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ALERT FEATURED

## Director returns home to premiere award-winning film 'Forget-Me-Not'

Special to the Sun Jun 1, 2018



Rachael Meyers  
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LOS ANGELES — Director Rachael Meyers returns home to Oklahoma to premiere her award-winning film *Forget-Me-Not* in the 2018 deadCenter Film Festival, screening in the Okie Mediums Program at 2 p.m. June 9 and 1 p.m. June 10 at Harkins Bricktown Cinema.

Shot entirely in Oklahoma, *Forget-Me-Not* is a coming-of-age story told through the eyes of 12-year-old Anna, a young girl struggling to find her voice after the death of her mother. A heartfelt drama with humorous accents, the film entertains with sibling antics while touching on darker themes like bullying, familial trauma and the still-present stigma of questioning sexuality in the south.

*Forget-Me-Not* was filmed in and around the OKC Metro, utilizing locations such as Heritage Hall School, Papilion Butterfly House and Gardens, and Meyers' own home.

Meyers was thrilled to get the chance to film in Oklahoma, sharing "Forget-Me-Not is an incredibly personal project for me as a filmmaker, and I was excited to come home and shoot on location in places that hold so many memories, with people who meant so much to me growing up."

The role of Billie, the benevolent, quirky voice teacher who guides Anna along her path, is based on real-life Edmond resident and OKC music instructor Billie Lewis, who battled Parkinson's for 25+ years while hoisting a singing parrot on her shoulder.

“Billie is a legacy in herself. She’s a role model and has done so much for so many kids, whether teaching at Heritage or privately at home. She’s certainly made a huge impact on my life. And teachers like that deserve to be celebrated, immortalized.”

Forget-Me-Not previously premiered at the North Hollywood Cinefest in Los Angeles, at which it won Best Drama Short Film and saw a nomination for Meyers for Best Director of a Short Film.

Originally from Oklahoma City, this 6’ 2” former collegiate athlete graduated from Heritage Hall in 2006 and has since become an award-winning director, writer and producer under her RM Productions banner. In 2012, Meyers received the Young Artist Development Award from Chaspen Foundation for the Arts. Then in 2014, her directorial debut — the comedy adventure short Highway 15 — earned critical attention and awards on the festival circuit, including Best Direction. She has won Best Short Film for her dramatic short My Brother’s Keeper at the Los Angeles Spotlight Film Festival, and Zoe + Ari has been sweeping the festival circuit, screening at venues including the Paris Short Film Festival, the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, and the UCLAx Film Festival, in which Meyers garnered the honor of Best Director.

Meyers has also built a reputation as an award-winning actress and singer. Fans will recognize her from NBC’s new Mindy Kaling comedy series Champions, the popular Tina Fey Netflix show Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, ABC’s Fresh Off the Boat, and Disney’s Dog with a Blog. On stage, Meyers gained attention for her roles in the 2012 Ovation-nominated play The Elephant Man and Torrance Theater Company’s critically acclaimed musical Chicago, in which StageSceneLA touted her as “a towering beacon of goodness”. This summer she will debut the role of Jason’s Mom in the world premiere of Michael Leoni’s new play FAMOUS, opening July 12th at the 11:11 in Los Angeles.

Currently, she is in development with Oscar-winning producer Fred Roos to direct her screenplay Lost for Words dealing with Autism and sibling relationships, and with co- producer and writer Elise Zell in the feature adaptation of their award-winning short Zoe + Ari. As an actress, she is represented bicoastally by The Polygon Group and in the southeast by Landrum Arts LA.

As a participant of the festival, Meyers has been invited to speak on the OF+MO Short Film Panel at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 9 in the [ACM@OCU](mailto:ACM@OCU) Songwriters Room. The event is open to the public.

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