

# We Burn Like This

a film by ALANA WAKSMAN

PRESS KIT

NEDA ARMIAN  
ARMIAN PICTURES  
INFO@ARMIANPICTURES.COM

RYAN BURY  
MPX FILMS  
INFO@MPXFILMS.COM



# CREDITS

Executive Producers

Neda Armian  
Eleanor Nett

Producers

Alana Waksman  
Marshall Granger  
Jeri Rafter

Associate Producer

Kyle Sosa Frederick

Director of Photography

B. Rubén Mendoza

First Assistant Director

Laura Lovo

Production Designer

Lauren Norby

Costume Designer

Tessla Hastings

Key Hair & Makeup

Melissa Oteri

Sound Recordist

Ryan Graham-Laughlin

1st Assistant Camera

Taylor Lennox

2nd Assistant Camera

Mick Pengilly

Gaffer

Eric Mosley

Supervising Sound Editor & Mixer

Diego Perez

Music

H. Scott Salinas  
Logan Stahley

Editor

Marshall Granger

Rae	Madeleine Coghlan
Chrissy B.	Devery Jacobs
Maggie	Casidee Riley
Wolf	Angelo Rizzo
Layne	Kendra Mylnechuk
Lacey	Megan Folsom
Johnny	Nathan Snow
Voice of Rachela	Rabbi Laurie Franklin
Rachela	Christina Valentine

# WE BURN LIKE THIS

Dir. Alana Waksman

TRT: 81 minutes

Screening Format: DCP | 1:66 | Color | 5.1 Surround

## SYNOPSIS

When 22 year-old Rae, a descendant of Holocaust survivors, is targeted by Neo-Nazis in Billings, Montana, her ancestors' trauma becomes real. After hitting a low, Rae returns home to her mother and uncovers the truth about a childhood accident. As antisemitism continues to rise in the community, we follow Rae on her journey to forgive herself, her mother, and the broken world.

Inspired by true events, this coming-of-age story shows the inherited effects of historical trauma and the strength of survival and healing.

Shot on location on the traditional lands of the Cheyenne, Crow, Blackfeet, Sioux, Salish, and Kalispel people, also known as Billings, Butte, and Missoula, Montana.



## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

I made this film in order to sort through my feelings about my Jewish identity, the inherited effects of historical trauma, and what self-acceptance and self-love looks like. *WE BURN LIKE THIS* is my debut feature, which I have been developing for the last six years. It is my contribution to the greater healing of Jewish bigotry, which continues to be even more important, timely, and urgent.

I never met my grandparents. They were taken from their homes near Radomsko, Poland in 1942 and survived forced labor camps as young teenagers in Russia. I have been told that my grandfather survived a period of time by eating grass.

After the war, my grandparents found themselves at a displaced persons camp in Germany. This is where my dad was born, and two years later they were able to immigrate to Brooklyn, New York. My grandparents were proud to be Americans, but my father grew up ashamed of his immigrant and Jewish identities as it was often the reason he was singled out, threatened, and bullied.

The day after the 2016 election, Neo-Nazi pamphlets showed up on the doorsteps of Har Shalom Synagogue in Missoula, Montana where I was living at the time. For the first time in my life, my family's history was suddenly very real.

The storming of the capitol on January 6th was a continued reminder after an exhausting and frightening four years that we are living beside much hatred and rage, and our new administration does not erase the true colors and feelings of our fellow Americans. I believe that it matters to share this story and inspire discussion about Jewish identity and historical trauma in present day America.

May we find a way to forgive, accept, and love ourselves and others. May we find the perfection even in the darkest times and in the darkest memories. May this film be a part of that process, and may we all radically heal.

Alana Waksman  
April 2021



My grandmother and father the day they landed at Chelsea Pier in NYC

July 4, 1949



## MADELEINE COGHLAN *Rae*

Madeleine Coghlan is a Los Angeles based actor and writer. She has been acting in both comedy and drama since she was a kid and is currently a recurring character on the hit ABC show *THE ROOKIE*. She has written and starred in two of her own short films beginning their festival run and has also guest starred on various shows such as Fox's *LUCIFER*, and ABC's *CASTLE*. She has appeared in several independent films, most notably *HOLIDAYS*, which made its premiere at Tribeca Film Festival, Miranda July's *KAJILLIONAIRE* which premiered at 2020 Sundance Film Festival, and the leading role in Facebook Watch's *MIRA MIRA*.

