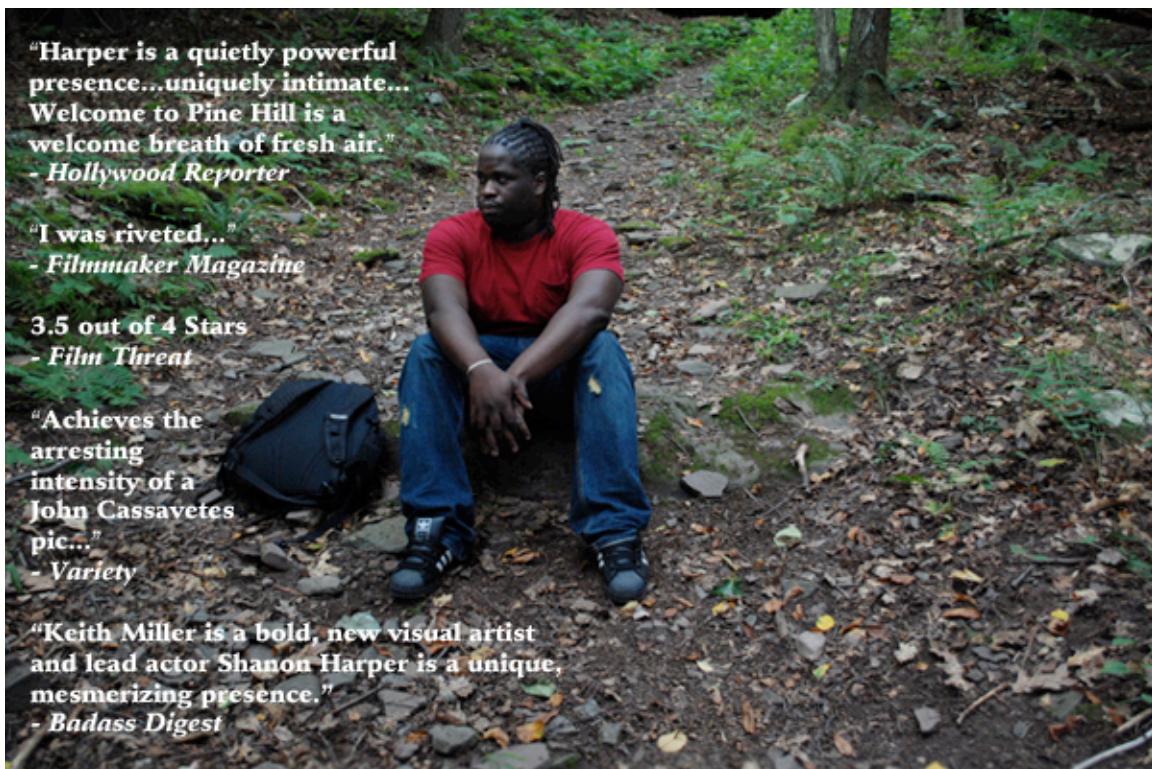


esopus creek pictures presents
in association with
Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective, Meerkat Media & Kitty Guerilla Films

Welcome to Pine Hill



A film by Keith Miller

starring Shannon Harper

WINNER GRAND JURY PRIZE, Slamdance 2012

WINNER FIPRESCI JURY PRIZE, Seattle Int'l. Film Festival 2012

WINNER GRAND JURY PRIZE, Atlanta Film Festival 2012

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE FOR PERFORMANCE, Sarasota Film Festival 2012

HONORABLE MENTION, Nashville Film Festival 2012

Unrated 80 minutes



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SYNOPSIS (short)

A unique story of friendship, race, and self-discovery, WELCOME TO PINE HILL was born out of a chance encounter between filmmaker Keith Miller and star Shannon Harper, who found themselves arguing over a lost dog one night in Brooklyn.

Straddling the worlds of fact and fiction, documentary and narrative, WELCOME TO PINE HILL follows Shannon, a recently reformed drug dealer, now working as a claims adjuster by day and bouncer by night. When Shannon receives earth-shattering news, he is compelled to make peace with his past and search for freedom beyond the concrete jungle of New York City. Featuring an extraordinarily intimate performance by Harper playing himself, he is supported by an eclectic cast of both emerging talent and real people. Traveling from the backyards of Brooklyn crack houses to the lush Catskill Mountains, the film is a meditative journey about how we choose to live our lives.

