



GOODBOY (2023) / 41mins

Filmmaker Ashley Mosher

Produced by Valid & Required Creations

Logline: An adventurous photographer attempts to outrun her beloved dog's death and stumbles into the haunting childhood memories of her dying Father. Facing the painful decision on how to handle the dog's life, she must reconcile her fear of death and herself learn how to sit, stay, and heal.

Synopsis: In "GOODBOY" an adventurous storyteller finds herself in the midst of the covid pandemic struggling to cope with the impending lockdown. Determined to make the most of the uncertain time, she and her husband use it as an opportunity to make a move across the country, away from the city and into the countryside, making a film along the way. With their 16 yr old lab, Kenya, in tow the threesome journey through stunning landscapes and spend time with family along their route.

Mid trip, Kenya begins limping and they surprisingly discover he has terminal bone cancer. While visiting Ashley's hometown thoughts begin to drift to memories of her childhood when her father battled brain cancer and their estranged relationship as he was dying. Haunted by these painful memories and struggling to confront her fear of death, Ashley finds solace in doing everything she can to mitigate the spread of Kenya's cancer and prolong his life.

However, as Kenya's condition worsens, Ashley is forced to face the reality of his impending death and make a difficult decision about how to handle his end-of-life care. In order to support her beloved companion Ashley must confront her deepest fears and ultimately find peace and acceptance in Life.

"GOODBOY" is a poignant and deeply personal exploration of the bonds that tie us to our loved ones, both human and animal, and the ways in which we must learn to navigate our cultural deep-seated fear of death and dying.

Director's Statement: At the height of the covid pandemic in 2020, our small family of three made a choice to seize the opportunity to move away from the city in search of more space and quieter living. With all my film projects on hold, I embarked on making a personal doc about the chaos happening around the world, mainly the deaths and fear that imbued everyone's lives at that moment. Little did I know that death would come knocking on our door soon enough.

I intended to make a film about how our universal fear of dying and the fear of death promoted by the media actually keeps us from living a fuller, more graceful life. But once Kenya was diagnosed with bone cancer, my focus turned to savoring the time we had left. I began filming more consistently and as we made our journey from Portland, OR to Vermont, I basked in the freedom we had and the intimacy of being on the road with my favorite souls in the world. And as death often does, it showed up unexpectedly while we were visiting my family in Michigan, the place my father had died of brain cancer nearly 30 years prior.

As I carefully made choices about how to handle his condition and, eventually, his remaining days, memories of being a teenager and watching my own father die of cancer came flooding back, most of them regrettable. But as I cared for Kenya, I found deep compassion buried for the father who left me so young and in remembering his dying, I learned how I wanted to go through Kenya's end-of-life differently. Sometimes, unhealed loss and grief, when attended to, can provide us the tools to turn those losses and emotions into a healing tonic for others..and ourselves.

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Ashley Mosher has written and directed 6 short films prior to making her first "featurette," GOODBOY. She is most known for her last film, *Love Birds*, made in the Amazon jungle under the tutelage of Werner Herzog. She creates both fiction and documentary films as the writer, director, cinematographer and editor. An adventurer at heart, she writes about journeys of both the body and soul, often using her own explorations as the foundation for her films. Her short films include *Love Biscuit* (2015), *The Bachelor: A Satire* (2016), *Back to Camp* (2017), *Love Birds* (2019), and *Side Order* (2020) and *TELL ME* (2022), some of which have garnered accolades and awards.

Prior to creating short films, she partnered on building Feed Them With Music (www.feedthemwithmusic.com), a non-profit using all things music to help solve starvation around the world. As the Vision Director she partnered with high profile artists (The National (2012), Train (2014), Gavin Degraw (2011) & more to create live music videos which inspired their fan bases to support the cause. Ashley has traveled the world making films and photographs, including capturing footage for a National Geographic film, *Holy UnHoly River* (2014).

Her book, Ganga Maa (2017) is a photographic and written story of her experience working on the film as they traveled the entire length of the Ganges River. Ashley currently resides in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

GOODBOY PHOTOGRAPHY / POSTER / ETC.



