

Hold Me (2016)

PRESS KIT

BARBORA DOSLIKOVA

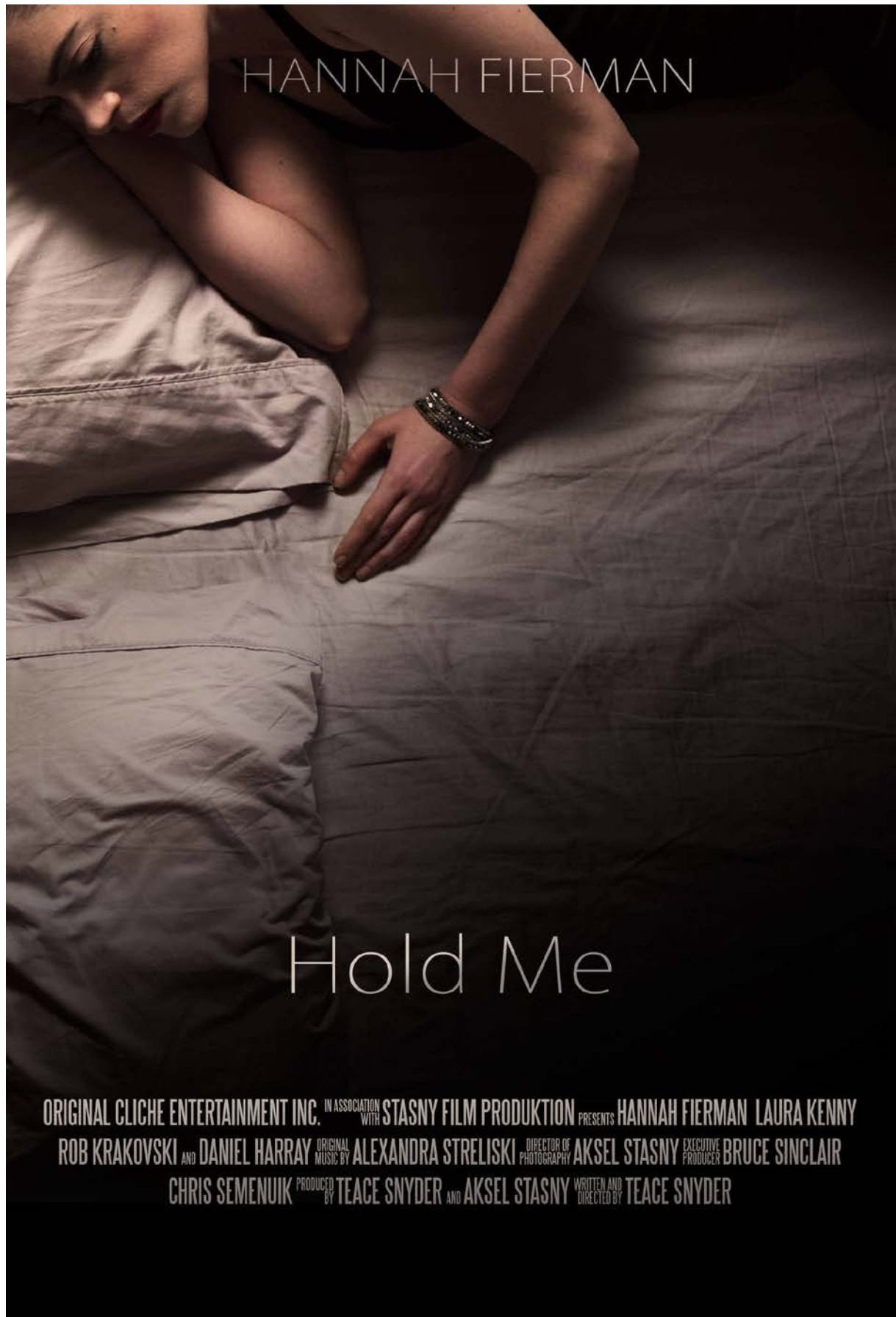


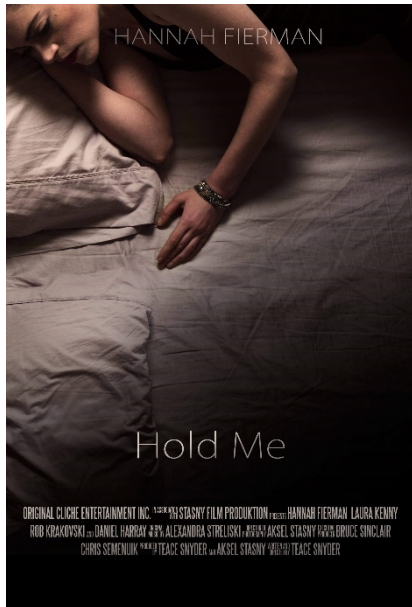
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Details

Title: Hold Me (2016)

Poster:



Film type: feature film

Genre: drama

Runtime: 89 min

Written and directed by: Teace Snyder

Produced by: Teace Snyder and Aksel Stasny

Starring: Hannah Rose Fierman, Laura Kenny, Daniel Harray, Rob Krakovski, Shannon Baker, Audrey Heningham, Heather Benton, Curtis Rind, Teace Snyder, Liana Shannon

Music: Alexandra Strélski

Distributed by: Original Cliché Entertainment, Inc.; distributed online via: VHX, iTunes, Amazon and Google Play

Released on: November 20th 2016

Shot in: Edmonton (Alberta, Canada) and New York City (NY, USA)

Language: English; subtitles in five languages: Spanish, German, French, Dutch, Japanese

Festival participation: 40th Montreal World Film Festival, 13th Rome International Film Festival

Logline

Hold Me is the story of a caregiver, Hannah, whose job it is to accompany people through doctor assisted dying.

