

*The Transcendents* – Press Kit & Info



## FILM FESTIVALS

- Sarasota Film Festival (April 2018)
- Madrid International Film Festival (July 2018)
- Genre Celebration Festival (December 2018)—{Japan}
- Switzerland International Film Festival (December 2018)
- Near Nazareth Film Festival (December 2018)
- New York Indie Theatre Film Festival (February 2019)
- London International Cinema Festival (February 2019)
- Prison City Film Festival (February 2019) {Texas}
- North Hollywood Film Festival (March 2019)
- Nice International Film Festival (May 2019)
- Kyiv Film Festival (May 2019)

## AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

### A. WINNER

- Cult Critic Movie Awards 2018 (WINNER)- Outstanding Achievement
- Genre Celebration Festival 2018 (WINNER)- Best Drama Feature
- Madrid International Film Festival 2018 (WINNER)- Best Original Screenplay of a Feature Film {Derek Ahonen}
- North Hollywood Cinefest 2019 (WINNER) Best Actress In a Feature Film {Savannah Welch}
- Prison City Film Festival 2019 (WINNER) Best Cinematography {Jeff Melanson}
- (WINNER) Best Actress {Savannah Welch}
- (WINNER) Best Supporting Actress {Kathy Valentine}
- (WINNER) Best Supporting Actor {Ben Reno}

### B. NOMINEE

- Genre Celebration Festival 2018 (NOMINEE) Best Director {Derek Ahonen}
- Madrid International Film Festival 2018 (NOMINEE) Best Feature Film
- Madrid International Film Festival 2018 (NOMINEE) Best Editing- {Thomas M. Vogt}
- London International Cinema Festival 2019 (NOMINEE) Best Editing- {Thomas M. Vogt}
- Nice International Film Festival 2019 (NOMINEE) Best Cinematography- {Jeff Melanson}
- Nice International Film Festival 2019 (NOMINEE) Best Editing- {Thomas M. Vogt}
- North Hollywood Cinefest 2019 (NOMINEE) Best Actor in a Feature Role- {Rob Franco}
- North Hollywood Cineast 2019 (NOMINEE) Best Picture
- Prison City Film Festival 2019 (NOMINEE) Best Actor— {Rob Franco}
- Prison City Film Festival 2019 (NOMINEE) Best Picture

## BIOS

**DEREK AHONEN (Writer/Director)-** Derek Ahonen is an internationally acclaimed playwright, director, and filmmaker. He is the founder of the award winning Amoralists Theatre Company in New York, whose mission is to produce work of "no moral judgment" while representing an "honest expression of the American condition." Notable works include *The Pied Pipers of The Lower East Side*, *Happy in the Poorhouse*, *The Bad and The Better*, and *The Qualification of Douglas Evans*.

His feature film debut, *The Transcendents* made it's world premiere at the 20th Annual Sarasota Film Festival on April 18th, 2018. It went on to make it's European premiere at The Madrid International Film Festival in July of the same year where it won the award for Best Original Screenplay of a feature film.

Ahonen's work has been lauded by *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker* and *Variety* amongst many others. *The New York Times* has said that "Mr. Ahonen has a showman's sensibility. He brings the populist instincts of a born entertainer." While *The New York Post* calls Ahonen's shows "Like no other. A distinctive mix of hyper realism, satire, brash violence, and unexpected tenderness." *Time Out New York* says that "Nobody else weds old-fashioned realist structure and working-class-hero lunacy quite this way." *The Village Voice* describes his work as "Scathing and frequently hilarious portraits of the American dream gone wrong." *The New Yorker* says "Ahonen is very funny, original and refreshing." *New York Magazine* calls Ahonen a "brass-knuckled absurdist" and *The Connecticut Post* says "Ahonen is part journalist, part philosopher and part saloon poet." Finally, *New York Press* calls his work "Carefully stylized mayhem. A complex symphony that should be marveled at."

**MELINDA PRISCO (PRODUCER)-** Melinda is an Italian-Hungarian film producer. She was educated at the International College of Spain. Feature Film credits include: *MOM* (Distrital Works In Progress), *SUMMUM BONUM* (East End, Lost Coabos),, and *NOBLE EARTH* (Raindance, Los Cabos, Seattle), in addition to her work on short films, music videos and web series. Melinda is also the founder of the streaming service FILMATIQUE.

**JEFF MELANSON (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)-** Jeff Melanson is a cinematographer based in Brooklyn. His collaborations with director Charles Frank, *MY BABY YOU'LL BE* and *JUNK MAIL* have each earned Vimeo Staff Pick, and his Super 16-shot music video for Royksopp's won the band's contest to become the son's official video. Beyond, *THE TRANSCENDENTS*, and Lauren Rotary's short film *SHELLY*, Jeff's works can be seen in the feature film *LET ME MAKE YOU A MARTYR*, starring Mark Boone Jr, Michael Potts, and Marilyn Manson.

