

ABRAMORAMA

PRESENTS



Directed by **Sandra Alvarez**

Written by **Sandra Alvarez** and **Stacy Goldate**

Produced by **Jaime Burke, Amy Kim, Sandra Alvarez, Stacy Goldate, Veronica Nickel**

Music by **Chris French**

RT: 102 mins

Publicity Contacts:

Emma Beidler, EmmaBeidler@Falcolnk.com

Sarah Smith, SarahSmith@Falcolnk.com

Falco Ink. | 212-445-7100

LOGLINE

InHospitable follows patients and activists as they band together in an effort to stop UPMC, a multi-billion-dollar nonprofit hospital system, from making vital care unaffordable for hundreds of thousands of vulnerable patients in western Pennsylvania.

SYNOPSIS

InHospitable follows patients and activists as they band together in an effort to stop UPMC, a multi-billion-dollar nonprofit hospital system, from making vital care unaffordable for hundreds of thousands of vulnerable patients in western Pennsylvania. Few are aware that in the past several years many nonprofit hospitals around the country have been building healthcare empires and amassing huge amounts of wealth and political power at the expense of the surrounding residents. The story of *InHospitable* illustrates this alarming trend and turns the lens on the seemingly unwinnable battle between the Goliath UPMC and the patients, hospital workers, community activists, labor leaders, journalists, and politicians - almost all of them women - who built a grassroots movement to literally fight for their lives.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Before I started working on this project, I had no idea that hospitals are the number one reason that the US's healthcare costs are so incredibly high. As the mother of two young children and the daughter of a heart transplantation candidate, I have spent much of the past few years in and out of hospitals. The bills would add up but like so many Americans, I focused the blame on insurance companies for inadequate coverage and high premiums. It's just something I had accepted as a part of living in this country.

As I began to film with the hospital patients in Pittsburgh, I realized that these folks were not only Davids fighting one of the largest Goliaths in the country, but they were also providing a platform for a relatively unknown but extremely important issue.

So many health systems in this country have become large corporations with incredible power and control over their communities, their employees, and the patients who are trusting them with their lives. To top it off, most of them are nonprofits that don't pay taxes. This was just unconscionable to me. I think that the words of Beth McCracken, one of the patient-activists in the film, really underscore the importance of educating the public at large about the issue: *My fight to maintain my healthcare has robbed me of the strength to care for my health... we should not have to choose between bankruptcy and our healthcare. It is unfathomable to me that's the choice that so many Americans are forced to make.*

I was grateful that Beth and many other patients, advocates, local public officials, and hospital workers allowed us to tell their incredibly powerful story about what happens when a community binds together to take on a seemingly invincible foe. Their story is a warning to all Americans: Unless we start to hold hospitals accountable, communities will continue to suffer, and vulnerable patients will continue to deal with the devastating choice between going broke trying to take care of their health, or the other unthinkable alternative.

- Sandra A.

ABOUT THE ISSUE

US Hospitals have gone from charities to Big Business in the past 50 years. The executives running these hospitals have become so focused on running a successful business that they have lost focus on the patients they are meant to help and the employees who are doing the hard work on the ground. The Covid19 pandemic has further exposed the ways that hospitals are failing us. Healthcare prices are skyrocketing due to healthcare consolidation, the majority of these large health systems are nonprofits with billions in revenue and multiple executives taking home millions each year, hospital workers' pay is being stifled, and patients are being used as pawns in battles for market share. Sadly, there has been little accountability and public awareness of these issues since hospitals are some of the largest contributors to political campaigns and generally beloved by their community for all of the wonderful work being done by the doctors, nurses and staff.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Sandra Alvarez has spent her career directing and producing a wide spectrum of documentary and television programs appearing on Showtime, CNN, Netflix, Sundance Channel, History Channel, BBC America, A&E Network, and Discovery Channel. Her previous work includes serving as one of the directors and supervising producer of the upcoming Showtime documentary series THE WORLD ACCORDING TO FOOTBALL (hosted by Trevor Noah), and one of the directors of the Netflix original documentary series, HOT GIRLS WANTED: TURNED ON which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2017. She served as a producer for CNN's documentary series THE NINETIES and THE HISTORY OF COMEDY. To view her work, visit her website: www.reelmuse.com

