTE, ASHLEE BRIAN  
AND KELVIN DELGADO FEATURING XOCHITL PORTILLO-MOODY, TROY CURVEY, TRAVIS SHAW,  
CHRISTIANA MONTOYA, LYDIA MARTINEZ, JOOST LAMMERS, BLUESMON DEL VECCHIO AND JACK JONES

EDITED BY COLTON WARREN PRODUCTION DESIGN BY KATO LAWTON CINEMATOGRAPHY BY KADRI KOOP  
PRODUCED BY NICOLE MEJIA, DON DIPETTA, NIYAH EDWARDS & HELIYA ALAM SCREENPLAY BY DON DIPETTA, KHORRI ELLIS  
XOCHITL PORTILLO-MOODY & BLUESMON DEL VECCHIO DIRECTED BY NICOLE MEJIA

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MICHAEL FISHMAN, JULIO LOPEZ VELASQUEZ, MIKE PERRONE  
MUSIC BY ALAIN EMILE CASTING DIRECTOR NICOLE MEJIA UPM NIYAH EDWARDS & ARJUN YADAV  
1ST AC LAUREN DAVIS, KATE KETCHAM & KENJI BENNETT 2ND AC REBECCA BALIKO  
RYAN BRADFORD STEADICAM OPERATORS DAE HYUN KIM & CASEY OBERHANSLI  
B UNIT PHOTOGRAPH SAULIUS LUKOSEVICIUS KEY SET PA TRAVIS SHAW MUSIC SUPERVISOR ABE BRADSHAW  
GAFFERS KENJI BENNETT, VINCE JEFFERDS, SAM PRICE KEY GRIP RYAN BRADFORD, DAVID ORANTES, AJ STARZAK, SETH MACMILLAN  
PRODUCTION SOUND MIXERS MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ, MATT GLANVILL ART DIRECTORS CALEB KEPHART, MIKE GILCHRIST  
COSTUME DESIGNER KAJASONDERGAARD ART DEPT. ASST. KING, MARIAN WOOD, NICOLE ECKENROAD, ELISA NOEMI, REETI NARAYAN  
SOUND DESIGNER NATHAN RUYLE COLOR BY FOTOKEM DIGITAL INTERMEDIATE COLORIST ALASTOR ARNOLD  
MUTUALLY INCLUSIVE MEDIA, SONDER PICTURES, TOMORROWLAND PRODUCTIONS

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## C O N T A C T

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