

Unpacking

Bring your baggage.



DRAMA-COMEDY | RUN TIME: 81 MINUTES | ENGLISH LANGUAGE | FILMED IN BALI

Directed by
ALEXANDRA CLAYTON & MICHAL SINNOTT

Created by The Collective
WHEREVER YOU GO PICTURES



LOGLINE

Six women, sold on the promise of radical transformation, travel to Bali into the hands of an influencer guru and get slapped with reality: change is messy AF.

SYNOPSIS

Influencer and wellness guru Keri Hart selects six women in their 30's to head to Bali for her signature 'soul reset' retreat. Claiming 'isolation is the heart of our unhappiness,' Keri and her assistant Ni Ketut lead the women through a series of unconventional and sometimes appropriative workshops designed to unpack personal issues surrounding love, boundaries and purpose. Secrets surface and accusations fly as the women struggle and learn to embrace the ride.



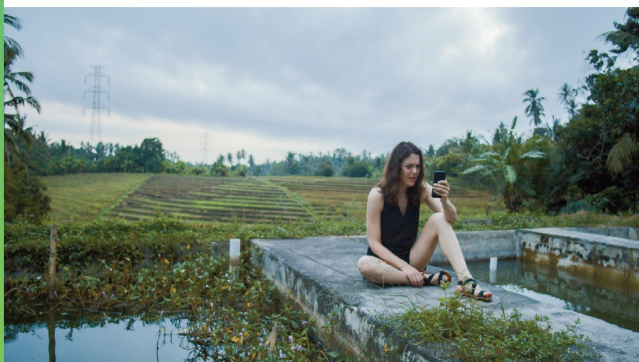
OUR COLLECTIVE APPROACH

Three years ago, frustrated by the constraints of narrative feature making inside traditional industry channels, we decided to take an out-of-the-box approach and just do it. We emailed forty colleagues, suggesting a pay-your-own-way, filmmaking adventure in Bali. Fifteen creatively hungry people stepped forward and 'The Collective' was born. What we made had to be quick, furious, collaborative, and virtually no-budget. We would be co-owners in a points based system, protected by a uniquely crafted contract—essentially a film co-op! The members also agreed to devote a portion of future profits to the local Balian Beach community where we shot.

Acknowledging that most who signed on were thirty-something white women, we landed on a 'retreat' concept. Each actor helped create a fictional character with close-to-the-bone truths, ensuring room for vulnerable improv within the treatment for our run-and-gun shoot. With few examples of Bechdel-approved ensembles exploring female friendship, we were excited to expand the narrative and make a film that felt both authentic and fresh.

WHEREVER YOU GO PICTURES COLLECTIVE MEMBERS

Dania Arancha • Yadi Awurhanda • Chelsea Bangert • Sam Bianchini
Katie Braden • Alexandra Clayton • Gandhi Fernando • Monica McKenna
Natalie Mitchell • Casey Newlin • Stephanie Roberts • Jessica Rotondi
Toby Rymkus • Joseph Schollaert • Michal Sinnott • Nancy Tan • Stephanie Ann Whited



DIRECTOR STATEMENT

'Unpacking' is character-driven and leans into the awkward and earnest in an attempt to 'unpack' the commodification of spirituality. The film highlights the massive demographic of single, independent, working women in their thirties. With a lens towards some of the problematic aspects of wellness tourism, 'Unpacking' calls out cultural appropriation, subtly exploring how capitalism impacts forming community, and the pervasive push for perfection in an Instagram obsessed world. Our story also celebrates the much needed bonding and self growth that inevitably happens when women have space and time to get vulnerable and real in community.

Change is messy AF. We made a fun, self-aware film that's colorful and vibrant like its locale and that doesn't take itself quite as seriously as its characters. We utilized music and soundscape as a third eye towards the action, giving our audience a nudge to laugh with the cringy truths and to tune into the expansive sounds of the natural world: the jungle and the sea, sublime and vast in contrast with the individual.

Since we made 'Unpacking' the market has filled with other explorations of travel escapism: 'Nine Perfect Strangers,' 'Fantasy Island,' and 'White Lotus,' to name a few. In true indie spirit, our contribution to the conversation offers a grounded, unglamorized, and humorous experience for audiences to explore what they find appealing, relatable, and problematic.



