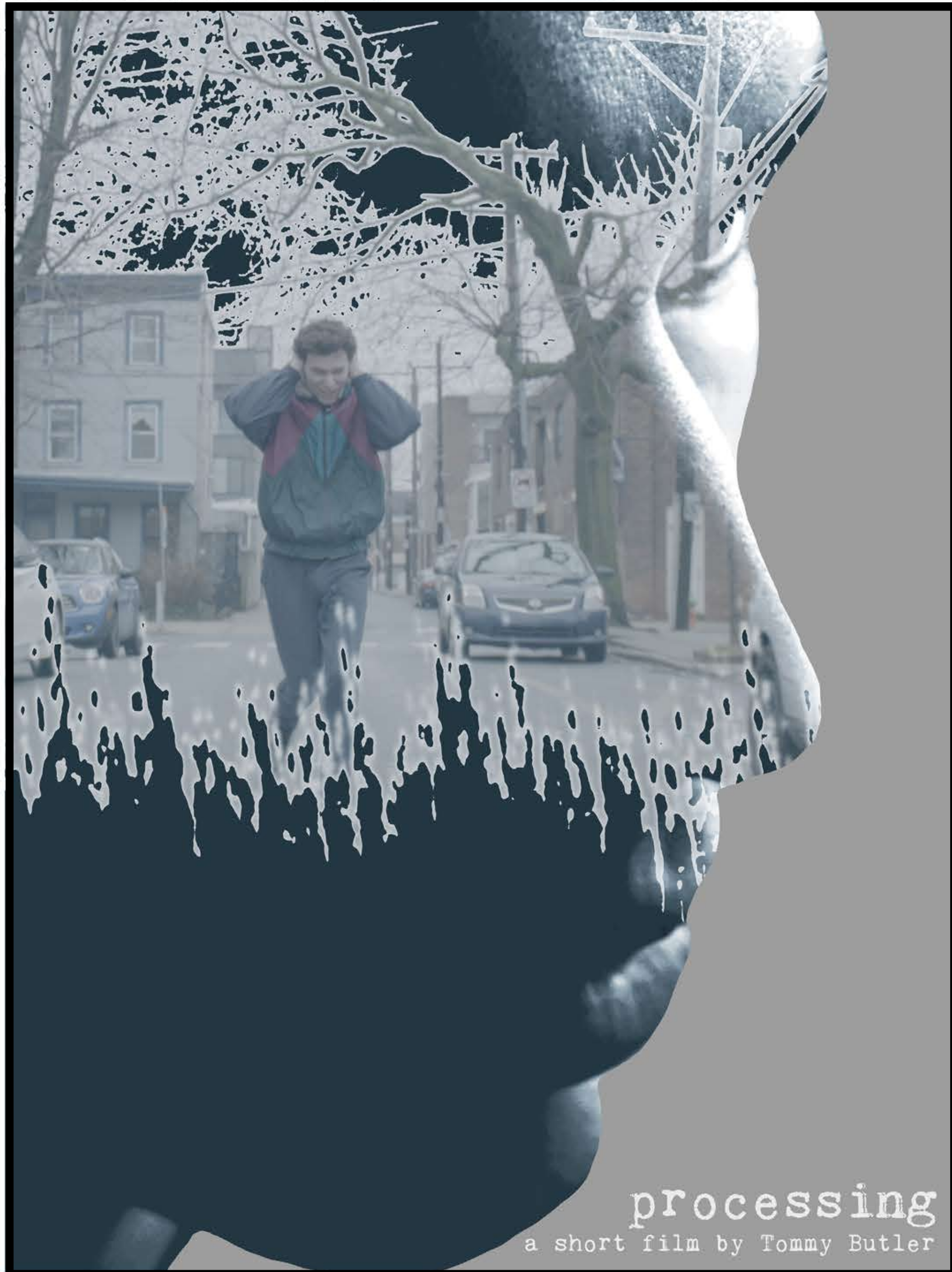


# processing

press notes



publicity contact

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## **synopsis**

One morning inside the head of a young adult on the autism spectrum as he and his older sister try and get through the day.

