

TIGER WITHIN

embrace the tiger





Our journey began with a search for forgiveness.
This search began in New York City.
A red-eye flight delivered filmmaker Rafal Zielinski and his camera to the street;
he asked all he met a very simple, very huge question:

“Why forgive?”

After New York, Rafal flew to Los Angeles.
At Fairfax High School, on the last day of classes,
students pouring out of the school building were met with the same question.

Martin Luther King Day at the Santa Monica Pier
served as the final, poignant venue for his exploration.

The responses he filmed were equally simple and complex;
they now serve as the vibrant base of real-life energy for two characters
brought to life by the screenwriter of “The Princess Diaries,”

Samuel and Casey.



An introduction

Film director Rafal Zielinski, a two time Sundance dramatic competition alumni (*Ginger Ale Afternoon* and *Fun*, winner of the Special Jury Award) reunites with Gina Wendkos screenwriter of “The Princess Diaries” for the provocative new feature film *Tiger Within*. Previously budgeted well over one million dollars, this screenplay attracted well-known actors to its two leading roles – a maladjusted runaway, Casey, and a reclusive Holocaust survivor, Samuel. While the controversial subject matter present within *Tiger Within* ultimately dissuaded larger Hollywood studios from financing the script, Zielinski and Wendkos are more determined than ever to bring their passion project to fruition.

Tiger Within presents human compassion as the bridge between two dissimilar human beings and the sole foundation of an exceedingly unlikely friendship. Truly heartfelt forgiveness, while unbelievably complicated for Samuel and Casey, is a theme that the filmmakers feel could not be timelier.

Their story is raw, gritty, and belongs in New York City. Filming for the project is set to begin in autumn 2013.



SAMUEL

It's a Chinese saying for learning to love our fears. Our demons.

CASEY

What for?

SAMUEL

So that then you can control them and they not you.

An artistic statement

Samuel and Casey are covered in rough edges – characters that lend themselves well to Zielinski's experience with rugged, documentary-style feature filmmaking. Guerilla-style, micro-budget independent films like *Fun* wrapped shooting in eight days with a budget under \$25,000. *Ginger Ale Afternoon* was filmed in one location in 35mm on a budget of \$75,000 over the course of twelve days.

Tiger Within will be coarse and feel hyper-realistic. Filmed from a teenage perspective, Casey's eyes will be the windows from which the narrative emerges. The film will be shot with a small crew, minimal artificial lighting, and entirely on-location in New York City to capture the truth of the script's powerfully suggestive and gritty moments.

The shooting of this feature will employ on-set improvisational techniques to capture performances that feel true to the spoken words of an adrift teenager and deeply dispirited Holocaust survivor. To appropriately dissect the complicated issues presented by *Tiger Within* – such as fear, forgiveness, and violence – the production team first heard how New York and Los Angeles chose to articulate their thoughts and feelings on the same subjects.

Although *Tiger Within* deals with specific issues and a pointed storyline, it speaks directly to much larger social issues that resonate globally. It is our dream that this film will inspire discussion on the topic of forgiveness's power to effect peace on a global scale.

A team

Rafal Zielinski, *director*

Rafal Zielinski's early years were spent in Eastern Europe while he was schooled in North America, the Middle East and the Orient, an 8mm camera always at his eye. He attended Stowe School in England to complete his primary education where he received the Duke of Edinburgh Award which enabled him to make his first documentary film about religious temples in southern India. He went on to graduate from M.I.T. studying cinéma vérité documentary filmmaking with veteran Richard Leacock.

Rafal's first feature *HEY BABE* opened the Taormina Film Festival as well as showing at the Toronto, Montreal and AFI Film festivals. *FUN* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, receiving two Special Jury Awards for Acting and went on to show at in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver as well as other international film festivals. *GINGER ALE AFTERNOON* also premiered in competition at the Sundance Film Festival. *DOWNTOWN: a street tale*, filmed in New York City, starring Genevieve Bujold, Joey Dedio, and John Savage received its world premiere at the AFI Film Festival. His latest two independent projects are *BOHEMIA* – a love story, set in Prague, starring Troy Garity and Klara Issova – and *AGE OF KALI* - a provocative, psychological study set in Los Angeles written by LA playwright John Stepling.

Gina Wendkos, *writer*

Award-winning writer Gina Wendkos is one of the rare Hollywood talents who has seen three of her films top \$100 million at the box office after their summer openings: Touchstone Pictures/Jerry Bruckheimer Films' *COYOTE UGLY*, which spawned a #1 Billboard soundtrack album and a national fixation with the world of female bartenders and Disney's *THE PRINCESS DIARIES* and its sequel, *THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2: ROYAL ENGAGEMENT*, directed by Garry Marshall starring Julie Andrews and Anne Hathaway.

This successful film writer, however, did not originally set her sights on a career in the movie business. Born in Florence, Italy and raised in Miami Beach, Wendkos, the daughter of a painter, was artistically gifted from a very young age, and became known in the national art scene for her large-scale theatrical performance art pieces (some utilizing more than 200 actors), many of them commissions and exhibited in esteemed artistic institutions and galleries including New Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, P.S. 1, La Mama and the Spoleto Festival.

Wendkos and Zielinski collaborated on Rafal's previous film, *GINGER ALE AFTERNOON*. She has graciously donated the script of *TIGER WITHIN* to this passion project because of her belief in the story's potential to promote understanding and compassion on a global scale.

A future

Socially significant stories with emotional human narratives are the inspiration that drives Film Art Planet. We will continue to produce feature films that speak to the collective human social conscious in a timely, yet sensitive manner. All film revenues, donations, sponsorships, and further support will enable Film Art Planet to continue producing socially-conscious feature film alongside sister educational documentary projects.

The next projects Film Art Planet will undertake are *APHRODITE* – a story of Hiroshima survivors which explores of the dangers of nuclear warfare and its relation to world peace, *BARDO* – a story of reincarnation from a Buddhist perspective which explores the many meanings of life and death, and *MOTHER* – a story about Mother Theresa, a personal friend of Rafal Zielinski and his family during their time living in Calcutta, which promotes the empowerment of finding love in every moment of our lives.

www.filmartplanet.org

