

CONDIT

ION

A FILM BY ANDREI SEVERNY

TWO WOMEN ESCAPING A CATASTROPHE LOOK
FOR SALVATION IN NATURE AND SOUND

FILMMAKERS

Director, Writer, Cinematographer, Editor ANDREI SEVERNY
Producer, Editor AMIR NADERI
Sound Constructions RICHARD GARET
Assistant Director CHRIS FEDERICO
Associate Producer DAR MESH
Associate Producer IRENE DEL CAMPO
2nd Assistant Director ZACK KIMMEL
Re-Recording Mixer ELI COHN
Set Design (Hospital Scene) DOUG FITCH

CAST

Dr. Mary Taggart JESSICA KAYE
Alaska ANTONELLA LENTINI
Fisherman STEVE MOSHIER

CONSULTANTS

DORINNE S. DAVIS M.A., C.C.C.-A, F.A.A.A., R.C.T.C., B.A.R.A.
ABOU FARMAN-FARMAJAN
ORLY GENGER
DR. YUVAL NERIA
RICHARD COLBOURNE
ZACHARY MODEL
LESLEY FLANIGAN
SAM NEAVE

TFF
29 TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL

2011, USA, 70 min, scope, NR
THE FILM WAS SHOT ON LOCATION
IN NEW YORK CITY AND ON THE
NORTHERN SHORELINE OF MAINE, USA

SYNCHRONICITY
FILMS

WWW.SEVERNY.COM
547 W 20TH STREET, NEW YORK NY 10011
USA +1 646 233 1140 UK +44 20 8123 7120
andrei@severny.com

POSTER DESIGN BY RICHARD COLBOURNE

logline

Two women escaping a catastrophe look for salvation in nature and sound.

synopsis

Escaping a catastrophe, researcher and sound therapist Mary Taggart and her patient Alaska become stranded in the mysterious landscape of the Northern shoreline. Enigmatic Alaska runs away from her doctor, forcing both to look for salvation in nature and sound.

from the director

Condition is a story about sound and its massive transformative power over human perception.

A voice, a few notes, or waves rolling on the shoreline can trigger profound emotions. For many years scientists have been trying to understand the power of sound, which to this day remains a mystery. A handful of researchers today use sound waves to address various illnesses. These practices, however, have not yet been embraced by mainstream medicine. I hope *Condition* will broaden the dialogue on this subject.

The psychological impact of catastrophic events, which are intentionally left undefined, form an important theme of the film. Anywhere in today's world we are subject to stresses caused by man-made disasters such as 9/11, the Madrid train bombing, the Moscow bombings and the Sarin gas attack in Tokyo, none of which belonged to any particular war. This environment creates a certain condition in all of us. In this sense, we are all prone to some form of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Another meaning of condition, one prominent in the Russian language, is a certain emotional state, non-verbal and transcendent, relating to a nonphysical realm. A good part of the film explores this realm, a space in which, absent of words and dialogue, this more spiritual meaning emerges. Here, narrative is secondary to feeling and atmosphere, expressed in a way possible only in cinema.

I hope the film will evoke multiple interpretations. Perhaps it will encourage one to pause, listen and observe with greater discernment and intensity –to consider how much we have yet to know about the universe and ourselves.

Andrei Severny

Writer, Director



scientific background

I have been consulting with Mr. Severny to ensure the degree of accuracy of what he presents as to the body's response to sound.

For over 18 years I have been studying the connection between the voice, the ear, and the brain. Each cell in our body is a resonating entity emitting its own sound frequency. These sounds are not 'heard' per se by the ear, but are recognized by the quantum movement of our molecules and

atoms in the brain. My work is on the cutting edge of how sound can make a major change on how well we maintain our learning, development and overall wellness. Mr. Severny's work on the other hand is a 'cutting edge' film. It suggests that the emotional responses received from a traumatic event can be changed with the use of sound, whether it be the absence of sound within our environment or with frequency specific sound patterns that address the particular

emotional imbalance. The idea that sound affects us emotionally, physically and spiritually is a relatively new area of research in the mainstream areas of NIH and is becoming of interest to other respected avenues of research.

Condition has the potential to trigger more research and interest in how sound rhythms, patterns, frequencies, intensities, durations, etc can affect us as humans. It introduces the concept that sound

frequencies and patterns can help us overcome health and wellness issues, while hinting at how the quiet of our environment supports us with the healing process - a concept that perhaps in 50 years may be more standard within our 'wellness choices'.

I was pleased to be of assistance with this very innovative film.

