

PRESS KIT

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DEBRA MONK

KELLY STRANDEMO



HEIRESS PRODUCTIONS INC. AND VOLTA PRESENT

HOLD

DIRECTED BY JOSIAH JUNQUEIRA SPENCER PRODUCED BY MARY WILLIS WHITE, LAURA FAITH, STEPHEN BAILEY, JOSIAH JUNQUEIRA SPENCER EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY MARY WILLIS WHITE, LAURA FAITH
WRITTEN BY KELLY STRANDEMO FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SHAYAN AJMAL FAROOQ CO-PRODUCER COLLEEN CASTLE LINE PRODUCER LAUREN SOWA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CONOR MURPHY FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA EVAN WILKINS SECOND ASSISTANT CAMERA EMU HAYNES
CAMPER SANYER GALINT GUN DAVID KONG, ELI FREIBERCH, SOUND MIXER WALID AL-HAMDIY SCRIPT SUPERVISOR MICHELLE KARST COSTUME DESIGNER JEN GRUBBS HAIR & MAKEUP ADDIE THOMPSON MAKEUP COLLEEN MORE RIZ OF SALON RIZ PRODUCTION DESIGNER GINI X. RAMOS
ART DIRECTOR MARIE RAMOS EDITOR LUCAS MOESCH, JOSIAH JUNQUEIRA SPENCER COLORIST KATH RAISCH COLOR PRODUCER JAKE RIOUX COLOR BY COMPANY 3 SOUND EDITOR & RE-RECORDING MIXER DAVID FORSHEE

HEIRESS

VOLTA

ARRI®

COMPANY 3

CONTACT

Laura Faith | Executive Producer, Heiress Productions, Inc

1.484.252.3255

laura@heiressproductions.com

FILM INFORMATION

FILM TITLE	HOLD
RUNTIME	13:57
GENRE	Narrative Short / Drama
WEBSITE	holdshortfilm.com
SOCIALS	ig: @holdshortfilm fb: facebook.com/heiressproductions yt: youtube.com/@heiressproductionsinc



TAGLINE	Sometimes holding on means knowing when to let go.
LOGLINE	An early morning phone call propels a mother and daughter on a path toward connection and the mysteries held in the act of letting go.
SYNOPSIS	Virginia Campbell is simply trying to hold on to her beloved status quo when extenuating circumstances bring her adult daughter, Julia, back home. Personalities collide after a phone call propels mother and daughter to a moment of reckoning. On a morning that is both ordinary and extraordinary, Virginia and Julia's hands are forced as they must test the ties that bind. Starring Emmy and Tony Award Winning Actress, Debra Monk.

FILM INFORMATION



COUNTRY USA

LANGUAGE English

SHOOTING FORMAT Alexa Mini LF, ProRes 4444XQ, 2.39:1 4.5K FF Anamorphic

SCREENING FORMAT DCP, ProRes, H.264 Available

RATIO 2.39:1

SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1 Theatrical

COMPLETION DATE June 2024



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT | *JOSIAH JUNQUEIRA SPENCER*

Directing *HOLD* was a deeply personal journey for me, shaped by my recent life experiences. The script resonated with me, capturing the layers of tension, unspoken emotions, and the blend of mundane and profound conversations that arise during challenging times.

HOLD explores how difficult moments can foster deeper empathy and personal growth within a family.

Visually, I aimed to reflect the story's subtextual nature. The rainy morning setting forces us to always look to find the characters, mirroring their unclear journey. This slightly abstracted reality allows for the final scene, evoking a sense of something beautiful and unbelievable happening, despite the difficult circumstances.

I hope the audience leaves with a sense of hope, recognizing that life's difficult moments often lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of those around us.



WRITER'S STATEMENT | *KELLY STRANDEMO*

HOLD was written during the second COVID-19 lockdown in New York City. It was a time when the city, like the world at large, was becoming increasingly aware of our desperate need for human connection, especially when it was seemingly impossible to have. The only other time I'd ever experienced anything remotely like that was when my father had cancer over a decade prior to the pandemic. A moment that happened during that first period of life-changing external circumstances became the seed around which the fictional story of *HOLD* grew.

HOLD is about family; its complexities and ever-shifting dynamics. It is about singular moments in time that can forever alter our perspectives and our relationships. It's about both the fragility and fortitude of connection. And ultimately, *HOLD* is about the unseen, daily elements reverberating through our lives and bodies that span the gaps of human experience and somehow, mysteriously, unite us.

