

# SHE'S LOST CONTROL

A FILM BY ANJA MARQUARDT

2014 / USA / English / Drama 90 min/ HD / 16:9 / Dolby 5.1



173 Richardson Street, Brooklyn, NY 11222 Office: +1.718.312.8210 Fax: +1.718.362.4865 Email: releases@visitfilms.com Web: www.monumentreleasing.com

## LOGLINE

The professional and personal life of a sexual surrogate begins to unravel when she starts working with a new client.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

Fiercely independent, Ronah works as a sexual surrogate in New York City, teaching her clients the very thing they fear most – to be intimate. Her life unravels when she starts working with a volatile new client, Johnny, blurring the thin line between professional and personal intimacy in the modern world.

#### **FESTIVALS**

World Premiere Berlin International Film Festival 2014
North American Premiere SXSW 2014
New Directors / New Films 2014
Independent Spirit Awards 2014 - Nominated for Best First Feature and Best First Screenplay

# **TECH SPECS**

Run Time: 90 min Aspect Ratio: 16:9 Shooting Format: HD

Sound: Dolby 5.1 Country: USA Language: English

## **PRESS**

"A quiet triumph, a true herald of a distinctive and necessary voice in cinema." - LA Times

"Austerely elegant (...) a chilly psychological stroll." – The Hollywood Reporter

"Engrossing (...) a fascinating mood between slow-building angst and cold remove." – Indiewire

"Astutely cold and compelling...much to admire in Marquardt's control and precision as well as a well sustained lead performance by lead actress Brooke Bloom." – Screen International

"Bloom gives a truly brave performance (...) strong and vulnerable, wise and naive, plain and seductive." – Twitch

"180 degrees away from The Sessions." – Variety

"A quiet wonder to behold, and a striking reminder that the world desperately needs more talented women directing films." – Hammer To Nail

"Scene to scene, she [the director] and her star, Brooke Bloom, keep you watching and wondering." – New York Times

# **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

She's Lost Control started as a sci-fi thriller. I had read an article about a Japanese geriatrics facility that uses robots not only to lift and feed patients, but also to "caress" them. As a result they were less aggressive and better able to sleep. Around the same time I heard about present-day surrogate partner therapy – a subculture of trained clinicians who teach their clients how to be intimate, sexual intercourse included.

There is something fascinating and unsettling and also deeply moving about the idea that intimacy can be taught, or simulated. It puts a magnifying glass on the basic human need (and inability) to connect. As I was exploring Ronah, the film's protagonist, it soon became clear that what I was really interested in was her "professional intimacy." The inevitable blurring of lines is what I set out to explore.

#### **Q&A WITH THE DIRECTOR**

# How did you find the subject?

This goes back to what drove me to become a filmmaker, apart from the love for film and a great awe of the medium, it's the window that I'm allowed to have into these other worlds, worlds that I know nothing about initially, other people's lives that I get to research; that's just the biggest gift of all. When I first read about surrogate partner therapy, a few years ago, initially I thought it was a relic from the '70s, which was when Masters & Johnson first began using it as a therapeutic tool; and then I realized that the field is still very much alive. There are male surrogates working with female patients. In Holland, some cases are even covered by health insurance. It took me a year or so to gain access to the community. Naturally, there were barriers. There's a lot of misinformation online. It's a subject that's easily exploited. But I was persistent and suddenly I was talking to all these fascinating individuals. Brooke Bloom and I were able to sit down with Vena Blanchard, president of IPSA, the International Professional Surrogates Association.

# What was your casting process?

Casting this film, especially the lead role, was a journey. My casting director, Allison Twardziak and I had a real sense of how Ronah should be. We looked at a lot of up-and-coming actresses in NYC but it wasn't so easy to find her because she needed to be mature enough to carry the role, yet independent and fearless enough to, well, be on set fully nude. There's this thing called a "Nudity Rider" that's an important part of the contract; I had to convince people that it wasn't my intention to make porn or be gratuitous. I had never shot a sex scene before, so trust seemed important. At some point I realized: we have to either limit the nudity to "above waist" or cast an actress who doesn't have an agent. I was prepared to go for the latter, but then Brooke Bloom happened. I have to thank Robert Longstreet (who plays C.T.) for introducing me to her. Suddenly, I saw the movie. Brooke was working in LA at the time and then was scheduled to be back in New York for a play -- I ended up pushing the shoot for 6 months so I could work with her. I took a big risk in doing so.

