

"understated sweetness, authenticity and relatable characters"  
- Minneapolis Star Tribune, April 2016 -

# Dragonfly



HOLD FOR PLANE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "DRAGONFLY" IN ASSOCIATION WITH HELLO SUNSHINE FILMS  
STARRING CARA GREENE EPSTEIN JENNIFER BLAGEN TERRY HEMPLEMAN DAVID GREENE MATT BIEDEL INTRODUCING ABBY FRY  
DIRECTED BY MARIBETH ROMSLO WRITTEN AND CO-DIRECTED BY CARA GREENE EPSTEIN PRODUCED BY MIM EPSTEIN  
DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY MARCUS TAPLIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER KIMBERLY SENN LINE PRODUCER MATT BROWN ANIMATOR EMILY FRITZE  
ORIGINAL SCORE JOHN HERMANSON MUSIC SUPERVISOR EGG MUSIC EDITOR LINDY WILSON COLOR AND FINISHING CRASH + SUES

A female-led feature film about homecoming, healing, and rediscovering your magic.



## production contact



### PRESS CONTACT

Cara Greene Epstein  
caraepstein@gmail.com  
917-312-9282



facebook.com/DragonflyMovie



@thedragonflymovie



@dragonflymovie

### FILM PRODUCTION COMPANY

Hold For Plane Productions, LLC

### FILM WEBSITE

www.thedragonflymovie.com



**SNOWBATE**

Dragonfly was made possible in part by support from the Snowbate program and the MN Film and TV Board

### FILM SPECIFICATIONS

Title: Dragonfly  
Genre: Family Drama  
Duration: 70 minutes  
Screen Ratio: 16:9 HD  
Sound: Dolby SR Dolby Digital

### COUNTRY OF FILMING

United States

### DATE OF COMPLETION

November 5, 2015

### DIRECTOR CONTACT

Maribeth Romslo  
maribeth.romslo@gmail.com

### PRODUCER CONTACT

Mim Epstein  
mim.epstein@gmail.com

### WRITER & CO-DIRECTOR CONTACT

Cara Greene Epstein  
caraepstein@gmail.com





## logline + short synopsis

Told with heart and humor, DRAGONFLY explores the complicated relationship between a frustrated artist and her ailing mother as they struggle to reconcile their turbulent past in order to make the most of their present.



When her mother is diagnosed with early on-set Alzheimer's, Anna Larsen returns home to help, but brings years of family baggage with her. As she tries to navigate turbulent family relationships, Anna rediscovers a curious mailbox from her childhood and embarks on a search to solve its mystery. What she learns along the way just might be the key to rekindling her own magic.





## long synopsis

Anna Larsen is stuck. As an aspiring artist with a lot of baggage, she scrapes by as a wedding photographer, paying the bills by capturing the happiest moments of people she loathes.

Anna's mother Claire, a federal judge, was recently diagnosed with early on-set Alzheimer's. Anna and her mom are polar opposites with a long history of misunderstanding each other. When Anna's brother Brian calls to ask her to come home and help care for their mom as they prepare to sell her house, Anna apprehensively agrees.

Anna arrives home to find her mother as opinionated and strong-willed as ever. Though she may lose her words, Claire has not lost her determination to call the shots on everything, including Anna's life.

At home, Anna is also hit with childhood memories of her father leaving and her parents' divorce. During that painful time, young Anna's saving grace was the appearance of a mysterious mailbox and a secret correspondence with a penpal called "Dragonfly". While packing up the house, Anna rediscovers the Dragonfly mailbox and letters, reawakening her curiosity about who the mystery penpal might have been.

As Anna searches for Dragonfly, she reconnects with her dad Phil. She confides in him about the issues with her mom and her career struggles. Phil urges Anna to "honor her magic" and pursue her work instead of selling out.

Despite warning signs that Claire's condition is getting worse, Anna heeds her dad's advice and tries to focus on her own life and her work, leaving Brian to pick up the slack at home. After a disastrous night with a childhood love, tensions explode, causing Anna to re-evaluate her past and what is really standing in the way of her success.





