



# FOSTER CARE FILM SERIES

## VOLUME 1

*"...a useful resource for counselors, educators, and social workers as they work with foster care families and youth placed in foster care"*

— [Educational Media Reviews Online](#)

Educational & Non-Theatrical Distribution:

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Trailer: [youtu.be/NaTQQtVweCQ](https://youtu.be/NaTQQtVweCQ)

Film's Website: [www.fostercarefilm.com/](http://www.fostercarefilm.com/)

Film's Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/fostercarefilm](https://www.facebook.com/fostercarefilm)

Educational Streaming: [twm.tugg.com](http://twm.tugg.com)

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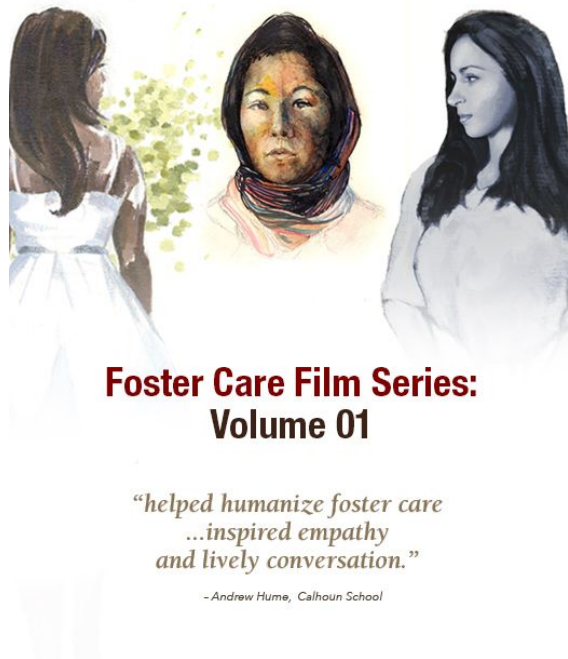
Feeling Wanted



My Identity



Family Rewritten



### Foster Care Film Series: Volume 01

*“helped humanize foster care  
...inspired empathy  
and lively conversation.”*

- Andrew Hume, Calhoun School

# FOSTER CARE FILM SERIES: VOLUME 1

Directed by Yasmin Mistry

Produced by Yasmin Mistry

Release Year: 2017

Production Year: 2013-2017

Running Time: 39 min

Countries: United States

Original Language: English

Closed Captions: English

Original Shooting Format, Aspect Ratio, and Film

Sound: Mix of 4K and HD. 16:9, Stereo Sound Mix

Screening Formats Available: BluRay, DVD NTSC,

Prores Quicktime, h264 MP4

## SYNOPSIS

### Short Synopsis

In this award-winning collection, Charell, Ashley, and Camilla share their deeply personal stories about their experiences in foster care and how it impacted their lives.

### One-paragraph Synopsis

In this award-winning collection, Charell, Ashley, and Camilla share their deeply personal stories about their experiences in the U.S. foster care system. Each story explores how dealing with family addictions, incarceration, health issues and complex ethnic identities shaped their young lives in a profound way. Foster Care Film Series: Volume 1 celebrates the perseverance of these narratives, dispelling the negative stereotypes about foster care by showing how school, extended family and the kindness of strangers can help a child find their path in life.

### Long Synopsis

In this award-winning collection, Charell, Ashley, and Camilla share their deeply personal stories about their experiences in the U.S. foster care system. Foster Care Film Series: Volume 1 celebrates the perseverance of these narratives, dispelling the negative stereotypes about foster care by showing how school, extended family and the kindness of strangers can help a child find their path in life.

The following three films are included in the collection:

### *Feeling Wanted*

Charell, age 6, woke up to find herself alone. She made breakfast, dropped her baby sister off with a neighbor, and walked to school. With her father incarcerated for murder, a mother on drugs and a childhood in foster care, Charell knew it was time to break the cycle.

### *My Identity*

Ashley, a young Native-American Caucasian girl, converts to Islam in hopes of finding structure in a life where it never existed, but with that decision comes the risk of losing one of the few biological connections she still has. My Identity tells the story of how race, religion, and the foster care experience can shape one's identity.