SELECTED BIOS

ALEXANDRA CLAYTON | *Director/Writer/Producer, Ruby*

Alexandra is a writer/director whose work leans into the earnest and awkward experience of being human. She's directed, written and produced narrative shorts, web series, branded and documentary content for the last 10 years and just filmed 'K-Town Blues' the first in a series of short films on her 2023 docket. Her work as a creative producer for early-career female directors includes the narrative feature 'No More Time,' an environmental horror set in the mountains of Colorado, and the short films 'The Box,' 'Forevertown' and 'Please in Spanish' for which she was a 2022 producing fellow for Women In Film and Google's inaugural Shorts Lab. Films she's acted in have screened at over 30 festivals around the world including Karlovy Vary, NYC's Rooftop Films, and SF's Cinema by the Bay, and streamed on Amazon and Kinoscope. A grounded optimist who thrives in the creation of original work, Alexandra believes the stories we tell create the culture we live in. She lives in Los Angeles with her dog Roo.



MICHAL SINNOTT | *Director/Writer/Producer, Charlotte*

Michal Sinnott is an award winning, classically trained actor/writer/director who's work in film, television, theatre, audio spaces, & games traverses mediums, genres, & locales. She's appeared in dozens of plays and over fifty principal/starring roles for radio, television and film, including for ABC, Sundance and The Whitney Museum of American Art. She's best known as the voice, likeness and performance capture artist for Tracey De Santa, a main character in the billion dollar phenomena Grand Theft Auto V. Her plays have received staged readings and awards in Virginia (Theater Virginia) and Los Angeles (The Blank Theatre). She's in development on a variety of projects as a writer-director, including 'Anxiety Monster & Man Child Make Amends,' a meta scripted comedy series about the worst period of her life & a narrative feature, 'The Universe(s) of Us,' a magical realist multiverse love story. A former flight attendant and two time cancer survivor, she's traveled to thirty+ countries on six continents. She lives in NYC with her husband (and frequent writing collaborator) Joseph. michalsinnott.com.



SELECTED BIOS *(continued)*

CHELSEA BANGERT | *Art Director/Graphic Designer*

Chelsea Bangert is a Graphic Designer who works in corporate branding, UX/UI design, packaging design, and illustration. She is excited to make her debut as Art Director on 'Unpacking'. She currently lives and works in New Hampshire, where she also serves on the board of a regional arts non-profit organization amplifying needs within the local arts community.

JASON BINNICK | *Sound Mix, Edit and Foley*

Jason Binnick is a composer (Patti Cake\$, the Cannes and SXSW winning VR film Samsara) and sound designer/mixer in NYC. His most recent album of compositions is called Prisms Darkly and he is a member of the Thrill Jockey recording artists Upper Wilds.

KATIE BRADEN | *Line Producer, Alice*

Katie Braden is a New York City actor and director, who recently returned from performances in Rome. She co-founded Ivy Theatre Company and is a member of WorkShop Theater and Theatre Midwest. Additionally, she is a summer-time camp counselor and a finance manager with her Master's Degree from Harvard.

KATIE JORDAN | *Colorist*

Katie Jordan is a colorist based out of Light Iron New York. Some of her notable credits include Promising Young Woman, Please Baby Please, Am I Okay and Palm Trees and Power Lines which just won best Directing at Sundance 2022.

MITCHELL MANBURG | *Composer*

Mitchell Manburg is a guitarist-songwriter based in Oakland, CA. He has produced and performed music extensively in LA and the Bay Area, and he is proud to make his debut as a feature film composer in "Unpacking".

CASEY NEWLIN | *Music Supervisor*

Casey Newlin is a music industry professional with 10 years of experience working in sync licensing and music supervision, helping place music in television, films, commercials and more.



SELECTED BIOS *(continued)*

JESSICA ROTONDI | *Locations, Jackie*

Jessica Rotondi is an actress, comedian, screenwriter, director and a professor of screenwriting, directing and acting. She performs standup comedy in some of the top clubs and shows in NY and LA and has had a number of her scripts and films featured and placed in a variety of film festivals and contests.

TOBY RYMKUS | *Editor/B Camera/DIT*

Toby Rymkus is a video editor who has worked on shorts and feature films, docs, reality TV, promos, and music videos. He currently works at Entertainment Studios in Los Angeles.

JOSEPH SCHOLLAERT | *Writer/Craft Services*

Joseph Schollaert works in legal services - this is his first screenwriting credit. J & Michal have another zinger in the pipeline – with epic breaks! He has written film & theatre reviews for the Tacoma City Paper. Sous-chef'ing in Seattle bolstered his role as lead of craft services during production.

STEPHANIE ANN WHITED | *Producer of Marketing and Distribution, Eithne*

Stephanie Ann Whited is an actor and writer who leads nonprofit communications in Brooklyn, NY. She's appeared in international commercials, indie films, and her poetry has been published in several journals.



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