## about the film

Dragonfly began with three women and a Facebook post.



Cara was an actor who wanted to start creating her own work. Maribeth was a documentary filmmaker ready to dive into narratives. Mim was a broadcast commercial producer looking for a challenge. Individually, the idea of making a movie was crazy, but together it looked like they might just have the perfect combination of skills. So they got to work.

So Cara pitched Maribeth and Mim her idea for a short film she wanted to write and DRAGONFLY was born. To fund DRAGONFLY, the producing trio ran a wildly successful Kickstarter campaign in September 2014. With 491 backers, the DRAGONFLY Kickstarter exceeded its fundraising goal by 20%, helping bring the film to life.



**KICKSTARTER**

**Dragonfly: A female-led feature film**

Minneapolis, MN

Film & Video

**\$54,800**

**successfully funded!**

As they assembled the cast and crew, Cara, Maribeth, and Mim became aware of how rare it was to have women at the helm of a feature film. In fact, DRAGONFLY's producers, directors, screenwriter, three main characters, production designer, editor, animator, and assistant director were all women. The result? When the film was finally finished, Dragonfly's cast and crew reflected true gender equity with a 50/50 split of men and women, both on-screen and behind the camera.

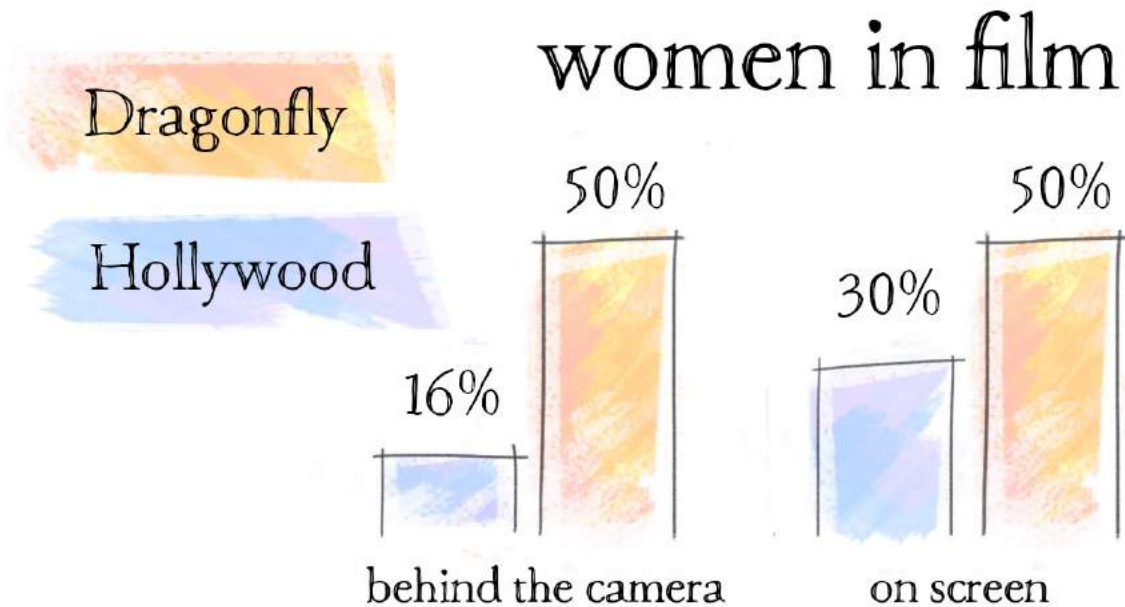




## women in film



By making this movie, we can be a part of pushing the film industry towards greater gender equity, increasing the number of professional women in film, and upping female representation on and off the screen.





## directors' note



DRAGONFLY was supposed to be a 10-minute short.

After all, between juggling our own businesses and raising two little kids apiece our plates were already pretty full. In fact, when Cara's brother suggested that DRAGONFLY might actually be a feature film, we shot him down immediately. But the idea had been planted.

