

WHERE WE BEGIN

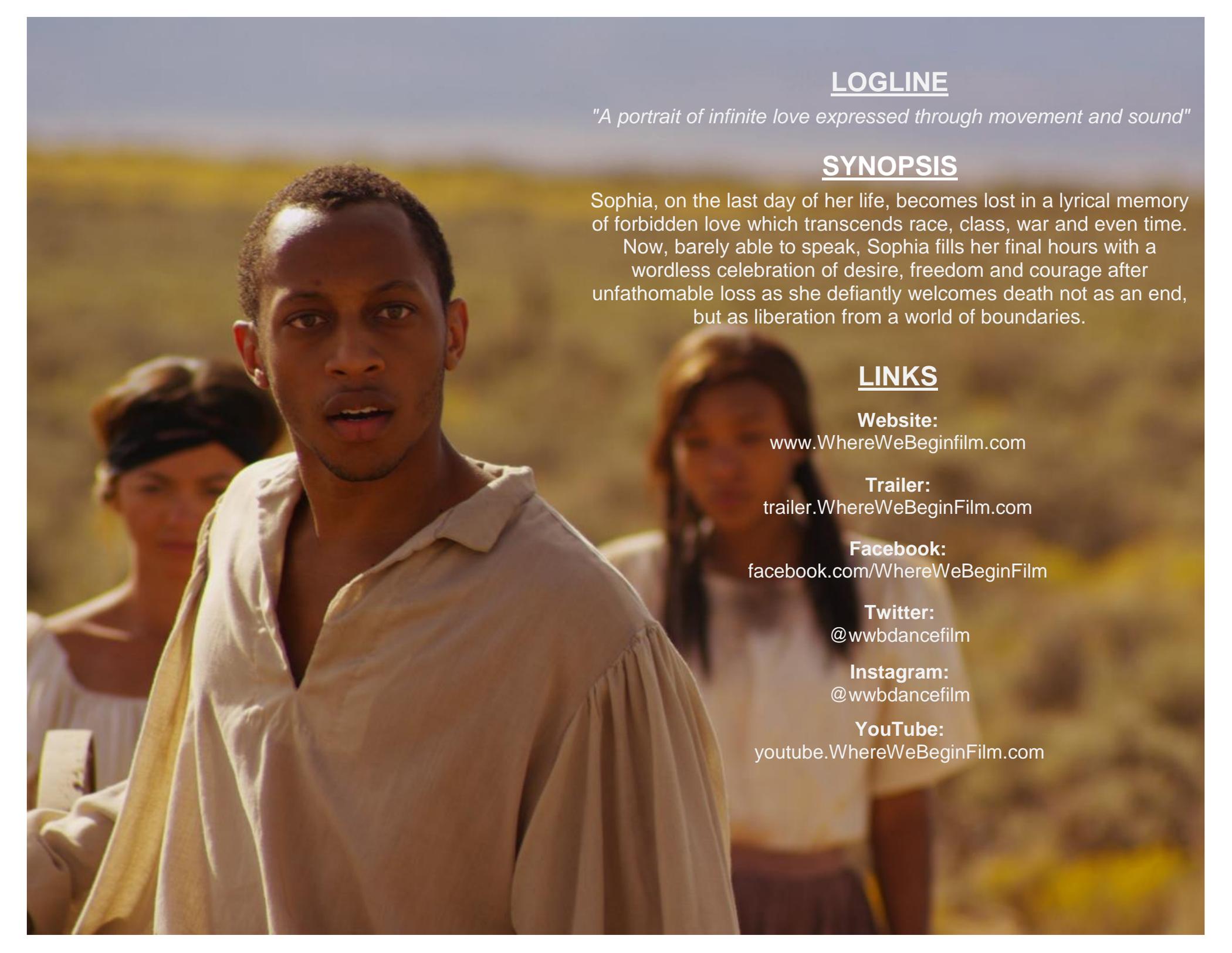


A Dance Short Film Written & Directed by Mitsuyo Miyazaki
Produced by Mitsuyo Miyazaki, Peter Maestrey & Yvonne Jimenez
Music by MONO

CONTACT

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LOGLINE

"A portrait of infinite love expressed through movement and sound"

SYNOPSIS

Sophia, on the last day of her life, becomes lost in a lyrical memory of forbidden love which transcends race, class, war and even time.

Now, barely able to speak, Sophia fills her final hours with a wordless celebration of desire, freedom and courage after unfathomable loss as she defiantly welcomes death not as an end, but as liberation from a world of boundaries.

LINKS

Website:

www.WhereWeBeginfilm.com

Trailer:

trailer.WhereWeBeginFilm.com

Facebook:

facebook.com/WhereWeBeginFilm

Twitter:

[@wwbdancefilm](https://twitter.com/wwbdancefilm)

Instagram:

[@wwbdancefilm](https://www.instagram.com/wwbdancefilm)

YouTube:

youtube.WhereWeBeginFilm.com

The story of WWB was inspired by the experience Mitsuyo had at the moment when, at her grandmother's death bed, she felt her passing in an intensely visceral way-- sensing not her grandmother's defeat, but instead a wordless, overwhelming triumph. Mitsuyo created WWB as a dance narrative to express the power of that instant in a way that could be translated globally, without words.

