



A documentary film  
directed by Erinnisce & Patryk Rebisz

CAUGHT IN THE DIVIDE

# SHOULDER THE LION

MARKOWSKI

# "Shoulder The Lion"

a documentary film by Erinnisse Rebisz & Patryk Rebisz

directors: Erinnisse Rebisz, Patryk Rebisz  
producers: Erinnisse Rebisz, Patryk Rebisz  
co-producer: Zeberiah Newman  
associate producer: Philip Rebisz  
editor: Erinnisse Rebisz  
cinematographer: Patryk Rebisz  
produced by: Tupelo Productions LLC

## Contact Info:

**Erinnisse Rebisz (best contact)**

**[erinnisse@gmail.com](mailto:erinnisse@gmail.com)**

**(914) 318-2985**

**Patryk Rebisz**

**[patrykrebisz@yahoo.com](mailto:patrykrebisz@yahoo.com)**

**(917) 291-2565**

2015, US, English

TRT: 74 minutes

Exhibition Format: MOV, DVD, Blu-Ray, DCP, HDCam

Aspect Ratio: 16:9 or 1.85

Sound: Dolby 5.1

Shooting Format: HD

Print quality film stills available at (click each for hi-res version): **[www.ShoulderTheLion.com/press\\_photos.html](http://www.ShoulderTheLion.com/press_photos.html)**

Print quality portraits of the directors available at: **[www.ShoulderTheLion.com/PR/directors\\_portraits/](http://www.ShoulderTheLion.com/PR/directors_portraits/)**

Print quality posters available at: **[www.ShoulderTheLion.com/PR/posters/](http://www.ShoulderTheLion.com/PR/posters/)**

Film's website: **[www.ShoulderTheLion.com](http://www.ShoulderTheLion.com)**

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## **1.0 Press Quotes**

"SHOULDER THE LION has opened the doors for artistic cinematic storytelling in the documentary format for many years to come."

-- Fernando Fernandez (FernTV)

"A MUST-SEE if you are into documentaries."

-- Jacqueline Strawbridge (Irish Daily Mail)

"Superbly crafted art film."

-- Robin E. Simmons (CV Weekly)

"Unusual sensorial experience."

-- Boyd van Hoeij (The Hollywood Reporter)

"SHOULDER THE LION is one of the more unique documentaries I've seen — and a work of art in itself."

-- Stephen Pizzello (American Cinematographer)

"The film that moved me to tears"

-- Gabor Pertic (HotDocs programmer)

## **1.1 Awards**

2016 DocuTIFF Tirana International Film Festival - Best Frame

2015 Krakow Film Festival -- FIPRESCI (International Federation of Film Critics) Award

2015 Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival - Best U.S. Documentary

2015 Trenton Film Festival -- Best Film, Best Doc

2015 Salem Film Festival -- Best Cinematography

2015 Dublin International Film Festival -- 10 Best Audience Award

## **1.2 Synopsis**

"Pushing boundaries of the film medium," this visually-rich film essay explores meaning of images, fragility of memories and desire for relevance in today's world. Enter into the worlds of three artists who lost the very sense defining their art. A blind photographer questions the power of images in today's visually saturated culture. Forced to give up his dream of playing music due to his advancing hearing loss, a musician must reinvent his future. A painter who lost half her brain in a boxing match searches for her place in life unsure of what she should be to the world. The film attempts to ask what it takes for someone to keep on going in times of uncertainty, and uses unique form to produce the answers.

## 2.0 Filmmakers Bios:



**Erinnisse Rebisz** - director / editor

Erinnisse Rebisz, is a director, producer and seasoned editor for television and film. Born and based in NYC, her credits as lead editor include numerous unscripted TV shows and documentaries. The feature-length HBO documentary "Madonna of the Mills," edited by Erinnisse, was nominated for a Genesis Award for Best Television Documentary. Additionally she has produced and edited dozens of music videos, commercials and public service announcements. She studied at a Buddhist university (Naropa) majoring in media studies and the human experience. "Shoulder the Lion" is her debut feature film as a director (she's also its editor). Now a new mother of a beautiful baby boy, Erinnisse is excited to see the world anew again and re-discover its nuances.