## **a note from the director**

Several years ago I spent some time working as a one-on-one teaching assistant at a school for students on the autism spectrum. One day my one-on-one was having a particularly difficult day, maybe his most challenging during our time together, and after a sudden physical outburst in the classroom, we spent a few minutes in the hallway to catch our breath and gather ourselves. We sat there in silence, both of us leaning against the lockers, both of us exhausted; it had been a long year, and we had been through quite a lot together. Eventually I suggested we try to head back into the classroom, and as I helped him back up to his feet, he responded: "It's all in the trying." Processing is a story about trying; trying to navigate the death of a father; trying to adjust to a new living situation; trying to get to tomorrow.

## **a production note**

In addition to casting an actor who identifies as being on the autism spectrum, the processing team worked closely with Spectrum Theatre Ensemble as consultants to the project. Spectrum Theatre Ensemble is dedicated to evolving the awareness, resources, and professionals that empower the neurodiverse community in achieving equal opportunity and full participation in society.

## the team

### tommy butler, director + writer

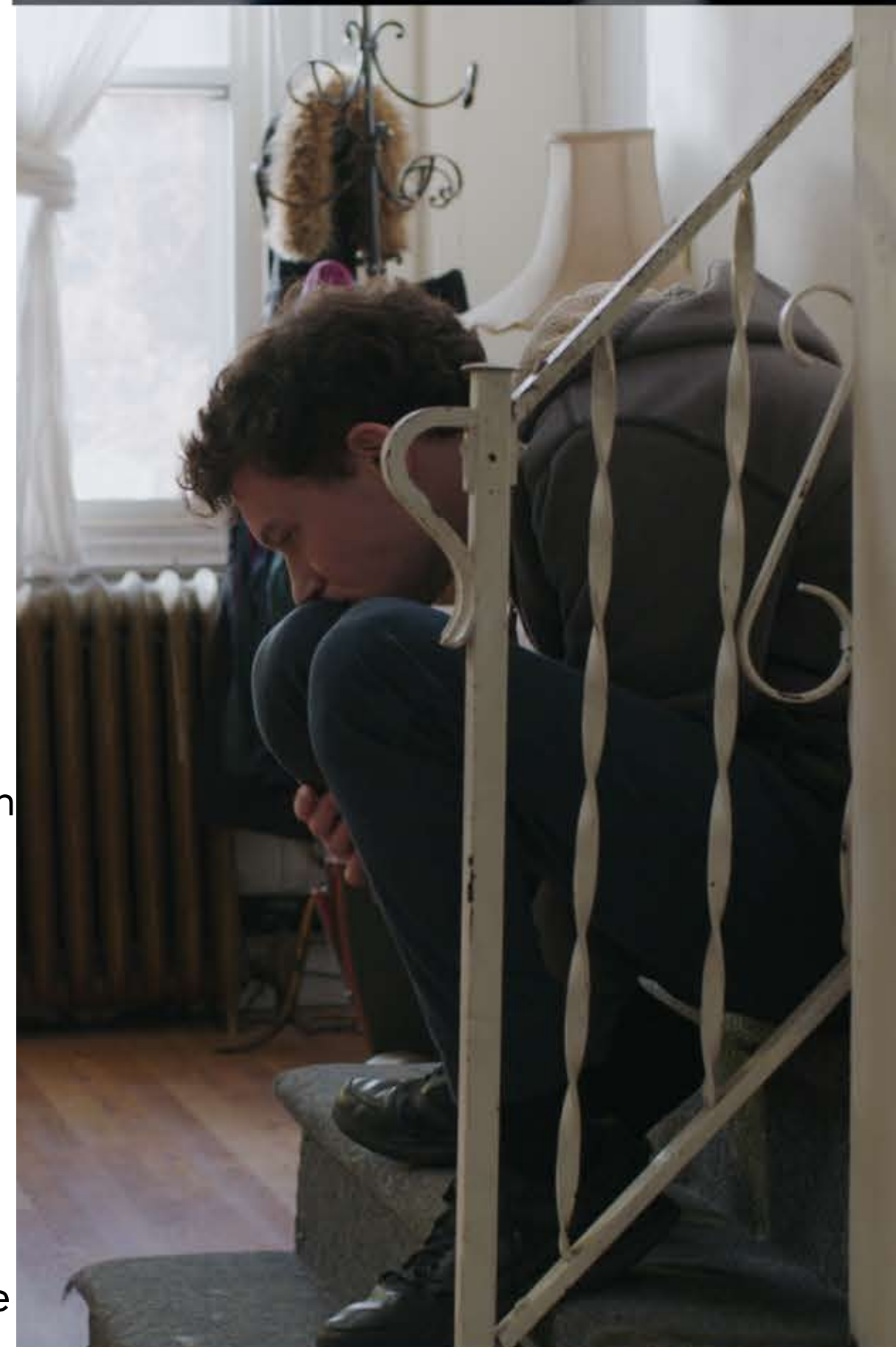
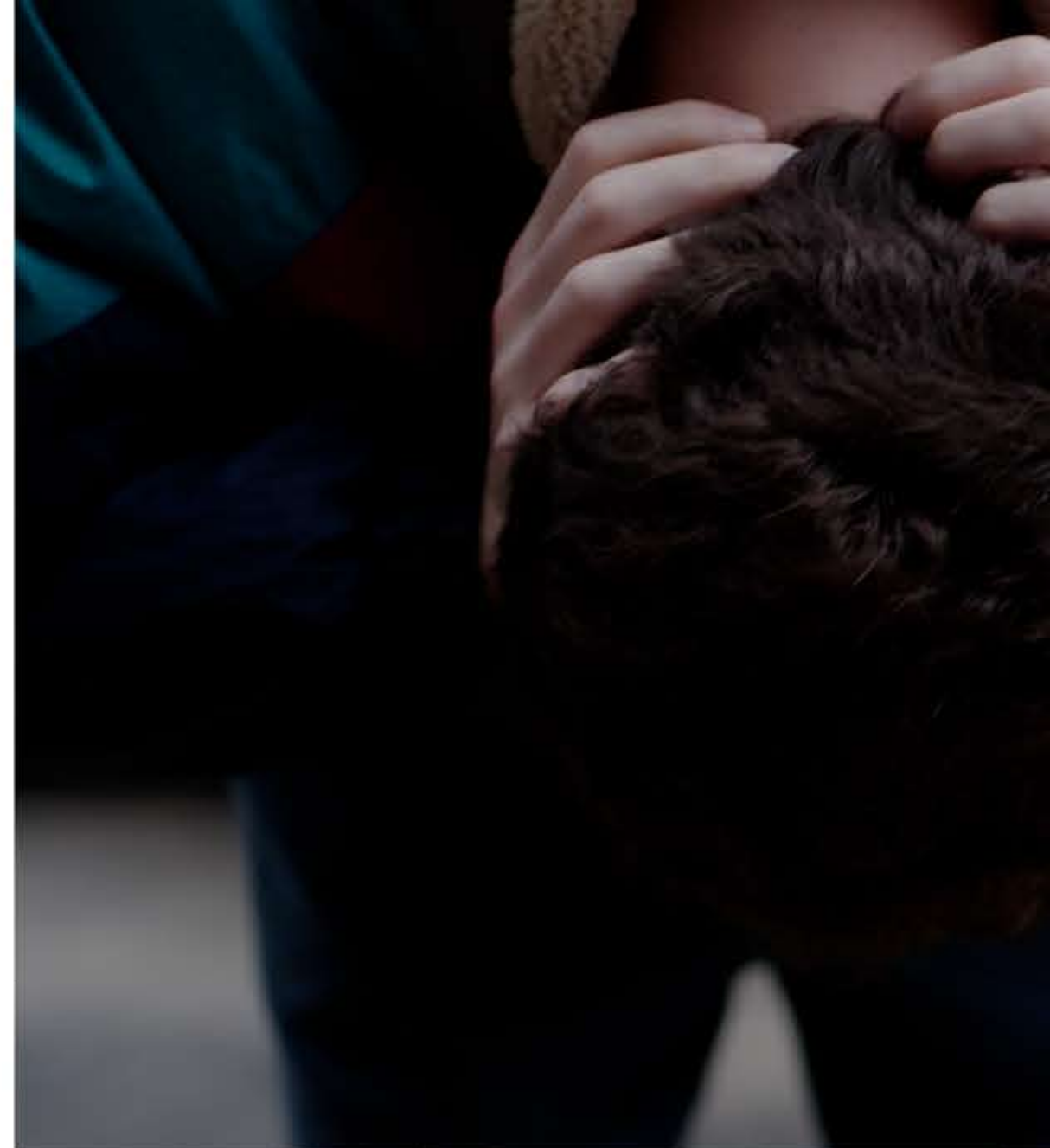
TOMMY BUTLER is a Philadelphia-based director, creator, and film-maker, specializing in new and devised works, ensemble generated projects and sonic-driven spectacles. Tommy is an Associate Artist with Team Sunshine Performance Corporation and the Artistic Director/Co-Founder of #theaternow. Recent directing credits include: spark (Garden State Film Festival, Media Film Festival - 2019 Audience Award Winner), Practice Wedding (Painted Bride Art Center), koma: a sound spectacle with a visual component, Hypotheticals: a bite-size listening experience (Team Sunshine), Everything's Fine! (DC Metro Theater Arts Staff Pick: Favorite Performance of 2016), and HENRY IV: Your Prince and Mine (as Associate Director/Script Master - 2014 Falstaff Awards Nomination for Best Script Adaptation). Tommy is a 2014 Production Ensemble Guest Lecturer at Swarthmore College (Philadelphia, PA), 2011 Directing Fellow at The Kennedy Center (Wash., DC), 2011 Project Intern with The Civilians (NYC) and a 2010 Resident Directing Intern at Actor's Express (Atlanta, GA). Tommy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Performance from Westminster College of Fine & Performing Arts (Rider University).