In collaboration with the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective, of which director Keith Miller is a part, WELCOME TO PINE HILL is a 2011 Independent Filmmaker Lab participant and Miller's debut feature. The cast includes Shannon Harper, Jaiden Kaine, and Mary Meyers. The film is produced by Elisabeth Holm. Cinematography is by Alex Mallis, Lily Henderson, and Begonia Colomar, with editing by Keith Miller.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My films take accidental encounters, intuitive leaps, and heightened realities to interrogate conditions of the real world. I work to make this happen by creating openings for reality to bleed into the story, in both the process and the final movie. The inevitable challenge is that the real world is messy, troubling and, in the deepest sense, beautiful. It is my hope that WELCOME TO PINE HILL has some of all three, offering moments of transformation for those participating in the film, whether cast, crew, or audience.

In the middle of the real-life event that is now the opening scene of PINE HILL, I realized that this stranger, Shannon Harper, was and is a very unique person, and that this experience was a challenge for both of us. Over the course of our long conversation regarding our dog, I garnered a deep respect for him as we both consciously and unconsciously worked through issues of race, class, and above all, our love of this puppy. That respect has only grown as we have continued to work together, and watching him work has given rise to a great admiration for his ability as an actor and as a friend.

PINE HILL blurs reality and fiction and questions that very opposition. Some events in the film are taken directly from life. Others take real situations and transform them. Still others are completely invented. I have tried to disregard the often-rigid line between fiction and fact to make a story that is as real as it is urgent. I believe this is a film that incites dialogue and refuses clichés of class and race often depicted on screen. I hope WELCOME TO PINE HILL might bring a little more empathy into our world, just as it did between Shannon and me.

SYNOPSIS (long)

One night Brooklyn filmmaker Keith Miller was out walking his dog when a young man named Shannon Harper stopped him and said, “Hey, that’s my dog.” Though initially skeptical, a long argument revealed that Keith’s dog was in fact Shannon’s lost puppy Prince (since re-named William). Struck by the complexities of race, class, and love that fueled their conversation, the next day Keith asked Shannon if he’d make a movie about the experience. Shannon wasn’t sure what to make of it but was intrigued enough to agree, and playing themselves, dog included, the short film PRINCE/WILLIAM premiered at the Rooftop Film Festival in the summer of 2010.

From that collaboration, Miller expanded on a range of true experiences, creating WELCOME TO PINE HILL with Harper as his star. Shooting long, improvised takes with an eclectic cast of both emerging talent and real people in a three-camera vérité style, PINE HILL follows Shannon Harper in a breakthrough performance as himself — a recently-reformed drug dealer on an odyssey from the crack house backyards of Brooklyn to the mountains of Upstate, NY, seeking transformation, transcendence, and freedom.

Shannon Harper is a Midtown claims adjuster by day and Williamsburg bouncer by night. He’s just begun to clean up his life when he learns earth-shattering news that compels him to return to the people and places of his past and experience life beyond the pavement. Whether settling old debts, reconnecting with his mother, or visiting former friends, Shannon is a quiet presence, and the film is an intimate window into the authentic cracks of light that fill his life. Longing to leave his concrete confines, Shannon travels upstate to Pine Hill where, alone in the unfettered wilderness, he finally experiences the freedom he seeks.

Featuring an extraordinarily natural debut performance by the real-life Shannon Harper and the supporting cast, WELCOME TO PINE HILL blurs and defies the line between documentary and fiction and offers a sense of immediacy that is unique to Miller’s vision and storytelling.

WELCOME TO PINE HILL was selected for the 2011 Independent Filmmaker Lab and is Miller’s debut feature.

CAST BIOS

SHANNON HARPER

Actor / Shannon “Abu”

Shannon Harper grew up in New York City. He lives and works in Queens, NY. WELCOME TO PINE HILL is his first time on camera.

CREW BIOS

KEITH MILLER

Director / Writer / Editor

Keith Miller is a filmmaker and painter,. A member of the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective, he made his first short film in 2004. WELCOME TO PINE HILL is his first feature. Living and working primarily in Brooklyn, his paintings and photographs have shown in galleries around the world. As a professor at New York University's Gallatin School, he teaches at the intersection of social thought, visual culture, art theory, and practice. He is also the Curator of the Gallatin Galleries, encouraging work that engages the personal with the political. He has a dog named (Prince) William.

