

# Hold Me

## Feature Film Press Release



### Logline:

*Hold Me* is the story of a woman whose job it is to hold and console people who are being voluntarily euthanized.

### Synopsis:

After accompanying a friend's father through his final hours, Hannah finds herself conflicted and uncertain. She can barely bring herself to do her job any longer and soon, her own mother is hospitalized. Desperate for money to pay for the medical bills, Hannah agrees to the unthinkable—to meet someone before she holds them—to get to know someone before she has to watch them die.

As her life spirals out of control, Hannah tries to keep herself together for the sake of those around her. But her judgment falters and her mother's health suddenly worsens. She can't escape the path she's chosen or the memories of all those she's ushered to death's door. With no other direction to turn, Hannah faces her pain and allows herself to grieve.

### Director statement:

*Hold Me* is not a film about euthanasia, it's a film about having a conversation about euthanasia. A conversation about dying, about palliative care and about how hard all of these conversations can be to have at all. I created the film in this way because, before people are willing to discuss something as difficult as the final moments of life, they have to be compelled to talk about it. That's what this film aims to do. That's what this film is all about.

*Hold Me* is told in a fictional context, from the vantage point of a caregiver who works in close conjunction with medical professionals in a way that is not legally sanctioned by the state. The themes of the film are presented in this unorthodox way because, in the for-profit medical bureaucracies of most states within the United States, it is reasonable to suppose that to provide the proper care and services for the sick and dying, that some people will lend their hearts to fill in for the many holes engrained in such a problematic system. The character of Hannah is one of such people. And because of the way in which she is forced to do her job in secret, she is constrained by the burden of never being able to talk about it to anyone.

The unfortunate reality of being bottled up and confined with the grief of those she has secretly assisted in death haunts Hannah relentlessly. She has sacrificed herself to alleviate their burden and in doing so has burdened herself. Such is often a natural aside to those who work with the dying, losing loved ones, friends and confidants over and over again. And with that process of loss comes the inevitable demands of grief. It is a part of the healing process after all to accept the pain that such experiences can bring. And this part of the healing process is exactly that which the character of Hannah has never truly allowed herself to indulge—Growing more and more strained by the sacrifices she has made until she can no longer bear to carry them.

The intention of the film is to act as a non-confrontational means of broaching numerous relevant, controversial subjects to the public in a way that does not add to the burden of the viewer's personal grief or losses but rather contextualizes grief in a way that alleviates its weight. Everyone can identify with the pain that accompanies death and a great many can relate with the lingering heartbreak that underlies such losses when a loved one has been made to suffer unnecessarily at the end of their life. Conversations about advanced directives are often left until the very end and due in large part to semantics looming over every detail of the final moments of someone's life, the very end can often be laden with struggle and strife. *Hold Me* is a story about how it's ok to be overwhelmed sometimes, about how those who work with the dying know these realities all too well, and, most of all, it's a story about healing.

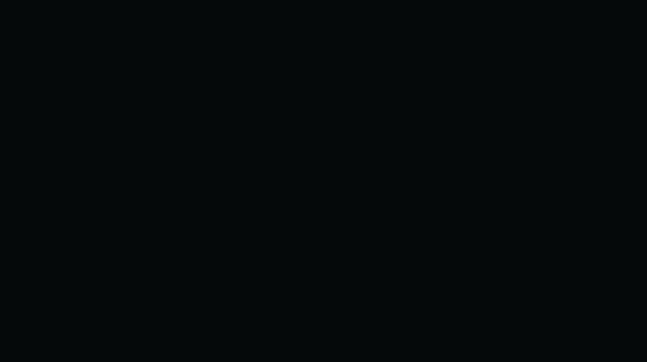
### Dying With Dignity and Palliative Care Outreach:

The entertainment industries motivations are often skewed. They exist mostly to accumulate capital at the behest of studio investors beholden solely to profits and market shares. Because of this, films about social subjects are targeted at a wide, general audience rather than specifically centered around those who care most about them. Our intention with the release of *Hold Me* is to turn this notion on its head and do a video on demand release, accompanied by the testimonials of professionals working in palliative care, euthanasia and the dying with dignity movement. These panel discussions will be a fundamental part of our website and will act as a conversational video library of relevant information to be featured alongside the film. Collectively, this approach will allow the themes of the film to shine, not simply the film itself. And by doing this, we hope to help facilitate and contribute to bringing the conversations, between these professionals who know these issue best, forward to anyone who is inclined to listen and learn.

Those people who are going to be partaking in the panel discussions and associative screenings are still being determined. But we are hoping to have numerous professionals in a wide variety of disciplines from countries all over the world take part in the conversations that will be featured prominently online and accompany the release of the film.

