

JULY RISING

PRESS KIT

a film by Chauncey Crail
starring Alexa Yeames and Johanna Putnam

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When 16-year-old Andy loses her grandfather and inherits the family orchard, she becomes the ward of her estranged aunt from the city and must navigate the path to her future from a small town where independence for young women has never been an option.



Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Andy Stone (Alexa Yeames) has worked in her family's pear orchard in Northern California since she was orphaned as a young child. Andy's close relationship with her grandfather (Reed Wolthausen) and their shared connection to the land give her a sense of purpose and belonging.

But when Grandpa dies, Andy becomes the unwilling ward of her Aunt Linda (Johanna Putnam), a successful chef who left the farm as a teenager. To cope with her grief, Andy turns to the only thing she feels she has left: the orchard.

When loan officer Jeremy (Brien DiRito) tells Aunt Linda that the farm hasn't made money in years and faces foreclosure, Andy's new guardian decides to sell the land to pay off the bank and take Andy with her to the city.

Andy sets out to save her grandfather's orchard and find a way to succeed on her own terms, but discovers that her home may not be the place she thought it was. As Aunt Linda explores why she left the farm, she too makes a discovery that reveals growing up can happen at any age.

Not another 'save the farm film,' *July Rising* upends traditional farming images and constraints with unembellished beauty. Based on the writer's real family stories.

Director's Statement

I grew up on a pear farm in Northern California.

I played in the dirt, checked sprinklers among the trees, loaded trucks during harvest and sold pears on the side of the road. I worked hard, but it didn't seem like work; it's just what I did.

Then my family moved to the suburbs of Washington D.C.

As I struggled to adjust to life in the city, I began to understand what life on the farm had denied me, but also what it had taught me. I realized not only was there a larger world out there, but most people don't know what life is like where their food comes from.

Although the diversity in the world beyond rural California provided a freedom I'd never imagined, I also came to value the place where I grew up.

As I began to grasp the cultural, social and political divides between rural and urban Americas, I longed for the serenity of home yet craved the adventure in exploring new perspectives.



July Rising is about learning to straddle both worlds, to be honest with our deepest selves, the people we have yet to discover.

Andy struggles to cope with the loss of her grandfather, rebels against her new guardian, fights the bank and labors to keep her family's legacy intact. While her journey examines perspectives important to social progress and environmental conservation — emphasizing equal opportunity for women, stewardship of rural lands, food pathways and urban:rural conflict — it also invests itself in understanding the complexities of life in rural areas. Andy's efforts to understand conflicting ideologies and cope with threats to her way of life ensure that her ultimate struggle remains internal.

As our society tackles today's critical issues, we all must look inside ourselves for answers. Inside our future selves.

Producers



Chauncey Crail - *Writer, Director, Producer*

Chauncey Crail studied film at USC's School of Cinematic Arts and has a BA in Film and New Media Studies from Colorado College. As a multimedia artist and entrepreneur he's worked for more than a decade producing short films including [The Romantic Introvert's Dilemma](#) (2014). His resumé includes development, production and post production positions on both documentary and narrative features.

Crail's focus in film, photography and design reflects his passion for storytelling and emotional resonance. He attributes his fascination with perspective to his diverse work experience: Crail has worked in agriculture, government, marketing, retail, theater production and real estate development.



Robert Mahaffie - *Producer, Production Designer*

Washington D.C. native Robert Mahaffie has worked as a filmmaker, theater designer and aerial cinematographer for the last ten years. He studied Performance Design at Colorado College and graduated with a BA in Film and New Media. Mahaffie's award-winning films have screened at the *Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival*, the *ACM Film Festival* and the *Colorado College Film Festival*. In 2016, Rocky Mountain PBS aired his short documentary [On Track](#).

Mahaffie's most recent work in production and post-production on several feature documentaries includes assistant-directing the feature narrative film *Carmen & Jorge* (2018).

Cast



Alexa Yeames - *Andy Stone*

Following classical training at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Alexa Yeames has played roles as divergent as live Shakespearean theater and shows on The CW network. Much of her education has been hands-on as she worked alongside Julie Plec, Michael Landon Jr. and Sean McNamara. She is seen in Ryuhei Kitamura's film, *Downrange*, which premiered at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival. Based in Los Angeles, Yeames has also worked in a recurring role on The CW's *The Originals* and the theatrically released feature *Field of Lost Shoes*.



Johanna Putnam - *Linda Stone*

Johanna Putnam graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in Theater and Film Studies and currently resides in Brooklyn, NY. She can be seen in many genre films, including Project Greenlight's *Feast* trilogy and in the soon-to-be released Chinese-American romantic comedy *Love is a Broadway Hit*.

Putnam seeks roles in films of independent vision and artistic storytelling and is "beyond excited" to be a part of the *July Rising* team.

Credits

Writer & Director Producers	<i>Chauncey Crail Chauncey Crail Robert Mahaffie Alexa Yeames</i>	Executive Producers	<i>Charles Treuhold Faye Field The Dorn Family</i>
Co-Producers	<i>Lucy Houlihan Thomas Crandall</i>	Co-Executive Producers	<i>Jane & John Mahaffie</i>
Assistant Producers	<i>Isabella Egizi Ben Coldwell Charles Theobald</i>	Associate Producers	<i>Roshna Kapadia Bill Wilson</i>
Cinematographer Editor	<i>Thomas Crandall Meredith Mantik</i>	Principal Cast	<i>Alexa Yeames Johanna Putnam</i>
1st AD & UPM	<i>Julia Greene</i>	Supporting Cast	<i>Devin Ashley Whitten Michael Ridley Rebecca Dines</i>
2nd AD & 1st AC	<i>Ben Coldwell</i>		<i>Jason Kuykendall Jonathan Vazquez Joshua Zambrano</i>
Gaffer	<i>Joshua Zambrano</i>		<i>Brien DiRito Reed Wolthausen</i>
Production Recordist	<i>Charles Theobald</i>		
Sound Designer	<i>Chris Bittner</i>		
Production Designer & UPM	<i>Robert Mahaffie</i>		
Costume Designer	<i>Lucy Houlihan</i>	Production Company	<i>Green Speaker Media, LLC.</i>
DIT	<i>Will Stockton</i>		
Set Ops. Coordinator	<i>Josie Cohen</i>		
Set PA	<i>James Ryan Dinneen</i>		
Social Media Manager	<i>Haley Montgomery</i>		