ELISABETH HOLM

Producer

Elisabeth Holm is an independent producer and runs Filmmaker Relations & Outreach at Kickstarter. Supporting HBO, @radical.media, Cine Mosaic, and PBS productions, she served as the Associate Producer of Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky's critically acclaimed PARADISE LOST 3. Her writing has appeared in *Time Out New York*, *Filmmaker Magazine*, and *Philadelphia City Paper*, among other outlets. For better or worse, she is a born and raised New Yorker.

SHANI HASHAVIAH

Co-Producer

Shani Hashaviah is the co-founder and managing director of Fantasia Films and a member of New York Women in Film and Television (NYWIFT) and The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS).

ALEX RAMIREZ-MALLIS

Cinematographer / Associate Producer

Alex Ramírez-Mallis' films have played at IFF Boston, Hot Docs, and on the Documentary Channel. He recently completed SPOILS, a short documentary about dumpster diving in New York City, and DENTIST, which will screen at IFF Boston.

LILY HENDERSON

Cinematographer

Lily Henderson is the director and editor of the documentary LESSONS FOR THE LIVING. Her cinematography has shown on HBO, Sundance Channel, MTB, and at MoMa.

BEGONIA COLOMAR

Cinematographer

Begonia Colomar has worked at DreamWorks, The Orphanage, Monaco Digital Film Labs and Electronic Arts. She has worked on numerous films and video games including *MINORITY REPORT*, *SHREK*, and *DEAD SPACE*.

CREDITS

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WELCOME TO PINE HILL

In memory of René Peñaloza Galván (1986-2010)

Written, Directed and Edited by
Keith Miller

Starring
Shannon Harper

Produced by
Elisabeth Holm

Co-Producer
Shani Hashaviah

Executive Producer
Russell Miller

Associate Producers
Lee Weinstein, Shelley Holm, Steven Holm, Gary Katz, Ann Oster

Cinematography by
Alex Mallis
Lily Henderson
Begonia Colomar

Original Score by
Michael Rosen

Cast (in order of appearance)
Abu Shannon Harper
Keith Keith Miller
Interviewee #1 Landon Van Soest
Interviewee #2 Katie Vitale
Dealer Friend Ernest Bastien
Doctor Brian Ketover
Interviewee #3 Maria Mogavero
Interviewee #4 Ronnit Keha
Brooklyn Bartender Lily Jayne
Brooklyn Barback B.J. Rubin
Taxi Driver Manuel Maya
Mother Mary Meyers
Interviewee #5 Jelisha Gatling

Old Faithful David Williams
Jay Jaiden Kaine
Fulton Mark Anthony Hackett
JR Junior Adolphe
Loosie Seller Willie Meyers
Miss Margaret Margaret Meyers
Loan Shark Jay Williams
Diner Waitress Crystal Orthodoxou
White Guy in Diner Thom Jude
Hiker in Pine Hill Bar Mark Read
Bar Patron #1 Kenneth Barnett
Bar Patron #2 Amanda Bowie
Bar Patron #3 Marcus B. Hougen
Bar Patron #4 Ronicka Manon
Bar Patron #5 Thomas A. Filupeit Jr.
Bar Patron #6 Chris Dalaritz
Pine Hill Bartender Steve Witte

Associate Producer: Alex Mallis
First Assistant Director: Cat Tyc
Second Assistant Director: Elisabeth Holm
Assistant Camera: Adam Uhl
Location Sound: Emilie Jackson
Production Designer: Margaret Ward
Still Photography:
Jesse Dittmar, Lily Henderson, Alex Mallis
Sound Supervisor and Re-recording Mixer: Mark Corbin
Audio Facility: Hobo Audio
Sound Design and Premix: Chris Stangroom
Dialogue Editor: Stephen Davis
Sound Effects: Jullienne Guffain and Diego Jimenez
Additional Sound Editing: Adam Welz
Colorist: Colin Travers
HD Cam transfer: Final Frame
Title Design: Jason Drakeford
Digital retouching and Title Layout: K. Paisley Wilson
Website: Sarah Chow and Antonio Santini
Consulting Editors: Jeremy Levine and Jay Sterrenberg

“Prince/William” (Opening Sequence):
Cinematographer: Eric Phillips-Horst
Second Camera: Jeffrey Sterrenberg
Location Sound: Randy Gordon-Gatica