## How did you find the visual style of the movie?

My Director of Photography, Zack Galler and I set out to create images that are naturalistic, yet infused with tension and darkness. We used available light whenever possible and there are some longer scenes in the film where we just let life in front of the camera unfold, without the restriction of formal boundaries. Yet the rhythm of the story demanded a visual arc. There is definitely a visual acceleration happening as Ronah's life spins out of control. For the sessions between Ronah and her clients, especially when she sees Johnny, I wanted to focus on the immediacy of what's going on between the characters. We used a lot of handheld for those scenes. Zack and I spent a fair amount of time together in prep and although we had never collaborated before, we found our language pretty quickly. Looking back, there is a great sense of freedom in how we shot this film.



#### ANJA MARQUARDT

Berlin-born and Brooklyn-based, Anja Marquardt is a filmmaker whose debut film, *She's Lost Control* world premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival 2014 where it won the Berlinale Forum's top prize, the C.I.C.A.E. Art Cinema Award, followed by a North American premiere at SXSW and inclusion in the 2014 ND/NF showcase at MoMA. *She's Lost Control* continues to play the international festival circuit and is now preparing for a 2015 release. With a background in development and working in the fiction department of E.U. broadcaster, arte, Marquardt is an alumna of NYU's Graduate Film Program, an IFP Marcie Bloom Fellow, Berlinale Talent, and a participant of the Berlinale Script Station Development Lab and NYFF Artist Academy. She is currently in development of several projects, one of which is an adaptation of an award-winning novel.

# **CAST**



# BROOKE BLOOM - Ronah

Theatre credits: Somewhere Fun at Vineyard Theatre, Lungs at the Studio Theatre in D.C. and Barrington Stage, Becky Shaw at the Wilma, The Grown-Up at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, Marie Antoinette at ART, as well as A Feminine Ending, Completeness and Hamlet all at South Coast Rep and coming this Fall in You Got Older at the Here Arts Center. Film: Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Ceremony, He's Just Not That Into You, Gabbi on the Roof in July, Swim Little Fish Swim (SXSW 2013), and She's Lost Control (Berlinale 2014). Television: Series Regular on Amazon's Alpha House, guest appearances on Louie, The New Normal, Person of Interest, Law & Order, The Good Wife, a recurring role on CSI: Miami, and various pilots for NBC. The recipient of the 2012 Barrymore and 2013 IRNE awards for Best Actress, Brooke also received a 2013 Elliot Norton nomination.



# MARC MENCHACA - Johnny

Marc Menchaca is an actor and filmmaker whose previous TV credits include *Homeland*, *Law & Order: CI & SVU*, *Generation Kill*, *Treme*, *Inside Amy Schumer*, and the upcoming HBO comedy *Togetherness*. His writing and co-directorial debut, *This Is Where We Live*, in which he also plays the lead, premiered in Main Competition at SXSW 2013 and has played more than a dozen festivals since then and has garnered awards for Best Ensemble and New Filmmakers. The film opened in New York in November 2013 and is currently in a theatrical run at The Angelika Film Center in Dallas, TX. Aside from playing the male lead in *She's Lost Control*, Marc is the lead in the upcoming indie features, *Reservoir* and *Reparation*, opposite Jon Huertas, the latter of which completed principal photography this summer.

#### **Q&A WITH BROOKE BLOOM**

# What did it mean to you to play the role of Ronah?

When I read Anja's script I was immediately interested in the world of the movie. What is this world of surrogacy and what are the boundaries? Who are the kinds of people who practice this work? What are my boundaries in my work... being an actress they are also unique. I also began to think of my own sexuality and intimacy and how hard won it was or is even. Originally I felt that Anja's script gave me the perfect template to explore something provocative and scary but in a controlled manner, in an almost clinical setting (rather naive of me) and I knew that the story would push me into territory that was uncomfortable and I wanted that challenge. As with all projects, you allow the story and the world of the film to take over and I wasn't really sure how I would wrestle with it, in what ways it would reveal itself to me but I knew it scared me to death. This is an important feeling to have I think.

