

# KINO LORBER

*presents*

## BORN TO BE

A film by Tania Cypriano



2019 / 92 mins. / Documentary / USA/Color

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## SYNOPSIS

### SHORT:

BORN TO BE follows the work of Dr. Jess Ting at the groundbreaking Mount Sinai Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery in New York City-where, for the first time ever, all transgender and gender non-binary people have access to quality gender affirming health and surgical care.

With extraordinary access, this feature-length documentary takes an intimate look at how one doctor's work impacts the lives of his patients as well as how his journey from renowned plastic surgeon to pioneering gender-affirming surgeon has led to his own transformation.

### LONG:

BORN TO BE follows the work of Dr. Jess Ting, a plastic surgeon at the groundbreaking Mount Sinai Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery in New York City-where, for the first time ever, all transgender and non-binary people have access to quality gender affirming health and surgical care. CTMS is Mount Sinai's large, interdisciplinary transgender health program that includes adolescent health, adult primary care, hormone treatment, mental health support, and the surgical programs where Dr. Ting has played such a pivotal role with his innovative approaches.

With extraordinary access, this feature-length documentary takes an intimate look at how one doctor's work impacts the lives of his patients as well as how his journey from renowned plastic surgeon to pioneering gender-affirming surgeon has led to his own transformation.

BORN TO BE gives voice to those who refuse to conform to gender norms and stereotypes. The film addresses the nuances and complexities of gender, exploring key issues around the breadth of gender identity and expression among human beings.

Through the gender affirming surgeries of Dr. Ting's patients, we witness the joys and torments that come with this brand-new territory—even as we see the limitations of Dr. Ting's renowned surgical skills, and his commitment to his new field being tested.

For transgender and non-binary people, gender affirming surgeries including genital reconstruction surgeries are effective and medically necessary (references include the World Professional Association for Transgender Health “Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People” 2012, the Endocrine Society “Clinical Practice Guideline for Endocrine Treatment of Gender Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons” 2017, and New England Journal review “Care of Transgender Persons” 2019).

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I've always been interested in stories related to health and the body in the context of individuals and communities. My first film, *Viva Eu!*, celebrates the life of artist Wilton Braga, one of the first people in Brazil to be diagnosed with AIDS. I then worked on a video about tattoo artists and aficionados in a tattoo convention in Philadelphia, and a documentary about a pioneering HIV/AIDS campaign in houses of worship of Candomblé - a Brazilian religion based on African beliefs and culture. I also have taken my own body to the screen. In *ex-voto*, I explore video as an offering object to Our Lady Aparecida - the national Patron Saint of Brazil - in gratitude for saving my life from an accident with fire.

In March 2016, producer Michelle Hayashi told me about the new and pioneering Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery at Mount Sinai - and how she felt it could be developed into a film. Michelle thought that Dr. Jess Ting, the Center's surgical director, could affect this by giving us access to those in transition and to stories that could encourage the trans community to understand how change was on the way.

After a year of getting the hospital's permission to film and finding funding, we started production on BORN TO BE with no sound recordist - just using mics on the cameras - and no for that matter no crew; it was just our cinematographer Jeffrey Johnson, Michelle, and myself.

Being inside the clinics, we were allowed to experience people's first consultations so we could follow their journey from the beginning. It was essential to me that everyone be comfortable sharing their names, their faces, and their bodies.

Dr. Ting's passion for learning everything that was new to him was contagious, and shaped Born to Be. The respect, empathy, and compassion he brings to his practice is incredibly moving to see. Dr. Ting was raised by a single mother and his older siblings. As a teenager he excelled as a musician and got into the Juilliard School. Urged by his family to change his profession, he went to med school despite his passion for music - and became a top student and later a professional in the field of plastic surgery. What he's doing now is helping people to be who they really are - and he understands what's at stake because who we fundamentally are is a big part of what we look for when we search for the meaning in our lives. With BORN TO BE, someone who is not trans communicates to a larger, and predominantly cisgender, audience about the trans experience-and the importance of being our true selves.

It's important to note that while the stories we tell in this film are about people in the transgender community who choose to surgically transition, there are many trans people who do not seek surgery. Also, it is vital to remember that the transgender community is a diverse community and I tried to show this by following people of different ages, ethnicities, gender, and financial backgrounds. There are those who have familial support and those who don't; there are those who have partners and those who hope their transition will bring them to one. I hope viewers will learn from the film that while many trans people choose to have surgeries, these do not necessarily cure depression or erase trauma. The people we meet in the film are empowered by affirming their true gender, by embracing their true self.

