



DECEIVE

Written and directed by award-winning director Severine Reisp, starring Dandara Veiga, principal dancer with Ballet Hispanico, and Marty Lawson (Smash, The Blacklist, King Kong on Broadway)
Shot by Emmy-winning DP Wolfgang Held (O.G. (HBO), the Neighbour's Window (Academy Award-winning short film 2020), Brüno, Teeth, Racing Dreams, The Fourth Estate)

Runtime: 17 min

Contact:

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www.deceivemovie.com

SYNOPSIS

Deceive tells the story of Amira, a Brazilian ballerina who comes to New York to pursue her dreams but gets caught up in a web of lies of a manipulative tycoon. Amira is strong, and tells the story from her point of view.

"Deceive" tries to empower women in finding strength after abuse.

It also tries to raise awareness on how quickly young women, especially immigrants, can become victims of sexual and emotional abuse.

For Amira, dance is a way to escape reality. Deceive shows a survivor's story from her perspective. It is about emotional destruction but also about rebirth and Amira reclaiming her voice and telling her story.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

My intent for this film is to show how someone's trust is exploited by a powerful, manipulative person. My goal is to show a survivor's story from her own perspective without using much dialogue but rather relying on emotions and experiences. Frequently predators choose vulnerable victims that they can groom. The movie is inspired by a true story, which unfortunately is all too common.

I hope that the movie will make other survivors less alone.

Moreover, I aspire that Deceive will raise awareness that only 10% of rapes are committed by strangers, whereas 90% percent of rapes and sexual abuse cases are committed by someone the survivor has previously trusted or even loved. Deceive shows that sexual and emotional abuse can happen to everyone and that the victim is never to blame.

More than words, dance can powerfully capture strong emotions and perhaps even confront difficult topics such as social or political norms.

Prior to university, I was a ballet dancer with the professional track program of State Street Ballet and Joffrey Ballet in New York. Hence, I see directing as choreography on the screen. My film is narrative, yet it includes many choreographies that are essential to the storyline. I have aspirations to develop a full length feature film from Deceive.



DIRECTOR BIO

Severine Reisp is an award-winning German/American filmmaker born and raised in Germany. After high school, she became a trainee with the Joffrey Ballet in NY. As a ballet dancer, she performed all over the world. Eventually, Severine enrolled at Sarah Lawrence College, where she discovered her passion for filmmaking and obtained the presidential scholarship. Since then, she has directed multiple short films and music videos screened in festivals worldwide.

Her recent short films have been recognized in several international film festivals: A Tango to Remember – Best Romance Film, Los Angeles Film Awards; Ruminare – Best Musical and Best Dance Choreography, Oniros Film Awards; Stop What You're Doing – Best Music Video at Athens International Digital Film Festival; Off Limits – Best Student Entertainment Film at Accolade Film Competition. She also is the recipient of the 2020 Aphrodite Cinematic Award – the award given to a female director with a promising filmmaking career.

For Severine, the film is a medium that can help to find empathy and acceptance for unique differences. Having lived in different countries, searching for a sense of belonging, she likes making films, which entertain, empathize, and challenge viewers to think about topical cultural issues in society while imparting emotions commonly held by people worldwide.



CINEMATOGRAPHER

Emmy-winning Director of Photography Wolfgang Held has photographed many indie movies and documentary features. Filming all over the globe, Held has been exploring both documentary and fiction filmmaking, in search of authenticity and truth.

His most recent feature credit is O.G. (HBO), starring Jeffrey Wright, which was shot in an active maximum-security prison. The film mixes inmates and actors as its cast. (The New Yorker review). Held photographed Brüno for Sacha Baron Cohen and Larry Charles and The Fourth Estate, a Showtime doc series about the New York Times. He is currently working for Liz Garbus and Alex Gibney on the upcoming Netflix series on the Innocence Project, that incorporates cinema-verite filmmaking and dramatic recreations to tell the stories of those who have been innocently convicted.

