

# PATIENT

by Lori Felker  
19.5 minutes, 2023, USA

Fiction, reality, the private, and the performed overlap on a routine but emotional day at a medical center.



"Humorous and touching ... impressively shows how much empathy can be possible in medical treatment, but also how self-protection eventually limits this empathetic encounter."

- Hannes Wesselkämper, *Critic.de*

International Competition 5 "opened strongly with Lori Felker's Patient...witty and wise, simple and moving"  
- CJ Johnson, *FIPRESCI (the international federation of film critics)*

"Lori Felker's beautifully restrained staging of a routine day in the training of medical professionals unfolds into a meditation on transference, empathy, and performance."

- Eastham, Ben. "[69th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen](#)." e-flux, May 2023.

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## CONTACT for Press, Publicity and Distribution:

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**TECHNICAL SPECS:** Available in DCP, Apple ProRes, or H.264 digital files

Stereo, Color, UHD 3,840 x 2,160 (4K)

English subtitles (.srt) and English language text available upon request



### SCREENINGS (As of April 2023)

- [International Short Film Festival Oberhausen](#), International Competition, Germany (Oscar-qualifying) – April 25 – May 1, 2023
- [Milwaukee Film Festival](#), Milwaukee, WI – April, 2023
- [Tabor Film Festival](#), International Competition, Croatia – July 6-7, 2023
- [Message to Man](#), International Competition, St Petersburg, Russia – Oct 20-28, 2023
- [Short Film Night, University of Paderborn](#), Paderborn, Germany – Oct 18, 2023
- [Antimatter \[Media Art\]](#), Victoria, BC, Canada – Oct 20-Nov 25, 2023
- [Gene Siskel Film Center](#), “Everyday Life” Chicago, IL – Oct 31, 2023
- [Uppsala International Short Film Festival](#), Sweden (Oscar-qualifying) - Oct 23-29, 2023
- [Driftless Film Festival](#), Mineral Point, WI - Nov 1-4, 2023
- Light Matter Film Festival, Alfred, NY – Nov 2-5, 2023
- Millennium Film Journal Launch Screening, Anthology Film Archives, NY, NY – Nov 15, 2023
- [Kasseler Dokfest](#), Kassel, Germany – Nov 14-19, 2023
- Camera Obscura Film Festival, Petaluma, CA - Nov 17-19, 2023
- NewFilmmakers Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA – Dec 9, 2023

### PRESS:

Eastham, Ben. “[69<sup>th</sup> International Short Film Festival Oberhausen](#).” e-flux, May 2023.

Johnson, CJ. “[A Tour Through Oberhausen’s Programs in the 69<sup>th</sup> International Short Film Festival Oberhausen](#).” FIPRECSCI: The international federation of film critics, April 2023.

Wesslkämper, Hannes. “[Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen 2023: Die Antwort der Anachronismen](#).” Critic.de, May 6, 2023.

Schubert, Brianna. “[Film Fest Finds: ‘The Milwaukee Show I’: Three highlights from the grab-bag of short films](#)”, *Milwaukee Magazine*, April 28, 2023.

## LORI FELKER / Director, Writer, Camera, Editor, Producer

Lori Felker is a filmmaker, teacher, programmer, and performer. Her films study the ineloquent, frustrating, and chaotic qualities of human interaction and have explored empathy, discontinuity, grief, and multiple dimensions. She eschews any particular style or genre in favor of letting content and concerns guide form. Her award-winning short films, such as *Spontaneous* (2020), *Discontinuity* (2016) and *Imperceptihole* (2011) and feature-length documentary *FUTURE LANGUAGE: The Dimensions of VON LMO* (2018), have screened internationally at festivals including The Rotterdam International Film Festival, Slamdance, Ann Arbor Film Festival, BAMcinemaFest, EXiS in Korea, Festival du nouveau cinema in Montreal and Kinodot in Russia. She loves every facet of filmmaking and has worked as a cinematographer, editor, and/or actor for various artists and directors and has programmed for the likes of the Chicago Underground Film Festival, Slamdance, and Roots & Culture Gallery in Chicago. She is a recipient of an Illinois Arts Council Grant, a Wexner Center Residency, a Brico Forward Fund and a Fulbright (Berlin, 2000). She is an Assistant Professor at DePaul University in Chicago.



### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

This film is part fiction, part observation, part improvisation. I worked with professional Standardized Patients (SPs), medical actors who regularly perform as a variety of patients for medical students so the students can practice bedside manner and empathy.

After observing and researching at a few facilities, I settled on the University of Wisconsin Health Sciences Learning Center. All of the SPs in this film work there as SPs in real life. All of the medical students in this film also work there as SPs. For the most part, they are doing their job as they always do, except I wrote the cases and patient character descriptions and there were film cameras in the room.

The film is a compressed "day in the life of an SP". I built a light narrative that runs throughout the day, one that follows Gayle the SP (Ronna Trapanese) and Melanie the med student (Rainy Armstrong). Simply put, they're both just "having one of those days" in which their hearts are on their sleeves or a panic attack is just one thought away. The layers run deep, plot and performance are confused, and everyone wears multiple hats in a stressful, but safe environment.

### DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY:

- 2023 Patient – fiction short (19m)
- 2022 Bubblin' – music video for Copiers (6.5m)
- 2021 I Don't Want to be Anywhere Near It - music video for Soft Corner (5m)
- Partners - music video for Thomas Comerford (5m)
- Look Down & Find It - multi-channel video, collaboration with artist Julian Day (12m)
- 2020 No Damage - music video for ZOMBI (5m)
- Spontaneous - documentary short (15m)
- Not You - fiction/doc hybrid short (10m)
- I Can't - experimental short (5m)

- 2019 Deceive with Belief - archival short (16m)  
Larila - music video for Patrizia Oliva (5m)
- 2018 FUTURE LANGUAGE: The Dimensions of VON LMO - documentary (87m)  
Memoria Data - archival short (12m)
- 2016 MOVING - web-based video project & interviews  
Discontinuity - fiction short (15m)
- 2015 Beasts in the Garden - music video for Spires that in the Sunset Rise (6m)  
A Turn on the Hill - archival short (5m)  
A Trip to Always Falls - video installation & photographs
- 2014 Struggle Is Enough - video installation & drawings
- 2013 Scattered in the Wind - music video for Implodes (5m)
- 2012 The Broken New Series – three-part narrative/experimental television series  
It Doesn't Matter - narrative/experimental television short (12m)  
Across & Down - documentary short (12m)
- 2011 The Mirrored Curtain - narrative/experimental television short(11m)
- 2010 Imperceptihole - experimental short, collaboration with Robert Todd (14m)  
Mere Mystery - experimental short (12m)
- 2009 This Is My Show - narrative/experimental television short (14m)

## CREDITS:

### Featuring:

Standardized Patients as Standardized Patients:

Ronna Trapanese as Gayle  
Jim Rowe as Jonathan  
Sabra Michelle as Sherrill  
Melvyn Marcum as Braydon

Standardized Patients as Medical Students:

Rainy Armstrong as Melanie Wagner  
NayMyo Win as Sonny Aung  
Suzan Kurry as Pauline Zinn  
Lydia Nyachieo as Gertrude Tefara

also featuring:

Kathleen Tissot as the Administrator  
Lillian Abrams as the Instructor  
Stuart Utley as the Back-Up  
Ariel Teal as Administrative Support  
Jenna Patenaude as Announcement Voice

**Direction:** Lori Felker

**Writing:** Lori Felker & Cast

**Assistant Director:** Ariel Teal

**Camera:** NK Xiong, Liz Sunday, Lori Felker

**Sound Recording:** Spencer Tye

**Production Assistance:** Megan Schwoerer

**Editing:** Lori Felker

**Editing Consultants:** Drew Durepos, Mike Olenick, Adam Strohm, Ward Crockett

**Sound Mix:** Alex Inglizian

**Colorist:** Ward Crockett

**Research and Production Support:** Jenna Patenaude, Kathleen Tissot

**Support:**



**Milwaukee Film's Brico Forward Fund, 2020**



**HEIL FAMILY**  
FOUNDATION

University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee

UWM Office of Research | Research Assistance Fund

DePaul University, School of Cinematic Arts

**Gratitude:**

Wichman Clinical Teaching and Assessment Center  
University of Wisconsin  
School of Medicine and Public Health

Lori Felker 2023