



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ROTTERDAM  
2019

**BULLISH** PRODUCTIONS

out of sight  
out of mind |

WRITTEN &  
DIRECTED BY **BRIAN FOLLMER**

**PRESS BOOK**

# **OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND**

A film by Brian Follmer

United States, Mexico

131 minutes, color, English, Spanish with English subtitles

Produced by Brian Follmer, Adam Leotta, Blake Adams, Asiel Norton



## Synopsis

Travis Porter's tight group of friends and lovers splits apart when his childhood friend, O'Brien, becomes severely mentally ill. Now alone, the characters go their separate ways: Travis helps crowd-fund a socialist revolution in Mexico, O'Brien succumbs to mania and becomes a satirical Youtube celebrity, Kate seeks stability in online dating, and Lox embarks on his first indie rock tour. Their lives continue to cross paths and reconnect through the internet.

## Director's Statement and Bio



"This film is a satirical documentary about the world I lived in between 2009 and 2017. It's a personal story containing a blend of documentary and scripted footage that was shot internationally: Los Angeles, Yucatan, Mexico, New York City, San Francisco Bay Area, and more.

Through the ensemble cast of characters, we tied together a wide array of themes: internet communication, socialist idealism in Mexico and USA, YouTube celebrity, online dating, social justice warriors, society's treatment of the mentally ill, fear of illness, health obsession, social media obsession. But at its core, the film is a personal story about existential growth and human relationships.

Brian Follmer (1990) was born in Los Angeles, California. He attended the University of California, Berkeley and graduated with a degree in English Literature. As a student he began writing novels and screenplays, and eventually started producing and directing his own film projects. After graduating college he lived in Ecuador and Peru. He shoots documentaries as well as fictional narratives, sometimes blending the two in a single project. He has worked as a teacher, freelance writer, and freelance filmmaker.

## Producer/Lead Actor Biography



Adam Leotta was born and reared in Los Angeles. He attended Tisch School of the Arts at NYU and was awarded Best Actor by No Budge Film Festival for his role in Merely Players (2014).

## Producer Biography



Asiel Norton is a producer and director living in Los Angeles. He is committed to the independent film movement, won the Jury Prize at Raindance and was nominated for the Someone to Watch Award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards for his film *Redland* (2009), and was nominated for the Grand Prix des Ameriques at the Montreal World Film Festival for the same film.



FISH CIRCUS

tonita

NO EGAS

LAST LEG



## Frequently Asked Questions of the Director

### **What was the inspiration of the story?**

In December 2012, I was living in the South American Amazon (Ecuador), and I wrote down the first basic outline for the story "Out of Sight, Out of Mind," which evolved over the next three years into a 550-page screenplay about my personal experiences starting in 2009. The story focuses on a character (O'Brien) who becomes mentally ill, and the way his best friends react to this personality change. The character O'Brien is inspired by a handful of very close friends of mine who have had psychotic episodes. The character of Travis (the narrator) is a satirical version of myself, and the rest of the main characters are inspired by myself or people I know.

The feature length cut of the film premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam in January 2019. However, the full length extended cut of the film, including scenes from all 500+ pages of the screenplay, will be released later in 2019.

### **What was your filmmaking process on set?**

We had a small crew (usually between two and six people) and focused mostly on working with the actors. I encouraged them to improvise dialog, because although the script was detailed, I much preferred the realism and spontaneity of their performances when improvising, which I never could have written.

(cont.)

## Frequently Asked Questions of the Director

### **What was your filmmaking process on set? (cont.)**

I also shot a lot of documentary footage before and after shooting scripted scenes, which is some of my favorite material, and some of which is included in this cut of the film. I tried to constantly shoot the actors, just in case something interesting happened. The actors quickly became annoyed with me, but they also loved it.

### **What filmmakers influenced the film?**

My influences were wide, ranging from John Cassavetes to Terrance Malick. The Dogme 95 and Mumblecore film movements were very influential, in their guerilla filmmaking techniques and improvisational atmospheres. There were also a lot of films I talked about during pre-production which weren't direct influences, but were films I really loved at the time, often because of their production design or sense of surrealism or realism: Vincent Gallo's "Buffalo '66", Zach Braff's "Garden State", Cristian Mungui's "Beyond the Hills," The Dardenne Brothers' "L'Enfant", etc.



## CAST

Zander	Blake Adams
Vivian	Katie Booth
O'Brien	Brian Follmer
Lox	Geordie Kieffer
Travis	Adam Leotta
Octavio	Jose Martin
Gavino	Tiburcio Nac
Sammi	Julianna Pirillo
Kate	Katie Singleton
Paige	Oonagh Tunney
Music Journalist	Martin Pobutsky
Record Label President	Eric Roberts
Drew	Anthony Gros
Freddy	Phillip Andre Botello
Christian	Cole Carter
Jordan	DeOtis Tole
Blake	Joshua Krumbein
Obilobe Fans	Alexes Shears
	Harpal Khosla
	Jasen Talise
Socialists	Aurelien Favere
	Yoe Carrera
	Fable Alejandro
	Marcial Chan
	Highlander Pat

## CREW

Director	Brian Follmer
Executive Producer	Brian Follmer
	Adam Leotta
Screenplay	Brian Follmer
Producer	Brian Follmer
	Blake Adams
	Asiel Norton
Co-producer	Brian Esquivel
	Nick Antonyan
Producer (Mexico Unit)	Gabo Ximinez
Unit Production Manager (Mexico Unit)	Albert Ochoa
First Assistant Director	Immanuel Baldwin
Editors	Asiel Norton
	Tomer Almagor
	Spence Nicholson
	Gavin Segall-Abrams
Casting Director	Candido Cornejo
Sound Editor	Tadahisa Yoshida
Music	Mitchell Toller
	Jordan Kaufman
	Mac Sinise
Production Companies	Bullish Productions

## Original Music



*Three of the principal actors, Julianna Pirillo, Geordie Kieffer, and Brian Follmer played characters who are musicians in the film. The three actors used their musical talents to create original music that was eventually used, including the songs:*

### "Electric Angle"

Written and Performed by Brian Follmer and Jordan Kaufman

### "Red Line"

Written and Performed by Geordie Kieffer  
2016 BadPlanProductions

### "Running Out"

Written and Performed by Julianna Pirillo



15