Held is the co-founder of the Kamerakollektiv, a group of New York cameramen and women who share their love for cinematic, socially-conscious filmmaking.



DANDARA VEIGA AS AMIRA

Dandara Veiga is originally from Brazil where she began her dance training at Projeto Social Primeiros Passos, before training as a scholarship student at Escola de dança Ballerina. She also studied at Studio Margarita Fernandez in Argentina, Opus Ballet in Italy, and Annarella Academia de Ballet e Danca in Portugal. Dandara continued her training as a scholarship student at The Ailey School in 2016/2017. She has participated in dance festivals around the world and received scholarships from San Francisco Ballet and Ballet West. She has performed for the Vibe Competition, Assamblé International, Harlem Arts Festival, and the Ailey Spirit Gala. She has had the opportunity to work with artists Charla Gen, Robert Battle, Caridad Martinez, Claudia Zaccari, Jean Emille, Ray Mercer, Raul Candal, and Melanie Futorian. Dandara is currently in her 3rd season with Ballet Hispánico.



MARTY LAWSON AS ALFRED

Marty Lawson has been living in NYC and performing on Broadway, film, and television for the last 20 years. Winner of a Princess Grace Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, and a Chita Rivera Award for his work in dance and theater, Marty has also worked on over 70 productions for film and tv, most recently making appearances on The Blacklist and FBI: Most Wanted. Marty has been a cast member of seven Broadway shows starting with his debut performing the lead role of “Eddie” in Twyla Tharp’s Movin’ Out. Most recently he could be found puppeteering the one ton puppet of King Kong to a special Tony Award for achievement in theater.



ALI CENGİZ (ASSISTANT CAMERA)

Ali Cengiz is a Brooklyn native and proud member of the Crimean Tatar diaspora in New York. His work is rooted in documentary cinematography but extends into various fields of filmmaking. Whether camera operating or pulling focus he seeks out opportunities to build understanding of various cultures and communities through storytelling

A black and white photograph of a man, Jeremy Harris, holding a professional video camera. He is standing on a city street, with a "TAXI" sign visible in the background. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a candid, behind-the-scenes feel.

JEREMY HARRIS (GAFFER)

Jeremy Harris graduated from the New York Film Academy with a concentration in cinematography. Shortly after graduation, he worked as an assistant to BAFTA-winning DP Tony Richmond on *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* for 20th Century FOX. Since then, he has worked as an AC on multiple feature films and commercials. He worked together with Severine Reisp on the two short films "Orbis" and "Ruminate." Both of them have been selected to international film festivals and won awards such as Best Musical and Best Choreography at Oniros Film Awards in Italy and Best Inspirational Film at Top Shorts Film Festival.

CAST AND CREW



Crew:

Director: Severine Reisp

Producer: Severine Reisp

Producer: Jieun Lee

Director of Photography: Wolfgang Held

AC: Ali Cengiz

Assistant Director: Sheng Ting Shen

Sound: Ivo Hanak

Sound: Rachel Villegas

Gaffer: Jeremy Harris

PA: Brendon Slattery

Sound Mix: Tim Obzud

Color: Yush Rajе

Opening Title Graphics: Jing-Ting Shih (Detective Coco)

Edit: Severine Reisp

Still Photographer: Hsuan-Wei Wu

Special Thanks: Pola Rappaport

Cast:

Amira: Dandara Amorim Veiga

Alfred: Marty Lawson

Alfred's assistant: Glauco Araujo

Lydia: Karina Alvarez

year: 2021, USA, run time: 17 min
contact: severine.reisp@gmail.com

BEHIND THE SCENES



DECEIVE IN THE PRESS

A woman with long dark hair is shown from the chest up, standing in a shower. She is looking down and slightly to the side. The entire image has a strong purple color cast. The title 'DECEIVE IN THE PRESS' is overlaid in large yellow letters at the top.

<https://www.braziliantimes.com/comunidade-brasileira/2022/03/18/deceive-o-filme-que-conta-a-historia-de-uma-bailarina-brasileira-em-ny.html>