### *Family Rewritten*

Despite battling Cystic Fibrosis, Camilla, age 16, identified as a typical middle-class American teenager until the thread that held her family together suddenly snapped. Just months before her 18th birthday Camilla found herself in foster care, but instead of feeling ashamed, she made a conscious decision to not let the situation define her.

## **REVIEWS**

### *FILM SERIES VOLUME 1 TESTIMONIALS*

*"...a useful resource for counselors, educators, and social workers as they work with foster care families and youth placed in foster care"*

— Educational Media Reviews Online -

<http://emro.lib.buffalo.edu/emro/emroDetail.asp?Number=6571>

*"These films can encourage people to identify and process the abuse and neglect that children experienced, because by processing it, they are able to help others process it."*

— Social Work Student

*"I believe many other youth currently in the system, or even those who have transitioned out, should watch these films. Being able to get out of the foster care system in one piece is tough as is, but having the resources, support system, housing, and income in place by the time you age out is even harder."*

— Anthony Turner, Former Foster Youth

*"I think that films like these should be used as training tools for foster care and adoption agencies who want to help their prospective foster and adoptive parents understand the emotional impact of foster care from the perspective of a child, and understand the struggles that children who grow up in foster care face."*

— Social Work Student

*"When I initially saw the first two films a year or so ago, they inspired me to give each foster child coming into my home a duffel bag with their name on it."*

— Tammy Cohen, Foster Parent

*"Although I'm a foster parent, the films only made me feel even more influenced to help. Everyone needs love!"*

— Anonymous Foster Parent

#### FEELING WANTED TESTIMONIALS

*"I followed up last year by becoming a foster parent. I always wanted to do it but the films pushed me to do so."*

— Tammy Cohen

*"We loved seeing the film and chatting with Charrell. Watching "Feeling Wanted" helped humanize foster care for our class, and inspired empathy and lively conversation. Our students loved it!"*

— Andrew Hume, Calhoun School

*"As a social work educator, I am always searching for unique tools that can help facilitate learning. This film teaches important lessons about hope and resiliency, and demonstrates how important these concepts are when working with foster youth."*

— Amanda de Jesus, LCSW-R, Fordham University

*"Feeling Wanted helped my MSW students learn about the foster care experience from a firsthand perspective. The film generated thought provoking discussions about the needs of foster youth and how to improve the child welfare system."*

— Amanda de Jesus, LCSW-R, Fordham University

*"The three youth who attended the screening from our mentoring program have all gone through the foster care system. One of them in particular arrived that night discouraged and talking about how he didn't know if he was going to go through with going to college, even though he graduated in June as salutatorian of his high school class. He was hitting barrier after barrier due to family stress and finances, among other things. After seeing the film and hearing the speakers, he told us he was re-motivated and ready to do whatever needed to be done to make sure he is able to go to school. We are proud to report that he will begin his first day of classes at Hunter tomorrow. Thank you for the impactful work you do!"*

— Junket NYC

*"Charell Charleston's videos continue to help children in foster care. Thank you. We run a fairly large mentor program for youth in foster care. Hearing of the need and importance of a mentor is key to gaining more volunteers for us. In the same way, her video of moving in foster care WITH trash bags has greatly helped to increase the donations of luggage we received in 2015. Over 1,500 pieces! I look forward to hearing more from Charell....children currently in foster care are very appreciative!"*

— Fostering Great Ideas

*"Feeling Wanted is an excellent resource for foster families, and for foster family agencies. It's honest, thorough, and hopeful"*

— Addison Cooper, MSW, LCSW, Adoption At The Movies

*"The film did a wonderful job capturing the struggles our young people face in care, the different levels of compassion agencies need to screen for when recruiting and certifying families, and the resiliency of young people."*

— *Child Placement Supervisor*

*"It's a powerful film that would help foster parents understand the lasting impacts of the experiences of the children they care for."*

— *Kim Phagan-Hansel, Fostering Families Magazine (Jan. 2015)*

*"I felt humbled and honored to have a chance to share my story... I've fielded some tough questions about my background and some hurtful glances, but taking part in this project has been a way for me to help re-frame the conversation."*

