

DIRECTED BY

NORAH APIRO

MAGIC & MONSTERS

Directed by Norah Shapiro





MAGIC & MONSTERS - EPK

Running Time:

89 minutes

Directed By:

Norah Shapiro

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Website: www.magicandmonstersfilm.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/magicandmonstersfilm>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/magicandmonstersfilm/>

LINKS:

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/1068128576>

High Res Stills: <https://www.magicandmonstersfilm.com/press/epk>

PRESS CONTACT:

Elizabeth Foy Larsen - elizabethfoylarsen@gmail.com

LOGLINE

MAGIC & MONSTERS uncovers the long-buried story of widespread sexual abuse at America's preeminent children's theater. In the aftermath of litigation, four survivors attempt the unthinkable: working with the very institution that harmed them. Their search for justice offers a hopeful blueprint for healing in the wake of trauma.

SYNOPSIS

MAGIC & MONSTERS takes us inside the Tony Award-winning Children's Theatre Company, an internationally celebrated institution that has launched countless artistic careers and nurtured young talent for decades. But alongside the world-class, boundary-breaking art, something darker was also unfolding behind the scenes. Following groundbreaking litigation that exposed decades of sexual abuse, survivors make an extraordinary choice—to work directly with the organization that harmed them toward genuine accountability. As these former child actors reclaim their voices and demand transformative change, they forge a powerful blueprint for healing that extends to all institutions entrusted with our children.

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER, Norah Shapiro

Minneapolis-based EMMY Award winning director/producer **Norah Shapiro** left a decade+ first career as a public defender to work in documentary filmmaking and has combined her passion for justice and storytelling ever since. Her last film, *Time for Ilhan*, about the political rise of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar premiered at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival, won multiple audience awards, was nominated for a 2018 NAACP Image Award for Best TV Documentary and received a 2018-2019 Daytime EMMY Award for Outstanding Directing Special Class. Ms. Shapiro's current film ***Magic & Monsters*** received the International Documentary Association Enterprise development (2019) and production (2020) grants for in-depth explorations of original, contemporary stories that integrate journalistic practice into the filmmaking process. It was also awarded Runner-up for the 2024 Library of Congress/Ken Burns Prize, an annual national prize that recognizes exemplary documentary films that tell compelling stories about American history. Ms. Shapiro is a 2021 & 2012 McKnight Media Artist Fellow, and her work has also received support from the Tribeca Film Institute, Catapult Film Fund, Jerome Foundation, Hot Docs, Gotham and others. She is a founding member of the Minneapolis Chapter of Film Fatales.

PRODUCER, Elizabeth Foy Larsen

Elizabeth Foy Larsen is an award-winning, Minneapolis-based journalist and best-selling author. Her work has appeared in numerous national and international publications, including *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Mother Jones*, *Slate*, *The Daily Beast*, *Family Circle*, *The Guardian*, and *StarTribune*. Her Mpls/St. Paul magazine feature article, *The Exit Strategy* about the litigation against the Children's Theatre Company won best feature at the 2018 Minnesota Magazine Awards. Elizabeth taught magazine journalism at the University of Minnesota's Hubbard School of Journalism for 11 years.

PRODUCER, Christine Delp

Christine Delp is an award-winning documentary director, producer and sociologist. Her debut *SANTUARIO* won Tribeca Film Institute's IF/THEN pitch and the New Orleans Film Festival's Grand Jury Prize. She recently produced the HBO doc series *BURDEN OF PROOF*. Christine's films, which focus on complex social issues, have earned support from Sundance Institute, IDFA Forum, Sheffield MeetMarket and more. As a producer, she worked on the Emmy- and Peabody-winning *A CHEF'S LIFE* on PBS. She's a New Orleans Film Society Fellow, UC Berkeley Investigative Reporting Program associate, and PhD sociology student at the University of Minnesota, where she holds an NSF fellowship.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, Anthony Edwards

Anthony Edwards is probably best known as Dr. Mark Greene on the series “ER” as well as Goose in “Top Gun.” In addition to being a Golden Globe-winning actor appearing on stage and in premiere Hollywood films and TV, Edwards is a survivor who served as the Chairman of the Board of 1in6.org – an advocacy organization dedicated to male survivors of sexual abuse – and travels to universities, military bases, and beyond to raise awareness about the impact of sexual abuse on male survivors.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY, Brennan Vance

Brennan’s work has been featured on HBO, PBS, NBC, and Starz and at such film festivals as SXSW, Tribeca, Slamdance, and Full Frame. Vance has worked commercially with a wide range of brands such as Balenciaga, Under Armour, Organic Valley, and Target. Recent cinematography projects include Cecilia Aldarondo’s *You Were My First Boyfriend* his own award-winning short film, *How To Care*. His feature-length directorial debut, *The Missing Sun*, was released in 2018 and earned him a McKinght Media Fellowship.

EDITOR, Julie Parroni

Julia Parroni is a documentary film editor with 25 years of experience. She started doing location sound recording and editing on fiction films, then found her calling editing documentaries. She has worked with a diverse array of directors including Errol Morris, Rick Burns, Bill Moyers and Francis Ford Coppola. She has edited feature length and television documentaries for theatrical release, PBS series, American Masters and American Experience, museums and network series. Projects she edited were awarded the Peabody Award, the American Cinema Editors Best Edited Documentary, and a New York Emmy for Best Short Documentary.