As we developed the story, it became clear that we did, in fact, have a full length film on our hands. We decided to go for it.

DRAGONFLY explores the complicated relationship between a mother and daughter who have never really understood each other. As mothers and daughters ourselves, it was important to us to portray the true complexity of the mother-daughter dynamic. Making sure that both the characters and their relationship felt authentic and three-dimensional was a top priority. These are messy, powerful, and vulnerable women who are not defined by the limited female stereotypes we typically see in the media. It's not a coincidence that our film passes the Bechdel test\* with flying colors and we're really proud of that.

Memory and discovery are also two central themes of our story. Maribeth's grandmother struggled with Alzheimer's for many years and she knew first hand how complicated and devastating it could be. Alzheimer's patients are so often seen as victims and their caregivers are heroes. In our story, it's Anna who sees herself as the victim whereas Claire refuses to view herself in that light. Claire and Anna are operating on an X and Y axis, with Claire's self awareness declining just as Anna's is starting to bloom. Towards the end of the film their trajectories cross and they are finally able to connect with each other, but it's a bittersweet moment. They know that Alzheimer's will soon rob them of their shared understanding.

As Anna helps Claire pack up their home, she rediscovers a mysterious mailbox from her childhood that profoundly affects her journey. Her parents' divorce left 10-year-old Anna feeling lost and alone, but the discovery of this mailbox "growing" in her backyard renews her sense of wonder and possibility. Similarly, Anna's rediscovery of the mailbox and its letters as an adult sets her on a path to reconnect with her own magic and the magic of those around her.

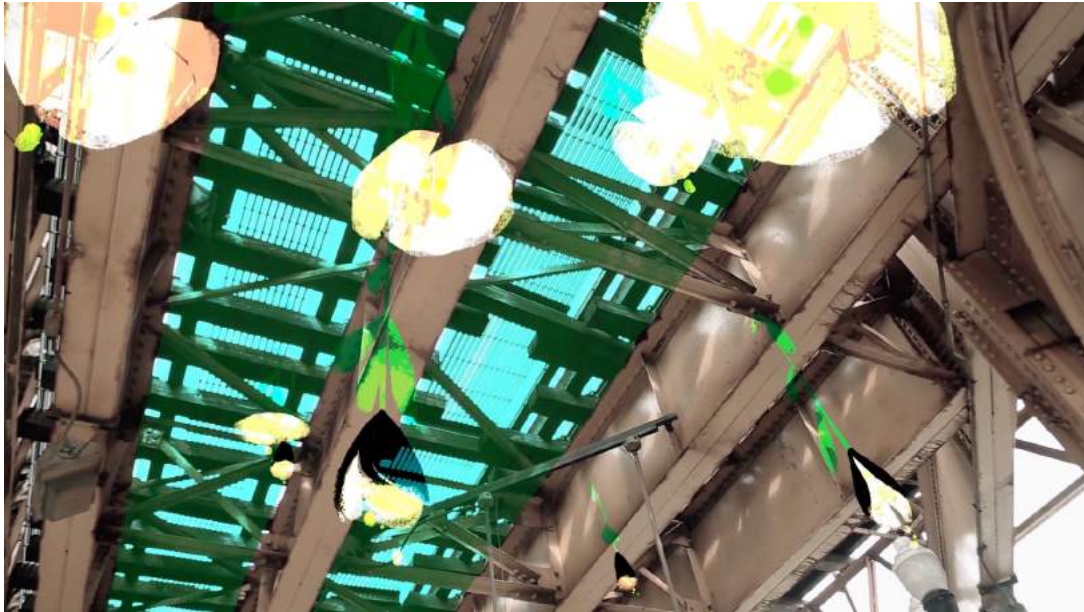
We all have things that keep us from seeing our own magic or the magic in others. We hope our film will inspire audiences to find and pursue magic in their own lives. It's certainly helped us to do that in our own.

With love, Maribeth and Cara

\* The Bechdel test asks whether a work of fiction features at least two women who talk to each other about something other than a man. The requirement that the two women must be named is sometimes added.