[fun fact: Erinnisse's father would always address his letters to her when she was young as "Dear Tupelo," thus Tupelo became the name of her production company]



**Patryk Rebisz** - director / director of photography

Patryk Rebisz, originally from Poland, is a director/director of photography. He has shot and directed hundreds of various productions: almost a dozen feature-length films, numerous music videos as well as commercials and television shows. His short film "Between You and Me" has garnered him worldwide awards and recognition for its innovative use of still photography. Patryk moved to New York City as a teenager and studied painting at the prestigious Cooper Union School of Art before exchanging the paintbrush for a camera. "Shoulder the Lion" is his feature-length debut as a director and its cinematographer. He's interested in how the form shapes our perception of the world and how that perception is never really our own.

[fun fact: Originally a painter, and a graduate of Cooper Union, Patryk won professional art awards for his paintings starting at age of 6.]



### 3.0 Artists:



#### **Katie Dallam** - sculptor / painter

Katie Dallam is a painter/sculptor who's lost half her brain in a boxing match and with that her self-censorship as an artist. The film "Million Dollar Baby" is inspired by her story. Katie searched all her life for a place in the world. She earned a degree in art but didn't see it could help her earn a living. She enrolled in the Air Force yearning for structure and discipline and was stationed in Arizona. After she was discharged, she went back home to Missouri. She enrolled in the university and became a psychologist. Soon after this, her mother died. To deal with her grief she started to paint watercolors of the vibrant desert landscapes she had come to love during her time in the military. Behind these colorful images she was concealing her feelings of loneliness and loss. Seeking a physical outlet for her emotions she took up boxing.

Katie's first pro-boxing match was her last. After 140 punches to the head she was taken to the hospital unconscious. After a week in intensive care she was admitted to a rehabilitation center. She was stripped of her memory and ability to care for herself. She spent the next 12 months relearning everything including learning how to walk and communicate. Hopeless, she became suicidal. In desperation her sister took her to an art class where Katie finally flourished. Art became Katie's language and gave her a reason to live. Although her injury destroyed everything she had spent her life working for, Katie came to recognize that her injury had also benefitted her. One of the most devastating residual disabilities from her injuries was also one of its greatest gifts –she no longer had the ability to plan too far ahead or to censor her emotions.





**Graham Sharpe** - musician

Graham Sharpe is an Irish musician who can't play music anymore because of his advancing tinnitus. He describes his condition as static noise on a TV channel with no reception. The noise is so overwhelming he's scared to end up in a mental institution at 40 or 50 and would gladly accept it instantly being ten times worse for knowing that this is the final line. Since the age of sixteen he found his calling in life: to play music. Four years ago everything changed for Graham with the development of his disability. He knows that the thing he loves the most - the music - is also the cause of great pain. He's had to give up on his dream of playing in a band, touring, making the next record but he still wants to be involved with making music. As of late, Graham feels a maturity in his song writing. He is consoled by knowing that at the very least he can sit quietly in his room and write music with an acoustic guitar..

Deteriorating economic conditions of his native Ireland motivated Graham and his friends to organize an annual music festival, Knockanstockan. In a few short years it has grown to significant proportions. In 2012 Knockanstockan was named the best independent music festival. Proud of his achievements with the festival he still feels jealous of the performers longing to be back on a stage. It frustrates him that just when he finally has the perspective and experience to say something meaningful through music he can't take that message to the big stage. Dissatisfied with just writing the music, Graham is in the process of finding what his future holds.





**Alice Wingwall** - photographer

Alice Wingwall lost her sight in the year 2000 after decades of genetic retinal degeneration. Through that period she had a career as a sculptor and photographer with work installations around the United States and the French countryside. With the complete loss of her physiological vision she turned more to photography and committed to it as an artist. But how can images be relevant to a blind person? Blindness has taught Alice how misleading "seeing" can be. Even though the general population can see, they often do not pay attention to what's in front of them. Perhaps people are "over imaged", she says, and thus images are losing their meaning. It saddens Alice when people with sight are passive about what they see, while she continues to create and build images in her mind to make her art. She believes the viewfinder is a prison - sighted photographers are trapped within this "rectangle of judgement" over what to include and what to leave out. Obsessing on technicalities, they often miss larger meanings to the image.

The question of do images still have meaning plagues Alice. If they don't, what does that mean for someone who finds images to be a vital part of her existence? Her search goes beyond her disability. She understands that images define our past - it's powerful images that we most remember. If we don't value images then we end up living in a vacuum with no past - only the present.





US and abroad publicity:

**Erinnisse Rebisz**  
director / editor  
erinnisse@gmail.com  
(914) 318-2985

**Patryk Rebisz**  
director / dir. of photography  
patrykrebisz@yahoo.com  
(917) 291-2565