



Unintended

A film by Anja Murman



Log Line

A young woman repressed the memory of having killed someone when she was 12 years old. Thirteen years later that memory comes back.

Synopsis

Lea, an adventurous, free spirited twelve-year-old, lives in idyllic Upstate New York with her academic parents. Her life changes dramatically on the day the family relocates to Houston, Texas. Before their departure, in a tragic misstep, Lea is goaded into a fight with fourteen-year-old Bill. Acting out of frustration, she gets hold of the gun he has taken from his father. She accidentally fires a shot in his direction, causing Bill to fall into a deep shaft. Not knowing if he survived, Lea is forced to leave.

Thirteen years later ...

Lea, who has repressed the memory of that fateful day, is an emotional wreck. She is prescription drug dependent and on the verge of losing her apartment and her job in New York. Not ready to confront her demons, she ignores her problems until she almost drowns and ends up in a hospital. Her memories of that fateful night slowly drift back and torment her.

Lea's father feels guilty for having uprooted her because of his marital problems. He encourages her to revisit their old home, hoping she will reconnect to the positive memories of her childhood. He is unaware of the crime she committed thirteen years ago. With nowhere to turn, Lea decides to accompany him.

When she is confronted with her childhood and the people from her past, the repressed memories come back and leave her no choice but to go back to the mine, the place where she believes she killed Bill.

Did he die?

If he survived, what will he do when she finds him? Is she ready to face the consequences of her actions?

Bios

Writer/ Director: Anya Murman

Anja Murmann is a graduate of NYU film school.

Her first short film, "Wishful Thinking", won first prize at the NYU Student film Festival in 1991 and the Otto Spenger Prize in Hamburg, Germany in 1992.

Her first feature film, "Fifteen Months in May", won Best New Director - Special Mention at the the San Sebastian International Film Festival in 1997.

"Mistress", is Anja Murmann's most recent and second short film, that played at various festivals in 2014 and won Best Short Film and Best Actress in the "Asian in Film Festival". She is in pre-production for her next feature film, "Unintended".

Producer: Sabine Schenk

Sabine Schenk is a Producer / Line Producer based in New York. She completed her M.A. in cinema studies from NYU in 1992. In 1998 she founded her own company, Schenk Productions, Inc., offering production services for local and international film and media projects in New York and throughout the United States.

Among the many projects she has worked on, she co-produced the documentary, "Ferry Tales", which was nominated for an Academy Award in 2004 and did the NY shoot for "The Reader" in 2008 for which Kate Winslet won the Academy Award. She line produced the NY shoot for the feature film, "Hannah Arendt", by Margarethe von Trotta and produced the award winning short film, "Mistress", in 2014. She recently line produced the New York unit of Volker Schlöndorff's feature film, "Return to Montauk", which will premier in competition at the Berlin Int'l Film Festival in February 2017. She is currently producing Anja Murmann's feature film, "Unintended".

Director's Notes

UNINTENDED is a psychological drama about the loss of innocence and the need for redemption.

Lea and Bill meet as kids. They are not friends, but they are curious about each other. Bill has a desire to get to know Lea, but unforeseen circumstances and unintentional actions connect them through a tragedy that changes the course of Lea's life and wrecks her as an adult. Lea and Bill stay connected through dreams, nightmares, visions and cosmic coincidences. Lea learns to listen to it all and understands that her actions evoke other people's actions. She realizes that presumed unrelated events get all folded into a bigger picture that results in a meaningful connection with Bill.

I wrote this script because I wanted to explore how decisions and actions by parents affect their children and how it shapes them as adults. The film explores issues of emotional and physical abuse and abandonment.

By shooting the major part of the film in the Hudson Valley, I also want to focus on the importance of nature and its encompassing healing power.



Upstate New York



Ellenville

New York City