— *Charell Star Charleston, "Feeling Wanted" Film Subject, Former Foster Youth*

#### MY IDENTITY TESTIMONIALS

*"The films illustrate that young people's communities and kinship networks may look unfamiliar but that strength and support can be found in unexpected places, such as reconnecting with distant family members, knowledge about one's roots, communication with birth parents, and digital communities. Knowing this can help educators create classroom environments that are more responsive to the stories that young people carry with them daily, and in doing so, strengthen these young people's networks of support."*

— *Lalitha Vasudevan & Kristine Rodriguez Kerr,  
Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy Vol. 60 No. 3*

*"This was such an eye-opening experience and I am so thankful to have been able to witness and be educated on such a not so touched on subject. You guys are doing an amazing job of educating the world on what goes on behind the scene of foster care and what it really entails."*

— *Anonymous, Child Welfare Advocate*

*"My Identity is a very short film that seems most likely to appeal to teens and adults. It would be valuable viewing for prospective foster and adoptive parents who are considering taking placement of grade-school or older kids. The film would also be helpful to any prospective parents as it could help them consider the place of culture in the life of their future children"*

— *Addison Cooper, MSW, LCSW, Adoption At The Movies*

#### FAMILY REWRITTEN TESTIMONIALS

*"I think that this is an important story that not only deserves to be told, it needs to be told. It opens a platform for children in similar situations to speak up for the help that they need. It also creates a discourse community, and encourages and pushes young adults to succeed by showing them there is a future."*

— *Blackbird Film Festival*

*" This was such an amazing, inspiring story. This girl went through one of the toughest things a 17-year-old girl could go through and she conquered it with grace and perseverance. She is beautiful*

*inside and out. To have it in her heart to still love her biological parents despite the way they treated her is a lesson everyone should listen to and follow.”*

— *Blackbird Film Festival*

*“I loved your film so so much. It's really been sticking with me and I'm truly thinking about trying out some foster care volunteer opportunities.”*

— *Anonymous*

*“Thank you for showing the positive side of foster care. I'm so glad this beautiful young girl has the opportunity to have the future I never had, by going to college and becoming whatever she wants to become. You don't know (or maybe you do) how much this film will mean to the foster care community. I am SO hoping those who see this film who think children in care must have done something to deserve to be in foster care have their eyes opened to the reality of why foster care exists. You are amazing! This film is amazing! THANK YOU for creating this!!!”*

— *Kathy Jones, Former foster youth, Foster Youth Advocate and Author,  
Asst. Director at Foster Leaders,  
Data & Human Resources Officer at National Foster Care Registry*

*“Family Rewritten is a gripping, impactful film. Camilla's bravery and perspective could be helpful to foster parents, teens in foster care, and people considering becoming foster parents.”*

— *Addison Cooper, MSW, LCSW, Adoption At The Movies*

*“While this is a short film at only 13 minutes, it packs a powerful message about the complexity of relationships and the importance of stable homes for children. “Family Rewritten” could be used in several different settings from helping foster parents understand the difficult feelings and relationships associated with foster care to giving current foster youth hope from Camilla's story. Ultimately, “Family Rewritten” is well-done and provides a unique glimpse of one foster child's experience”*

— *Kim Phagan-Hansel, Fostering Families Today*

*“I remember filming being extremely cathartic and I feel so lucky that people like me were provided an outlet to talk about this. I am forever grateful to Yasmin Mistry and her team for making this documentary series and shedding light on such an important issue.”*

— *Camilla Tecsy, “Family Rewritten” Film Subject, Former Foster Youth*

## **AWARDS & SCREENINGS BY TITLE**

### *FEELING WANTED* Awards and Screenings

Professional Documentary Award, St. Francis Women's Film Festival, 2017

Audience Choice Award, Forum on Law Culture & Society (FOLCS), 2016

Best Female Filmmaker, Forum on Law Culture & Society (FOLCS), 2016

Founders Award, MCNY Film Festival, 2016

Special Jury Award, Blackbird Film Festival, 2016

Best Cinematography, St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase, 2015

