



LOST IN THE WOODS



LOST IN THE WOODS FEATURING PATRICK BARNES
A SEVENTH DIRECTION FILMS AND VIOLENCE AND JOY PRODUCTION
DIRECTED BY EMRYS MAYELL AND GABRIEL STUDER-RANDALL
DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY EMRYS MAYELL AND GABRIEL STUDER-RANDALL
EDITOR GABRIEL STUDER-RANDALL
ORIGINAL SCORE JACKSON ROCK AND EMRYS MAYELL
SOUND DESIGN EMRYS MAYELL
SOUND MIXING AND MASTERING STEPHEN PETTYJOHN



Patrick Barnes writing in his journal at his studio in West Oakland.

LOGLINE

A haunting profile of Oakland-based artist Patrick Barnes, who gave up a career in traditional dance to perform for people living on the margins of society.

SYNOPSIS

Lost in the Woods follows the personal and artistic journey of Patrick Barnes, a multidisciplinary performer living and working out of his studio in West Oakland, California. Growing up in a working-class family in the rural American West, Patrick initially pursued a career in ballet but felt alienated while performing in elite spaces for audiences who did not understand his background or identity. A pivotal event—the passing of his father—prompted Patrick to reimagine his purpose as an artist. Fueled by a deep-seated empathy for communities like his own who had been excluded from the American Dream, Patrick shifted his attention to audiences on the margins of society. In July 2022, he brought his performance series, *Lost in the Woods*, to Cob on Wood, an unhoused community in West Oakland. In the shadow of a freeway interchange known as the MacArthur Maze, Cob on Wood was an improvised settlement and cultural hub that provided resources, community, and hope for Oakland's unhoused. Patrick's deeply personal performance combined dance and storytelling, exploring universal experiences of grief, loneliness, and the quest for belonging in a society that blames the less fortunate for their condition. *Lost in the Woods* is a testament to Patrick's commitment to marginalized audiences and the transformative power of art to speak directly to the humanity of those who are often overlooked and ostracized by society.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The original concept for *Lost in the Woods* was simply to document Patrick's performance at Cob on Wood. However, upon our arrival to the community for a location scout, we realized this story had a much deeper potential. We were immediately captivated by the striking visual juxtaposition between Cob on Wood's oppressive surroundings and the beauty of the community that called this place home. Over the course of the next year and a half, our creative vision evolved from a performance film into a multifaceted exploration of Patrick's identity and core values as an artist. We delved into Patrick's formative years as a dancer, his philosophical beliefs on art, and the profound impact his father's death had on his worldview and purpose.

For the look of this film, we chose black and white digital cinematography in a 4:3 aspect ratio, embracing the bold, graphic compositions inherent to Patrick's world. Far from conventional journalism, our goal was to create an interpretive visual language that illustrated Patrick's subjective view and the film's core thematic ideas. Embracing aesthetic minimalism and emotionally driven sound design, we endeavored to create an evocative and haunting cinematic journey that pushes the boundaries of traditional documentary filmmaking while remaining true to Patrick's story.

Ultimately, we hope this film inspires audiences to view unfamiliar environments and their inhabitants with greater compassion and empathy. Patrick's description of Cob on Wood as a "testament to the human spirit" resonates deeply with our own vision for *Lost in the Woods* as a tribute to the transcendent power of art and the indomitable resilience of humanity on the margins of society.

Sincerely,

Emrys Mayell and Gabriel Studer-Randall



Filming a closeup of Patrick writing in his journal at his studio in West Oakland.



Winter storms flooded the area under the I-880 freeway in West Oakland where Cob on Wood stood before it was evicted by the City of Oakland.



Emrys Mayell (left) and Emil Borgir (right) working on the sound mix.



GABRIEL STUDER-RANDALL

Director, producer, cinematographer, editor, colorist

Gabriel is inspired by character-driven stories that offer uncommon perspectives on contemporary social issues. He has worked on commercial projects for brands including Readyland, Amazon, and Chevron. He is currently pursuing a major in film production at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts.

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EMRYS MAYELL

Director, producer, cinematographer, composer, sound design

Emrys' main focus is on telling personal stories, and he's made documentaries about everyone from his grandmother to a resident of Oakland's largest unhoused community. He loves applying ideas from other types of filmmaking and art to documentaries to play with the boundaries of the medium. He also practices a wide range of other arts, including photography, music, and design.

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CREDITS

directed by Emrys Mayell and Gabriel Studer-Randall
featuring Patrick Barnes
produced by Seventh Direction Films and Violence and Joy
cinematographers Emrys Mayell and Gabriel Studer-Randall
editor Gabriel Studer-Randall
original score Jackson Rock and Emrys Mayell
sound design Emrys Mayell
mastering and additional mixing Stephen Pettyjohn
archival footage Kristin Damrow & Company
special thanks to Residents of Cob on Wood, Theo Cedar Jones, Emil Borgir, Jem Hoehner-Haele