



Magnolia Pictures, Paperclip Ltd & Mill House Motion Pictures in association with XYZ  
Films

PRESENTS

# ALONE

**A film by John Hyams**

98 minutes, 2:39:1, United States

Starring: Jules Willcox, Marc Menchaca & Anthony Heald

**Official Selection**

2020 Mammoth Film Festival (Narrative Feature)

**Awards**

Winner Best Picture (Feature) Mammoth Film Festival

Winner Best Actress (Jules Willcox) Mammoth Film Festival

Winner Best Actor (Marc Menchaca) Mammoth Film Festival

## FINAL PRESS NOTES

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## **SYNOPSIS**

Jules Willcox (Netflix's *Bloodline*) stars in *ALONE* as Jessica, a grief-stricken widow who flees the city in an attempt to cope with the loss of her husband. When Jessica is kidnapped by a mysterious man and locked in a cabin in the Pacific Northwest, she escapes into the wilderness and is pursued by her captor. The key cast includes Marc Menchaca (*Ozark*, *The Outsider*) and Anthony Heald (*The Silence Of The Lambs*).

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The greatest suspense thrillers are stripped to the bone -- a progression of essential elements, unencumbered by backstory and exposition, the stakes raised with each successive beat. Two forces collide, tension builds to a breaking point - not letting up - culminating in cathartic release. In the final seconds we can finally breathe. And through it all, character was revealed.

When I read Mattias Olsson's script for ALONE, almost seven years ago, I was knocked out by its sheer confidence in simplicity, the power of its minimalism. Like a song reduced to the fewest possible notes, ALONE was a suspense thriller crystalized to its essence. Mattias told a simple story of fear and peril against the backdrop of a character confronting grief. Through a series of increasingly charged moments, his story revealed character and intention with as few words as possible. In its delicate construction, each line of dialogue became magnified in importance, every noise an assault on the senses, every quiet pause an exercise in tension. His story focused primarily on a single character, which made the addition of a second a momentous event -- the third representing the much desired bridge of the song.

Alone celebrates the genre by shedding away all that is extraneous, and delving straight to the fragile core of the human experience. It examines the stages of grief as a one-on-one battle for survival. Jessica must not only confront the hostility of man and nature, but also the war within her soul. Through it, the hunted must become the hunter, and turn the tables on her demons, those external and those that reside within.

John Hyams  
Director, ALONE

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **Jules Willcox - Jessica**

Jules first major role in television was ABC's THE FORGOTTEN opposite Christian Slater, and she soon followed this up with guest star roles in CBS's CSI:NY, FOX's FRIENDS WITH BETTER LIVES and CW's TEEN WOLF. She also starred as *Amelie Farnwell* in the MGM sci-fi series 10,000 DAYS. In 2017, Jules starred in a recurring arc on NBC's CHICAGO PD in which she played Marina Squerciati's sister, dealing with the aftermath of a sexual assault, and followed this up with the starring role of 'Julia Degrasse', a cop and love interest opposite Kyle Chandler in Netflix's final season of the critically acclaimed series BLOODLINE.

Jules is in the upcoming independent feature CALL ME opposite Danny Trejo. Other feature credits include UNDER THE SILVER LAKE opposite Andrew Garfield, STYRIA opposite Stephen Rea, Sofia Coppola's ON THE ROCKS, and the upcoming DREAMKATCHER opposite Henry Thomas and Radha Mitchell.

Jules will next be seen in the upcoming new season of Bravo's DIRTY JOHN opposite Amanda Peet.

### **Marc Menchaca - the Man**

MARC MENCHACA was recently seen on HBO's hit series "The Outsider", playing the role of Jack Hoskins. He is perhaps best known for his scene stealing turn as "Russ Langmore" in the Emmy award winning Netflix series "Ozark". Other television credits include the "Rachel, Jack and Ashley Too" installment of "Black Mirror", "Raising Dion", "Manifest" "The Sinner", "Random Acts Of Flyness", "Homeland", "Generation Kill", "The Son", "MacGyver", "Elementary", "Blue Bloods", "Inside Amy Schumer", "Chicago PD", "Sleepy Hollow", "Togetherness", "The Blacklist", "Law & Order: SVU", "Person of Interest", "The Glades", "Treme", "Flash Forward", "CSI", "CSI:NY" and "Law & Order: Criminal Intent". Film credits include: *The Evening Hour* (Sundance 2020), *Every Time I Die*, *Where Is Kyra?*, *Weightless*, *Smartass*, *She's Lost Control*, *Reservoir*, *The Alamo*, and *Playing God*. In 2013, Menchaca wrote, directed and starred in his first feature film *This Is Where We Live* which premiered at the SXSW Film Festival where it was nominated for Best Narrative Feature.