CREDITS

HOLD || Produced by HEIRESS PRODUCTIONS, INC in partnership with VOLTA

Virginia **DEBRA MONK**

Julia **KELLY STRANDEMO**

Kiara **CELIA AU**

Jim **JOHN JELLISON**

Dr. Spitzer **MARTIN FISHER**

Director **JOSIAH JUNQUEIRA SPENCER**

Writer **KELLY STRANDEMO**

Executive Producers **MARY WILLIS WHITE
LAURA FAITH**

Producers **STEPHEN BAILEY
JOSIAH JUNQUEIRA SPENCER**

Co-producer | Production Coordinator **COLLEEN CASTLE**

Line Producer **LAUREN SOWA**

First Assistant Director **SHAYAN AJMAL FAROOQ**

Director of Photography **CONOR MURPHY**

First Assistant Camera **EVAN WILKINS**

Second Assistant Camera **EMU HAYNES**

Gaffer **SAWYER GAUNT**

Swing **ELI FREIREICH**

Grip **DAVID KONG**

Sound Mixer **WALID ALHAMDY**

Script Supervisor **MICHELLE KARST**

Costume Design **JEN GRUBBS**

Hair & Makeup **ADDIE THOMPSON**

Hair Colorist **MIKE RIZ | SALON RIZ**

Production Design **GINI X. RAMOS**

Art Director **MARIE RAMOS**

Set Director **HAANA NOEL**

CREDITS

HOLD || Produced by HEIRESS PRODUCTIONS, INC in partnership with VOLTA

Art Production Assistant **PAUL SCREVANE**

Production Assistants **CHLOE GUERRERA
JACKIE MCCARTHY
JONNATHAN PINTADO
HANNAH STUCZYNSKI
GABRIELLA THEVENOT**

Medical Consultant **DEBORAH FOSTER**

Additional Cast **JUDE HAWKENS - "JANITOR"
JACKIE MCCARTHY - "NURSE"
GIUSEPPE DEFENZA - "RECEPTIONIST"
JONATHAN T. COLEMAN - "RADIO DJ"**

Editors **LUCAS MOESCH
JOSIAH JUNQUEIRA SPENCER**

Colorist **KATH RAISCH**

Color Producer **JAKE RIOUX**

Color by **COMPANY 3**

Sound Editor & Re-Recording Mixer **DAVID FORSHEE**

BTS Photographer **GINA RENZI**

"Bilicks" Jingle **MATT PODD**

Original Music **GUSTAV KARLSTROM**

Additional VFX **CHAKANA VFX**

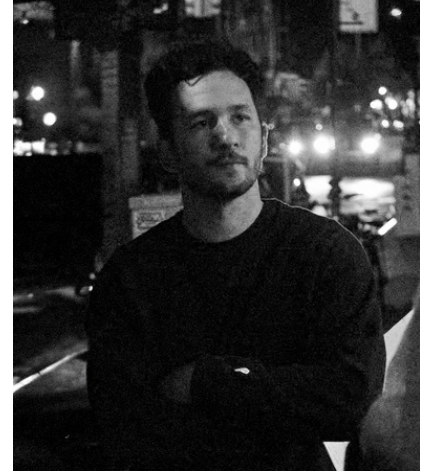
Translation Consultants **ADAM ZIVKOVIC
PIERRE BONNAURE
PHILLIP GUTTMANN**



BIOS

JOSIAH JUNQUEIRA SPENCER | DIRECTOR

Josiah Junqueira Spencer is a Brazilian-American filmmaker who produces, directs, and edits a wide range of projects, spanning from documentary to narrative films. With a unique multicultural background and a diverse set of influences and skills, Josiah brings a distinctive artistic perspective and a focused approach to every project. His work is characterized by a deep understanding of character, storytelling, and visual composition, which is evident in his recent film, *Hold*. Josiah's dedication to exploring complex themes and his ability to capture the subtleties of human experiences make him a compelling voice in the film industry.



KELLY STRANDEMO | WRITER; "JULIA"

Kelly Strandemo is a Brooklyn-based actor and writer. As an actor, Kelly has appeared on stages from off-Broadway to LA to London. She can currently be seen on screen in Zander Kirby's *THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME*, and in Phillip Guttman and Sarah Smith's award-winning short, *CARDIFF*. Her plays, including *PRIMARY* and *THE CONGRESSWOMEN*, have been produced regionally and in NYC. Kelly holds a Master's Degree in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). *HOLD* is her first narrative short film.



