



CASTING

I love the idea of using real subjects in these films. They are the ones leading the sea change in Southern California and their unique, diverse looks and spirits will give heart and authenticity to the piece. Subjects will be comprised of men, women and children from many ethnicities that all makeup Southern California. While casting, I look for people who wear their emotions on their sleeve and have expressive bodies and faces that offer a window into their past.

Authenticity is key. If a scene calls for a family, then we should cast a real family. Workers will be workers; volunteers will be volunteers. I have learned in my time as a director that subjects are not performers and if they're treated that way the results will always disappoint. Instead, if allowed to act as themselves then genuine moments of human nature often present themselves.



I try to direct subjects as little as possible —giving them simple tasks and allowing them to discover the emotion naturally. In this way, I have found that they provide unique ways to express emotions such as “happiness” that feel genuine and uncontrived.