Best Short Film, Just Film Awards 2015

Audience Choice Award, IndieWorks, Oct. 2015

Best Documentary, CTLPDX Film Festival  
Honorable Mention for Best in Festival, CTLPDX Film Festival  
Norman Film Festival (2017)  
Saint Francis College Women's Film Festival (2017)  
Equinox Film Festival (2017)  
Chicago Feminist Film Festival (2017)  
Winter Film Awards (2017)  
Frozen River Film Festival (2017)  
Sweet As Film Festival (2016)  
Forum on Law, Culture, and Society (FOLCS) Film Series (2016)  
Universal Film Festival (2016)  
Boardwalk Film Festival (2016)  
MCNY Short Film Night (2016)  
Ridgefield Independent Film Festival (2016)  
Life Fest Film Festival (2016)  
(In)Justice for All Film Festival (2016)  
Blackbird Film Festival (2016)  
Take Two Film Festival (2016)  
WAMMFest (2016)  
Milledgeville Film Festival (2016)  
Clean Shorts Film Festival  
Feminitsta Filmmaker Series (2016)  
Saint Louis International Film Festival (2015)  
IndieWorks (2015)  
#DirectedByWomen (2015)  
St. Louis Filmmaker's Showcase (2015)  
Stony Brook Film Festival (2015)  
CTLPDX International Film Festival (2015)  
Colorado Foster Care & Adoption Festival (2015)

*MY IDENTITY* Awards and Screenings

Best Documentary Short - Rivne International Film Festival, 2016  
Best Documentary Short - North By Midwest Film Festival, 2016  
Best Documentary - Clean Shorts Film Festival, 2017  
Best Graphics - St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase, 2016  
Chicago Onscreen (2018)  
Dox on the Fox: Short Documentary Film Festival (2018)  
Girls on Fire Short Film Screening (2017)  
Ridgefield Independent Film Festival (2017)  
Freethought Film Festival (2017)  
WAMM Fest (2017)  
Ismailia Film Festival (2017)  
Clean Shorts Film Festival (2017)  
LOVE>> Film Screenings (2017)  
Frozen River Film Festival (2017)

Central Michigan International Film Festival (2017)  
Avante Edge Film Festival (2016)  
Islamic Unity International Film Festival (2016)  
Equality Festival (2016)  
Native American Film Festival of the Southeast (2016)  
Marcellus Movie Madness Family Film Festival (2016)  
MikroFAF (2016)  
Universal Film Festival (2016)  
Resistance International Film Festival (2016)  
Chicago International Social Change Film Festival (2016)  
Voiceless International Film Festival (2016)  
FER Film (2016)  
Rivne International Film Festival (2016)  
St. Louis Filmmaker's Showcase (2016)  
Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival (2016)  
IndieWorks (2016)  
DocuTIFF (2016)  
2016 North by Midwest Micro-Budget Film Festival (2016)  
Syracuse Spring Fest (2016)  
Blackbird Film Festival (2016)  
The Chicago Feminist Film Festival (2016)  
Equinox Women's Film Festival (2016)  
Making Ourselves: Film Festival (2016)  
SET NYC Monthly Film Festival (2016)  
York Film Festival (2016)  
Ummah Wide Pop-Up Film Festival (2016)

*FAMILY REWRITTEN* Film Awards and Festivals

Princeton Tiger Award - Nassau Film Festival, 2018  
Audience Choice Award - St. Frances College Women's Film Festival, 2018  
Best in Show - River Town Film Festival, 2017  
Best Documentary - St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase, 2017  
Best Family & Fun Film - Marcellus Movie Madness, 2017  
Winner: Second Place - MCNY Film Festival, 2018  
Winner: Third Place - Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival, 2017  
Grand Rapids Film Festival (2018)  
Hobnobben Film Festival (2018)  
Blackbird Film Festival (2018)  
MCNY Shorts Film Festival (2018)  
Clean Shorts Film Festival (2018)  
Awareness Film Festival (2018)  
The Saint Francis College Women's Film Festival (2018)  
Sedona Film Festival (2018)  
Winter Film Awards (2018)  
WAMM Fest (2018)