DEBRA MONK | "VIRGINIA"

Debra Monk is an Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress and writer. She has appeared on film in *STANDING UP*, *FALLING DOWN*, *THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU*, *CENTER STAGE*, *THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE* and *THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY*. Upcoming: *SUMMERHOUSE* opposite Malcolm McDowell. Movies for television include *GOOD LUCK, CHARLIE*; *IT'S CHRISTMAS!*, *THE MUSIC MAN*, and *REDWOOD CURTAIN* (reprising her Tony Award Winning performance). She has played recurring characters on *THE GILDED AGE*, *NEW AMSTERDAM*, *AMERICAN HORROR STORY*, and *GREY'S ANATOMY* with guest stars on *THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL*, *BULL*, and *GIRLS*. She won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress as "Katie Sipowicz" in *NYPD BLUE*.



BIOS

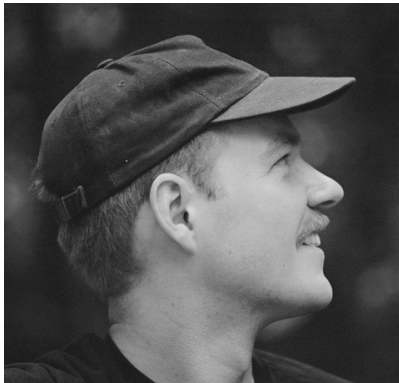
HEIRESS PRODUCTIONS | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Heiress Productions is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization committed to producing dynamic theatre and film, while raising cancer awareness and relief funds. Executive Producers Laura Faith and Mary Willis White founded Heiress in 2006, bringing many live theatrical productions to off-Broadway stages in the heart of NYC's theatre district. HOLD is their first short film. www.heiressproductions.com

VOLTA | PRODUCER

VOLTA is an award winning, NYC-based production company run by Executive Producers Stephen Bailey and Josiah Junqueira Spencer. VOLTA's core value is telling stories that are timeless and executed with excellence. Some of their favorite projects include a National Geographic TV Series and BURDEN (a Sundance Film Festival Audience Award winner). www.madebyvolta.com

CONOR MURPHY | DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY



Conor Murphy is a Brooklyn-based cinematographer from Philadelphia. His first feature film, MICKEY AND THE BEAR, premiered at SXSW in 2019 and was nominated for best feature film by a debut cinematographer at Camerimage. His recent feature releases include SOMEWHERE QUIET (Tribeca 2023) and LITTLE BROTHER (2023), with the upcoming COUP! slated for theatrical release in 2024. Conor has shot music videos for Jaden Smith, Brockhampton, Lil Yachty, Joey Bada\$\$, and others, and his music videos have screened at festivals such as SXSW and Sundance. Conor's commercial clients include Evian, Pfizer, American Express, and Jim Beam, to name a few.

KATH RAISCH | COLORIST



Color has always been a driving force in Kath Raisch's life. Her love of photography and darkroom printing eventually led her to Company 3. Her impressive feature credits include AFTERSUN, which landed director Charlotte Wells top awards at the 2022 Cannes and Berlin film festivals; a total of six long- and short-form projects for Tribeca 2022; SHAPELESS (Tribeca 2021); BLACK BEAR for Sundance 2020; PREMATURE, which premiered at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival to acclaim and was subsequently picked up by IFC Films; the powerful drama Port Authority, which premiered in the 2019 Cannes Film Festival's UN CERTAIN REGARD section to raves; THE MOTHER starring Jennifer Lopez for Netflix; THE CLOCK for Hulu. She has also colored outstanding feature-length documentaries including the FRAMING JOHN DELOREAN, and LA92, both of which premiered to excellent reviews at this past Tribeca Film Festival. Previously, she's colored a wide assortment of short films that have premiered at the major film festivals as well as Oscar-nominated (2017) short MY NEPHEW EMMETT.

CONNECT

CONTACT DETAILS

DIRECTOR

Josiah Junqueira Spencer
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WRITER

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For HEIRESS PRODUCTIONS

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For VOLTA

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holdshortfilm.com

heiressproductions.com

madebyvolta.com



HOLD. II Produced by HEIRESS PRODUCTIONS, INC in partnership with VOLTA

VOLTA

HOLD IN THE PRESS

PRESS LINKS

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL - "[See potential Oscar winners this week at RI International Film Festival](#)"

The Providence Journal

Paul Edward Parker

"HOLD"

The 14-minute film, which was shown at the festival's opening night Tuesday at Providence Performing Arts Center, stars Debra Monk, who plays Armstrong on the HBO series "The Gilded Age."

It tells the story of a family dealing with a dying member and the apparent miracle that comes from holding on to loved ones.

"It's a well-made short that's very strong, and Debra gives an amazing performance," said Quirk.