### sean grasso, director of photography + colorist

SEAN GRASSO is a new arrival to the east coast and spent the last 6 years working for the production company he co-founded, Cineastas. As a Director of Photography, his work has been shared widely online, including being featured on Vimeo Staff Picks, The Atlantic, and Fast Company. Sean's projects have had him shooting a multitude of subjects, from skilled craftsman, to incarcerated youth running a marathon, to coffee farmers in the hills of Rwanda. His interest in his working not only comes from the craft of filmmaking, but the relationships that he's formed and the ability to learn and be inspired by the people he films. When he's not behind the camera, Sean is an avid hiker. In 2017, he walked over 2000 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail. Sony FS7 Owner/Operator + Licensed Drone Operator.

### amy frear, producer (and actress)

AMY FREAR is an actress and filmmaker based out of Philly. She has appeared in numerous independent films and performed in theaters regionally. As a writer and director, her short films Another Time and Selkie have been screened at the Mystic Film Festival, Drunken Film Fest (Bradford, UK), SFC Women's Film Fest in Brooklyn, Philadelphia Film Society, Trenton Film Festival, Jim Thorpe Independent Film Festival, among many others. Recent producing credits also include Ways to Look at the Moon by Katherine Clark. She holds her MFA in Acting from the University of Washington and is currently a professor of acting and screen performance at Temple University and the University of the Arts.



## cast

Michael Stahler, Danny  
Amy Frear, Alison

## crew

Tommy Butler, Editor  
Dylan Henning, Sound Mixer  
Katherine Clark, Art Director  
Wes Mahon, Assistant Camera  
Will DeJessa, Gaffer  
Tommy Butler, Sound Designer  
Phoebe Schaub, Assistant Director  
Jule Maurer, Production Assistant  
Carrot Pig Craft Services, Crafter Services  
Bill Frear, Camera Car Driver  
Spectrum Theatre Ensemble, Consulting  
Music by Snagwing

## thanks

ArtReach  
Philadelphia Young Playwrights  
Nell Bang-Jensen  
Painted Bride Art Center  
Dan Lee  
Gary Garrison  
Emilia Lapenta  
Ricky Lorenzo  
Amy Lynn  
Dancehaus