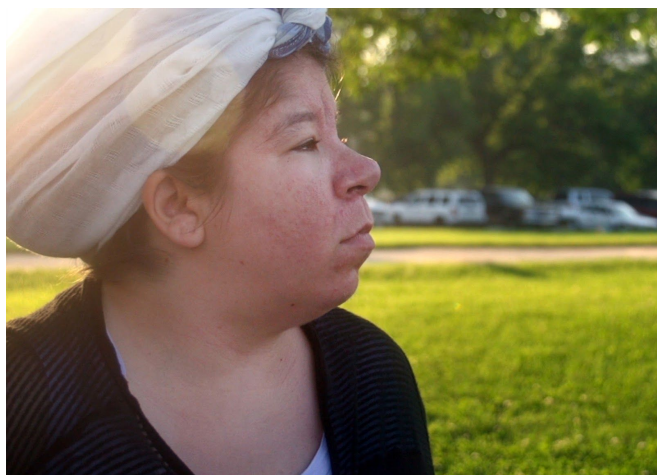
Love Your Shorts (2018)  
My Love Michelle Short Film Festival (2018)  
IndieWorks (2017)  
Anchorage International Film Festival (2017)  
Memphis Indie Film Festival (2017)  
Breakthrough Series (2017)  
Tallgrass Film Festival (2017)  
Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival (2017)  
Golden Door Film Festival (2017)  
Awareness Film Festival (2017)  
Rahway International Film Festival (2017)  
Woods Hole Film Festival (2017)  
St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase (2017)  
Frederick Film Festival (2017)  
Milledgeville Film Festival (2017)

### **BIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER**

Yasmin Mistry is an Emmy-nominated animator and filmmaker. Her work has been displayed worldwide including recent showings at the White House and United Nations as well as at film festivals such as Cannes, SXSW, Tribeca, and Clermont-Ferrand. She is the recipient of the Puffin Foundation's 2013 & 2017 film grants, the Brooklyn Arts Council's 2014 - 2018 film grants, and the winner of both the Jessie Streich-Kest Memorial Grant and the 2017 Riverside Sharing Fund.

When not working as an artist, Yasmin dedicates her time to the foster youth of New York City. As a Court Appointed Special Advocate, she received the 2012 Advocate of The Year Award for her dedication to getting services for foster care children with special needs. Yasmin was inspired to create this film when she realized the voices of the children she worked with were not being heard and their stories never told.

## STILLS & CAPTIONS



Camilla Tecsý, foster youth, **Family Rewritten**, ©idesygn creative llc, 2017

Camilla Tecsý, foster youth, **Family Rewritten** ©idesygn creative llc, 2017

Charell Star Charleston, former foster youth, **Feeling Wanted** ©idesygn creative llc, 2015

Charell Star Charleston, former foster youth, **Feeling Wanted**, ©idesygn creative llc, 2015

Ashley Wolford, former foster youth, **My Identity**, ©idesygn creative llc, 2016

Ashley Wolford, former foster youth, **MyIdentity**, ©idesygn creative llc, 2016

## **PRODUCTION CREDITS BY TITLE**

### *FEELING WANTED*

ORIGINAL TITLE: Feeling Wanted

PRODUCTION YEAR: 2014

RELEASE YEAR: 2015

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: USA

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE: English

SHOOTING FORMAT: Mix of 4K and HD. 16:9, Stereo Sound Mix

SCREENING FORMATS: Bluray, DVD NTSC, Prores Quicktime, h264 MP4

RUN-TIME: 14 minutes

DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY: Yasmin Mistry

EDITED BY: Livia Cheibub

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Dan Wang, Rhett duPont

FEATURING: Charell Star Charleston

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Laura Fong

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS: Octavia Vaughn, Allan Bourne

ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE BY: Beachfront B-roll, Octavia Vaughn

COLOURIST: John Tissivary

ANIMATION: Yasmin Mistry

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION: Jeton Murtishi

SOUND MIX: Erich Rettermayer

SOUND EFFECTS: FreeSFX.CO.UK

SPECIAL THANKS: April Tarrell Soden, Canoe Media Services, Andrew Haner, Amanda De Jesus, Joseph Keller, Ky'Lin Forde, James "Rusty" Haner, Bat Haus, Hostelling International – NY, Brooklyn Arts Council, Puffin Foundation