She is honored to take on the role of Rae and is passionate about getting to help to tell this story.

## DEVERY JACOBS *Chrissy B.*

Kawennáhere Devery Jacobs was born in Kahnawà:ke Mohawk territory and is an actor/filmmaker. Jacobs is mainly known for her award-winning leading performances in features, *RHYMES FOR YOUNG GHOULS* and *THE SUN AT MIDNIGHT*. Her recent work includes playing Sam Duchene in season 3 of CTV's *CARDINAL*, Lilith in the Netflix Original *THE ORDER*, and Sam Black Crow in season 2 and 3 of Neil Gaiman's *AMERICAN GODS* on Starz.

Jacobs has explored the other side of the camera, and her recent short film as a writer/director, *RAE*, was an official selection of the 2018 Palm Springs Shortfest and won Best Youth Work at 2017 ImagineNATIVE Film Fest. The feature film *THIS PLACE*, co-written by Jacobs, was recently named a recipient of the Talent to Watch fund from Telefilm Canada, and Jacobs is currently producing the film adaptation of the award winning play, *WHAT I CALL HER*.

She stars in the 2022 Indie Spirit Award and 2021 Gotham Award winning FX series *RESERVATION DOGS*, and can be seen in the new Peacock show *RUTHERFORD FALLS*.

## KENDRA MYLNECHUK *Layne*

Kendra is a Lummi Montana based actor featured in *CHRISTMAS UNDER WRAPS* (Hallmark), *2 DAYS IN NEW YORK*, *NATIVES*, *THE BLACKLIST* (NBC), *WINTER IN THE BLOOD*, *THE TRIANGLE* and *COPPER CITY*. She won best actor in the NBC/Universal Short Cuts film festival for her role in *OK BREATHE AURALEE*. Her work has been screened at Sundance, SXSW, TriBeCa, and other festivals around the world. In addition to her work on film, Kendra is co-founder of theatre company MT+NYC Collaborative, and works as a producer, writer, director, and performer with them and other companies. She is currently co-producer and subject of *DAUGHTER OF A LOST BIRD* (Maoriland Film Festival, HotDocs, Human Rights Watch Film Festival, National broadcast on America ReFramed May 2022) a documentary about her adoption, finding her birth mother and a way back to the Lummi Nation.





CASIDEE RILEY *Maggie*

Casidee Riley was born and raised in Montana. She has worked extensively in the theatrical community, appearing in such shows as Venture Theatre's 'Tape' and 'Picasso at the Lapin Agile;' Billings Studio Theatre's 'Proof' and 'Boeing, Boeing;' NOVA's 'Sweet Charity;' and in Grandstreet Theatre's 'Once Upon a Mattress' and '42nd Street.' A graduate of Montana State University-Billings, Casidee has taught acting workshops for both youths and adults in Montana and Los Angeles. She was also a member of the Venture Theatre Improv Troupe, performing game-based improv weekly for 7 1/2 years.

Casidee lived and worked in Los Angeles for six years with film credits including 'The New Republic,' 'Sell Hope,' and the principle role of Miranda in the comedy-horror feature 'So You've Downloaded a Demon.' Back now in Montana, Casidee is an ensemble member of Yellowstone Repertory Theatre, most recently appearing as Meg in 'Crimes of the Heart' and Gwendolen Fairfax in 'The Importance of Being Earnest,' and Becca in 'Rabbit Hole.'

ANGELO RIZZO *Wolf*

Angelo Rizzo hails from Queens, New York and made his exodus from the big apple to the big sky in 2000. He is a father, husband, friend, actor, writer, director, and dramaturg. He graduated with a degree in acting from the University of Montana School of Drama and received his MFA in Media Arts. Rizzo has employed his talents in over 30 stage productions and a dozen of film. He is the founder of Montana Film Festival which he co-created with Aaron Roos and the Roxy Theater in Missoula in 2015.