Transgender women, men, and non-binary people are becoming more accepted in mainstream society but we still have a long way to go in order to assure a positive future for the next generation. Health care should be part of a larger conversation; medical education in transgender care is running very behind as there is a huge lack of research on transgender health. In the current administration, where healthcare is so fragile, we need to remind ourselves that our fight is everybody's and that as a society, we are stronger when we fight for everyone because healthcare is a human right.

**-Tania Cypriano**

## **PRODUCER'S STATEMENT**

I got the call from Dr. Ting in early 2016. "Michelle, one of my patients committed suicide yesterday."

As Dr. Ting and I processed this information over the next few days, we learned that over 45% of trans people attempt suicide. I asked myself - what can we do to help? That's when the idea of a film came to me.

I raised seed funding for the film and found Tania Cypriano, a passionate director who could help realize this vision and Jeff Johnson, a gifted cinematographer. With an inexpensive camera, Tania, Jeff and I started visiting Dr. Ting's clinic and filming.

Culled from 200 hours of footage, BORN TO BE is the result of that partnership. It tells the story of five patients who undergo gender affirmation surgery and the doctor who performs them. It is an inside look at the lives of our subjects that I hope will bring a measure of understanding and empathy to viewers.

***-Michelle Koo Hayashi***

## **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER'S STATEMENT**

I first met Dr. Jess Ting in his office; depressed, dysphoric, and desperate. I had done copious amounts of research about surgeons who were familiar with gender and needed to meet him. We scheduled my surgery and moved forward with the procedure. A few weeks after my operation I went to see Dr. Ting for my follow-up appointment. He took my bandages off and I was speechless. I knew right away that my life was forever changed, and even better yet - beginning. I looked at Dr. Ting in awe and said "How can I ever thank you? What can I do? How can I get more involved in the community?" He said to me "You should help out with the documentary being made about this clinic."

So, that's exactly what I did.

A few weeks later I met Tania Cypriano, Michelle Hayashi, and Molly Fowler in a restaurant in Union Square. I told them my story, starting from my early memories of wearing boy's swim trunks at the age of five, and finishing with how I ended up at the table with them on that spring afternoon. They told me all about the project that was so close to home. After that lunch I was committed to helping the team finish the documentary, no matter what it took.

Drawing upon my personal life experiences as a non-binary person, I was able to inform and shape the filmmaking process and help complete the incredible project we now know as BORN TO BE. This documentary answers questions people are afraid to ask and opens a dialogue about the transgender population, and it's only the beginning. BORN TO BE is an important creation that provides a full inside look into what it means to transition surgically in today's society. It's here to educate, inspire, and change lives for the better.

***-J Winkelried***

## **MOUNT SINAI'S CENTER FOR TRANSGENDER MEDICINE AND SURGERY (CTMS) FACT SHEET:**

CTMS is the first comprehensive center of its kind in New York-and one of a few pioneers nationwide-to provide advanced care for trans and gender non-binary people with a multidisciplinary, integrated system of care. Located in New York City.

CTMS serves a growing need to support transgender and non-binary patients in New York City with all aspects of gender affirming health care including primary care, hormone therapy, mental health support, and gender affirming surgeries.

Since the opening of CTMS, in the beginning of 2016, its accomplishments include:

- Approximately 1,200 surgeries have been performed, including facial feminization, chest surgeries, genital surgeries, hysterectomy, and orchiectomy.
- Over 6,000 trans and non-binary patients have received care.
- Most insurance plans are accepted including Medicaid.
- Ten full-time surgeons are on staff with expertise in plastic surgery, genitourinary surgery, ENT surgery, and obstetrics and gynecology.
- An online continuing education transgender course is offered for professionals in the field through the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.
- In 2017, CTMS became the first center in New York to offer a transgender surgery fellowship - to fill a void in training programs for physicians looking to provide gender-affirming care.

### **PATIENT BIOS**

Dr. Ting's patients are as diverse as the city of New York itself. *BORN TO BE* follows the lives of a few of these engaging individuals, including:

#### **CASHMERE (She/Her)**

Cashmere (who recently changed her name to Naomi) is part of an older generation of transgender women although much of her experience is still lived by many young black trans women of our time. Born and raised in the Bronx, she was 16 when she left home. On the streets, she lived a complicated, marginalized life. In order to transform herself, Cashmere used whatever money she could to augment her body with black market silicone, anything to make herself look like the woman that she is. Now Cashmere is seeing Dr. Ting for vaginoplasty and to undo the effects of the earlier harmful process.