### **Anthony Heald - Robert**

Anthony Heald is known for portraying Hannibal Lecter's jail nemesis, Dr. Frederick Chilton, in *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Red Dragon*, and for playing assistant principal Scott Guber in David E. Kelley's *Boston Public*. Heald also had a recurring role as Judge Cooper on Kelley's *The Practice* and *Boston Legal*.

Heald has worked extensively on Broadway and has been twice nominated for the Tony Award for his work as Lord Evelyn Oakleigh in *Anything Goes* (1988) and Terrence McNally's *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (1995). He also appeared in McNally's *The Lisbon Traviata* (1989), *Inherit the Wind* (1998), *Deep Rising* (1998), and *Lips Together, Teeth Apart* (1991). Heald has recorded over 60 audio books/books on tape, including works as varied as *Where the Red Fern Grows*, *The New York Times* bestsellers such as *The Pelican Brief* (in the film adaptation of which he also played a villainous lawyer), *Jurassic Park* and *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, several works by science fiction writer Philip K. Dick, as well as a sizable number of titles

in the Star Wars audio book library. He made brief appearances in Miami Vice ("The Prodigal Son"), X-Men: The Last Stand (2006 film), and the Cheers series finale "One for the Road". He later appeared on the Cheers spin-off Frasier in a recurring role. He appeared in Unaccompanied Minors as a distressed, Christmas-hating airport employee.

Heald lives in Ashland, Oregon with his wife Robin (daughter of violist Karen Tuttle) and children Zoe and Dylan. He regularly performs in productions of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. During the 2010 season of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Heald played Shylock in Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

### **John Hyams - Director**

A writer, director, producer of documentaries, TV, and feature films, Hyams is best known for his work on the films THE SMASHING MACHINE, UNIVERSAL SOLDIER: REGENERATION and UNIVERSAL SOLDIER: DAY OF RECKONING. He created the series BLACK SUMMER for Netflix, currently in its second season, and is collaborating with visionary director Nicolas Winding Refn on HBO's upcoming MANIAC COP.

### **Mattias Olsson - Writer**

The writer and co-director of the original Swedish thriller FÖRSVUNNEN (international title: GONE) of which ALONE is based. An award winning writer-director who runs his own production company - Midvinterfilm - in Karlskrona, Sweden. Currently developing his short horror film IRIS into a feature film.

### **Paperclip Ltd - Production Company**

Paperclip Ltd. was founded in 2015 by Yeardley Smith and Ben Cornwell for the dual purposes of developing stories at their earliest stages and elevating distinctive voices across all mediums. Knowing how hard it is to get a “yes” in the entertainment business, Yeardley and Ben decided, “Let’s use our tenacity and decisiveness to create a company that says, ‘YES’ first!” That decision, coupled with their passion for stories in all forms, as well as the smart, curious, imaginative masterminds who create them, has given Paperclip a reputation for collaboration and copious development of these stories that leave no stone unturned.

Paperclip Ltd. is behind the Michael-Kelly-starring film *All Square*, which won the Audience Award at SXSW 2018. They are also currently in post-production on the GLAAD-advised feature, *Gossamer Folds*, and the Alyssa-Milano-starring film *Who Are You People*. The company is committed to sourcing projects that feature roles on-screen and behind the lens for those who are often underrepresented in the industry. This commitment is evident across the numerous projects that are in various stages of development at Paperclip across film and television.

In addition to their feature work, the company produces the hit true-crime podcast *Small Town Dicks*, co-hosted by Yeardley Smith and anonymous identical twin detectives Dan and Dave. *Small Town Dicks* is an industry leader in the vast true-crime space. Each episode features a case that’s told by the detective who investigated it and often includes primary resources such as suspect interrogations, 9-1-1 calls and other audio files that the team obtains by filing FOIAs.

Paperclip is represented by CAA, attorney Tye Gonser, and Metro Public Relations.

### **Mill House Motion Pictures**

Founded in 2017 by Jordan Foley and Jonathan Rosenthal, Mill House Motion Pictures is behind the award winning features: DESOLATE, starring Will Eubank, Tyson Ritter, Natasha Bassett and James Russo (Best Picture and Best Director at the Inaugural 2018 Mammoth Film Festival). They produced the 2018 SXSW Audience Award winning, ALL SQUARE, directed by John Hyams and starring Michael Kelly, Josh Lucas and Pamela Adlon; ALONE, also directed by Hyams, starring Jules Willcox, Marc Menchaca and Anthony Heald, which won Best Feature, Best Actress and Best Actor at the 2020 Mammoth Film Festival. They also produced GOSSAMER FOLDS, currently in post, directed by Lisa Donato and starring Jackson Robert Scott, Alexandra Grey, Sprague Grayden and Shane West. Recently, they completed production on THE SUPPRESSION, a sci-fi film directed by Jason Satterlund and starring Jonathan Rosenthal. Mill House Motion Pictures also Executive Produced the Scott Free production of AMERICAN WOMAN, directed by Jake Scott and starring Sienna Miller, Christina Hendricks and Aaron Paul.

