

**DIRECTED BY
CLARE COONEY**

NARRATIVE SHORT
DRAMA | 14MIN | USA
ENGLISH | OPEN CAP
16:9 | DCP | MOV



MEDIA KIT

2025

THE RIVER



LOGLINE

A mother struggling with problem gambling is at war with herself and puts her family in the crossfire.

SYNOPSIS

A poignant exploration of family, addiction, and cultural legacy, set against the backdrop of the Gila River Indian Reservation. The story follows three generations of basket makers from the O'otham tribe: Rocky, a mother with gambling problems, her auntie, Nan, and her teenage daughter, Maya.

Auntie Nan and Maya are gathering materials from the river for basketmaking, while Rocky secretly attempts to sell a family heirloom basket in an empty parking lot. The continuity of tradition is juxtaposed with the turmoil of trauma. As the story unfolds, Rocky wins a significant sum of money at a casino but faces rejection from her family. Maya is awakened from a nightmare, shaken and uncertain; and Nan is once again thrust into a painful situation with difficult choices. Rocky's misguided return home to reconnect highlights the complex and fragile bonds of love and family.

THE RIVER is a story about redemption, resilience, and the ties that bind us to our heritage and each other.



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2 0 2 5

AND COUNTING



COMMUNITY FOCUSED

We are proud to have the support of the Gila River Indian Community. During production we were committed to honoring this trust by listening to elders and advisors, and by not just including, but hiring community members. We continue to do our best to be good stewards of this story. Over half of our overall cast and crew were native, many GRIC members, including our writer, co-producer, and cast member.

FEMALE FORWARD

We made a conscious choice to empower women in front of and behind the camera:

- The story revolves around three central female characters.
 - Key positions are held by women, including Producer, Executive Producer, Director, and Director of Photography.
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LOOKING AHEAD

We hope this film brings awareness to the challenges and complicated nature of addiction.

We hope to expand minds, spark conversation, and encourage compassion.

We would like to make this film available to organizations and communities who may want to use it as an educational tool.

WRITER

My childhood and my current job as a public defender for my tribe give me an intimate perspective on addiction. That knowledge combined with a desire to make my Rez a key character in a story led to *THE RIVER*. Loved ones are not just challenged by Rocky's addiction, but the entire Rez is as well. *THE RIVER* makes use of the landscapes we inhabit, from the river and desert, to the family homes. The outdoors reflect the freedom and openness in our lives, and the family living room embodies the confined, suffocating feeling an addicted mind experiences. Although this film is Native at heart, it deals with universal themes.



DIRECTOR

Family legacies can be complicated. The traditions, strengths, and honor of a family name can be a source of pride and identity, but those legacies can be a double-edged sword. The pressure to live up to a family legacy can be painful, and the shame of not doing it can be crippling. Heritage might give us our eye color, our belief system, our stories, our spirituality, or even a shared talent passed down through generations, but those beautiful historical gifts sometimes come with darker, more painful heirlooms – a pattern of mental illness, of anger, of trauma. Every family is different. *THE RIVER* explores one family's legacy, both good and bad, through the lens of a flawed, complex woman who is wrestling with her identity, her past, and her present.



PRODUCER

I was introduced to this story in 2019 when it was a short play in LA, then traveling with it as it grew into a full length play, premiering in San Francisco in early 2023. I now champion this story as Produce/Actor of the short film. My first exposure to problem gambling however came much earlier, as a child, looking up at my father. I wish I could go back and ask him about self-worth, about how he was feeling, about what he was fighting so hard to forget, and why he felt lacking in some way. He wasn't perfect and he was deeply loved. For better or worse, we didn't diagnose his problematic gambling, we just lived with it. My hope is that this film opens eyes and hearts, educates, and begins conversations both at the family dining table and on a global scale.





Gambling addiction is known as the "hidden addiction," because you can't smell it on someone's breath, or see it in their eyes, and it won't show up on a drug screening. Yet gambling addiction changes brain chemistry and processes just like drugs or alcohol.



Up to half of all gambling addicts have a substance abuse disorder and/or a psychiatric condition. At least three-fourths of all gambling addicts suffer from depression, according to the National Council on Problem Gambling. One in five gambling addicts attempt suicide, twice the rate of people with other addictions.



Both gambling addiction and problematic gambling behavior do not depend on profit or loss. A high profit can even make recognizing problematic gaming behavior noticeably more difficult, as the person concerned has the subjective impression of having done "everything right."





DIRECTOR: CLARE COONEY

Clare's feature film DEPARTING SENIORS premiered at FrightFest in London and was part of the Cannes' Fantastic Pavilion 2023. Her award-winning short films RUNNER, PICK UP, and AFTER (A LOVE STORY) have played at Academy-Qualifying festivals across the country. She has been featured in NewCity magazine's Film 50 list and has received press from Deadline, Variety, Roger Ebert, and TimeOut.



