

Interview Question & Answers

I can say I felt like I was giving birth to a child during the process, kind of a strange metaphor, since i don't have children, but I do remember finding myself on the corner outside B&H in NYC with 2 hard drives in tow the day before shooting having contractions and deep breathes. Its coming.....I could feel it...in an energetic way this surge, this push of energy. Deepak Chopra talks about the State of Chaos. That there is a divine organization to it, in the greater plan. If we can stay grounded in the midst of all that is spinning around us we can accelerate the process. It was really interesting to me when Karen Giordano turned me onto that. It was GREAT realization to have since I felt like I was being catapulted through space.

How did *GRACE* come about?

At the time I was studying with an acting teacher here in NYC. At the end of a late night class he gave us a charge. Everyone has a story to tell. So tell it! Stop waiting for the phone to ring to get an audition. It was pretty inspiring. It's hard to explain but there's electricity in an acting class that's exciting and that night was no different. Being in recovery from heroin addiction I had always written "my story" through the years as stream of consciousness, short story, play, screenplay but I always stopped at the same place. I wasn't able to see the ending. After leaving class close to midnight and walking the New York City streets home in winter I kept thinking about it. Came home and crashed out. The next afternoon we had a heavy snowstorm and I stayed in. Took a nap and when I woke up, I had it. I knew the story I had to tell. It wasn't the story I had been writing for years about when I first started using, it was the story of my first year clean and what a challenge it was. Using no matter how bad you may feel, you always have the drugs to hide behind. When you're clean you're raw and exposed. I just picked up pen and paper and started writing.... when I put my pen down I had the script; No thinking, no judging, just let it flow.

What did you envision for this project?

Once I sat with the idea that I'd written a script and what was I going to do with that, I realized it could be a service to a huge audience. Started talking with recovery organizations to put together a teaching guide so it can be available in jails, institutions and schools. It is a conversation piece, to bridge the gap between addicts and non-addicts so we can be a little more understanding and compassionate with one another.

What did you have to do/learn during the course of production for *GRACE*?

I feel like I went to film school. I had never made a film before from behind the camera. Every step along the way was learning as I went, from: conception, to writing, to interviewing my team, taking meetings, casting, negotiating contracts, producing, pre-production, production, post-production, film festival submissions and now social media and marketing. You name it I learned it.

It's interesting because intellectually we can know a great many things but not until we are in the action do we have a true understanding of what it is. For example: Collaboration. Yes I know what that means but not until I was working with my team was I able to see what a true collaboration is. I think that's the lesson I'm most grateful for. Through making *GRACE* I have found my True Collaborators who I will continue to work with on films.

What were some unexpected outcomes?

Wow! I think the vision of the story you put on paper and letting go of it for the story you shoot on the day and then letting go of that once again for the story that comes out of the editing process. Maybe as time goes on and I create more films these 3 visions will become one or maybe they will continue to morph and change as it goes through the process.

What advice can you give?

Build it and it will come together. I continue to be amazed by the generosity of spirit surrounding *GRACE* and how it continues to show up in such unexpected ways. I didn't set out to make a movie. I wrote something that I sat with for a few months, and then started worshipping it at The Indies Lab here in NYC. Just kept working on it, until I felt it was at a place where I had taken it as far as she could go. I emailed it to Alysia Reiner for feedback. She read it, emailed me back and said I Love It! When are we shooting this?!? That was the moment I realized I was making a movie. From there the ball just started rolling. There were no ducks in a row, just kept showing up, reaching out, taking action and learning a lot along the way. Once I made the decision I was making a movie, that's when everything started to align.

Were there any funny, quirky insights you came to learn, appreciate during the course of your journey with *GRACE*?

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Karen also introduced me to Full Permission Living and Kundalini Yoga during that time which is both amazing practices in manifesting your deepest desires into the illusion of your reality. Good Stuff

What's next for the journey of *GRACE*?

Currently we're headed into the 2015 Festival circuit which will be Super exciting as I know she will have a run that will be in service of her highest good. Look forward to paring with a non-profit to raise awareness about recovery and continue the conversation. There's a multi billion-dollar industry created around the problem and *GRACE* is a part of the solution. Also, the feature is written and look forward to going into production later this year.