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ACTS OF WORSHIP

A Film By
Rosemary Rodriguez



MANIFESTO FILMS presents a film by ROSEMARY RODRIGUEZ "ACTS OF WORSHIP"
starring ANA REEDER MICHAEL HYATT CHRISTOPHER KADISH NESTOR RODRIGUEZ
director of photography LUKE GEISSBÜHLER editor ELIZABETH DOWNER production design JOHNNY HARDESTY
original score JIM COLEMAN produced by NADIA LEONELLI FREDRIK SUNDWALL ROSEMARY RODRIGUEZ
written and directed by ROSEMARY RODRIGUEZ

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ACTS *of* WORSHIP

“Everything is first-rate: Rodriguez’s script is astute and witty, her direction is assured and illuminating, and her cast is breathtakingly believable (Reeder delivers an astonishing Oscar-caliber performance).”

—Rich Cline, BBC Radio

“‘Acts’ is solid filmmaking...and certainly deserves attention... Reeder’s impressive performance is utterly convincing.”

—David Hunter, The Hollywood Reporter

“...one of the most honest depictions of drug addiction to come along in ages...”

—Ernest Hardy, LA Weekly

“‘Acts of Worship’ transforms itself from a film about drugs into an exploration of human relationships and outward appearances that reveals just how destructive self-doubt and alienation can be.”

—Erin Judge, The Boston Phoenix

“...an outstanding directorial debut from Rosemary Rodriguez... Ana Reeder delivers a notable standout debut... featuring searing, authentic performances from all cast members...”

—Trevor Groth, Sundance Film Festival

Acts of Worship is simply an attempt to show that addiction is not so black & white. On the outside, some of us look easier to judge than others, but the truth is that you never really know what someone’s been through.



Country of origin: USA

Production year: 2001

Length: 1h 34min

Technical details: 35 mm, Color, Dolby SR, 1:1,85

A MANIFESTO FILMS production

S Y N O P S I S

Acts of Worship is a story of addiction, friendship, loss and redemption, focusing on the relationship between Alix, a young, homeless addict and Digna, a successful photographer, in Manhattan's Lower Eastside.

When Digna discovers Alix unconscious on the stairs of her building, she steps in and offers help despite her own fears and her boyfriend Anthony's protests. Digna befriends Alix and attempts to set her on the path to recovery. Both women find their emotional and ethical cores put to the test.

Through Digna's support, Alix gains the courage to face the truth about her own life, while Digna, unnerved by the fear and insecurities which her impending success have stirred, struggles to avoid the temptation to be drawn into the world of addiction that Alix represents.

On the surface the two women seem to represent success and failure. However, when their lives become intertwined, the similarities between them are exposed, revealing them both to be suffering the same fear that manifests itself in loneliness, self-destruction and isolation.



C A S T & C R E D I T S

Alix	Ana Reeder
Digna	Michael Hyatt
Marc	Christopher Kadish
Anthony	Nestor Rodriguez
Writer & Director	Rosemary Rodriguez
Producers	Nadia Leonelli Fredrik Sundwall Rosemary Rodriguez
Director of Photography	Luke Geissbühler
Music	Jim Coleman
Editor	Elizabeth Downer

B I O S

ANA REEDER – Alix

Reeder has appeared in *Diary of a City Priest* (Sundance 2001), in *Katie Joplin* (WB TV) and *Law and Order* (NBC). She has performed in numerous theatre plays around the country, such as *The Time of the Cuckoo* (at Lincoln Center), *Killers & Other Families*, *Some Voices*, *Maid* (also at Lincoln Center).

MICHAEL HYATT – Digna

Hyatt appeared in *Pushing Tin* (opposite John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton and Cate Blanchett). Hyatt also was a regular on UPN's *The Beat*, HBO's *Oz*, *Dharma & Gregg* and *Law & Order*. She has been in *Ragtime* on Broadway, *Rats* (Actor's Studio, opposite Al Pacino), and *Henry VII*, among others.



ROSEMARY RODRIGUEZ – Writer/Director

After graduating from Brandeis University in 1983, Rodriguez attended New York University's Intensive Filmmaking Program. Upon completion, she worked as an apprentice sound editor on Mira Nair's *Salaam Bombay* (winner of Palm D'Or at *The Cannes Film Festival* and nominated for a Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award). Her most recent projects include research for Robert Altman and Harry Belafonte's *Amos n' Andy*; associate casting director with *Susan Shopmaker Casting* on Morgan J. Freeman's *Hurricane Streets* (co-winner of the *1997 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award*); John Shea's *Southie*; DJ Paul's *Ties to Rachel*; and Tom Rooney's *You Are Here*. *Acts of Worship* was awarded Best Written Dramatic Screenplay at the *Brooklyn Film Festival*.

NADIA LEONELLI, FREDRIK SUNDWALL – Producers

Apart from *Acts of Worship* Leonelli and Sundwall just completed *Perfume*, starring Jeff Goldblum, Peter Gallagher, Paul Sorvino, Carmen Electra, Sonia Braga, Omar Epps and Michelle Williams. Leonelli produced Morgan J. Freeman's *Desert Blue*, starring Christina Ricci, Brendan Sexton III and Casey Affleck, which was released by Samuel Goldwin Films. She also co-produced Freeman's first film, *Hurricane Streets*, which won three awards at the 1997 Sundance Film festival (*Audience Award*, *Best Director* and *Best Cinematography* awards); *Getting Off*, starring Bill Sage and Brooke Smith; and *Hostage*, starring Marcus Schenkenberg.

LUKE GEISSBÜHLER – Director of Photography

Geissbühler has been the director of photography on Donovan Leitch's theatrical documentary *Last Party 2000*, hosted by Philip Seymour Hoffmann, a behind-the-scenes of the 2000 presidential election; Peggy Sutton's *Squonk*, Rebecca Chalkin's *Beisball* (produced by Barry Levinson), Lisa Abbatiello's *Killing Cinderella*; Amy Elliott's *Headless*; and Carter Smith's concert documentary *Three Days*, which follows the band *Alice in Chains* on their reunion tour (which opened the 1999 Slamdance Festival).

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