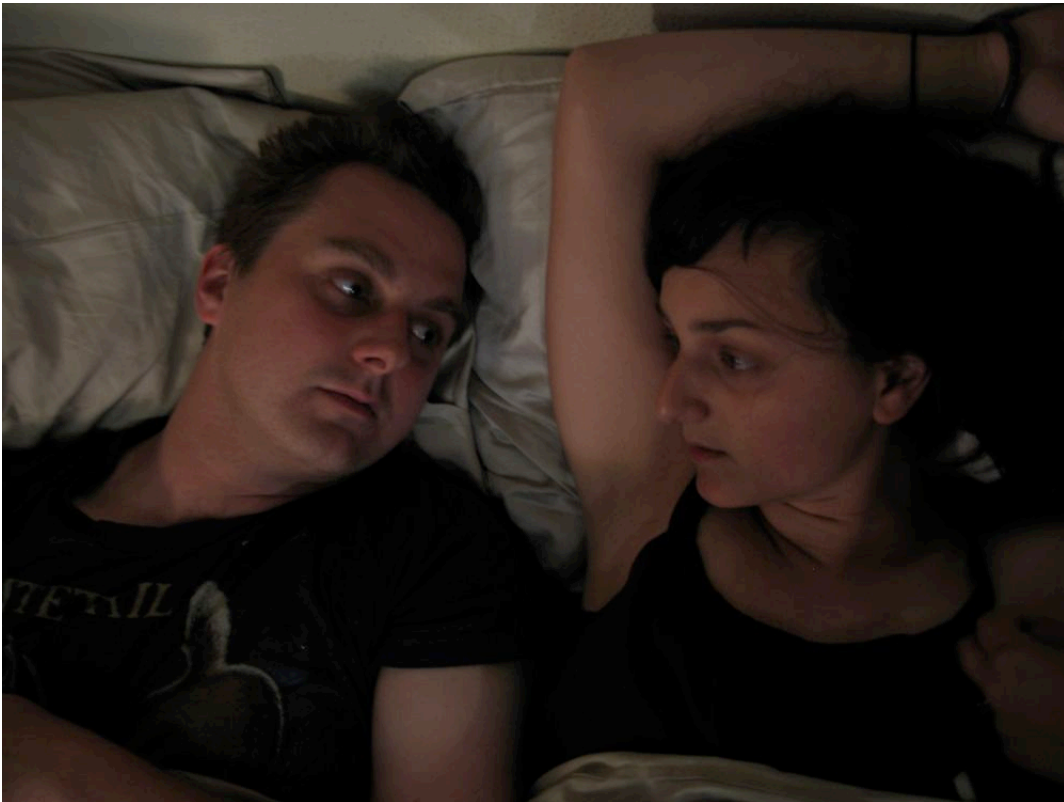


Parity

A film by Apolonia Panagopoulos



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additional information, trailer, and images at www.paritymovie.com

Short Synopsis/ Tagline:

Alone in a new city, a pregnant young painter struggles to reconcile ideas of being an artist and a mother.

Eighty-word Synopsis:

Amanda and Charlie move from Boston to Los Angeles so Charlie can pursue a graduate degree when Amanda, a painter, unexpectedly finds herself pregnant. Alone in a new city, Amanda explores her neighborhood and looks for an interim job while trying to reconcile ideas of being an artist and a mother. Unable to paint because of the toxicity of her materials, she begins to seek a new form of artistic expression in Hi8 video.

Director's Statement:

I first met Amanda and Charlie when we were all working together at Oona's, a vintage store in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and I liked them immediately—they were warm and fascinating people, talented artists, and I admired their relationship. At that time, I was attending the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, making short experimental films that dealt with ideas of identity, memory, distance, and displacement; ideas that I had previously explored in my two-dimensional art.

In 2004, I moved to Los Angeles to pursue my Masters at CalArts, where these ideas continued to shape my work. My first film at CalArts, *The Tropic of Faxaflói*, deals literally with ideas of home and displacement. Eventually, I realized that themes of place and alienation were also thematically inherent to the film I was making as my Masters thesis—*Parity*.

When I had the idea to make a movie about a pregnant woman, a comment of Amanda's kept reverberating in my mind—when life was particularly dissatisfying she would say to Charlie, "let's just have a baby, and I'll paint watercolors." Aside from watercolors figuring literally in the movie, this idea became the theme of *Parity*; in other words, what does an artist do when she can't make art anymore?

Amanda's conflicted feelings about her pregnancy, especially as it impacts her art making, are further compounded by her geographical displacement. Exploring her surroundings becomes a way to reconcile ideas of being a mother and an artist in a new city, as Amanda begins to gain an agency that is reflected in her discovery of a new medium and a new confidence as well.

The film's vérité style and slow pace invite the viewer to spend time with the characters and to share Amanda's experiences, both the mundane and those of exploration. In *Parity*, I strived to depict moments that traditional narrative cinema does not typically show, and I hope that especially these prosaic moments become poignant and beautiful.

- Apolonia Panagopoulos, 2007

Director Apolonia Panagopoulos' Bio:

Originally from Massachusetts, Apolonia Panagopoulos now lives in Los Angeles, California where she works as a freelance editor and cinematographer for narrative, documentary, and experimental films. Panagopoulos makes experimental narratives on 16mm film, video, super 8, and HDV. Her films have screened at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; at the Zeitgeist Gallery in Cambridge, MA; at REDCAT at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles; and at the Ojai Film Festival in October 2006.

In May 2007 Panagopoulos was awarded a Master of Fine Arts degree in film and video at the California Institute of the Arts, where she completed *Parity*, her first feature. In 2006, she co-founded Independent Movie Supply Company with J.R. Hughto and Jay Keitel,

Producer/ Co-Writer J.R. Hughto's Bio:

J.R. Hughto began making graphic novels while studying Comparative Literature at Cornell University. After moving to Boston, he started turning his comics into movies. His concurrent documentary work led him to the California Institute of the Arts where he pursued an MFA in film and video in 2006. While at CalArts, Hughto completed his first narrative feature, *The Thin Time*, as well as *The Mirror Eye*, a mid-length documentary on Clement Greenberg, *The Mirror Eye*, released by ThINC, screened throughout September and October 2006 at New York City's Luben House and premiered at the MoST in May 2005. Hughto's short film *Witness* is included in the permanent collection of the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

Since receiving his MFA, Hughto has founded Independent Movie Supply Company, a production house dedicated to creating low budget films with intense personal vision and integrity. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

Cast:

Amanda Joy Calobrisi
Charles E. Roberts

[Also featuring:]
Kathy Logue (Mother in park)
Penelope Mairs (Daughter in park)
Miriam Gerace (voice of Dr. Romero)
Theresa Masangkay (voice of receptionist)

Crew:

Apolonia Panagopoulos. . . .director/ cinematographer/ co-writer/ editor/ sound design
J.R. Hughto.producer/co-writer/online editor
C. Andrew Hall.assistant director
Ryan Philippi.sound recordist
Alexandra Cuesta.boom operator
Kevin Price.boom operator
Jay Keitel.second camera operator/ assistant camera
Taylor Greeson.assistant camera
Nathan Jongewaard.assistant camera
David Nordstrom.assistant camera

Susan Roth and Darryl Hughto.catering
Aimee Kark.art handling and additional cooking