MUSIC:

"Beautiful" by Isreal Nash Gripka

"Colorado" by Podington Bear

"Désormais" By Podington Bear

"Fragile Do Not Drop" By Podington Bear

"Jupiter The Blue" By Gillicuddy

"Homesick" By Kizzlylotus

"Light Touch" By Podington Bear

"Window #3" By Two Bicycles

### *MY IDENTITY*

ORIGINAL TITLE: My Identity

PRODUCTION YEAR: 2015

RELEASE YEAR: 2016

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: USA

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE: English

SHOOTING FORMAT: HD. 16:9, Stereo Sound Mix

SCREENING FORMATS: Bluray, DVD NTSC, Prores Quicktime, h264 MP4

RUN-TIME: 11 minutes

## FILM CREDITS

DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY: Yasmin Mistry

ASSISTANT PRODUCERS: Anita Evans, Andrew Friend

EDITED AND WRITTEN BY: Maxine Trump, Livia Cheibub

WRITTEN BY: Livia Cheibub

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Andrew Friend

FEATURING: Ashley Wolford

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Laura Fong

LEAD ILLUSTRATOR: Alicia Chen

ILLUSTRATORS: Songhee Lee Sherry Xiao

ANIMATION: Tara Clune, Yasmin Mistry

ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE BY: Anita Evans, Mitch Martinez

COLOURIST: John Tissivary

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION: Jeton Murtishi

SOUND MIX: Erich Rettermayer

SPECIAL THANKS: Amanda De Jesus, Mariam Dwedar, Sasha Jones, Alexander Leiss, James "Rusty" Haner, Andrew Haner, Octavia Vaughn, Jonathan Wolford, Gorilla Tango, Canoe Media Services, Brooklyn Arts Council

MUSIC:

"Cylinder Six" Chris Zabriskie

"Forecasting" Podington Bear

"Krishinda Singing" Skoria

"Native American Flute D in Minor Improv 1" Ephemeral Rift

"Lullaby" \_Ghost

"Yellow Line" Podington Bear

Public Live Performance by Talib Kweli, Taking It To The Streets, Sponsored by IMAN

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## *FAMILY REWRITTEN*

ORIGINAL TITLE: Family Rewritten

PRODUCTION YEAR: 2016

RELEASE YEAR: 2017

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: USA

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE: English

SHOOTING FORMAT: Mix of 4K and HD. 16:9, Stereo Sound Mix

SCREENING FORMATS: Bluray, DVD NTSC, Prores Quicktime, h264 MP4

RUN-TIME: 14 minutes

DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY: Yasmin Mistry

EDITED AND WRITTEN BY: Maxine Trump

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Jackson Eagan, Rhett DuPont, Dan Wang

FEATURING: Camilla Tecsy

APPEARANCES BY: Kim Flodin, Farhan Ali, Maja-Lisa Flodin-Ali, Yasmine Flodin-Ali, Lesley Frey

ASSISTANT PRODUCER: Octavia Vaughn

LEAD ILLUSTRATORS: Mel Wherry, Philip Sun

ADDITIONAL ART: Chae Chin Lee, Alicia Chen

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Laura Fong  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Livia Cheibub  
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Andrew Haner  
ANIMATION: Russ Spaid, Yasmin Mistry  
POETRY BY: Camilla Tecsny, Princess Wilcox  
SOUND MIX: Erich Rettermayer  
ORIGINAL COMPOSITION: Jeton Murtishi  
SOUND MIX: Erich Rettermayer  
COLOURIST: Pedro Vivas Hernández  
ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE: Beachfront B-roll, Ecamcito  
SPECIAL THANKS: Amanda de Jesus, Christina Lindstrom, Inbar Sharon, Naeema Torres, Christina Tecsny, James "Rusty" Haner, Hostelling International - NY, Canoe Media Services, Represent Magazine, Brooklyn Arts Council, Artist Volunteer Center