MEGAN FOLSOM *Lacey*

A native of Missoula, Megan recently returned to her Montana roots after 25 years split between coasts (NYC and LA). As a child, she discovered a love for acting through her hometown theatre; since then, Megan has worked professionally as an actor, director, singer, and/or writer in various stage, film, television, and radio projects—including appearances in the TV series LAW & ORDER, and the films HEARTLAND (1979) and TED K (Berlinale 2021), as well as her 'homecoming' performance as Donna in Mamma Mia!

She is honored for the opportunity to join the cast of WE BURN LIKE THIS.



*ALANA WAKSMAN Writer/Director/Producer*

Alana Waksman is an Ashkenazi writer, director, producer, and first generation descendant of Holocaust survivors from Poland. She is an alum of the USC School of Cinematic Arts MFA in Film & Television Production, and Connecticut College BA in Theater and English. As an actor, she trained at Shakespeare & Company, Berkshire Theater Festival, St. Petersburg Dramatic Arts Academy in Russia, and The O'Neill National Theater Institute where she studied under Colman Domingo.

While at USC, Alana was chosen as one of ten top directors to co-direct USC's first feature film, *DON QUIXOTE: THE INGENIOUS GENTLEMAN OF LA MANCHA* (Palm Springs International Film Festival). Her short film *BLACKOUT*, written by David Haskell, received the Audience Award at the LA Shorts Fest, and Best Actor and Best Cinematography at the Women's Independent Film Festival.

*WE BURN LIKE THIS*, Alana's award-winning debut feature, premiered at Santa Barbara International Film Festival in April 2021, internationally at Deauville American Film Festival in competition in September, and is currently in the festival circuit.

Alana is in development for her second narrative feature, and a personal documentary about her father's relationship to Jewish identity, also executive produced by Neda Armian.

[www.alanawaksman.com](http://www.alanawaksman.com)

*NEDA ARMIAN Executive Producer*

Neda Armian is an Emmy and Peabody award winning producer with a varied roster of projects. Her company armian pictures produces feature films, documentaries, television, digital content and music videos. Prior to forming her company, she worked with and produced for Academy Award winning director Jonathan Demme for 17 years.

Producing credits include: *MURDER ON MIDDLE BEACH, RACHEL GETTING MARRIED, THE BALLAD OF LEFTY BROWN, JIMMY CARTER: MAN FROM PLAINS, THE TRUTH ABOUT CHARLIE, UNION SQUARE, SHE'S THE BEST THING IN IT, THE LONGEST WEEK, WHY STOP NOW, THE LOVING STORY, THE TRIVIAL PURSUITS OF ARTHUR BANKS, A LITTLE CLOSER, BAD POSTURE, THE BETRAYAL, RIGHT TO RETURN: NEW HOME MOVIES FROM THE LOWER 9TH WARD, THE SITUATION, BEAH: A BLACK WOMAN SPEAKS, FITS AND STARTS, WE BURN LIKE THIS*. Select additional credits: *PHILADELPHIA, ADAPTATION, THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE, THAT THING YOU DO!, BELOVED, DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS, ULEE'S GOLD and MANDELA*.

[www.armianpictures.com](http://www.armianpictures.com)

*ELEANOR NETT Executive Producer*

Eleanor Nett's 20 year career includes experience as VP, Physical Production of Endgame Entertainment, COO of boutique post house Fancy Film where she implemented MPAA best practices and Head of Production for teen new media studio Brat TV where she spent a year and a half building an in-house studio and production pipeline while overseeing nearly 300 days of shooting. Nett's executive and producing credits cover a wide range of projects including Best Picture Oscar nominee *AN EDUCATION*, Steven Soderbergh's *SIDE EFFECTS*, Rian Johnson's *BROTHERS BLOOM* and *LOOPER*, Sam Esmail's *COMET*, over a dozen scripted web series, a number of feature documentaries including *LINSANITY* and most recently artist David Choe's four-part television event *THE CHOE SHOW* for FX.

