

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark jacket and white earbuds, is shown in profile, looking out of a train window. The window reflects her face, creating a double exposure effect. The background outside the window is blurred, suggesting motion.

amend

directed by Jianna Maarten Saada

BELINDA GOSBEE

ADAN JAMES CARRILLO

FILM FACTS

LENGTH..... 18m 54s
FILM CATEGORY..... Short, Fiction, Live Action
GENRE..... Drama, Mental Health
LANGUAGE..... English
PRODUCTION COUNTRY..... USA
SHOOTING LOCATION..... Los Angeles CA
PRODUCTION CO..... Blue Gum Film Company

CAMERA..... ALEXA Mini LF
SHOOTING FORMAT..... Digital 4K
ASPECT RATIO..... 1.85:1



LOGLINE

Rachael lives an isolated existence, haunted by an unspeakable past. But when a young boy upends her tightly controlled world, she's forced to face her own demons.

SYNOPSIS

Hovering between her sparse apartment and job at a coffee shop, Rachael lives a sheltered life. She keeps her head down and people at a distance. She pops pills for a shoulder injury, loud noises unsettle her and she's haunted by flashbacks – of a child, a lover, and a fluorescent ceiling light.

Until she meets 10-yr-old Jack. He's confident and sweet and orbits her in the hope of a new friendship. As the days pass, Rachael becomes increasingly torn between her past and her present.

Amend asks the question of whether human connection is the only way through grief and pain.



KEY CAST & CREW

RACHAEL.....Belinda Gosbee
JACK.....Adan James Carrillo

DIRECTED BY.....Jianna Maarten Saada
WRITTEN BY.....Belinda Gosbee
PRODUCERS..... Rebecca Case, Belinda Gosbee, Alex Shore
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY.....Lauren Guiteras
PRODUCTION DESIGNER.....Emma Koh
EDITED BY.....Aashish D'Mello, Zekun Mao
ORIGINAL SCORE.....Nicolas Borromeo
COSTUME DESIGNER.....Gigi Harding
PRODUCTION SOUND..... Iván Torres
HAIR & MAKEUP.....Amber Bailey
SOUND MIX/DESIGN.....Jeremy Jardine
COLOR GRADING.....Alexia Salingaros
FINISHING BY.....LEGION POST



DIRECTOR'S NOTE [Jianna Maarten Saada](#)

Belinda (screenwriter, producer, and lead actor) and I set out to make a film exploring the AFTERMATH of what gun violence does in this country. WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO SURVIVE? The scars that harm us most are rarely on the outside.

This is another form of violence, an invisible kind that happens in the aftermath of these tragedies. We're only now beginning to realize the extent of PTSD for veterans who see combat. Our school children and teachers are experiencing their own version of combat, and their PTSD is just as real.

This is a film that explores the post-traumatic stress of a horrific event, locked inside Rachael's memory, creating a living nightmare she cannot seem to escape. Due to the visual language of the film, we chose to shoot on an ALEXA Mini LF (large format) as it offers a look very close to film – essential for the gritty mood of this project. We also wanted to shoot a lot of macro to keep Rachael's perspective insular to her own experience.

We creatively approached Rachael's regular world with a grittier, more tactile, repetitious style of shooting. When she's having nightmares and dreams about the past, we used glimmer glass for a glowy, desaturated, impressionistic feeling in line with fleeting images and memories. Especially since most people's memories are jumbled– traumatic ones mingle with happier thoughts and so forth.

WRITER / PRODUCER'S NOTE [Belinda Gosbee](#)

AMEND is a short film exploring grief, survivor's guilt and PTSD. By the end we'll come to know this is the aftermath of gun violence. How ultimately, it can still rip apart the life you were given a second chance at. That to be one of the "lucky ones" is a conflicted and difficult place to live.

When I wrote this film, I wanted to shed light on the survivors –a perspective we rarely see. Experiencing an act of such horrifying terror and violence has statistically led to both suicide, and the extinguishing of many capable, bright futures from trauma-related illness.

I was likewise interested in exploring a surviving teacher within this horror. They'll never be treated as a grieving parent but they have in effect lost "their" children. Kids they've deeply nurtured. How do you live with the guilt that you couldn't protect them?

The film isn't about a mass shooting event, but it's Rachael's backstory and it heavily influences her present. I always felt that NOT having this info upfront lets us better experience Rachael's struggle without politics or opinions – as the other characters do.

Ultimately, AMEND asks the question of whether shared pain and connection are the only way through the darkness of grief.



KEY TEAM BIOS



Jianna Maarten Saada
Director

A writer/director who earned degrees in storytelling at both Columbia University's Creative Writing program & American Film Institute's Directing MFA (AFI), Jianna is a published author of literary fiction & a recipient of the Blue Mountain Center residency, Holleigh Bernson Memorial scholarship, & a **21-22 Sundance Episodic Lab fellow**.

Having written & directed over 15 shorts, her film SIN CIELO won Grand Jury & Audience Awards at SIFF, Santa Barbara Inter., Palm Springs, IFF, Champs Elysées, & Anchorage Int. with over 120 official selections worldwide; was a Top Ten at AFI Fest, a **2020 Oscar contender** & now streaming on HBO Max.

Critics say Saada has a 'masterful way of framing scenes to create emotion' & said Sin Cielo 'defies criticism & should be a benchmark for filmmakers with any intent on producing work relevant today.'



Belinda Gosbee
Writer | Producer | "Rachael"

Belinda is an Australian writer, producer, & theatre-trained actress who's been working across film, television, & theatre for 20 years.