THE RHODE SHOW, Will Gilbert, WPRI - "[The 2024 Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival](#)" - Opening Night "World Premiere starring Debra Monk"

BRING ME THE NEWS, Dustin Nelson - "[Twin Cities Film Fest unveils winners, with Daisy Ridley and Josh Duhamel among them](#)"

MONTREAL INDEPENDENT FILM MAGAZINE - "[Debra Monk Shines in HOLD](#)"

SELECT RED CARPET INTERVIEWS

SOHO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL - Debra Monk, Josiah Junqueira Spencer, Kelly Strandemo

TWIN CITIES FILM FESTIVAL - Kelly Strandemo

HOLD

AWARDS & FESTIVALS

AWARDS

BEST PICTURE - Short Film Category | *Montreal International Film Festival*

BEST SHORT FILM | *Reedy Reels Film Festival*

BEST ACTRESS - **Debra Monk** | *Montreal Independent Film Festival*

BEST ACTRESS - **Debra Monk** | *Block Island Film Festival*

BEST SHORT FILM SCRIPT: DRAMA - **Kelly Strandemo** | *Block Island Film Festival*

AUDIENCE FAVORITE - Short Film Category | *Twin Cities Film Festival*

HONORABLE MENTION - Best Short Film | *Hollywood SHORTSFEST*

HONORABLE MENTION - Short Film | *Stavanger Indie International Film Festival*

NOMINATIONS & HONORS

FINALIST | *Martha's Vineyard Int'l Film Festival Juried Short Film Competition*

FINALIST | BEST SHORT DRAMA - FEMMY AWARD | *Nevada Women's Film Festival*

FINALIST | BEST SHORT FILM | *ABQ Indie Film Festival*

FINALIST | BEST NARRATIVE SHORT | *Footcandle Film Festival (upcoming)*

OPENING NIGHT SELECTION | *Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival*

OPENING NIGHT SELECTION | *Imagine This Women's Film Festival (upcoming)*

NOMINATIONS | *Reel East Texas Film Festival*

REEL JURY AWARD (Short) - *HOLD*

BEST DRAMA (Short) - *HOLD*

BEST DIRECTOR - FICTION (Short) - *Josiah Junqueira Spencer*

BEST FESTIVAL SCREENPLAY (Short) - *Kelly Strandemo*

BEST ACTRESS (Short) - *Debra Monk*

BEST EDITING (Short) - *Lucas Moesch & Josiah Junqueira Spencer*

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN (Short) - *Gini X Ramos*

FILM FESTIVALS



Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival | Providence, RI, USA
***World Premiere, Opening Night Selection**
August 6 - 11, 2024



Montreal International Film Festival | Montreal, Quebec, CANADA
August 24 - 25, 2024

HOLD FESTIVALS

FILM FESTIVALS



[Greenpoint Film Festival](#) | Brooklyn, NY, USA

August 7 - 11, 2024



[Martha's Vineyard International Film Festival](#) | Martha's Vineyard, MA, USA

September 3 - 8, 2024



[SOHO International Film Festival](#) | New York, NY, USA

September 17 - 23, 2024



[City of Angels Womens Film Festival](#) | Los Angeles, CA, USA

October 10 - 13, 2024



[Twin Cities Film Festival](#) | Minneapolis, MN, USA

October 17 - 26, 2024



[San Jose International Short Film Festival](#) | San Jose, CA, USA

October 24 - 27, 2024



[REEL East Texas Film Festival](#) | Kilgore, TX, USA

November 7 - 10, 2024 **Opening Night Selection*



[Montreal Independent Film Festival](#) | Montreal, Quebec, CANADA

[25th Edition, 2024](#)



[Hollywood SHORTSFEST](#) | Los Angeles, CA, USA

January 22 - 26, 2025



[Yountville International Short Film Festival](#) | Napa Valley, CA, USA

January 30 - February 2, 2025

HOLD FESTIVALS

FILM FESTIVALS



Reedy Reels Film Festival | Greenville, SC, USA

March 28 - 30, 2025



West Chester Film Festival | West Chester, PA, USA

April 25 - 27, 2025



Block Island Film Festival | Block Island, RI, USA

May 28 - 30, 2025



Nevada Women's Film Festival | Las Vegas, NV, USA

June 18 - 22, 2025



ABQ Indie Film Festival | Albuquerque, NM, USA

June 19, 2025



Imagine This Women's Film Festival | New York City, NY, USA

September 11 - 14, 2025 **Opening Night Selection*



Footcandle Film Festival | Hickory, NC, USA

September 19 - 28, 2025



Additional Festival Acceptances TBA in Accordance with Individual Rules and Guidelines