### Cast:

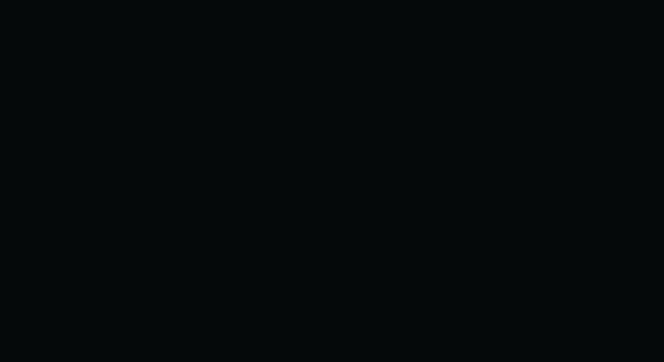
Hannah Fierman



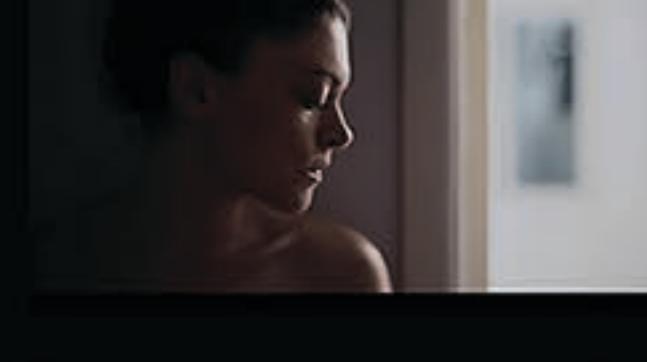
Laura Kenny



Daniel Harry



Rob Krakovski



Shannon Baker



Audrey Henningham



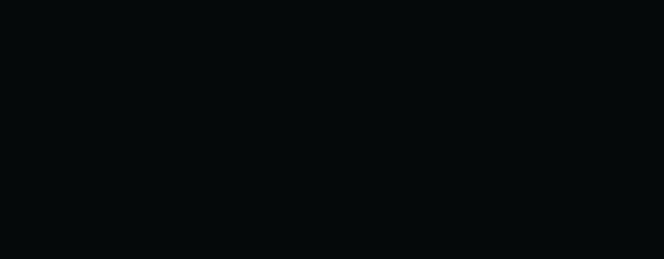
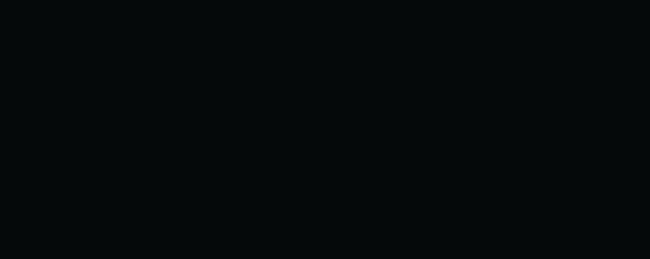
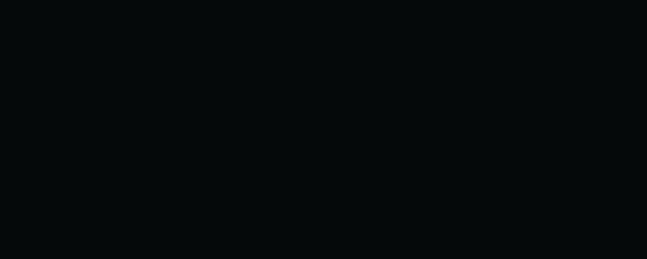
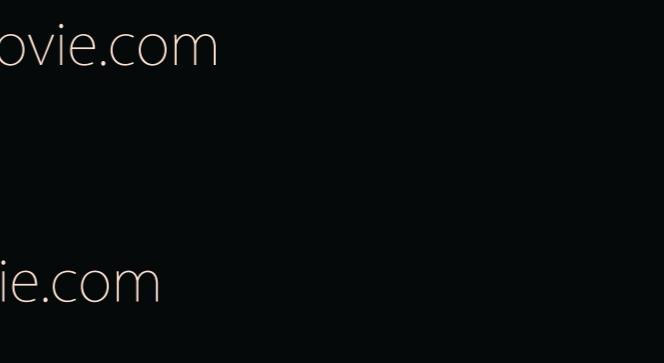
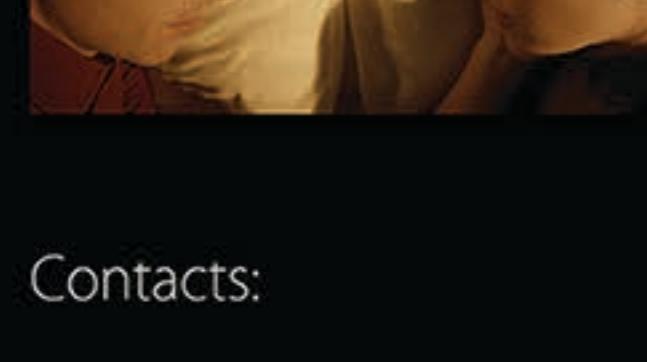
Curtis Rind



Teace Snyder



### Film Stills:



### Contacts:

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