

# MAGDA

PRESS KIT

A Short Film By John Eric Steiner & Kasia Pilewicz | Starring Abigail Breslin & Kasia Pilewicz

# ONE SHEET

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## **Writers/Directors**

John Eric Steiner & Kasia Pilewicz

## **Producers**

John Eric Steiner & Kasia Pilewicz

Betty Buckley

Mike Mckee

Kate Rees Davies

## **Executive Producers**

Abigail Breslin

Yvette De Vito

## **Production Company**

Moon Unit Productions

## **Cast**

Abigail Breslin

Kasia Pilewicz

Lucy Walsh

Paula Vanlandingham

Charrell Mack

Yvette De Vito

James Leo Ryan

Collin Carter

## **Logline**

**A Catholic nun is forced to choose between her religious beliefs and her pregnant sister's life in modern day Poland.**

## **Contact**

MOON UNIT PRODUCTIONS

info@moonunitproductions.la

# SHORT SYNOPSIS

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"Magda" is about a devout nun who is forced to question her beliefs when her younger sister has life threatening complications with her pregnancy.

Our film dramatizes the type of stories that are happening worldwide because of the attack on women's reproductive rights that began in 2020 in Poland and continues in America as we grapple with the recent overturning of Roe vs Wade.

This film presents a cinematic snapshot of two sisters facing impossible decisions due to the near total abortion bans, while battling and reconciling their personal relationship.



(L-R) [Abigail Breslin](#), Kasia Pilewicz and Lucy Walsh  
Gabrielle Revere; Dana Patrick; Bader Howar

**EXCLUSIVE:** Oscar nominee **Abigail Breslin** (*Stillwater*) will exec produce and star in *Magda* — a short film examining the realities of women who lack access to reproductive healthcare in Poland, where a near-total abortion ban went into effect in 2020.

The film from writer-directors Kasia Pilewicz and John Eric Steiner will present a cinematic snapshot of the lived experience of a Polish woman, Magda (Breslin), whose life is threatened by a non-viable pregnancy, also providing insight into the road ahead for women in the United States following the recent overturning of Roe v. Wade.

Going into production this month in Los Angeles, *Magda* also stars Pilewicz, Lucy Walsh, Yvette De Vito and Collin Carter. Mike Mckee is producing, with Breslin and De Vito exec producing, and Kate Rees Davies serving as co-producer. Breslin is repped by CAA and Definition Entertainment.



CULTURE / CINEMA AND TV

# Abigail Breslin in a film about abortion law in Poland

JULIA LUBECKA

March 16,

2023

KULTURA / KINO I TV

# Abigail Breslin w filmie o prawie aborcyjnym w Polsce

JULIA LUBECKA

16.03.2023

# VOGUE

CULTURE / CINEMA AND TV

March 16, 2023

## Abigail Breslin in a film about abortion law in Poland

JULIA LUBECKA

"Magda", directed by Kasia Pilewicz and John Eric Steiner, talks about **the ban on abortion** in Poland and the fight for women's rights. The creators of this short film are raising money to complete the production. Abigail Breslin stars in the title role.

"The film industry is hungry for more diverse voices, and women's stories are still not sufficiently represented," said Kasia Pilewicz, co-director of the short film "Magda", in which she stars alongside American actress Abigail Breslin. A fundraiser was organized on Indiegogo to help complete the project.

"Magda", directed by Kasia Pilewicz and John Eric Steiner, with their screenplay, tells the story of the fight for women's rights. The role of the title character, living in Poland, is played by Abigail Breslin, an American actress nominated for an Oscar for the best supporting role in the film "Little Miss Sunshine". "I feel really honored to play such a unique character in such an important work," said the star.



Abigail Breslin in the film "Magda" about abortion law in Poland (Photo: Pirella Göttsche)



Abigail Breslin and Kasia Pilewicz in the film "Magda" about abortion law in Poland (Photo: Getty Images)

The creators are collecting money to help complete the final stage of work on the production of "Magda". The fundraiser, set up by people involved in the project, aims to raise over \$20,000 by April 17, 2023. The money is to be used for post-production and worldwide distribution of the film.

It is a story about a pregnant Polish woman who finds out that her child has no chance of survival, and due to medical complications her life is also in danger. The woman's partner died during the war in Ukraine. She turns to her sister Ewa (played by Kasia Pilewicz) for help, a nun who, when making a decision, has to choose between her beliefs and the life of her pregnant sister.

# DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

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Inspired by horrific current true events - the story of Magda is a microcosm of what has been happening since abortion bans are tightening and women don't have choices or access to safe abortions. "Magda" presents a cinematic snapshot of the kind of impossible decisions women worldwide are being forced to make as their rights are being taken away. Countless women are dying preventable deaths because of laws that allow them too little healthcare, too late. We have chosen to use our platform as filmmakers to dramatize these realities through a story of two sisters separated by religious dogma. This urgent fight for women's rights affects us all. We want to shed light on important stories that are typically left untold in Hollywood. The film industry is starved for more diverse voices, and women's stories are still drastically underrepresented.



# JOHN ERIC STEINER

Writer, Director, Editor

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John Eric Steiner is a filmmaker, visual artist, songwriter and performer.

Currently, he works as an Assistant Editor at HULU in Los Angeles. Prior to moving across the country, he was a Technical Instructor teaching Filmmaking at MIT in their Art, Culture and Technology program.

In 2021, John had a solo gallery exhibition *Future Memories* at The Erie Art Museum in Erie, PA. The successful show was extended for a total run of five months and featured his abstract multi-media art and video work.

As a musician, John has toured internationally and has a long list of publishing credits. His songs have been used in feature films and on many radio and TV networks including MTV, NPR, ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, The CW, and Showtime.

He received his first degree in Graphic Design followed by his BFA from the Studio for Interrelated Media at Massart, where he focused on experimental sound and video work. He received his MFA in Visual Art from Lesley University. He has studied writing and directing at UCLA Extension.

“Magda” is the first film produced under Moon Unit Productions, the production company he started with Kasia Pilewicz in 2022.



# KASIA PILEWICZ

Writer, Director, Actress [Ewa]

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Kasia Pilewicz is a bilingual, first-generation American actress and filmmaker.

Acting credits include: recurring on CBS's *The Bold and the Beautiful*, lead in Showtime/Apple TV+ feature *Immanence* opposite Michael Beach; feature films *Alaska* (Shortlist Cannes' Breaking Through the Lens), *Pan American*, *The Plantation Tour*; recurring on Canadian TV Series *The Taylor Files*. She starred in, co-wrote, and produced the short film "Normal" (Finalist New York International Women Festival, Chicago Indie Film Awards, Los Angeles Lift-Off Film Festival).

A classically-trained actress, Kasia has multiple wins/nominations (including Broadway World Awards) from her stage work.

She is known worldwide as a finalist & fan favorite on Cycle 16 of The CW's *America's Next Top Model*, where she also won accolades for the best acting performance in the history of the series. Kasia has modeled internationally for numerous top clients including *V Magazine*, *V Man*, *Glamour* and *Vivienne Westwood*.

She was a finalist in the annual *ABC Diversity Showcase* for co-writing an original comedy. Kasia studied directing with Kate Rees Davies of New Hollywood Collective and UCLA. She has a BA w/Honors in Journalism from DePaul University, & a minor in Studio Art/Photography.

"Magda" is the first film produced under Moon Unit Productions, the production company she started with John Eric Steiner in 2022.



# ABIGAIL BRESLIN

Executive Producer, Actress [Magdal]

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Abigail Breslin is an **Academy Award®-nominee** who is one of the most sought-after actors of her generation. Her unique and charismatic talents have contributed to her versatile roles in both comedy and drama.

She is most widely recognized for her role as Olive in the critically-acclaimed feature film *Little Miss Sunshine*, the irreverent, antic comedy that created a sensation at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. For her performance, she was nominated for an Academy Award® and in addition she received a Best Actress Award from the Tokyo International Film Festival and was nominated for SAG and BAFTA Best Supporting Actress awards.

Film credits include *August: Osage County*, *Stillwater*, *Enders Game*, *Haunter*, *The Call*, *Rango*, *Zombieland*, *My Sister's Keeper*, *New Year's Eve*, *Raising Helen*, *The Ultimate Gift*, *The Santa Clause 3*, *No Reservations*, *Definitely, Maybe*, *Nim's Island*, *Kit Kittredge: An American Girl* & M. Night Shyamalan's *Signs*.

Broadway: *The Miracle Worker*. Stage: *All the Fine Boys*, dir. by Erica Schmidt, The New Group.

Television includes: *Accused* on Fox, popular Fox horror-comedy series, *Scream Queens*, coveted role of Baby in ABC/Lionsgate's recreation of the pop-culture classic, *Dirty Dancing*.

Awards: *Female Star of Tomorrow* Award from ShoWest, *Rising Changemaker* Award from the Greenwich Film Festival for her work with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, & she was recently honored by the National Women's History Museum.