# What was the most challenging part of it?

The most challenging part of playing this role is not necessarily the thing I thought it would be. I have never been in a movie where I was the focus of every scene... where I was in every scene. The first day was terrifying to me. I had done my work... I had talked the talk but I hadn't walked the walk and those first days where Anja and I had to become synchronized or develop our working language were very challenging and I was pretty intimidated. We were creating something together but it took a second to settle into who I thought I was playing. Then after that, living in Ronah's head space for a month every day was getting to me. The trajectory of the character in the film and her loss of control was being mirrored in my experience of making the film... of course! That was challenging to live in and I think I was challenging to be around (laughs).

# How did you prepare?

Anja was so instrumental and helpful in preparing me for this role. She met with me, sent me tons of source material and arranged meetings with people who actually do this kind of work where I would be able to ask questions and listen to their stories and be led through role playing sessions of actual sessions. I met with 2 different surrogates and both of these amazing people gave me insight into the kind of work they did and for whom and why. At a certain point I felt confident in what they actually did but I realized the most important thing that I had to come to terms with for this character is why. Why do certain people practice certain professions? Why am I an actor? Why are some people therapists? Why is Ronah drawn to this work? What is she healing inside herself? I made Ronah the patient. I examined all her relationships with all the characters in the film 1 by 1 and then I had to let the experience of making the film do it's thing. I have always found the role reveals itself to you in your life in some capacity so it's really the willingness to let something take over at a certain point.

## **STILLS**



# **CREW**

#### OREN MOVERMAN

Executive Producer

Oscar-nominated screenwriter Oren Moverman is currently in post-production on his latest feature, *Time Out of Mind*, starring Richard Gere and Ben Vereen in the lead roles. He is also the director of *Rampart*, which he co-wrote with novelist James Ellroy, starring Woody Harrelson, Sigourney Weaver, Robin Wright, Anne Heche, Cynthia Nixon, Ice Cube, Brie Larson, Ben Foster, and Steve Buscemi amongst others. Moverman's directorial debut, *The Messenger* (Oscilloscope Laboratories), co-written with Alessandro Camon and starring Ben Foster, Woody Harrelson and Samantha Morton, was nominated for the Best Original Screenplay Academy Award in 2010. Other notable projects which Oren co-authored include: Todd Haynes' Bob Dylan biopic *I'm Not There*, and Alison Maclean's *Jesus' Son* and most recently *Love and Mercy*, the Brian Wilson biopic directed by Bill Pohlad, starring John Cusack, Paul Dano, Elizabeth Banks and Paul Giamatti currently preparing for a 2015 release.

## KIARA C. JONES

Producer

Kiara C. Jones is an award winning producer who also writes and directs, receiving honors for her work from HBO, BET, Lifetime, PBS, AICP and Fox. She is the proprietor of Cultivated Films, a New York based production company dedicated to producing films by under-represented storytellers and providing a nurturing environment where writers and directors can explore their voices. As a corporate media producer she's created videos for IBM, Redken, John Paul Mitchell Systems, Intel and ShoWest. She was most recently recognized as the U.S. winner of the Bombay Sapphire Imagination Series that premiered at the TriBeCa International Film Festival 2014 and her upcoming feature, *Christmas Wedding Baby* is set to premiere at Urbanworld 2014.