## animation



There is a layer of animation woven into the DRAGONFLY narrative. Our lead character Anna is a truly gifted artist who plays with the idea of reality in her work, and sometimes in her life. When she looks at the world she paints over it, creating works of art in her mind's eye.

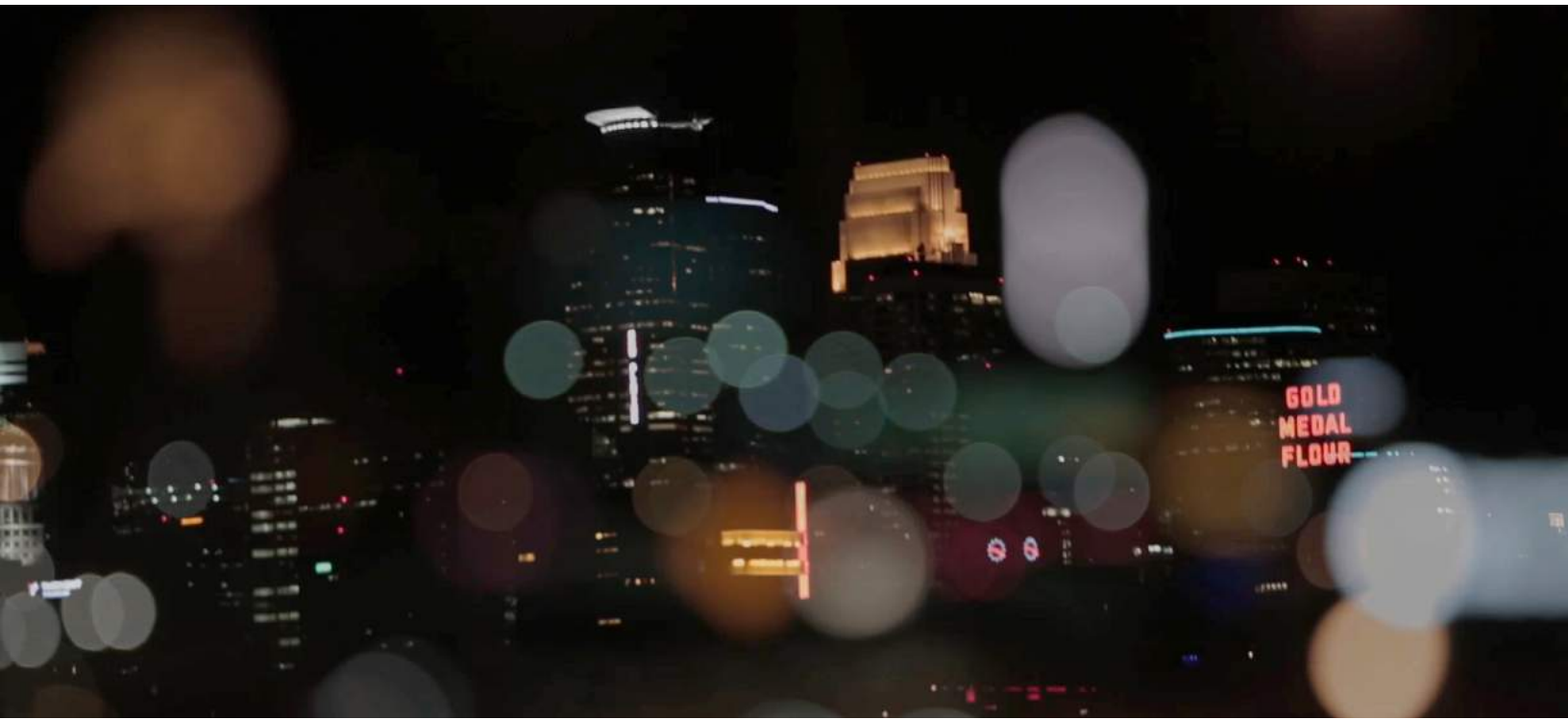
Throughout the film, animations appear that bring Anna's artistic vision to life and allow the audience to see the world through Anna's eyes.







made in minnesota



DRAGONFLY is a bit of a love letter to the city of Minneapolis.

