

## DIGITAL PRODUCTION CHALLENGE 2013 - CASE STUDY N. 1



### SYNOPSIS

Zena is a young woman who has been thrown some very harsh realities in life – and decides she will no longer let ‘circumstance’ define her. She will create her own world – to hide from all of the darkness she has found and also, she has a comrade in this: Bob. Bob is what she sees as a light in the darkness as they work to make art, to help the less fortunate (even though their own circumstances are clearly not so fortunate). Meanwhile, their own ‘normal’ friends and acquaintances struggle: their roommates, and Zena’s aristocrat admirer Jonny.

Are Zena and Bob delusional?? Maybe. But ultimately, one does have to make their own ‘Reality’.....and against all odds: Zena does this. She pays a heavy price, however....

### FILM DIRECTION & DIRECTOR’S VISION

“The Ninth Cloud” has been written and directed by Jane Spencer. It is an author film with its own language: it is different, in an amusing, diverting and very touching way.

“The film is about a girl who escapes from her traumatic past by entering a dream world. When circumstance reveals harsh reality, a crisis emerges. She has the choice to deal with reality or continue to escape. It’s a film about is real, about maturing or not, about the question: what is better?

The borders between illusion and reality are often blurry and letting go of dreams is very difficult in a dark world. The film shows this dilemma. Everyone is a dreamer to some extent and will be affected by this topic. However, the emotional experience will likely be most intense for people entering adulthood or adults who gave up their teenage dreams and are nostalgic about it.

This story is told from a female point of view. However, Zena and her room mates interact mostly with alpha-males, so male viewers will get a laugh out of it as well”.

## CAST

### Leads

The female lead is played by **Megan Maczko**, a young American actress. She was most recently seen in Richard Linklater's 'Me and Orson Welles' as well as under-study for Kiera Knightly in London's West End production of 'The Misanthrope'. USA

The character of the aristocratic playboy, Jonny, is played by **Jean-Hugues Anglade** from France. He is famous for his award winning lead roles in Betty Blue and Queen Margot. He won a César, as well as having six César, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA nomination. FRANCE

The character of the survivalist and street poet Bob is played by the internationally known **Michael Madsen**. His charismatic personality and raspy voice are best known from his performances in Tarantino's Reservoir Dogs and Kill Bill, Thelma and Louise, or Donnie Brasco. He usually plays a tough guy with a gun: in this he is a soft-spoken and confused poet/dishwasher, who is down on his luck but still striving for his dreams. USA

The character of the vile, socialite Brett is played by the well-known British actor, **Leo Gregory**, who has been in many UK films, including 'Cass', 'Wild Bill', 'Goal' and as Brian Jones of the Rolling Stones in 'Stoned'. UK

### Secondary Leads:

**Sabina Akhmedova**: as Helene. Sabina is a brilliant Russian actress who also just premiered as a lead in a television series in America called 'Siberia'. RUSSIA

**Wendy Thomas**: as Gemma. This is Wendy's first major role in film. UK

**Elana Krausz**: as Laura. Elana has had roles in many independent features in America and is known for her comic/sympathetic qualities as an actress. USA

**David Birkin**: as Billy. David is a well known up and coming British actor. UK

**Airan Abrahams**: as Jean. This is Airan's first major role. UK

**Elodie Betrisey**: as Bumble. This is French/Swiss actress Elodie's first major role in a film. SWITZERLAND

**Ian Webster**: as Guy. Ian is a well known British actor known for his dark, comic qualities. UK

**Meredith Ostrom**: as Miriam. Meredith is an up and coming American actress so far known for her role as Velvet Underground's Nico in 'Factory Girl'. USA

## PRODUCTION DETAILS

Year of production: 2012

Nationality: Switzerland, UK

Duration: 93mn

Shot in Super 16 in London, UK

International Sales: Shoreline Entertainment – Los Angeles, USA

### Producers/Companies:

Marc Holthuizen/Jane Spencer – Producers – Ward9 Productions, GmbH-SWITZERLAND

Wendy Thomas – Producer -UK

Gia Muresan – Producer – Cinemarket Productions - FRANCE

Julia Verdin – Producer-UK

Richard Hudson – Producer-UK

Kimberly Robson-Ortiz – Producer – Creative Minds Films-UK

Christo Dimassis – Producer – Visualiner Studios-USA

Ruedi Schick – CoProducer-SWITZERLAND

Ernie Fritz – CoProducer-USA

Janet Stigall – CoProducer-USA

Michael Madsen – Executive Producer-USA

Bruno Rosato – Executive Producer-CANADA

Michael Los – Executive Producer-UK

Mark Lipson – Executive Producer-USA

Steven Adams – Executive Producer-USA

Krim Delko – Executive Producer-USA

Rachael Steele – Line Producer-UK

**Other companies:**

Swiss Effects-SWITZERLAND

SDS Studio-SWITZERLAND

Tunnel Post Production-USA

Metaphor Entertainment-USA

Ignition Creative (trailers)-USA

Wham Bam Productions-UK

**CREW: Heads of Department LIST**

Jane Spencer – Director-SWITZERLAND (US Citizen)

Sam Mitchell – Director of Photography-UK

Richard Hudson – Production Designer-UK

Junko Kanayama - Costume Design-UK (Japanese citizen)

Marcel Vaid – Composer-SWITZERLAND

Raz Olsher – Additional Music-UK

Herbert Hunger/Jane Spencer – Editors-UK/SWITZERLAND

Simon Bysshe – Sound -UK

Christian Dwiggin – Sound Designer-USA

Jane Spencer – writer-SWITZERLAND

Lucy Shuttleworth – writer: additional material-UK

Kat Moon – 1<sup>st</sup> A.D.-UK

Michael Saxer, Justin Brown – Additional Cinematography-SWITZERLAND and UK