WRITER: CLAUDE JACKSON JR

Director of the Gila River Indian Community Defense Services Office, Claude is a respected Attorney as well as accomplished screenwriter, playwright, and director. Together with his brother, Roberto, they produced and directed the feature film, IN CIRCLES. He and his wife, Lea, have three kids: Zaryk (23), Kaleb (17), and Naiya (9).



PRODUCER / ACTOR: RAINBOW DICKERSON

Award winning actor / creator, and recipient of a TIFF Rising Star, Vancouver Film Critic's Best Supporting Actress, and Prix Iris Revelation of the Year Nomination for her work in the feature BEANS, directed by Tracey Deer. She is an alumna of ABC Disney Discovers and has performed on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and at top theatre including The Public Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Repertory Theatre, and many others. Currently she can be seen in Netflix's adaptation of AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER.



EXECUTIVE PROD: MARY COLEMAN WAY

Co-founder of Fit Via Vi, a film and theater production company dedicated to amplifying new storytellers; known for films like SUGARCANE and Broadway shows like HERE LIES LOVE. Mary's journey began as a television writer, director, producer, and on-air host for several networks. She holds positions as the Exec Dir Emeritus and VP of Southwest Shakespeare Company. Globally, her leadership and advocacy for world indigenous and classical art forms have lead to executive positions in Europe and Asia.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: GLENN STANTON

A classically-trained actor, his television career began there as well with recurring roles on CHICAGO FIRE and CRISIS. Other TV credits include THE SON, 9-1-1, ROSWELL NM, 4400, and the role of Frost in THE WALKING DEAD. Glenn was named by the Casting Society of America as one of the Top 20 Actors from Historically Underrepresented Communities. Glenn made his lead, feature debut in PENITENTIA, alongside Rusty Schwimmer.



DIR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: OLIVIA AQUILINA

A queer gender-fluid cinematographer based in LA. They attended Columbia College Chicago and graduated with a degree in Cinematography. They have shot for Squarespace, Colors, Nylon Mag, Burberry, Nike, ESPN, Playboy, and many more. Their most current feature, RELATIVE, was released in theater this year and is in its festival circuit. As well as multiple shorts that have won Best Short Film and Audience Award at London ISFF, and the Award of Merit at Indiefest.

CO-PRODUCER: ROBERTO JACKSON

Writer / Director / Photographer and Gila River Indian Community member, Roberto is currently the Director of the Communications & Public Affairs Office. Winner of the InterTribal Entertainment Short Screenplay Contest for INDIOS PREMIERIOS. Winner of the LA Skins Fest Achievement in Filmmaking Award for "IN CIRCLES." Alumni of the Native American Media Alliance Feature Film Writers Lab. Co-creator, writer and host of the talkshow DOWNTIME.



EDITOR/ACTOR/CO-PROD: GEOFF MARSLETT

Film director, writer, producer, animator and actor. He has directed several successful narrative feature films including MARS and QUANTUM COWBOYS featuring Lily Gladstone; as well as producing and acting in the experimental documentary YAKONA. He currently resides in Austin, Texas and splits his time between filmmaking and teaching at the University of Colorado at Boulder.



SCORE & COMPOSITION: ED LITTLEFIELD

Percussionist, educator, & composer dedicated to Lingit culture, music, and traditional ways of knowing. Ed has released three albums featuring traditional native melodies with the Native Jazz Quartet, Walking Between Worlds. He has composed for the Disney feature, THE PROPOSAL, and for works by Sara Ruhl, Vera Starbard, Madeline Sayet, and many others. Ed is currently creating the first ever Lingit opera. When not playing, composing, or teaching you can find him in Seattle, WA.



WARDROBE DESIGNER: EB BROOKS

Award winning international costume designer who has worked in Film, Theater, Music Video, and TV for over 20 years. Regional theater credits include; Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Perseverance Theater in Alaska, and The Geffen Playhouse for which she received the 2018 Ovation Award, Drama Critic Circle Award, and two N.A.A.C.P nominations. She was the resident costume designer for Native Voices at The Autry and appeared in the Emmy Award winning documentary for The Industry and also designed costumes for their Grammy nominated opera.



THEME SONG: RAYE ZARAGOZA

An American singer-songwriter from New York, NY based in Los Angeles, CA. Raye has always created political folk music that is informed by her identity as a woman of mixed Indigenous, Asian and Latina heritage. She currently writes the music for Netflix's Spirit Rangers, and is about to begin the National Tour of Peter Pan as Tiger Lily.



