



RUNNER

a film by Marian Mathias

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cinéfondation
LA RÉSIDENCE

Marian Mathias

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Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films,

or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.



With the support of HP. Printed on an HP Indigo Digital Press.

Technical Information

Working Title: Runner

Director: Marian Mathias

Screenplay: Marian Mathias

Nationality: United States

Genre: Drama

Format: 16 mm

Length: 80 min

Shooting location: American Midwest

Producer: Joy Jorgensen

Email: joyjorg@gmail.com

Tel: + 49 152 0315 6093

Director's Information

Marian Mathias is a Brooklyn based director. She recently received her MFA at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where she was a Graduate Departmental Fellow. Marian is the recipient of the Hollywood Foreign Press Award, the Sara Driver Production Award, and two awards in Fine Art. Marian's thesis film **Give Up The Ghost** premiered as an Official Selection at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival in the Cinéfondation category. The film, shot on 35mm, was made with the support of Kodak and Film Factory in Paris. Her short films have premiered worldwide, with recent festival screenings in Egypt, Poland, and Nepal.



Synopsis

Runner follows Haas, an eighteen-year-old girl raised by a single father in Missouri. Growing up in an isolated town composed of mostly German immigrant families, she is unsure of the life that has been set out for her by her community. When tragedy strikes at home, she is left to bury her father alone. In order to meet the terms of his will, she must bring him across the region, to Northern Illinois, next to the plot where her mother lay. It is here that she learns of a life much different than her own: her mother's. And it is here, at a boarding house, where she meets Will. A story of two strangers encountering, changing, and ultimately leaving one another.

Statement of Intent

Right now, the subject of love is important to me, particularly the struggle between love and circumstance. I am interested in a young person who strives for an ideal when it is not asked of them. Who blazes a path of their own volition and design. Who yearns for something when they don't know its form. In *Runner*, I am looking to use joy as a means of investigating sorrow and *vice versa*, and for love to grow somewhere in between. Beyond this, I am interested in the vast and often neglected scenes of the American Midwest. I want to ask the question, "how can you be close, when you are so far apart?" and to visualize it. My aim is to highlight the fusion between the organic and inorganic: mold with cement, wind with wire – and the persistence of the natural world.

Synopsis

Runner suit Haas, jeune fille de dix-huit ans élevée par un père célibataire dans le Missouri. Après avoir grandi dans une ville isolée composée principalement de familles d'immigrés allemands, elle n'est pas sûre de la vie à laquelle elle a été préparée par sa communauté. Quand le malheur frappe, elle se retrouve seule à enterrer son père. Afin de respecter les termes de son testament, elle doit lui faire traverser la région, jusqu'au nord de l'Illinois, à côté du terrain où repose sa mère. C'est là qu'elle découvre une vie bien différente de la sienne: celle de sa mère. Et c'est là, dans une pension de famille qu'elle rencontre Will. Une histoire de deux étrangers qui se rencontrent, changent et finalement se quittent.

Note d'intention

Actuellement, le sujet de l'amour est important pour moi, en particulier la lutte entre l'amour et la force des choses. Je m'intéresse à une jeune personne qui aspire à un idéal quand on ne le lui demande pas. Qui ouvre la voie de sa propre volonté et de sa propre conception. Qui aspire à quelque chose dont on ne connaît pas la forme. Dans *Runner*, je cherche à utiliser la joie comme moyen d'enquêter sur le chagrin et inversement, et pour que l'amour grandisse quelque part entre les deux. Au-delà de cela, je m'intéresse aux décors vastes et souvent négligés du *Midwest* américain. Je veux poser la question « Comment pouvez-vous être proche si vous êtes si loin l'un de l'autre ? » Et le visualiser. Mon objectif est de mettre en évidence la fusion entre l'organique et l'inorganique: la moisissure avec le ciment, le vent avec la corde – et la persistance du monde naturel.