### **GARNET (She/Her)**

Garnet is a loquacious 22-year-old born and raised in Texas. Unlike many trans people, she has the full support of her family and is extremely close to her mother. Nevertheless, she lived a miserable childhood, bullied by her classmates for being effeminate, and mistakenly lived as a young gay man. She moved to New York to pursue a modeling career, and began to test her identity in a city where she could express herself more anonymously. Not long after, she started to transition to female. At Mount Sinai, Garnet is one of Dr. Ting's first patients to undergo a new type of vaginoplasty. She also gets breast augmentation and a few months later, facial feminization.



### **JORDAN (They/Them)**

Jordan is nonbinary and uses the pronouns "they" and "them." A decade ago, Jordan's family and friends didn't understand what they were going through. Now, with Jordan's nurturing spouse Alister by their side, they have the support they need to go through their transitioning. The surgery Jordan undergoes is called the radial forearm flap (a key procedure that uses skin and tissue from the arm for the construction of a penis) and happens to be one of the first of its kind to be performed in New York.



### **MAHOGANY (She/Her)**

Mahogany was once a successful black male model and a celebrity in South Africa but lost everything and had to seek disability assistance due to gender dysphoria. She was one of Dr. Ting's first vaginoplasty patients, and in 2017 returned to the clinic for facial feminization surgery - the first one that Dr. Ting performs alone.



### **SHAWN (He/Him)**

Shawn, who calls himself a "stealth male," signed up for the "Ting Phalloplasty," a type of surgery still in experimentation that Dr. Ting invented that adds realism and sensitivity to the phallus. It's potentially a game-changer in the field of gender-affirming surgery.



### **JESS TING (He/Him)**

A native New Yorker, Dr. Ting studied music at the Juilliard School before switching careers to medicine. He attended medical school at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and graduated first in his class and Alpha Omega Alpha. This was followed by general surgery training at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, plastic surgery training at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and a hand/microsurgery fellowship at the Hospital for



Special Surgery. Most recently, Dr. Ting led Mount Sinai's first surgical genital reconstruction surgery for the transgender and non-binary people -- a male-to-female operation called vaginoplasty. The procedure was completed in March 2016. With these groundbreaking surgeries, Mount Sinai became the first institution in New York City to offer gender affirming genital reconstruction surgery. As of fall of 2019, Dr. Ting's team has performed more than 1,200 operations, making Mount Sinai not only one of the first institutions in the country to offer transgender surgeries, but now one of the busiest. Dr. Ting performs research in transgender health and his clinical practice is limited to the surgical care of transgender/gender non-binary people, as well as victims of female genital mutilation.

## FILMMAKER BIOS

### **TANIA CYPRIANO - Director/Co-Producer (She/Her)**

Tania Cypriano has been working between the United States and her native Brazil for more than twenty-five years. Her work has been shown around the world in places such as the MoMA, the Jerusalem Film Festival, the Amsterdam Documentary Film Festival, and the Berlin Int'l Film Festival. She has been honored with a retrospective at the Robert Flaherty Seminar, and is a grant recipient of the NY State Council on the Arts, the NY Foundation for the Arts, the Soros Documentary Fund, the Jerome Foundation, Experimental Television, and many others. Strong themes in her documentaries have been health and the body in the context of individuals and communities. Her first documentary "Viva Eu!," which won five international awards, including Best Documentary at Joseph Papp's Festival Latino in New York, is about the first man diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Brazil. "Odô Yá! Life with AIDS", which won seven awards including a special jury prize at FESPACO in Burkina Faso, explores how Candomblé, an Afro-Brazilian religion, became a source of strength and power for a group of AIDS sufferers.

### **MICHELLE HAYASHI - Producer/Executive Producer (She/Her)**

Philanthropist and entrepreneur Michelle Koo Hayashi was born in Taiwan, raised in Japan, and emigrated to the US in 2011 following the Japanese Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. She was the CEO of a Tokyo-based real estate investment firm, and founder of a wedding online planning company in Taiwan. As a teenager, she founded Chinese Children Charity Association, a Taiwan-based children's charitable organization that remains active today. She has been a board member of nonprofits in Taiwan and Japan, and since relocating to the US, has been a board member of the China Institute and MOCA, the Museum of Chinese in America. She received her MBA from Harvard Business School and an undergraduate degree of Law & Political Science from Keio University in Japan.