### **Mike Macari - Producer**

A producer on the hugely successful American remake of the Japanese horror film THE RING, as well as its sequels: THE RING TWO and RINGS. His action thriller FRACTURED, directed by Brad Anderson and starring Sam Worthington, premiered number one on Netflix in October 2019. He has also produced 6 SOULS starring Julianne Moore and Johnathan Rhys-Meyers, THE INVISIBLE for Touchstone Pictures, the psychological horror film TEMPLE shot in Japan, and the thriller COMPULSION. He is in post-production on ANDERSON FALLS directed by Julien Seri, ALONE directed by John Hyams, and CONDUCTOR directed by Alex Noyer.

### **Federico Verardi - Cinematographer**

Fede's unusual journey starts on the hills of Tuscany. He always knew he was meant to do something out of the ordinary and began to find his purpose as he moved between three different continents as a kid. Living in Italy, Venezuela, and North America exposed him to diverse cultures and a myriad of different people. This allows him to understand the differing artistic demands of storytellers and go to great extents to achieve the director's vision.

Fede has been a professional Cinematographer and Operator for over 15 years and has worked on countless projects all over the world. He primarily works on narrative projects such as features and TV series, but also often takes on documentaries and commercials. Some of his most cinematography credits include the award winning feature, "Alone" directed by John Hyams and 2nd Unit Cinematography on the TV Show "The Purge" He has also operated on numerous projects such as "Key and Peele", "Deep Water" starring Ben Affleck, and Kevin Smith's "Jay and Silent Bob Reboot."

Fede is passionate about bringing stories to life in an unusual and beautiful way. He is not afraid of getting his hands dirty and is ready to get involved in the next project that will challenge and stretch him to new levels.

### **Nima Fakhrara - Composer**

Iranian-born composer, ethnomusicologist, and inventor of musical instruments, Nima Fakhrara is the founder of Zoo Creatives, with studios in Los Angeles and New York City. His credits include the Sony PlayStation DETROIT BECOME HUMAN, John Stalberg Jr's CRYPTO,

Toronto Film Festival Official Selection, *THE GIRL IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS* (the final film executive produced by Wes Craven), the Los Angeles Film Festival selection *CONSUMED* (directed by Daryl Wein), the Sundance Film Festival selection *THE SIGNAL*, *GATCHAMAN* (directed by Toya Sato and starring Tori Matsuzaka and Ryohei Suzuki), a live action take on the anime series *BATTLE OF THE PLANETS*, *THE PYRAMID* (directed by Gregory Levveseur, produced by Alexander Aja), and *EXISTS* (directed by Eduardo Sanchez). His international credits include the Japanese TV show called *TANTEI NO TANTEI*, and the SXSW selection *I AM A HERO*. His video game credits include *RESIDENT EVIL: REVELATIONS 2* and the 2016 release *1979 REVOLUTION*.

Nima's first experience with music was listening to his uncle play the santour. Influenced by this, he studied that instrument and became well versed in Persian classical music. After moving to the United States, Nima continued his musical studies and attended California State University Northridge where he obtained his degree in composition studies. However, his interest in music was not limited to composition and performance. He studied ethnomusicology, anthropology, and how to construct instruments. Classically trained with both traditional western and non-western sounds, Nima often samples instruments from around the world. If he hasn't found the right sound, he invents new instruments to create the textures and timbres in his mind.



## CREDITS

Directed by	JOHN HYAMS
Written by	MATTIAS OLSSON
Produced by	JORDAN FOLEY, p.g.a. JONATHAN ROSENTHAL, p.g.a. MIKE MACARI, p.g.a. HENRIK JP AKESSON, p.g.a.
Executive Produced by	YEARDLEY SMITH BEN CORNWELL KEVIN SULLIVAN MARTIN PERSSON
Director of Photography	FEDERICO VERARDI
Production Designer	CAIT PANTANO
Edited by	SCOTT ROON & JOHN HYAMS
Costume Designer	ASHLEY RUSSELL
Composer	NIMA FAKHRARA
Co-producers	NICK SMITH THOM ZADRA
Associate Producer	VICTORIA HADELER

## CAST

Jessica	JULES WILLCOX
Man	MARC MENCHACA
Robert	ANTHONY HEALD