Veronica Nickel helped launch the 2020 Netflix Original UNCORKED, directed by Prentice Penny. She was a part of the indie drama A KID LIKE JAKE, which premiered at Sundance 2018. Her fifth feature film, the Netflix Original entitled FIRST MATCH, premiered at SXSW in 2018 and won the Gamechanger and Audience Awards. Other recent credits include A24's Academy Award-winning feature MOONLIGHT. Nickel was chosen to take part in the Sundance Institute Creative Producing Summit, LAFF Fast Track Lab, Tribeca All Access Lab and as a San Francisco Film Society fellow. While earning her MFA at Columbia University, she was awarded the Arthur Krim Award for excellence in producing.

Stacy Goldate is an award-winning documentary director, producer, and editor. In addition to directing dozens of short films which have screened worldwide, she has edited numerous documentary productions including episodes from CNN's THE NINETIES and THE 2000S, Netflix's original documentary series, HOT GIRLS WANTED: TURNED ON, the Emmy-winning film OUT OF IRAQ, and the award-winning film, HILLBILLY (HULU). Stacy edited the Netflix original documentary DISCLOSURE which premiered at Sundance 2020 and was nominated for an IDA award for Best Editing.

Bryan Donnell is an Emmy-nominated documentary cinematographer known especially for his verité work, which has aired on networks such as HBO, Showtime, and Netflix, and appeared in festivals like Sundance and Cannes. His background in fine art and creative writing, both of which he still practices, lends him both an eye for how visuals unconsciously influence a viewer and how an audience experiences a narrative. He considers documentary cinematography in particular to be the perfect marriage of art form, athleticism, and empathy.

Christopher French is a multi-instrumentalist and composer from the coast of Northern California. Some recent scoring credits include the feature film UNLOVABLE & HBO series ON TOUR WITH ASPERGER'S ARE US both for the Duplass Brothers, Charles Vuolo's LUPE, documentaries TWO IF BY SEA & NUREONGI, ABC series YOUNG AND HUNGRY, & Warner / DC's HARLEY QUINN series alongside Jefferson Friedman.

Cora Media is an independently financed production company based in South Florida. Their focus is to create compelling nonfiction and documentary content that examines important social, political, and economic issues.

Lifeboat Pictures is a full-service production and development company, helmed by award-winning producers Amy Kim and Jaime Burke, that focuses on film, television, commercials, branded entertainment and interactive projects for a wide variety of budget levels and project styles.

About Abramorama

Abramorama is the preeminent global media distribution and marketing company for nonfiction and music films. An innovator in the focused, personalized form of film distribution, marketing, promotion, and live and event cinema, Abramorama provides customized services to filmmakers, networks, digital services, and IP owners, across all platforms and in all territories. In its over 20 years of operation, Abramorama has been the trusted film partner to many of the most respected global brands in entertainment, including The Beatles, Dolly Parton, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Stevie Nicks, Neil Young, Laurie Anderson, Jimi Hendrix, Green Day, National Geographic, Discovery, AARP, MSNBC, Apple, Amazon, Netflix, HBO, Showtime, Hulu, Universal Music Group, Atlantic Records, Warner Music Group, Sony, Concord Music Group, and many others. Through a powerful global network of cinemas, digital media outlets, and affinity marketing partners, Abramorama strategically implements a unified distribution and audience activation plan for each title.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Twitter: twitter.com/inhospitablefilm @Inhospitablefilm

www.inhospitablefilm.com

FEATURE CREDITS

Directed By
SANDRA ALVAREZ

Written By
SANDRA ALVAREZ
STACY GOLDATE

Produced By
JAIME BURKE
AMY KIM
BENJAMIN J. MURPHY

Produced by
SANDRA ALVAREZ
STACY GOLDATE
VERONICA NICKEL

Edited By
STACY GOLDATE

Director of Photography
BRYAN DONNELL

Cinematography by
BRYAN DONNELL
DAVID VLASITS GARCIA

Music By
CHRIS FRENCH

Animation directed by
SIMÓN WILCHES CASTRO

Title Design and Graphics by
SYD GARON & CHRISTOPHER KIRK
of MINDBOMB FILMS