
JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER STUDENT TO SUBMIT FILM TO MAJOR FILM FESTIVALS

Unburden, first film produced by Armonk resident Tamara Rabil

Pleasantville NY – November 26, 2012 – Tamara Rabil has submitted her first film, *Unburden*, to major film festivals in the United States, including Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, and the San Francisco International Film Festival after taking 17 classes at the Media Arts Lab at the Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) in Pleasantville. Rabil is a co-writer and a producer of the film, which is a JBFC Spotlight Production.



Tamara Rabil (L), actress Angela Pierce, and Andrew Young on the set of *Unburden*.

“The numerous classes that I took at the Media Arts Lab helped me to find my voice to tell my story and bring my film to fruition. I was surrounded by intellectual, caring, and creative people with whom I learned the craft of filmmaking,” Rabil said.

Unburden tells the fictionalized version of the true story of an incident nine years ago when Tamara accidentally dropped her six-week old daughter causing her to suffer a fractured skull. The incident changed her relationship with her husband as well as her confidence in her ability to be a good mother. The film interweaves the trauma and guilt of the incident along with the emotional fallout and reveals the power of forgiveness to heal the deepest wounds.

“It’s always been our goal at the Media Arts Lab to teach our students the skills they need to tell their own story,” said Emily Keating, JBFC’s Director of Education Programs. “It is very rewarding to watch Tamara grow as a storyteller and filmmaker and to be a part of her first film project.”

After several years of being a homemaker, Rabil needed creative opportunities outside her home and started her filmmaking journey at the Media Arts Lab taking a Digital Storytelling class, followed by “The Power of Story” and “Getting the Story: Introduction to Documentary Storytelling” taught by Bobby Houston, an academy-nominated documentary filmmaker, among others. Several faculty members from the Media Arts Lab became key members of the crew in the making of *Unburden*, including cinematographer Andrew L. Young who served as director and director of photography. His partner Susan Todd, also a teacher at the Media Arts Lab, served as a producer along with Rabil. Film editor Todd Sandler, a former JBFC staffer, was the editor for the film. The film was co-written by screenwriter Billy Shebar, who wrote the award-winning films *Dark Matter* and *50 Ways to Make a Better Memory*. All postproduction for the film was done at the Media Arts Lab.

Rabil has not only created the idea for the film, served as a co-writer of the script, but has also formed her own distribution company, Wild Angel Films. Rabil, her husband, and three children live in Armonk.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is a nonprofit cultural arts organization dedicated to: presenting the best of independent, documentary, and world cinema; promoting 21st century literacy, and making film a vibrant part of the community. Located on a 47,500 sq. foot, three-building campus in the center of Pleasantville, the JBFC is just 30 miles outside of New York City. Since the opening in 2001, over 1,000,000 people have seen over 4,500 films from more than 40 countries. The campus includes the 27,000 sq. foot Media Arts Lab, the JBFC’s state-of-the-art education center, a creative and educational community for storytellers in the digital age, offering one-time workshops, intensive courses, and weekend programs for children and adults of all ages. To learn more about the Jacob Burns Film Center and Media Arts Lab, visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

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