More than nineteen years after her grandmother's death, having spent three years searching for music that would resonate internationally, Mitsuyo was introduced to Takaakira Goto (electric guitar, glockenspiel), Hideki Suematsu (electric guitar, glockenspiel), Tamaki Kunishi (bass guitar, electric guitar, piano, glockenspiel), and Yasunori Takada (drum kit, glockenspiel, synthesizer) of Mono, a critically acclaimed Japanese post-rock instrumental band.

Impressed by the alignment of MONO's style, which includes minimalism, noise, classical and math rock, with her vision of a seamless dance between reality, the afterlife and the landscape of the soul, Mitsuyo welcomed the band as the creators of the WWB soundtrack (available on iTunes).

TECHNICAL INFO

Camera: Red Dragon
Format: Color HD
Sound: 5.1 Surround
Length: 00:19:58
Edited on: Final Cut Pro



MONO was formed in 1999 in Tokyo, Japan. Since then, MONO has quickly piqued the interest of both audience and critics alike by staging overwhelming, emotionally splendid, atmospheric performances. Within the rage of distortion and bombardment of feedback, you are just as likely to experience sadness and beauty, light and darkness, chaos and peace, happiness and melancholy.

Over the last 15 years, MONO has performed over 1000 shows in over 60 countries on 4 continents. They have released six studio albums, a live album, and several DVDs. Their music has been featured in numerous films and television programs. Their 7th studio album was released in Fall of 2014.

Visit www.MonoOfJapan.com for more information.



Photo Credit: MITSUYO MIYAZAKI



MITSUYO MIYAZAKI

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Originally from Osaka, Japan, Mitsuyo Miyazaki is a writer, director, producer and cinematographer with a background as an actress, dancer, photographer, painter & costume designer.

Her directorial debut short film *Tsuyako* (2011) visited over 100 film festivals worldwide, and won 43 awards including Best Female Filmmaker at the DGA Student Awards, and was qualified for the Academy Awards in 2012 and 2013. In 2013, she was one of the 5 directors to write and direct a live action & animated short film *A Better Tomorrow* for Lexus Short Films, produced by The Weinstein Company. Her past works have been distributed theatrically, through television programs, mobile platforms, exhibitions & expo's around the world.

She is currently producing the short film *Robo Saints* for Project Involve, Film Independent's signature diversity program. She is also developing several feature projects, the first of which she aims to shoot in 2015/2016. Mitsuyo believes in the power of visual communication, and hopes to use her storytelling abilities to change society and the minds of people for the better.



TSUYAKO (2011, Drama, Japan/USA)



A BETTER TOMORROW (2013, Adventure/Fantasy, Japan/USA)

www.MitsuyoMiyazaki.com

PETER MAESTREY

Producer / 1st Assistant Director
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An accomplished 1st Assistant Director for Commercials, Music videos and Feature length narratives. Peter Maestrey began his career as an actor, then, soon after, opened a production company to produce content for large industry corporations such as Sony, Universal, Def Jam and many others. After a long & successful career in producing, he opted to develop his training as an Assistant Director. His career has cultivated him inside of several departments within the industry and it is that training that has brought him to this collaboration with Mitsuyo Miyazaki.

www.peterm.us



YVONNE JIMENEZ

Producer
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An L.A.-based producer & consultant, Yvonne is currently producing both documentary and narrative films with award-winning & Oscar-qualifying directors as well as video content for her clients. Ms. Jimenez also consults with the Sundance Film Festival and the Sundance Institute summer lab programs on an ongoing basis. Over the past 15 years, she has produced events and special projects for clients such as Coca-Cola, the Nielsen Company, Anheuser-Busch, Molera Alvarez and Wayans Brothers Productions to name a few. She joined the *Where We Begin* team without hesitation after being introduced to and mesmerized by Mitsuyo's award-winning short, *Tsuyako*. This partnership with Mitsuyo is the perfect opportunity for Yvonne to express her passion for dance, having been a dancer for 15 years, as well as explore end of life reflections, a central topic in one of her documentaries.

www.yvonnejimenez.com

JACOB HALAJIAN

Co-Producer / Post Production Supervisor
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Born and raised in Los Angeles, Jacob graduated from the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts in 2009. He has also studied at the Film and Television School in Prague, as well as the University of California, Los Angeles, in their screenwriting program. He produced the short film *Tsuyako*, winning over 40 awards at festivals around the world, including Outfest, Palm Springs International ShortFest, among others. He has directed several short films and music videos, including *2-Star* which won the best short award at the Costa Rica Film Festival. His interest in Mono's music, experimental storytelling and projects that take risks brought him to collaborate with the Mitsuyo Miyazaki yet again on this film.



ADDITIONAL CREW

Executive Producer: Shin Yamaguchi
Executive Producer: Jeremy Robinson
Executive Producer: Ryuji Yamagata
Co-Producer: Mark Richey
Associate Producer: Kipp Howard
Associate Producer: Caliann Lum
Associate Producer: Hiroki Fujiwara
Director of Photography: Aaron C. Smith
Editor: Thomas A. Krueger
Sound Designer: Sung Rok Choi
Sound Designer: Thomas Yount
Production Designer: Giao-Chau Ly
Costume Designer: Melissa Pritchett
Hair & Makeup Designer: Jo Holland
Casting Director: Leo Alvarez

CAST

Young Sophia: Arielle Elonys
Leo: Derrick Butler
Sophia: Iris Karina