MARSHALL GRANGER *Producer/Editor*

Marshall Granger is an editor and storyteller from Montana, based in Los Angeles.

He discovered his love for connecting images and sounds while working for an art house theater in Missoula, MT, studying new and classic films and creating trailers for film series. Throughout those years, he produced his own short films and documentaries before taking on the editorial for friends' films. This passion for post-production led him to California, the American Film Institute, and a determination to help bring challenging, emotionally resonant stories to the world.

Marshall was born and raised in Billings, Montana within the small Jewish community, and he has firsthand experience of the anti-semitism and white supremacist movements in the area. He holds special interest in storytelling and themes that shine a non-traditional light on the American West. Marshall is currently an Editing Fellow at the AFI Conservatory.  
[www.marshallgranger.net](http://www.marshallgranger.net)

JERI RAFTER *Producer*

Jeri is dedicated to making feature narrative films in Montana. She most recently co-produced Gabe Polsky's BUTCHER'S CROSSING starring Nicholas Cage and Fred Hechinger, her other co-production credits include BROKE starring Wyatt Russell and Dennis Quaid as well as Annabelle Attanasio's directorial debut MICKEY AND THE BEAR starring Cami Morrone and James Badge Dale (SXSW, ACID Cannes). She served as production manager for the seminal Ted Kaczyski film TED K (Berlinale 2021) directed by Tony Stone and starring Sharlto Copley. Her other producing credits include a documentary about Native adoptees, DAUGHTER OF A LOST BIRD and BELLA VISTA (Rotterdam). Her other Production Manager credits include THE BALLAD OF LEFTY BROWN (SXSW) directed by Jared Moshé as well as numerous TV shows, short films and commercials.

She attended the Sundance Producer's Lab in 2014 and Women In Film + Sundance Women's Financing Initiative in 2015. Jeri has an MFA in Media Arts from the University of Montana.

B. RUBÉN MENDOZA *Director of Photography*

B. Rubén Mendoza is a Salvadoran-American cinematographer from Los Angeles. Most recently he photographed the feature films PUDDYSTICKS, starring Mamoudou Athie and Dan Bakkedahl, and WE BURN LIKE THIS starring Madeleine Coghlan and Devery Jacobs.

He received his MFA from USC film school and was recently selected as a mentee in the ASC Vision Mentorship Program under Xavier Grobet, ASC. He enjoys producing imagery that evokes feeling and makes space for empathy.

Mendoza is a 2021 Film Independent Project Involve Cinematography Fellow.

[www.mendozaphoto.com](http://www.mendozaphoto.com)



## FESTIVALS

Santa Barbara International Film Festival (World Premiere)  
Deauville American Film Festival (In Competition, International Premiere)  
São Paulo International Film Festival (New Filmmakers Competition, Brazilian Premiere)  
Woods Hole Film Festival (Closing Night Film)  
Heartland International Film Festival  
Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival  
Montana International Film Festival (Closing Night Film)  
Buffalo International Film Festival (Closing Night Film)  
San Diego International Film Festival  
Santa Fe Independent Film Festival  
St. Louis International Film Festival  
Tallgrass International Film Festival  
Virginia Film Festival  
Charlotte Film Festival  
Miami Jewish Film Festival  
Loft Film Fest  
Montana Film Festival  
Spokane International Film Festival  
Fargo Film Festival (Friday Night Showcase)  
Phoenix Film Festival  
NewFilmmakers LA  
Sunscreen Film Festival  
Julien Dubuque International Film Festival

## AWARDS

Best Director (Phoenix Film Festival)  
Best Narrative Feature and The Ruth Landfield Award (Fargo Film Festival)  
Directors Choice Emerging Filmmaker Award (Woods Hole Film Festival)  
Audience Award (Montana International Film Festival)  
Boundary Breaker Award (Buffalo International Film Festival)  
Gratitude Award (Centre Film Festival)

[www.weburnlikethis.com](http://www.weburnlikethis.com)

© 2022 We Burn Like This LLC