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.

Cast & Selected Cast Bios

Hannah Fierman



Hannah Fierman was born in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England as Hannah Rose Fierman. She is an actress and producer, also known for [V/H/S](#) (2012), [SiREN](#) (2016) and [American Hell](#) (2014).

Laura Kenny



Laura Kenny is an actress, also known for [10 Things I Hate About You](#) (1999), [Harry and the Hendersons](#) (1987) and [Judas Kiss](#) (2011).

Daniel Harray



Daniel Harray is an actor and writer, also known for [Fulfilled: A Halloween Story](#) (1999), [Interrogation](#) (2016) and [Una: A Dark Faerie Tale](#) (2016).

Liana Shannon



Liana Shannon is an actress, also known for [Fitz](#) (2007) and [The Plateau](#) (2010).

Shannon Baker



Heather Benton



Audrey Heningham



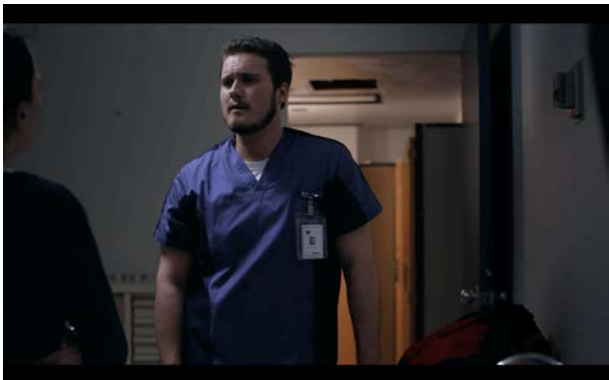
Robert Krakovski



Curtis Rind



Teace Snyder



Selected Crew Bios

Teace Snyder



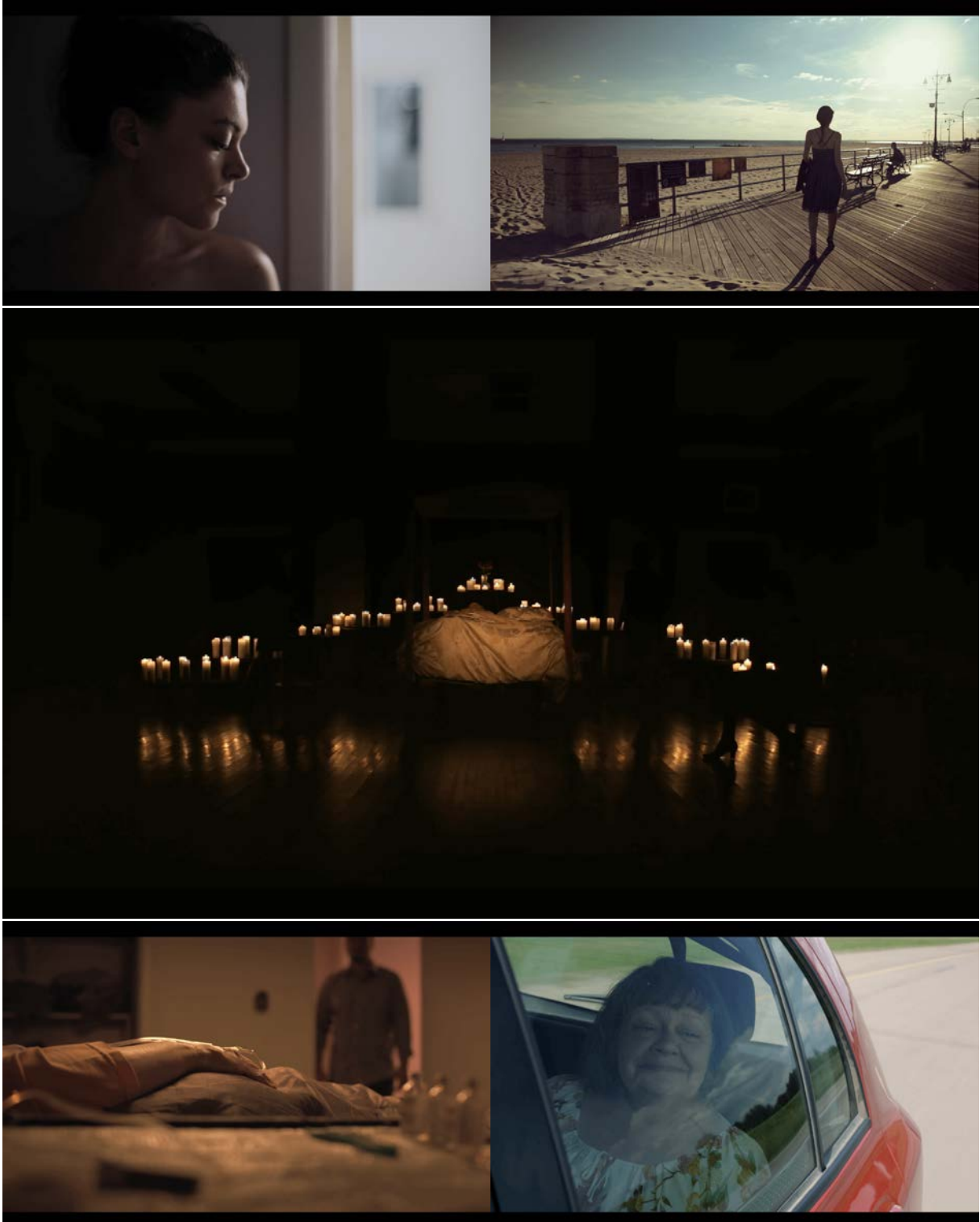
Teace Snyder is a writer, director and producer, also known for [Blindfold](#) (2011) and [3 Needs](#) (2011).

