

COUPER
WAS HERE

■ A FILM BY NICOLE FOLEY
couperwashere.com @couperwashere



■ SYNOPSIS

“Couper Was Here” is about an unhoused San Francisco resident, Couper Oroña. She was a firefighter, injured on the job, and now lives with disabilities. She supports herself on a small monthly disability check. After her injury and a divorce, she could no longer afford an apartment in the Bay Area, and subsequently found herself living on the street.

She’s known by houseless people throughout the city because of the way she looks out for them and advocates for their rights. She uses the skills she practiced as a firefighter to assist fellow encampment residents who don’t seek medical help from hospitals for a variety of reasons, such as feeling shamed or mistreated by hospital staff. “I feel I have a purpose on the street and want to do my part to help out friends and others who don’t have a roof or access to first aid services.” This film follows Couper in her caring for fellow unhoused San Franciscans, and in her quest to find permanent housing in the city.



■ TEAM



Nicole Foley

Director, Executive Producer

Nicole is a Creative Strategist who works on storytelling, brand strategy, design, and video to help mission-based startups and corporations articulate their purpose beyond the bottom line and achieve their growth goals. She uses a variety of tools to unite a brand's tribe—film is her favorite. For the last several years, she has created videos for non-profits, start-ups and corporations. Her love of documentaries and increasing focus on social justice issues led her to work on topics closer to her heart, such as inequity, transformation, and the resilience of the human spirit. She studied Psychology at Fordham University, and earned a Master's degree in Anthropology at the University of Chicago



Evan Mueller

Producer, Editor

Evan Mueller is a producer and editor currently working at Beast Editorial in San Francisco. "Couper Was Here" is the 10th short film he's edited. His work has been selected by film festivals across the country, notably the short documentary "God's Gym," featured online by the "SF Chronicle."

■ TEAM



Helena Gonzalez

Cinematographer

Helena Gonzalez is a videographer with a background in education focused on work on the intersection of social, racial and environmental justice. You can find her teaching video and digital art to differently abled artists at Creative Growth Art Center in Oakland.



Anna Karewicz

Cinematographer

Born and raised in Poland, Anka started taking photos after being given her first camera at the age of 16. She studied film and theater at the University of Lodz for a year and at 20 came to the US, where she got involved with documentary filmmaking. With a group of worker center volunteers she started Video Chamba, a grassroots media group that engaged working immigrant communities in creating socially involved independent radio and video broadcasts for Chicago Access Network Television. She directed and edited her documentary “Broken Windows, Open Doors” on the successful worker occupation of a windows and doors factory in Chicago. In Oakland, Anka is a part of the Liberated Lens film collective.

■ TEAM



Jeremiah Moore

Sound Design and Re-recording

Jeremiah Moore designs, edits, and mixes sound at Jeremiah Moore Sound, his San Francisco studio. He specializes in high-craft sound design with attention to environment, detail, and creative process. Recent projects include 2016 Oscar Nominee “Last Day of Freedom” (dir. Dee Hibbert-Jones and Nomi Talisman), 2014 Oscar-shortlisted “Slomo”, and sound design and technical/creative interfacing for Ai WeiWei’s @LARGE exhibit on Alcatraz with his collaborative company MomentAUDIO.



Jack Chavez

Colorist

Jack Chavez is an video production industry veteran with several decades of experience in a variety of roles. These days he prefers to focus on color grading, motion graphics, and 3D animation while producing and directing.

■ TEAM



Adrian Martinez

Animator

Adrian Martinez is driven by visual storytelling in all aspects of his work. By day, he works to bring information to life as a Director, Lead Artist, and Animator for a small SF production studio. He has spearheaded numerous videos for major technology, healthcare, data security, and educational companies including Hewlett-Packard, Kaiser Permanente, Philips Healthcare, and UC Denver. By night, Adrian shifts his focus and energy to independent filmmaking endeavors and freelance projects where he dives further into his craft in an effort to transport people into another world. Adrian graduated from the Art Institute of California-San Francisco with a degree in Media Arts and Animation.

MUSIC

“Friends of Mine”

by The Avengers

■ FESTIVAL SCREENINGS



Oakland Short Film Festival

April 2, 2019, 8pm

New Parkway Theater
Oakland, CA

Award
Best Documentary



San Francisco Documentary Festival

June 8, 2019, 12:15pm
June 11, 2019, 7pm

Roxie
San Francisco, CA

Award
Spirit of Activism



Palm Springs International Short Fest

June 20, 2019, 1pm

Camelot Theatres
Palm Springs, CA

Award
Local Jury Award



Athena Film Festival

February 29, 2020, 3pm

Glicker-Milstein Black
Box Theater
Barnard College
New York, NY