### **SUSAN NORGET - Executive Producer (She/Her)**

A veteran of the independent film community, Susan Norget runs a film publicity and marketing company that specializes in bringing the best in independent cinema—from documentaries to foreign-language features—to broader audiences and acclaim. Susan has represented the work of some of the world's foremost documentarians, including Werner Herzog, Wim Wenders, Joshua Oppenheimer, Liz Garbus, Steve James, and Jehane Noujaim. Films the company has promoted have consistently been honored with top awards including 4 Best Documentary Feature Oscars and 23 Oscar nominations, 95 Independent Spirit awards and nominations and dozens of top Cannes and Sundance awards. Susan frequently works with producers seeking distribution, offering strategic advice and creative gameplans to help successfully bring their films to the marketplace. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

### **J WINKELRIED - Executive Producer (They/Them)**

J is currently living and proudly transitioning in Brooklyn, New York. They grew up in New Jersey and went off to Nashville, to study at Vanderbilt University. After a couple of years they decided to focus on their health and well-being and returned to New York City to settle into the beginnings of transitioning and living as their true unapologetic self. J is interested in the arts and fostering tolerance for those who choose to follow a different path with respect to personal gender identities.

### **MOLLY FOWLER - Executive Producer (She/Her)**

Molly Fowler is an award-winning producer, director and writer for television, film and drama. Her theatre work has been seen on and off Broadway, and in the West End of London. Her documentaries have been seen on PBS, Discovery, National Geographic, Lifetime, OWN and A&E. She lived in a men's maximum security prison in Louisiana to make *Serving Life* for Oprah's Doc Club which she executive produced with Forest Whitaker and which earned, among others, Christopher and Humanitas Awards. She was a producer for ABC News PrimeTime Live, and



senior producer for ABC News Nightline's *Beyond Belief* on OWN, where she began her collaboration with New York Times best-selling author Wes Moore. She and Mr. Moore then produced the PBS series *Coming Back with Wes Moore*, which examines re-entry issues for American war veterans. She now works in criminal justice reform in New Orleans where she uses her storytelling skills as a mitigation specialist for the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights.

**JEFFREY JOHNSON - Director of Photography (He/Him)**

Jeffrey Johnson has over 15 years of industry experience spanning the worlds of documentary, commercial, branded content, and scripted narrative. Jeffrey's work has appeared on HBO, PBS, A&E, Netflix, the New York Times, Field of Vision, and the Atlantic. From 2014 to 2017 he was the director of photography for the two-time Academy Award winning director, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and Trish Dalton on their feature documentary *Student Athlete*, which follows the stories of amateur athletes in the United States. With executive producer LeBron James, the film premiered in 2018 on HBO. After that he was the director of photography for *Do We Belong?*, a short documentary about an Indian Immigrant in Kansas who was shot and killed in a senseless hate crime. The film went on to win the Audience Award for Best Short Documentary at the 2018 Adirondack Film Festival. More recently, Jeffrey lensed *Neighborhood*, an ethereal documentary featuring the lives of three strangers set amidst the backdrop of a rapidly gentrifying Bushwick, Brooklyn. The film premiered in 2019 at BAMcinemaFest.

**CHRISTOPHER WHITE - Editor (He/Him)**

Christopher White has been a documentary film editor, producer and director of numerous award-winning films since 1995. In 2018, *Roll Red Roll* premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, was the season opener for the 2018 season of POV on PBS, and is currently on Netflix. Christopher was the editor and co-director of *Love Free or Die*, which premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, winning the Special Jury Prize. Other films include: *The Killer Within* (as editor and co-director), which premiered at the 2006 Toronto Film Festival and was nominated for a 2008 Best Documentary Emmy; *Hard Road Home*, nominated for a Best Documentary Emmy in 2009; and *Family Name*, his first film as editor, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 1997. Episodic series work includes *The Horn*, which won the RealScreen Award for Best Digital and Branded Content - Non-Fiction in 2017. Forthcoming is *The Innocence Files*, a multi-part Netflix series on wrongful incarceration directed by Roger Ross Williams.