## **MOLLYE ASHER**

Producer

Mollye Asher is a NY based independent producer. In addition to *She's Lost Control*, she produced *Fort Tilden*, which won the Grand Jury Prize at SXSW 2014, Best Feature at the LES Film Festival and the Special Jury Prize at IFF Boston. Mollye is currently in post-production on *Songs My Brothers Taught Me*. Producing along with her is Angela C. Lee, Forest Whitaker and Nina Bongiovi (Significant Productions). The film has received tremendous support from the Sundance Film Institute, Film Independent, Millennium Entertainment, IFP, the Spike Lee Production Fund, and the Christopher Columbus/ Richard Vague grant. Mollye is an IFP Lab Fellow, a Film Independent Fast Track Fellow and an alumna of the NYU Graduate Film program.

## **ZACHARY GALLER**

Director of Photography

Brooklyn based cinematographer Zachary Galler grew up on film and commercial sets where he would observe his director father at work. Galler's passion for filmmaking led him to leave film school early in order to jumpstart his career. Galler cut his teeth as a lighting technician. He quickly worked his way up to shooting and operating on various feature film and television projects. Galler's first feature as a cinematographer, *The Sleepwalker*, premiered in U.S. Dramatic competition at Sundance Film Festival in 2014. His second feature, *She's Lost Control*, was awarded the C.I.C.A.E. Award at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2014. Most recently Galler wrapped principal photography on the Oren Moverman and Lawrence Inglee feature *The Ticket*.

#### DAVID MEYER

Production Designer

A New York native, David recently relocated to Los Angeles. With a degree in architecture and theater from Syracuse University, he found his way into film after pursuing an MFA in Production Design at NYU/Tisch. He started as Art PA on *Men In Black 3* and is currently art directing this summer's Spielberg/CBS Sci-Fi event series *Extant*, starring Halle Berry. He set-designed the yacht, and other items requiring special coordination with stunts/VFX in Martin Scorsese's latest feature *The Wolf of Wall Street*. He production designed a music video last fall that went viral, *The Cookie Dance. She's Lost Control* is his first feature as Production Designer.

#### **ANDREA SUNDT**

Costume Designer

Andrea Sundt is a NYC based costume designer with a background designing for theater, film, and video gaming and with a passion for meticulous and in-depth character portrayal through costuming. Raised in Oslo, Norway, she designed the first clothing line for the computer game Sims2 (for EA Games Norway, 2006) and received her degree in fashion design from Esmod Paris in 2007, where she was awarded Guerlain's Best Costume Award. Andrea made her film debut designing for Even Benestad's Tempus Fugit (2009), followed by working on Thomas Cappelen Malling's feature Norwagian Ninja (2010) and Stian Kristiansen's I Travel Alone (2011). With She's Lost Control Andrea continues her collaboration with director Anja Marquardt, after designing Marquardt's 2010 short film, Harrow Island.

#### **NICK CAREW**

Editor

Nick Carew is an award winning film, documentary and music video editor. Several feature films he has cut have won accolades and recognition at Berlin, SXSW, ND/NF NY, London, Seattle, Shanghai and Worldfest Houston. His short documentary on Bonded Labor for HBO won an Emmy, while he's achieved three "Documentary of the Year" accolades, cutting over 100 documentaries for National Geographic, the BBC, Discovery, NBC and the History Channel. Nick is currently directing for Vice on HBO.

# SIMON TAUFIQUE

Composer

Simon Taufique is a UK-born, New York-based award winning composer, producer and former film festival program director. He studied Economics and Political Science at NYU and began working with Anja Marquardt on her short film, *Harrow Island*. Along the way, Simon has garnered press from Variety, Hollywood Reporter, NME, Spin and IndieWire for collaborations with Julian Casablancas (The Strokes), Independent Spirit award-nominee Hossein Keshavarz (*Dog Sweat*), and Grammy-winner David Torn (*Lars & the Real Girl*), co-composing music for *Jesus Henry Christ*, starring Toni Collette and produced by Julia Roberts. Among Simon's upcoming films as composer and producer are *Asher* (starring Danny Glover and Mekhi Phifer), and *Purple America*, adapting the novel by Rick Moody (<u>The Ice Storm</u>, <u>Garden State</u>).