Production Assistants (in alphabetical order):
Annie Berman
Liz Deleo
Peter Fairman
Catherine Kildunne
Ashley Panzera

Gina Pollack
Mickey Sanchez
Landon Van Soest
Antonio Santini
Mia Zuccaro

Catering: Ashley Edwards and Kiani Angus-Torres
Wardrobe Consultant: K. Anthony Jones
Art Department Research: Vicki Yang and Sofia Palacio Blanco
Location Scout: W. & K. P. Wilson
Transcription: Leandro Justen
Translation: Rebeca Walker Márquez
Legal: David Leyden
Insurance: Bethany Thomas at Reiff Insurance
Publicity: Sylvia Desrochers & Tiffany Bair Wagner at Big Time PR
and Emma Griffiths at Emma Griffiths PR
Music Supervisor: Brooke Wentz

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The Holm Family
Kristin Horton
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David Leyden
Kyle Martin
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Errohl & Deborah Miller
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Michael Bonfiglio
Tationna Bosier
Patrick C. Brown
Theresa Campbell
Sarah Chow
Theo & Kerri Congdon
Stephani DeLuca
Jeremy Goldman
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Joe Heidecker
Ilyse Hogue
Steve Holmgren
Sara Kiener
Eliza Koch
Neil Lazar
Willie Marlowe & Tom
Speight
Theodore Mockrish
Brian Newman
Erin Owens
Nathaniel Parker Raymond
Landline TV
Meerkat Media

David Patrick
Mel Pekarsky
Graham Powell
Joshua Safran
Eric Schoebrunn
Atsushi Seo
Henrietta Shannon
Flavia Souza
Alex S. Vitale
Julie Wang
Adam Welz
Isabel Yellin
The Colonial Inn
Huckleberry's Bar
Welcome to Pine Hill

Abel Cine Tech
Adorama
Analect Films
CC Rentals
Final Frame

Rooftop Films
Sign-A-Rama Manhattan
Slamdance Film Festival
Adirondack Trailways
ClearBridge
Compensation Group

Brian Ketover, DDS
Local 138
Alex Mallis
Mary Meyers
The Phoenicia Diner

“The Hill”
Written & Performed by Grayson Sanders and Snowmine
Self Released
Published by Myster Buildings, LLC © 2011

“Ready on the Left”
Written & performed by Brown Co. featuring Ray Barbee
Appears on the album “Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood”
Published by DJ MF Shalem © 2011
“JAY GEE LIVES THROUGH ME” (ASCAP)
Appears courtesy of Childproof Records

“Dave”
Written & performed by DJ MF Shalem & Dave Parker
Published by DJ MF Shalem © 2011
"Jay Gee Lives Through Me" (ASCAP)
Appears courtesy of Childproof Records

“Mockin' Bird”
Written & performed by Haji P. & DJ MF Shalem
Appears on the album “Neighborhood Kid”
Published by DJ MF Shalem © 2011
"Jay Gee Lives Through Me" (ASCAP)
Appears courtesy of Childproof Records

“Windowpane”
Written & performed by Icewater
Published by Icewater © 2011

“It’s Brick Out”
Written & performed by Eidetic Seeing
Published by Eidetic Seeing © 2011

“Tanzen Macht Frei”
Written & performed by the Nuclears
Published by TK421 Music (ASCAP)
© 2011 MegaPlatinum Records
Appears courtesy of MegaPlatinum Records

“Pay Yer Dues”
Written & performed by the Nuclears
Published by TK421 Music (ASCAP)

© 2011 MegaPlatinum Records
Appears courtesy of MegaPlatinum Records

"Happy Birthday to You"
Written by Mildred J. Hill, Patty S. Hill
Published by Summy-Birchard Company (ASCAP)

"Yo ya me voy a morir al desierto"
Performed by
Antonio Valles, Fidel Elizalde,
Genaro Chavarría, Guadalupe Salazar
Published by CNCA-DGCPI/Instituto de Cultura de Coahuila/Ediciones
Pentagrama and Juan Francisco Cázares Ugarte, coordinator
© 2004 Appears courtesy of CNCA-DGCPI/Instituto de
Cultura de Coahuila/Ediciones Pentagrama

"Happy Birthday to You"
Written by Mildred J. Hill, Patty S. Hill
Published by Summy-Birchard Company (ASCAP)

This movie would not have been made
without the generosity, talent and enthusiasm of
The Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective

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