**SCOTT FOLEY- Editor (He/Him)**

Scott K. Foley is an independent filmmaker and editor based in Brooklyn, New York. Scott began his career in the film and TV industry as a cinematographer in Chicago, but in 2009 he made the move from camera to editing. In 2017 he had the privilege of working on documentaries such as *Water Warriors*, which had its premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival and has since screened at more than 50 festivals worldwide; *Larger Than Life: The Kevyn Aucoin Story*, which premiered at DOC NYC and toured the festival circuit; and *Itzhak*, which opened the Hamptons Film Festival and screened as part of the American Masters series on PBS in 2018.

**TROY HERION - Original Music (He/Him)**

Troy Herion is a New York City-based composer for film, theater, dance, and experimental arts. His orchestral and electronic music has been performed at Carnegie Hall, broadcast on MTV, and screened in major film festivals including Sundance, Toronto, Tribeca, Full Frame, Hot Docs, and SXSW. Most recent film scores include *306 Hollywood* and *The Hottest August*. His concert works have been performed by the Grammy-winning Crossing Choir, The Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, So Percussion, JACK Quartet, Contemporaneous, and Nash Ensemble of London. He studied composition as a PhD fellow at Princeton University with a dissertation on visual-music.

**HEIDI REINBERG- Consulting Producer (She/Her)**

Heidi Reinberg's first forays into documentary were alongside Oscar winner Cynthia Wade on that director's first two films: *Grist for the Mill* for Cinemax, and *Shelter Dogs* for HBO. Since then, Heidi has produced for documentary Academy Award-winning director Ross Kauffman, and the celebrated filmmakers Jeremiah Zagar and Mai Iskander. Her most recent project is the ITVS/arte-SWR co-production *93Queen*, which won the inaugural *first look* Pitch Prize at the 2017 Hot Docs Forum before premiering at the 2018 Hot Docs Festival. After a theatrical release via Abramorama in summer 2018, *93Queen* had its US broadcast premiere on PBS' acclaimed POV strand. Heidi is currently producing Emmy winner Maisie Crow's *Untitled Criminal Justice I High School Project*, a collaboration with Anonymous Content and The New York Times.

**JESSICA KINGDON - Co-Producer (She/Her)**

Jessica Kingdon is a Chinese-American director/producer named one of "25 New Faces of Independent Film" by Filmmaker Magazine in 2017. Her upcoming feature documentary *UNTITLED PRC PROJECT* has received support from SFFILM, Chicken & Egg, Cinereach, Sundance, and Field of Vision. Her award-winning short documentary *Commodity City* (2017) is an observational film about the world's largest wholesale mall. Her short *Routine Island* (2019) was an Eyeslicer Radical Film Fund recipient and premiered at the Rooftop Film Festival. Producer credits include *The Waterslide* (dir. Nathan Truesdell), which premiered at True/False in 2018, *Old Stone* (dir. Johnny Ma), which premiered at the Berlinale 2016, and the upcoming *For Entertainment Purposes Only* (dir. Colin Healey). She is a member of the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective.

**RACHEL MILLS - Co-Producer (She/Her)**

Rachel Mills is an Emmy-nominated filmmaker whose work as a producer includes the HBO documentary films *MAVIS!*, about the legendary singer Mavis Staples, which garnered a Peabody Award, and the Emmy-nominated and James Beard Award-winning documentary *A Matter of Taste*, following famed chef Paul Leibrandt trying to make it in the cut throat world of the New York City food scene. Along with producing partner Joshua Zeman, Rachel was co-creator and executive producer of A&E's *The Killing Season*, executive produced by Oscar-winning filmmaker Alex Gibney. She balances her feature work by continuing to produce documentary series for television and streaming, her latest having been the CNN/HLN true-crime series *Hell in the Heartland*, which she co-executive produced. Rachel's most recent project was her directorial debut, *The Magnitudinous Illuminous*, which opened the 2019 Rooftop Film Series to wide praise and screened at DOC NYC and the Camden Film Festival. She is currently in development on the feature documentary *Fantasy Park*, which she is directing.

## **CREDITS**

**Directed by**  
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**Executive Producer**  
Michelle Koo Hayashi

**Executive Producer**  
J Winkelried

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**Editors**  
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**Original Music By**  
Troy Herion

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Mahogany Phillips  
Garnet Rubio  
Cashmere Vassor  
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Al Rubenstein  
Shawn Kamari Frederick Sr.

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Eva Neil  
Alicia Gonzales  
B Fonseca  
Tyra Demarest  
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Zil Goldstein  
Benjamin Mintzer  
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Callen-Lorde Community Health Center  
"Sunshine Hotel", Michael Dominic and Broadway Bill Productions

**Music Clearance & Licensing**

Ilyse Wolfe Tretter, Esq.