CREDITS

ROCKY CAMU – Rainbow Dickerson
MAYA CAMU – Susanna Osife
NANCY CAMU – Jennifer Bobiwash
THE BUYER – Geoff Marslett

DIRECTED BY – Clare Cooney
WRITTEN BY – Claude Jackson Jr
PRODUCED BY – Rainbow Dickerson
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER – Mary Coleman Way
CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER – Glenn Stanton
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY – Olivia Aquilina
CO-PRODUCERS – Roberto Jackson
Claude Jackson Jr

EDITORS – Clare Cooney
Geoff Marslett

FINISHING EDITOR – Jason Slawson
LINE PRODUCER – Katherine McClain

ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS –
Kathleen Anzicek
Dan Calderone
Dawna Calderone
Justin Henkel
James Lenfesty & The Lenfesty
Family Foundation
Mark Leventer
Will Levinger
Geoff Marslett
Christopher Michalak
Samantha Oester
Bill Way
Nicole Jordan-Webber
Wild Horse Pass Development Authority

PRODUCTION DESIGNER – Yvonne Garcia

WARDROBE DESIGNER – EB Brooks

SOUND DESIGN & MIX – Michael Mulcahy

SCORE & COMPOSITION – Ed Littlefield

“NOT A MONSTER” – WRITTEN BY Raye Zaragoza
Anna Schulze

PERFORMED BY Raye Zaragoza

By arrangement with Secret Road Music Services

UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER – Jason Slawson

FIRST ASST DIRECTOR – Zach Lovvorn

BASKET DANCERS – Anna Blackwater
Renelda Blackwater
Rochelle Delowe
Taneisha Figueroa
Annalisa Gonzalez
Alison Juan
Eleanor Lynch
Sopphira Reyes
Ivory Soke

BASKET DANCE SINGERS – Yolanda Elias
Robert Stone

BASKET DANCE AUDIENCE – Yvonne Garcia
Kiowa Gordon
Claude Jackson Jr
Joseph Shoen
Cheryl M. Thomas

CASINO PATRONS – Dan Calderone
Armando Viteri
Bill Way

PLAYGROUND KIDS – Ulyannah Garcia
Naiya Jackson
Joseph Morales

PROPERTIES MASTER – Annalisa Gonzalez

1st AC – Daniel Murphy

2nd AC / DIT – Devin Morgan

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR – Alyse Marietta

BOOM OPERATOR – Nolan Venenklasen

GAFFER – Patrick Hyatt

KEY GRIP – Eddie Levine

GRIP – Zachary Redbird

LOCATION MANAGER – Glenn Stanton

COSTUME SUPERVISOR – Devon Wycoff

MAKEUP DEPT HEAD – Rita Liegl

MAKEUP ARTIST – Megan Spittell

COLORIST – Jeff Altman

PROD & TRANSP COORDINATOR – Rian Newton

TRANSPO CAPTIAN – Anthony Marietta

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS – Zaryk Leal
Reuben Riglero

CRAFT SERVICE & CATERING – Lea Jackson

CULTURAL CONSULTANT – Jackie Zillious

STILLS PHOTOGRAPHY – Roberto Jackson
Devon Wycoff

INSURANCE PROVIDED BY – Irene Quintero,
Momentous Insurance Brokerage, a Marsh
McLennan Agency Company

SPECIAL THANKS –

Southwest Shakespeare Co

Boys & Girls Club

Fit Via Vi Film Productions

Good Get Entertainment

Chloe Abrahams

Chuck & Laurie Goldstein

Robert Leventer

Jose Perez

April Staso

Elliott Whitton

Apache Rental Grp

Creative Pad LLC

Gila River Casinos

We Make Movies

Chad Burris

Leah Lane

Grant Mudge

Ernie Quiroz

Suzanne Viteri

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CONTACT

INQUIRES

Producer / Actor: Rainbow Dickerson
Rainbowdickerson@mac.com

MORE INFORMATION

Website: <https://www.mile213productions.com/>

Film Freeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/projects/2999430>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/968390852>

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

Facebook: [claudeberg](https://www.facebook.com/claudeberg)

TEAM INSTAGRAM HANDLES

DIRECTOR, Clare Cooney: [@clarecooneyofficial](https://www.instagram.com/clarecooneyofficial)

EP, Mary Coleman Way: [@fitviavifilm](https://www.instagram.com/fitviavifilm)

EP, Glenn Stanton: [@glennstantondrama](https://www.instagram.com/glennstantondrama)

DOP, Olivia Aquilina: [@cineliv](https://www.instagram.com/cineliv)

CAST, Geoff Marslett: [@gmarslett](https://www.instagram.com/gmarslett)

CAST, Jennifer Bobiwash: [@jenniferbobiwash](https://www.instagram.com/jenniferbobiwash)

CAST, Susanna Osife: [@susannaosife](https://www.instagram.com/susannaosife)

ORIGINAL MUSIC, Raye Zaragosa: [@rayezaragoza](https://www.instagram.com/rayezaragoza)



HOW MUCH IS FAMILY WORTH