**THOMAS M VOGT (EDITOR)-** Thomas M. Vogt was the lead editor of the *South Park* television series from 1998 to 2006. He also edited the *South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut* and *Team America: World Police*. Vogt also edited *POM Wonderful Presents: The Greatest Movie Ever Sold* and *Mansome* with director Morgan Spurlock.

**FRANCESCO MARCOCCI (COMPOSER)-** Francesco is a multi-fluent, classically trained musician from Pisa, Italy. His critically acclaimed debut album, *FOLKORICO* is an accumulation of influences as vast as the waters which surrounds his homeland and spreads to the ancient beyond. *THE TRANSCENDENTS* marks Francesco's first foray into scoring feature films.

**ROB FRANCO (ROGER)-** Rob Franco is an actor and musician most known for his work with the band *THE VENUS ILLUMINATO* and *DRAGONFLY JONES*. His feature film work include: *SICARIO: DAY OF THE SOLDADO*, *INTERROGATION*, *WE CAN BE HEROES*, *MIDNIGHT TEXAS*, *AMERICAN CRIME*, and *SIN CITY 2*.

**SAVANNAH WELCH (KIM)-** Savannah Welch is an actress and musician most known for her work with the band, *THE TRISHAS*. Her feature film credits include: *BOYHOOD*, *THE TREE OF LIFE*, *SIX*, *SONG TO SONG*, *THE SINNER*, AND *BILLY BATES*.

**KATHY VALENTINE (JAN)-** Kathy Valentine is a legendary musician and most known for her years as both a composer and bassist for the iconic band *THE GO GO's*. *THE TRANSCENDENTS* marks Kathy's feature film debut.

**WILLIAM LeROY (GEORGE)-** William LeRoy is an actor and producer most known from his show BAGGAGE BATTLES. Formally the owner of the legendary BILLY'S ANTIQUES on Houston St in NYC, Billy has transitioned into acting with starring roles in THE TRANSCENDENTS, BOUREK, DON PEYOTE, and DIRTY OLD TOWN.

**BEN RENO (FOSTER)-** Ben Reno is an actor/producer, and a post company graduate of the prestigious American Academy of Dramatic Arts. A lifetime member of New York's infamous theatre company The Amoralists, Ben's film work includes: THE TRANSCENDENTS, HOW WE BUILT THE BOMB, THE FEVER AND THE FRET, and TERMINUS.

**CECILIA DEACON (CECILIA)** - Cecilia Deacon, a Canadian actress born in Ontario, graduated from New York's American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Deacon has taken to the New York stage in productions at the Lester Martin Theatre, the Mary MacArthur Theatre, and the Mannie Greenfield Theatre. She has modeled for brands such as L'Oreal, Redken, Truvivity and Cetaphil. Deacon was featured in the hit comedy "The Buddy Games," starring Josh Duhamel ("Transformers", "Safe Haven", "When in Rome") and Dax Shepard ("Hit and Run," "Employee of the Month," "Bless This Mess") and has accrued roles in popular shows such as Legends of Tomorrow, Altered Carbon, and Charmed.

## CREDITS

### THE TRANSCENDENTS

#### WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND PRODUCED

DEREK AHONEN

#### PRODUCED BY

MELINDA PRISCO

#### EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

BEN RENO, KEVIN KLEIN, LAURA CUSANO

#### CO-PRODUCERS

ROY MONTEZ, JORGE SERMINI

#### ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS

ANN BATES, CHARLES FERRARO, ALEX KANE, CHRISTIAN  
MOSES, JOHN WILLIAMS

#### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

JEFF MELANSON

#### PRODUCTION DESIGNER

MARCO NOYOLA

#### EDITOR

THOMAS M. VOGT

#### MUSIC

FRANCESCO MARCOCCI

## **SOUND DESIGN**

THOMAS RYAN, SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR: LEWIS GOLDSTEIN

## **CAST**

ROB FRANCO, SAVANNAH WELCH, BEN RENO, KATHY VALENTINE, WILLIAM LEROY, CECILIA DEACON

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

A musical genius abandons his self-imposed exile to track down and kill the musicians who've plagiarized his unreleased songs.

## **LONG SYNOPSIS**

Roger, a Rasputin-like drifter, is in search of the ultimate indie-rock band, The Transcendents. What he finds is less than transcendent: a band who has all but abandoned society, a host of unpleasant memories, and more questions than answers in search of his own existential fulfillment. Set in the Wonderland of America's Do-it-Yourself music scene, The Transcendents is a dark comedic fairytale that straddles the line between the absurd and the all too real.

## **TAGLINE**

A band has gone missing. A strange man has been sent to find them.

## **TECH SPECHS**

RUNTIME: 96 Minutes

Color: Color

Camera: Arri 416

Negative Format: 16mm (Kodak and Fujifilm)