**Additional Music**

"Chorale"

By: Nicholas Walker

Performed By: Jess Ting

Courtesy of That's Right I Said Music

"Cello Suite No. 2 in D. Minor, BWV 1008: V. Menuet I & II"

By: Johann Sebastian Bach

Performed By: Esther Nyffenegger

Courtesy of Naxos of America, Inc.

"Goldberg Variations, BWV 988: Variation 18. Canone Alla Sexta. A 1 Clav"

By: Johann Sebastian Bach

Performed By: Andrea Bacchetti

Courtesy of Naxos of America, Inc.

"Piano Sonata No.1 in F Minor, Op.2, No. 1:III Minuetto E Trio. Allegretto"

By: Ludwig van Beethoven

Performed By: Paavali Jumppanen

Courtesy of Naxos of America, Inc.

"Excerpts from Suite No. 3 in C major, BWV 1009"

By: Johann Sebastian Bach

Performed By: Jess Ting

"Goldberg Variations, BWV 988: Variation 3. Canone All'Unisuono A 1 Clav"

By: Johann Sebastian Bach

Performed By: Andrea Bacchetti

Courtesy of Naxos of America, Inc.

"Goldberg Variations, BWV 988: Variation 9. Canzone Alla Terza. A 1 Clav"

By: Johann Sebastian Bach

Performed By: Andrea Bacchetti

Courtesy of Naxos of America, Inc.

"100% Pure Love"

Words and Music by Crystal Waters, Theodore Gregory Douglas, William Thomas  
Davis, Jay A. Steinhour

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Performed by Muscle Mixes

"Nocturne No. 5 in F-Sharp Major, Op. 15, No. 2"

By: Fryderyk Chopin

Performed By: Gergely Boganyi  
Courtesy of Naxos of America, Inc.

"Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major BWV 1007: V. Menuet I & II"

By: Johann Sebastian Bach

Performed By: Richard Narroway  
Courtesy of Naxos of America, Inc.

"Born To Be Alive"

Written by Patrick P. Hernandez

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Performed by Dynamix and Mahogany Phillips

**Very Special Thanks to Staff of Mt. Sinai**

Hansel Arroyo  
Matthew Baney  
Cynthia Girdusky  
Alicia Gonzales  
Miles Harris  
Lorinda Klein  
Dorie Klissas  
Lucia Lee  
Carolyn Nanfra  
Elsa Quinones  
David Reich  
Zoe Rodriguez  
Barbara Warren  
Rachel Zuckerman

**This Film Was Made Possible With the Generous Support of**

Arne Glimcher  
Mizue Hayashi  
Jon and Abby Winkelried Foundation  
J Winkelried  
Jason and Helene Cheng Wen-Rong Yen  
Joyce Lin

Jesse J. Wu  
Wm. Rosenthal  
Thomas Chen  
David & Stacie McDavid  
David Gourevitch  
Tina Lin  
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Helen Lin  
Vera Tsai  
Feng Cheng Wu  
Louis Henston  
Michael & Allison Klausner  
Jeannie Cheng  
Michael & Heidi Lehman  
Julie Phillips

**With Support From**

The Made in NY Women's Film, TV & Theatre Fund by the City of New York  
Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment in association with The New York  
Foundation for the Arts

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**About KINO LORBER**

With a library of over 4,000 titles, Kino Lorber Inc. has been a leader in independent art house distribution for 35 years, releasing 30 films per year theatrically under its Kino Lorber, Kino Repertory and Alive Mind Cinema banners, garnering seven Academy Award® nominations in nine years. In addition, the company brings over 350 titles yearly to the home entertainment and educational markets through physical and digital media releases. With an expanding family of distributed labels, Kino Lorber handles releases in ancillary media for Zeitgeist Films, Carlotta USA, Adopt Films, Greenwich Entertainment, Raro Video, and others, placing physical titles through all wholesale, retail, and direct to consumer channels, as well as direct digital distribution through over 40 OTT services including all major TVOD and SVOD platforms. In 2019, the company launched its new art house digital channel Kino Now which features over 1000 titles from



the acclaimed Kino Lorber library. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kino Marquee initiative was launched in 2020 pioneering "virtual theatrical" releases of art house films with revenue shares that allows audiences to support almost 400 local independent theaters