#### **ALLISON TWARDZIAK**

Casting Director

Allison Twardziak, C.S.A. is a New York based casting director. She recently cast the SXSW Grand Jury Prize winner Fort Tilden, the Berlinale, New Directors/New Films feature, She's Lost Control, the Sundance features Appropriate Behavior, and My Best Day, the Slamdance feature Faith Love and Whiskey, the Woodstock feature Bastards of Young, OutFest's Lyle starring Gaby Hoffman, the web series F to 7th and Be Here Nowish as well as the upcoming feature Black Dog Red Dog starring James Franco, Chloe Sevigny, Whoopi Goldberg, Logan Marshall-Green and Olivia Wilde. She has cast over 30 shorts, which have premiered at Cannes, Sundance, SXSW and The Clermont Film Festival. In addition to her film projects Allison works with House Casting, a bicoastal commercial sector of MILK studios.

## **CREDITS**

#### **CAST**

(in order of appearance)

Brooke Bloom
Marc Menchaca
Andrea Sundt
Bethanne Haft
Eiko Kawashima
Tobias Segal
Dennis Boutsikaris
Alex Dagg
Robert Longstreet
Roxanne Day
Gregory Korostishevsky
Cris Tucci
Ryan Homchick
Marlaina H. Martin
Tania Becker
Danny Boushebel
Laila Robins
Frank Anderson
Pierre Epstein
Aleksander Karmov
Rishika Mehrishi
Dominique DeLeon
Lee Manansala
Tania Becker
Kathleen Wise
Vin Scialla
Sandi Bill
David Meyer
Henry Stram
Jess Love
Myra Lucretia Taylor
Michael Medeiros
Bobby Buffo
Alistair Farrant
Lori Hammel

# **CREW**

Written and Directed by Anja Marquardt Produced by Kiara C. Jones Mollye Asher Anja Marquardt **Executive Producer** Oren Moverman Dax Phelan **Executive Producers** Scott Ryan James Su Director of Photography Zachary Galler Production Designer David Meyer Edited by Anja Marquardt Nick Carew Costume Designer Andrea Sundt Original Music by Simon Taufique Casting Director Allison Twardziak Co-Producer Rotor Film In Association With Surfgrass Media Stand Alone Productions Co-Producer Simon Taufique Associate Producer Jennifer Fox Unit Production Manager Susanna Locascio First Assistant Director Jonathan Dimaio Additional First Assistant Director Alejandro Ramia Second Assistant Director Susanna Locascio Script Supervisor Jennifer Fox Location Manager Rachel Bass Turner Smith Stunt Coordinator Blaine Chou Gaffer Key Grip Gautam Kadian Grip Harry Ycaza First Assistant Camera Matt Manning Second Assistant Camera Ben Townsend Digital Imaging Technician Michael Mazzotta Sound Recordist Alistair Farrant Makeup Artist Amanda Bujak Peter Davis Art Director Art Assistant Samantha Schaffer Tyler Rabinowitz Costume Assistant Julie Moon Special Effects Makeup Katie Galliher **Boom Operator** Michael Vanderpool Casting Assistant Christina Morales Extras Casting Lauren Andrade Production Assistant Anya Easkra Marlaina Martin Kevin Khasin Production Intern **SPT Consultant** Shai Rotem Driver Michael Vanderpool

Script Clearance Research
Payroll Services
Payroll Coordinator
Scrolling Credits created by
Production Legal Services
Attorney

Student Attorneys

IndieClear, Carol Compton
ABS Payroll & Production Accounting Services

Renée Sadono
Autoglyph Endcrawl
The Indie Film Clinic
David Morrison
Ross Clements
Lindsay Edelstein
Joby Emmons
Amanda Hamilton

Marion Lambert

**POST-PRODUCTION** 

Sound Post-Production
Supervising Sound Editor
Dialog Editor
Sound Editor
Additional Sound Editor
Foley Artist
Foley Mixer

Rotor Film Babelsberg
Martin Frühmorgen
Immo Trümpelmann
Linus Nickl
Dan Timmons
Jörg Klinkenberg
Andi Drost

Re-Recording Mixer Eric Horstmann
Additional Re-Recording Mixer Dan Timmons
Mix Engineer Nikolas Mühe