EDITOR, Jen Bradwell

Jen Bradwell is an editor with over a dozen feature documentaries to her credit, including the Emmy Award-winning *Time for Ilhan*, Sundance premiere *Resilience*, HBO's *Toxic Hot Seat* and *The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia*, and the SXSW Audience Award-winning *MINE: Taken by Katrina*. Among the films she has cut for James Redford, two seminal projects (*Resilience* and *Paper Tigers*) center on how childhood trauma affects brain development, and what the likes of doctors and educators are doing with this emerging science. To date, they have had more than 40,000 community screenings around the country and have helped spark a national conversation on what it means to be trauma informed. Her directorial premiere, *Make A Circle (2024)* is currently on the festival circuit with an upcoming PBS premiere.

COMPOSER, Tom Scott

Thomas Scott has over 20 years of experience as a composer and music producer working in film and television. Recent work includes the 2017 Netflix reboot of Mystery Science Theatre 3000 – which included orchestrating and producing a theme recorded by a 65-piece orchestra. He also created the sound design for the dramatic short, New Neighbors (2017 Sundance Film Festival). Additional documentary projects include scoring War Dance (Academy Award Nominee for Best Documentary Feature and winner of a Sundance Doc Directing Award 2007), Miss Tibet: Beauty in Exile (2014) Pretty Village (2014) and Holy Wars (2010), and Battle for the Elephants (2013) for the National Geographic Network for which he arranged choral arrangements recorded by the Kenyan Boys Choir in Nairobi, Kenya.

CREDITS/CREW

Directed and Produced by
NORAH SHAPIRO

Produced by
ELIZABETH FOY LARSEN
CHRISTINE DELP

Executive Producer
ANTHONY EDWARDS

Director of Photography
BRENNAN VANCE

Edited by
JEN BRADWELL
JULIE PARRONI

Original Music by
TOM SCOTT

Sound Design and Mix by
ELIZA PALEY

Consulting Producer
MARC SMOLOWITZ

Impact Producer
KIRSTEN KELLY

Associate Producer
ERICA TICKNOR

CREDITS/CREW (cont.)

Archival Producers

**RACHEL ANTELL
JEN PETRUCELLI**

Colorist

OSCAR OBOZA, Nice Shoes

Colorist Assistant & Producer

BRIAN MORRIS

Animation/Motion Designer & GFX

Em YUEH

Title Designer

TYLER BARNES

Online Editor

BRAD KEELEY

Online Assistant

PETER CHE

Fiscal Sponsor

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY

Legal Services

UCLA Law School Documentary Film Clinic

Bookkeeper/Business Manager

MICHELLE CARON

***MAGIC & MONSTERS* was supported by grants from:**

IDA Enterprise Fund

**Better Angels Library of Congress Lavine/ Ken Burns Prize
for Film**

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota

The Inmaat Foundation

FEATURING *(in order of appearance)*

Rana Haugen

Don Goff

Jina Penn-Tracy

Laura Stearns

Rob Shapiro

Cordelia Anderson

C. Andrew Mayer

Annie Enneking

Melissa Beneke

Jill Larson

TJ O'Donnell

John Clark Donahue

Myron Johnson

Joel Grey

Bruce Shapiro

Mary Hallman

Michael Campion

Cecily Marcus

Jeff Anderson

Molly Burke

Marci Hamilton

Kim Motes

Marianne Combs

Melissa Ferlaak

Dawn McClelland

Pearl McClintock

REVIEWS/PRESS

Film documenting decades of abuse at Children's Theatre Company making its debut - MPR News

<https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2025/04/03/film-documenting-decades-of-abuse-at-childrens-theatre-company-making-its-debut>

Norah Shapiro previews "Magic and Monsters" a film featuring survivors of sexual abuse at CTC.

<https://www.tpt.org/almanac/video/magic-and-monsters-documentary-prxpg1/>

Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival serves up wide range of offerings (Review of Magic & Monsters)

<https://www.minnpost.com/artscape/2025/04/minneapolis-st-paul-international-film-festival-serves-up-wide-range-of-offerings/>

Magic and Monsters wins 2024 Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize Runner Up

<https://deadline.com/2024/09/fleischer-brothers-documentary-wins-2024-library-of-congress-lavine-ken-burns-prize-1236084638/>

PRAISE/PULL QUOTES

“Gripping and devastating”

- **MinnPost**

“When communities, when institutions and individuals refuse to acknowledge the fact of injury, it's a second betrayal.”

- **Bruce Shapiro, Exec. Dir. Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, Columbia University School of Journalism**

“Poignant and infuriating”

- **The Minnesota Star Tribune**

“Denial is such an easy thing to choose.”

- **Rana Haugen, CTC Alum/Plaintiff**

“The average victim needs decades to come forward. You have to be an adult to understand that your childhood was destroyed.”

- **Marci Hamilton, Professor of Political Science University of Pennsylvania and Founder/CEO, CHILD USA**

FESTIVALS

World Premiere: Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film festival (April 2025)

Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival (Oct. 2025)

Twin Cities Film Festival (Oct. 2025)

Double Exposure Film Festival (Nov. 2025)



AWARDS:

2025 MSPIFF "Best of Fest"

2024 Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film Runner-Up

