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LOS ANGELES, 23.09.2021

THE MOTHER CAN'T REMEMBER, THE DAUGHTER CAN'T FORGET.

IN 2019, MICHAELA COEL DM'ED **DESMOND'S NOT HERE ANYMORE**
SCREENWRITER TO "BE BRAVE" NOW HER FILM OPENS
HOLLYSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL

Family secrets are meant to be kept, and normally they are.
Over 30 years later, screenwriter Lindiwe Suttle Müller-Westernhagen
is finally telling hers, thanks to Michaela Coel.

In 2019, Suttle Müller-Westernhagen sent a DM to Michaela Coel, Coel surprisingly replied.
"Bravery rules. When we are all brave, our species has no limits," advised Coel.
This was the push that Suttle Müller-Westernhagen needed to write **DESMOND'S NOT HERE ANYMORE**.
The short screenplay went on to win the 2019 HollyShorts screenplay contest.

DESMOND'S NOT HERE ANYMORE brings to life
the horrors of a mother that can't remember and a
daughter that can't forget. A celebration of the unique,
abiding mother-daughter bond, but ultimately it is
about healing. The film opens the Academy-qualifying
HollyShorts Film Festival today, September 23rd. This
diversely global, mostly women-powered short film
stars Emmy winner and Chicago Med veteran S. Epatha
Merkerson alongside Gotham winner Yolonda Ross
(The Chi). The second screening is on the 25th at the
TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles.

DESMOND'S NOT HERE ANYMORE follows a devoted
daughter who is confronted with a painful family secret
as she tries to care for her mother with dementia.
It leans in on the personal horrors each character is
dealing with: dark family history, toxic sexuality, and the
terrors of remembering and forgetting.

South African director MMABATHO MONTSHO (2020
Best Short Film – Worldwide Women's Film Festival)
led this global group of filmmakers from Seattle,
Los Angeles, Johannesburg, Berlin, New York with
26 of the 37 crew being women. A powerhouse of
creatives signed onto the project. Grammy-nominated
musician RAY ANGRY from the ROOTS composed
the score, multi-award winning German editor
Claudia Wolscht, and Hungarian-born, Berlin-based
cinematographer Agnesh Pakozdi. Pakozdi was the
Best Cinematography winner at the 62nd Seminci Film
Festival and a Top 3 Nominees for the Michael Ballhaus
Cinematography Award in 2019.

The film was shot in Seattle, Washington and produced
by German legend, Marius Müller-Westernhagen's
Kunstflug Entertainment, HollyShorts' 88th Street
Productions, Seattle Film Summit and Slager Fuj
Creative Media.

Composer Ray Angry on the creative virtual
experience:

Montsho's direction of the film aligned with my
personal vision as a musician to always reflect cultural
accuracy and relevance. Collaborating and creating
music via virtual communication was definitely a new
and fun experience. It was exciting to still be able to
make something that would touch others even as we
as humans are keeping our distance. I created most
of the music while I was on the road with The Roots.
The rest of the music was recorded in my home studio
on my beautiful Steinway. It was a dope experience
learning how to play my new keyboard called a ROLI
while composing the film's score.

Montsho hopes that **DESMOND'S NOT HERE
ANYMORE** invites the viewer to walk hand in hand with
each character as they work through their personal
horrors in search of true healing.

S. Epatha Merkersen is repped by ICM and McGowan
Rodriguez. Yolonda Ross repped by Wetzell
Entertainment Group and Schreck Rose Dapello
Adams Berlin & Dunham. Lindiwe Suttle Müller-
Westernhagen was International Screenwriters'
Association's Top 25 Screenwriters to Watch in 2020.

WE KINDLY ASK YOU TO INCLUDE

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NOT DESMOND'S HERE ANYMORE

S. EPATHA
MERKERSON
&
YOLONDA
ROSS

DIRECTED BY MMABATHO MONTSHO
WRITTEN BY LINDIWE SUTTLE MÜLLER-WESTERNHAGEN
MUSIC COMPOSED BY RAY ANGRY