Cara, Maribeth, and Mim wanted audiences to get a real look at the smart, amazing, lake-loving coolness of their hometown. Over 95% of all shooting for the film took place in Minnesota and its soundtrack also exclusively features Minnesota artists including Cloud Cult, The Ericksons, Caroline Smith, and John Hermanson.

From beginning to end, Dragonfly was produced entirely in Minneapolis, the nicest city in the country to make a film.





# audience and what people are saying



MOVIES

25 must-see movies at the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival

"understated sweetness, authenticity and relatable characters"

- Minneapolis Star Tribune review, April 2016

FEATURED IN



12 Unique Visions We Are Excited to See at the 35th Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival



MEDIA APPEARANCES



SAINT PAUL | MINNEAPOLIS



Dragonfly Private Fundraising Pre-Screening  
November 12th - Minneapolis, Minnesota



"It's a feel good, creative movie that will leave you feeling more optimistic about the world."

- pre-screening audience member



Home Local Sports Business Opinion Variety Obscure Classics

The story of "Dragonfly," a film being brought to life by three women from Minneapolis.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2014 — 8:57PM



iStockphoto.com

What does it take to make a good movie? Talent, passion, creativity, strong personality? Well, it seems that gender also plays an important role in the American film industry.

According to research from 2013, women made up only 16 percent of directors, producers, writers, cinematographers and editors. Only four female filmmakers have ever been nominated for an Academy Award for best director. Crazy, right?

Three brave and talented women from Minneapolis took a risk to show the world that cinema doesn't have gender limitations. Cara Green Epstein, Maribeth Sorensen and Miss Epstein are making "Dragonfly," a movie for which the screenwriter, directors, executive producers, three main characters and a lot of other people behind the scenes are women.

"Dragonfly" is not about women. It's about family and some magic in our life. It tells the story of a Minnesota family divided by divorce and illness. Young-but-talented Abby Fry plays a girl who struggles to understand her mom and herself while solving a mystery of the magical "Dragonfly" mailbox.

The film is still in production, but its creators are very excited about it. They repeat after Kathryn Bigelow: "It's irrelevant who or what directed a movie; the important thing is that you either respond to it or you don't."



## bios



**Maribeth Romslo**  
Executive Producer + Director

Maribeth is a Minneapolis-based director, producer, and storyteller, and the owner of Hello Sunshine Films. In 2015, she produced a feature-length documentary, *Our Journey Home*, about how home shapes us, with the Emmy-award team at Stillmotion and celebrity narrator singer-songwriter Jewel. In March 2016, she wrapped production on her newest project, *The Last Job*, a spec pilot for an episodic story set in the 1970s about a Midwestern lady mob boss, starring Erik Stolhanske of *Super Troopers* fame. A Loyola University Chicago graduate, Maribeth spent her early career as an award-winning professional photographer and magazine editor before transitioning to film. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband Erik and adorably busy children Max and Abby. You can find much of her new work at [www.hellosunshinefilms.com](http://www.hellosunshinefilms.com).



**Cara Greene Epstein**  
Executive Producer + Writer + Co-Director

Cara is a professional actor, writer, director, producer, and teaching artist. Her film and TV work includes *They're Out of the Business*, *As The World Turns*, *Chaos Theory*, and *Fishy Business*, among others. A passionate teacher, Cara works with adults with early stage Alzheimer's through the Memory Ensemble, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for persons living with Alzheimer's through the intervention of improvisational theater. She holds an honors degree in Theater Arts from Cornell University, an MFA in Acting from The Old Globe/USD, and is a member of SAG/AFTRA and AEA. Cara has worked with numerous theater companies across the country including Steppenwolf, Epic Theater Ensemble, Lookingglass Theatre Company, and The Old Globe of San Diego. A Minnesota native, Cara now lives in Chicago with her husband Ben and children Eliana and Micah.