Notable roles incl. Jenni in The Look-See series, (CRYPT TV), Martha in PINEAPPLE (**Sundance, Tribeca '17**); & Tawny on TWO BROKE GIRLS (CBS). As a VO artist she guided players in Warner Bros' MAD MAX & was the voice of Toyota's "Start Your Impossible" Olympic campaign.

She's received critical acclaim for her stage work, including Elizabeth Proctor in THE CRUCIBLE & Lainie in TWO ROOMS, which she also produced. The LA Weekly calling it a "MUST GO" show.

A journalism major, she was selected as a screenwriter for the *Australians in Film* Writers Room @ L.A.'s Raleigh Studios.

Belinda also plays the role of "Rachael."



Rebecca Case
Producer

Rebecca is a producer with over 10 years of experience in commercial and independent film production.

She holds a Master of the Arts in Emerging Media and Communication from the University of Texas at Dallas, and a Bachelor of Science from Southern Methodist University.

Rebecca has served as the **President of the Dallas Producers Association** and the Operations Director for the Oak Cliff Film Festival.

She currently has several feature film projects in development.

A native of Dallas, Texas, she is currently based in Los Angeles, CA.



Alexander Shore
Producer

Alexander Shore is an actor, producer, and acting coach. He is a graduate of *The Actor's Studio Australia* conservatory program and has appeared in numerous plays and national commercial campaigns.

He became known as the face of Australia's stirring national "MAN-UP" campaign which challenged societal masculinity and its effect on male mental health.

Alex has taught actors at *The Actor's Studio Australia* and *Sydney Drama School* and continues to coach privately in Los Angeles.

He plays the supporting role of "Justin."



Lauren Guiteras
Cinematographer

Lauren is a Cuban American cinematographer and photographer.

Since earning her MFA from the American Film Institute (AFI), she's worked throughout the US and internationally.

Her credits include MA BELLE, MY BEAUTY, Marion Hill's debut feature (**Sundance, SXSW 2021**), ZIWE (Showtime, A24), and NOTED: ALICIA KEYS THE UNTOLD STORIES (YouTube Originals). Most recently, she shot IFC Films' DANDELION on Super 16mm, directed by Nicole Riegel and starring Kiki Layne & Thomas Doherty. The film is slated for theatrical release in 2023.

Lauren loves crafting images out of a state of communion between the subject and the camera. The last film she watched that inspired her was 35 SHOTS OF RUM.

BIOS CONT.



Aashish D'Mello
Editor

Aashish D'Mello is an Editor & Assistant Editor based in Los Angeles.

He moved from India to the US in 2015 to pursue film editing at the American Film Institute Conservatory (AFI.)

He has since served as Assistant Editor on over 10 documentaries, TV series and feature films, including **EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE (2022)**, and has edited multiple award-winning feature films and shorts, including Jianna Maarten Saada's **SIN CIELO** (2018).



Zekun Mao
Editor

Zekun 'Zoe' Mao is an Editor & Assistant Editor based in Los Angeles.

She moved to the US from China in 2015 to pursue film editing at the American Film Institute Conservatory (AFI.)

Since then, she has edited multiple award-winning short films and feature films such as *American Girl* (2021), and has served as Assistant Editor on over 7 documentaries and feature films, including **EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE (2022)**.



Emma Koh
Production Designer

Emma Koh (she/her) is a Korean American artist, filmmaker/ Production Designer, & #stopasianhate advocate.

Born & raised in SoCal (LA & OC) she received her BFA from Cornell University (2011), MFA in Production Design from AFI (2014), & MS from SCI Arc's F&E Worldbuilding Thesis Prog.(2021).

She was a recipient of the Women In Film Tichi Wilkerson Kassel Scholarship & Art Directed the Film Independent award winning SPA NIGHT, & **Sundance 2023** selection JAMOJAYA.

Emma has worked on commercials, music videos, features, network television, and produced in VFX & Arch Vis. She most recently art directed the **Netflix series, XO KITTY**. She continues to explore & articulate the intersectionality of (speculative) design, cultural identity, and history through storytelling, art, and tech.



Nicolas Borrromeo
Composer

Nico Borrromeo is an Argentinian composer, producer, engineer & multi-instrumentalist based in Los Angeles.

His film scores have showcased at Sundance, Tribeca & Slamdance. He also **scored Best Picture** at the 2019 Barcelona Film Festival & contributed to two-time Oscar winner Gustavo Santaolalla & Juan Luqui's work on **Sundance winning doc THE FIGHT** & Hulu series MONSTERLAND.

Nico has co-composed with Tree Adams (Californication, The 100) for GOD & COUNTRY & assisted on NCIS.

His electronic music has reached the top of major South & Latin-American radio stations, along with millions of online streams & music fests. He won the Soundclash Competition & was awarded Best DJ in Argentina & 2nd in the world at the Las Vegas global finale.



Adan James Carrillo
"Jack"

Adan James Carrillo is an American actor who started his career at 9 years old.

He acts in both English & Spanish, following his father & role model, actor Erick Carrillo, who starred in SELENA, Y&R, THE SHIELD, NCIS.

Adan has already worked with **Robert DeNiro** in **ABOUT MY FATHER**, David E. Kelley in LINCOLN LAWYER, Jason Katims in AS WE SEE IT, & Elgin James in MAYANS M.C.. He just wrapped filming "UNDERDOGS" with **Snoop Dogg**.

When he's not working, Adan loves baseball, boxing, hip-hop dancing, swimming & hiking. He lives in Los Angeles & is repped by Exclusive Artists Agency & Cohesive Entertainment Group.

He plays the role of "Jack."





CONTACT

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