# DIANA MATOS

## Cinematographer

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Diana Matos is a LatinX cinematographer of Nicaraguan and Puerto Rican descent. She has more than fifteen years of experience working on award-winning projects such as: *A Most Violent Year*, *The Good Fight*, and *Homeland*.

In 2019, her work was featured in both the Spirit Award winning *See You Yesterday* and the Golden Globe winning *The Farewell*, for which she served as the New York Unit cinematographer. Later in 2019, Diana was selected to partake in the prestigious *ASC mentoring program* as one of the few candidates accepted.

While pregnant with her 2nd child, Diana worked on two documentary series in 2021. *Golden: Journey of USA's Elite Gymnasts* was nominated for a Sports Emmy in 2022. She also shot *SUPA GIRLZ*, released late 2022. *Jane*, starring *Riverdale*'s Madelaine Petsch, Chloe Bailey, and Oscar-winning actress Melissa Leo was released theatrically in August 2022. Her most recent work, *Miguel Wants to Fight*, (produced by American High and Hulu) premiered in January 2023.

Her work has screened at the following Oscar-qualifying festivals: Sundance Film Festival, Aspen Shorts Festival, New Orleans Film Festival, and New York International Children's Film Festival.



# JOSEPH DEBEASI

## Composer

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Joseph S. DeBeasi is a composer and conductor whose film scores include the underscore music for Clint Eastwood's Oscar-winning movie *American Sniper*, *Kidnapped for Christ*, *Eleven Eleven* and *Alpha*, directed by Albert Hughes, for which he is co-composer.

The score for *Alpha* was listed in the top ten best scores for 2018 by Film Music Magazine.

His concert work includes appearances as guest conductor for the US Army Field Concert Band and Soldier's Chorus for the concert *Generations of Honor*, Grammy winning *The Soundtrack of the American Soldier*, and *Sinfonia* and *Sinfonia II: Connecting Arts & the Community*, honoring military members past and present.

Joseph is also known for his work as a music editor on films such as *Cruella*, *Queen & Slim*, *Bad Boys For Life*, *The Revenant*, *Sicario*, *Prisoners*, *Book of Eli*, and the iconic film that started his career, *Dirty Dancing*.



# YVETTE DE VITO

Executive Producer, Actress [Nurse Rasia]

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Yvette De Vito is an Italian-American actress, producer, painter and poet based in Los Angeles. Most recent acting credits include “Bubbles” and *To Tell The Truth*.

Born in San Francisco, California, Yvette is a proud Northern California native. She earned a BA in Theatre Arts from San José State University with a minor in Radio-Television-Film. While attending SJSU she appeared in many Bay Area theatre productions, including Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, Theresa Rebeck's *Loose Knit*, and Moisés Kaufman's *The Laramie Project*.

Yvette was selected for a prestigious 6 month international exchange program at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy, where she studied Theatre, Film and Fine Arts.



# CHARRELL MACK

Actress [Nurse Anna]

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Charrell Mack is an American actress from Bridgeport, CT. She studied Acting at the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England and later earned an M.F.A in acting from The University of Southern California.

Most recent credits include: “Clones” (Best Acting Duo/Cannes World Film Festival), “Retreat, *Moments*,” “Earth Machiavelli,” *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Mark Taper Forum), *Ascension* (Echo Theatre), *Apartment Living* (Skylight Theatre) and the upcoming *No Place Like Gandersheim* (Skylight Theatre).

She is repped by Zero Gravity Management and AKA Talent Agency.



# LUCY WALSH

Actress [Sister Lucynal]

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Lucy Walsh is a stage trained actress, classical pianist, singer, songwriter and film composer.

Acting credits include: *Curb Your Enthusiasm* opposite Elizabeth Banks and Larry David, *NCIS*, and *Criminal Minds*, on which she was personally cast and directed by the show's Tony-winning star Joe Mantegna. Feature films include Garry Marshall's final film *Mother's Day* opposite Jason Sudeikis, and Lucy also has her original song "Winter Coat" in the film.

*The Lucy & Annabel Show*, Lucy's podcast with Annabel Jones (daughter of Monkees' Davy Jones), is quickly gaining high listener numbers, celebrity guests, and fantastic reviews.

Lucy composed the original musical score for the film "Normal," now receiving accolades in film festivals around the country.

Lucy has toured internationally with her music (Maroon 5, etc), has performed on national television, and sung the National Anthem for US presidents. She grew up in a musical family (her father is Joe Walsh, her uncle is Ringo Starr, and her grandmother was a pianist for the New York City ballet).

Lucy is currently in development with both a feature and book based on her grandparent's WWII love letters.