**Mim Epstein**  
Executive Producer + Production Manager

Mim is a broadcast producer for the Minneapolis based advertising agency, Olson. She has produced TV, radio and web content for clients such as General Mills, Popeye's Chicken and Country Inns & Suites. In 2013, Mim was named one of the "32 under 32" by the Advertising Federation of Minnesota for being a rockstar in the industry. In 2012, she proudly organized "Project Know", a grassroots campaign to support gay marriage in Minnesota and produced their PSA. DRAGONFLY is Mim's latest passion project and she is thrilled to be a part of the DRAGONFLY family.



**Marcus Taplin**  
Director of Photography

Marcus Taplin is an Emmy and Telly award winning Director of Photography based in Minneapolis, MN. In the four years since he entered the fast paced industry he's worked for clients like Fox Sports, ESPN, The Food Network, Travel Channel, HGTV, DIY Network, The Discovery Channel, The Outdoor Channel and TruTV. Specific shoots include traveling with *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, building with the hit show *Bath Crashers*, investigating stories on *World Access* and scoring big branding videos for NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB, MLS and NCAA teams. His portfolio can be seen at [www.marcustaplin.com](http://www.marcustaplin.com).





## bios



### Kimberly Senn Production Designer

Kim Senn is an artist and designer based in Minneapolis. She's also the founder of Senn & Sons, a studio committed to creating bold, colorful products and original paintings for kids and their moms. She is a finalist for Martha Stewart's American Made competition and her recent design brand partnership Live Love Minnesota can be found in local shops around the Land of 10,000 Lakes. Before launching her business, Kim spent a decade working for top creative advertising agencies in Minneapolis, New York, London and San Francisco. She now splits her time between working in her studio and taking care of her four and one-year-old sons. Her commercial production experience came in handy as the Production Designer on the DRAGONFLY, her first independent film endeavor.



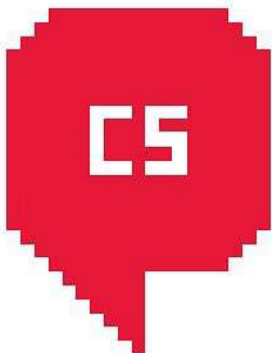
### Emily Fritze Animator

As an animator and motion graphics artist based in the Twin Cities, Emily Fritze has worked on a wide range of projects both nationally and locally based. She has done music videos for Pert Near Sandstone, Trampled by Turtles, and Perry Project, among others; worked on documentaries, feature films, commercials, and continues to do illustration and graphic art. Emily has been featured in MNTV, City Pages, and MinnAnimate, and has been featured in various film festivals such as the Philadelphia Film Festival, SoCal, South Dakota, and Square Lake Film and Music Festival.



### Egg Music Music Supervisor

Egg is a full-service creative music house specializing in original scores, music supervision, audio production and finishing for advertising, film, television, video games, and interactive media. With offices in both Los Angeles and Minneapolis, Egg's staff consists of experienced and accomplished composers, producers, and mixing engineers who work with top advertising agencies, production studios, and Fortune 500 companies. Egg Music is co-owned by Eric Fawcett and John Hermanson. Award winning songwriter and composer John Hermanson wrote the DRAGONFLY original score. He is a member of the acclaimed duo Storyhill and a regular guest performer on NPR's A Prairie Home Companion. Eric Fawcett lived a previous life in the record business as a producer, session drummer, and drummer for his band Spymob and for Pharrell Williams' hip hop/rock group, N\*E\*R\*D.



### Crash + Sues Color and Finishing

Crash + Sues is a woman-owned business that conceives and executes brilliant visual ideas. They specialize in 2D, 3D and stop motion animation, motion graphics, live production, editing, and color. Their work spans multiple disciplines including film, television, commercials, social media, websites, print, presentations, and videos. In addition to consistently delivering stunning visuals, Crash + Sues believes in building relationships, producing mastery and, oh yeah, creating joy. Award-winning colorist Sue Lasko crafted the color grade for DRAGONFLY.



behind the scenes