DORINNE DAVIS

MA CCC-A FAAA RCTC BARA
Foremost sound-based therapist and researcher,
President of The Davis Center, NJ.

filmmakers



AMIR NADERI producer, editor

started his international career in Iran in the 1970s with award-winning films such as "Waiting" and "Requiem". In the 80s he helped focus international attention on Iranian cinema with acclaimed works such as "The Runner" and "Water, Wind, Dust". Based in New York City since the late '80s, Naderi has since made his NY Trilogy: Manhattan by Numbers (1993), A, B, C... Manhattan (1997), and Marathon (2002). His U.S. films have premiered at the Film Society of Lincoln Center, MoMA's New Films New Director's series, the Venice, Cannes, Sundance and Tribeca Film Festivals. His "Sound Barrier" (2005), won the Roberto Rossellini Critics Prize at the Rome Film Festival. His last feature films "Vegas: Based on a True Story" (2008) and "Cut" (2011) were in competition at the Venice Film Festival.

filmography as Film Director

2011 - Cut
 2008 - Vegas: Based on a True Story
 2005 - Sound Barrier
 2002 - Marathon
 1997 - A, B, C...Manhattan
 1993 - Manhattan By Numbers
 1989 - Water, Wind, Dust
 1985 - Davandeh (The Runner)
 1981 - Josteju Doe (Search Two)
 1980 - Josteju Yek (Search One)
 1979 - Barandeh (The Winner)
 1975 - Marsiyeh (Requiem)
 1974 - Entezar (Waiting)
 1973 - Saz Dahani (Harmonica)
 1973 - Tangsir
 1971 - Tangna (Impasse)
 1970 - Goodbye Friend



ANDREI SEVERNY writer, director, cinematographer, editor

was born in 1977 in Moscow, Russia into a family of astronomers. Since 2004 Severny has lived in New York City where he makes films, still photographs and video installations. Maintaining a recognizable visual style, his works explore human perception, psychology, neuroscience and delve into the mysteries of nature. Severny's short films *Tom on Mars* and *Disparait, v* screened at festivals in London, New York, Barcelona, Milan, Kolkata, Avignon and others. Since 2007 Andrei has worked in collaboration with Edward Tufte, the world-renowned master of analytical design. Tufte provided mentorship and support for *Condition*. *Condition* is Andrei Severny's first feature length film.

filmography

2011 - Condition (70 min)
 2005 - Disparait, v (5 min)
 2005 - Tom on Mars (7 min)



ANTONELLA LENTINI actress

was born and raised in New York City, Manhattan. She is of Italian, Peruvian and Belgian descent. As a child, she performed, produced and directed her own Charlie Chaplin-esque plays for family friends. After high school she attended New York University's Gallatin school of individualized study. While attending NYU, she developed her own major, 'Screenwriting as a Weapon,' and continued to pursue her acting career by working on student films, shorts, independent feature films, Television, and community theater.



JESSICA KAYE actress

was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and raised in the Midwest. She attended Harvard University, earning a BA magna cum laude, in Performance Studies and Columbia University, MFA in Acting. Ms. Kaye played classical roles in theater such as Miss Julie, Portia, Viola, Nina and Ophelia as well as in premieres of contemporary plays such as "The Kind is Dead" and "Artfuckers". She has performed off-Broadway and toured productions in Europe and South Korea. Her film and television credits include, "Veronika Decides to Die," with Sarah Michelle Gellar. She was the lead actress and producer in the short film "Gargoyle" which was nominated for a 2010 South African Film and Television Award.



RICHARD GARET composer

was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, and has lived and worked in New York City developing experimental sound and visual artworks based on nature's processes, observation of relationships between nature and people, and various phenomena found and produced in aural and visual time-based media. His artwork has been shown at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona, Art Museum of Puerto Rico, The National Museum of Visual Arts in Montevideo.

No musical instruments were used in any of the sounds heard in Condition.



ORLY GENGER sculptor

was born in New York City in 1979. She received her BA from Brown University in 2001, and attended The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2002. She has since had exhibitions at MASS MoCA, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, the Aldrich Contemporary Arts Museum and galleries around the world.

The Rope Motif

The character of Alaska is obsessed with making shapes out of rope as a way to deal with her inner trauma. Later in the film Alaska unties the knots as a symbol of her recovery. During the pre-production Andrei Severny met Orly Genger, the artist famous for her incredible giant hand woven sculptures made of rope. Orly shared some of her skills with Antonella Lentini that she used for the role.



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SPECIAL THANKS

EDWARD R. TUFTE
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JOHN ENGLAND
MAYOR AND THE PEOPLE OF
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STEVE AND KELLEY BOYD
MAHMOUD HAMADANI
JULIETA TALAVERA
JANICE PEDLEY

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