Aksel Stasny



Aksel Stasny is a cinematographer and producer, also known for [We Rob The Bank](#) (2012), [Der alte Clown](#) (2013) and [3 Needs](#) (2011).

Film Stills





Outtakes

A 12-minute video of outtakes can be accessed at: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/X1ZSxJRkN8Q](https://youtu.be/X1ZSxJRkN8Q)



Director Statement

Hold Me is not a film about euthanasia (doctor assisted dying), it's a film about having a conversation about euthanasia. A conversation about dying, about hospice and 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.

Interviews with Actors

A 3-minute video of *Hold Me*'s main actress, Hannah Fierman, answering questions from the audience at the US premiere of the film at the 13th International Rome Festival on September 16th 2016, in Rome, GA, USA can be accessed at: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/HWJD-7BZ22M](https://youtu.be/HWJD-7BZ22M)



Caregiver Outreach Campaign

The central focus of the film *Hold Me* is Hannah's struggle with speaking openly about her experiences with loss and grief. Her character in the film is representative of the viewers own reservations towards speaking about death.

The Caregiver Outreach campaign is an ongoing collection of testimonials from professional caregivers working closely with people at the end of life. This will form a growing assortment

of audio recordings speaking about end of life care, doctor assisted dying, philosophy on life, caregiving, overcoming grief and more.

Caregiver Panel Discussion

A 49-minute video of a caregiver panel discussion titled “Discussion on caregiving at the end of life” can be accessed at: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/i3GTWUFnxvO](https://youtu.be/i3GTWUFnxvO)

The panel discussion was organized alongside the Edmonton, Alberta, Canada première of the feature film Hold Me on November 20th 2016. Our aim was to let the audience have their questions about the end of life answered by experienced caregivers and to use the discussion alongside the film to inspire the discussion about various aspects pertaining to the end of life.



The panelists were:

Dr. Nikolaichuk, Counselling Psychologist

Dr. Armstrong, Family Physician

Reverend Susan Oliver, Anglican Parish of Christ Church

Dr. Leier, Clinical Ethicist

The panelists answered the following five questions:

1. What's a valuable story or account you can share about someone you've accompanied?
2. In the film Hold Me, Hannah struggles with talking about her grief. What advice would you offer people struggling with expressing or coping with their feelings?
3. How do you manage the emotional toll that working with the dying can bring?
4. What do you feel people want from a caregiver at the end of life?
5. What has working with the dying taught you about life?

Quotes from the panel discussion:

"Feelings are not bad or good, feelings just are. They're a part of who we are. And it's ok to express them in different ways. For some, it will be through conversation and it will be through connecting with other people. For others, it might be through the creative arts."

Dr. Nikolaichuk, Counselling Psychologist

Links: Official Website, IMDb, Rotten Tomatoes

Official website: [HTTP://HOLDMETHEMOVIE.COM/](http://holdmethemovie.com/)

IMDb: [HTTP://WWW.IMDB.COM/TITLE/TT4960212/](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4960212/)

Rotten Tomatoes: [HTTPS://WWW.ROTTENTOMATOES.COM/M/HOLD_ME_2016](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/hold_me_2016)

Links: Trailer, Screener

Trailer: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/FTKHTCG1S6U](https://youtu.be/FTKHTCG1S6U)

Screener (password-protected): [HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/207525037](https://vimeo.com/207525037) (Password: HoldSpace)

Links: Online Press Kit, Press Mentions, Wikipedia Article

Online press kit: [HTTP://HOLDMETHEMOVIE.COM/PRESS-RELEASE.HTML](http://holdmethemovie.com/press-release.html)

Press mentions: [HTTP://WWW.DYINGWITHDIGNITY.CA/HOLD_ME_FILM](http://www.dyingwithdignity.ca/hold_me_film)

Wikipedia article: [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/DRAFT:HOLD_ME_\(2016\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Draft:Hold_Me_(2016))

Contacts

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