Project Management Steffi Hennig
Holger Lehmann
Picture Post-Production Andromeda Film AG

Picture Design Patrick Lindenmaier
Post-Production Coordinator Thomas Krempke
DCP Creation Rachel Duc

Post-Production Consultant Vincent Assmann
Music Supervisor Brian Jones, Bang NY

"Machu Picchu"
Written by Julian Casablancas and Nick Valensi
Performed by The Strokes
Published by BMG Gold Songs on behalf
of itself and The Strokes Band Music
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"Long Range Love On The Grind" Written and Performed by Zac Galen ©2009

Additional Material TALKS | TEDX Frans de Waal, Moral Behavior in Animals

#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Robert Clements Naevisus Dinah Strack Matteo Rossi Lee Manansala Nike Bönnen Joey Kuhn Josh Hetzler Annika Kahrs **Andrew Singleton** T. J. Parsell Nikolas Psaroudakis Carolyn McCandlish Carter Burch Samina Akbari Katerina Dörner Ruth Fend GuseBerlin Margherita Arco Eirik Forus Branko Woischwill Georg Neumann Nathan Zanon Annette Plösch-Michael Chubbco Mark Wheaton Shaka King Chino Maschino Bobby Shih Rory Langdon Ilya Ross Bohdana Smyrnova Manuela Lakow Donna Meyer Benjamin Schrödter Faisal Azam-Qureshi **Emily Thieroff** Frank Schulze Yianna Dellatolla Hannes Schaser Katie Behel Ting Liu Pascal Tremblay Chloé Zhao Milton Liu Hans-Christian Schmid Britta Knöller

Ryan Wheeler Rob Fardella Berndt Mader Alice Walrafen Sophie Halfmann Tim Schulze Faisal Azam John Henry Summerour Stephan Hofer Peter Weissenstein Sue Simon Scott Perlman Ria Roschakowski Tracy Young Jay Rabinowitz Helmut Fend Floris Vermeir Roger Gregory Klaus Ortbauer Matthew Robinson Mark John Ramberg Steven Fowler Ronny Dörfler Julia Fidel Steffi Stappenbeck Phil Suarez Aleida & Jan Assmann Adrian Hass Franz Zimny Siggi Lorenz Maria S. Rost Dominik Waldstätten Alexander Kühn Christiane Spellerberg Jörg Wobst Silvia Campello Melanie Zimmermann Alvin Sewe Laura Heberton Rainer Y. Judd Chris Chan Roberson Swantje Folkerts Adirondack Mountain **Productions** Visra Vichit-Vadakan Neil Myer Gian-Piero Ringel

Charles Orme David Assmann Michael Purugganan Anne Espeland Will Moore Vita Galvan Michael Alton David Tsuboi Gina Gandy Lucia Stoisor John R. Foster William McMahon Sophie Bahrs Achim Neufeld Laura Schlobies Chrisi Ciani Umar Riaz Shruti Ganguly **Edward Banas Daniel Ragussis** Alex Uhlmann Dürten Fuchs Alexi Melvin Thomas Kim Grave Kerrigan-Vibert Stephanie & Hunt Kerrigan Michael Boer Lvnn & Donald Patterson Vicky & Glen Patterson Corinne & Geoffrey Beaudin Jeannie & Jean-Marie Beaudin Sandra & Ken Ewens Julius Onah Jasper Platz Ted Byfield Johnny McAllister Micah Schaffer Marie Dvorakova F. Duddy Ira Sachs Marin Gazzaniga Carlos Fidel Phil Servati Paula Thun-Hohenstein Josephine Decker

Jason Sokoloff

Peter Stein

MV Carbon
Larry Towers
Nina Krull
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Lauren Haber

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Kamen Velkovsky
Edna Biesold
Jim Stark
Veit Helmer
Peter Newman
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New Hope Fertility Center, Bites of Bliss, Emmy's, go raw, Hail Merry, Lifeway Kefir, Mamma Chia, Mediterranean Snack Foods, Pretzel Crisps, Righteously Raw, Runa, Sol Simple, Yumnuts Naturals

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