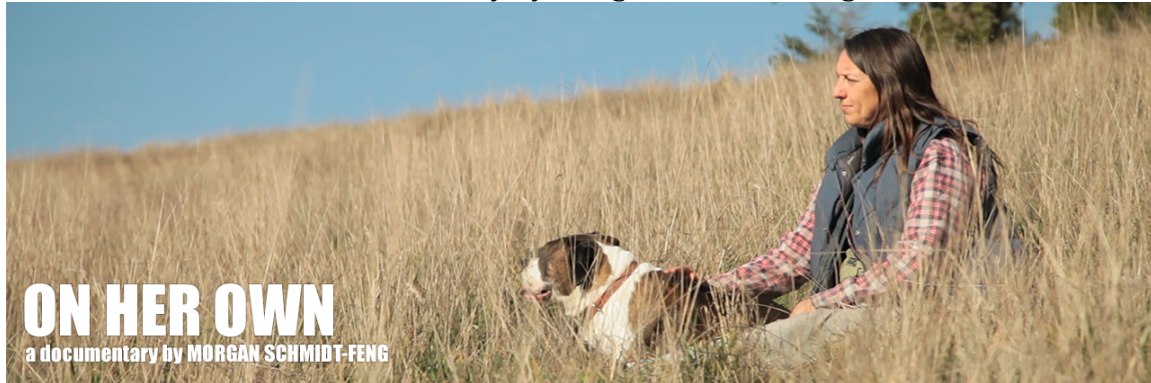


On Her Own
A documentary by Morgan Schmidt-Feng



Social media info:

<https://vimeo.com/filmsight>

<https://twitter.com/OnHerOwnFilm>

<facebook.com/onherownfilm>

<http://instagram.com/onherownfilm/>

Website:

www.onherownfilm.com

A “must-see.” –MovieMaker Magazine

“This doc goes beyond the romance of farming . . .

Unflinching, compassionate, and beautiful.”

–Michael Pollan, *Omnivore’s Dilemma* & *The Botany of Desire*

Log Line

After the sudden death of her father, a woman struggles to save her farm and, ultimately, her family.

Short Synopsis

On Her Own tells the story of Nancy Prebilich and her family as they struggle to save their 5th-generation farm during the Great Recession. When both of Nancy's parents suddenly pass away, Nancy, her sister, niece, and nephews fight to stay afloat in the face of loss and financial instability.

On Her Own represents what is happening all across the U.S. as houses are foreclosed, families are forced to move for purely economic reasons, and small farms face ruthless competition from larger factory farms and land developers. Chronicling Nancy's personal journey over a 5-year span, this extraordinary story explores the roles that history and ancestry play in our present-day lives, asking: what happens when the cost of preserving family heritage is the family itself?

Medium Synopsis

On Her Own tells the story of Nancy Prebilich and her family as they struggle to save their 5th generation farm during the Great Recession. When both of Nancy's parents suddenly pass away, Nancy, her sister Cindy, and Cindy's kids fight to stay afloat in the face of intensified financial instability and emotional loss. And while the ranch becomes more difficult to maintain, so do their relationships.

On Her Own is about more than just one family's struggle to keep their land out of foreclosure. It represents what is happening all across the U.S. as houses are foreclosed, families are forced to move apart for purely economic reasons, and small farms face ruthless competition from larger factory farms and land developers.

Without the physical and emotional support of their parents working the ranch, Nancy and her sister are forced to make even more sacrifices to keep it going. While Nancy remains strong-willed, Cindy and her kids discuss moving from California—and leaving Nancy—if they can't save the ranch.

As the land departs from Nancy, so does her family—leaving California and Nancy behind. With land, legacy, and family all gone, she is left living out a pale facsimile of ranch life on a one-acre plot in a small town near the old homestead. We come to understand that the ranch was, in some essential way, the basis of the family ties. Without the land, there is little left to keep them together.



Above: Morgan Schmidt-Feng, Director

Director's Statement

Like most people of my generation, I grew up in a city, disconnected from the land. My multiracial, bilingual family of seven lived in a 100 year-old Victorian on a busy street in Berkeley, surrounded by law students, communists, and working class folks. The closest thing to a ranch I ever saw was the pot farm down the block. And yet I lived for the stories my mother and great-grandmother would tell about the land my family had farmed since the 1860s, about going to one-room school houses, and about wringing the necks of two chickens at once.

In 2009, I was shooting a one-minute segment for an out-of-town production company doing a TV show on local, sustainable farms in the Bay Area. When I met Nancy Prebilich on her family's 90-acre ranch in Bodega, California, I was immediately taken by the stories of her family working their land for five generations. They brought back to life the stories my mother and great-grandmother had told: of hard work, sure, but also of connection – to food, to the earth, and to family.

After the one-day shoot, I asked Nancy if she would be interested in me filming her and her family sometime in the future. I didn't have a specific plan at that point. I just knew this was a window into my past, and into our collective past as an agrarian nation. Three weeks later, my photographer friend Anthony Lindsey and I were filming/photographing Nancy and her aging parents working their ranch.

On the first day of shooting, I was nearly killed by a two-ton chicken truck. When Nancy's father started the truck, a live chicken was stuck under the brake pedal, and the truck

lunged forward down the hill, barreling right toward me. I barely jumped out of the way in time with my camera and tripod. After the adrenaline settled—and apologies from Nancy's father—I realized I was hooked. No matter how many stories I could recall from my childhood, I would never know what this life was really like unless I spent months, if not years, with this family, filming them living, working, and dying on the ranch. This was the birth of *On Her Own*, the story that I've been uncovering for the last five years.

CREW BIOS

MORGAN SCHMIDT-FENG (Director, Producer, Director of Photography) is the founder of Filmsight Productions and is an award-winning director, producer and cinematographer for TV, documentaries, and independent feature films. His feature documentary, *On Her Own*, will premiere at the 2015 Slamdance Film Festival. Morgan won the 2011 regional Emmy® for Best Documentary for THE NEXT FRONTIER, a TV documentary about solutions for climate change. Morgan's feature film experience began as an actor and associate producer on MORGAN'S CAKE, a collaboration with his father and the film's director, Rick Schmidt. Morgan lives in his home town of Berkeley, California and graduated from CCA in Oakland.

NICHOLAS CARTER (Editor) is an independent filmmaker and editor whose documentary and experimental work has screened both across the country and internationally. With a B.A. in Anthropology from Brown University, he has spent extensive time studying ethnographic filmmaking, visual anthropology, and experimental documentary. As Editor and Associate Producer of *On Her Own*, Nicholas has continued to cultivate his interest in film that explores the way in which natural environments inform human life and culture. This film has been an inspiration for him due to the way that it so delicately uncovers the relationships between land, identity, and history, while at the same time remaining true to the value of personal experience and story.

CHRIS BROWN (ASSOCIATE PRODUCER / EDITORIAL CONSULTANT) has been making award-winning features and documentaries in San Francisco for over a decade. His third feature, FANNY, ANNIE & DANNY (2010), won 16 awards internationally, was hailed as "an indie masterpiece" by *THE HUFFINGTON POST* and a "Critics' Pick" by *THE NEW YORK TIMES*. A RIVER CHANGES COURSE, the groundbreaking feature documentary that Brown edited and associate produced, won 10 awards internationally, including the GRAND JURY AWARD at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival and BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE at the 2013 San Francisco Int'l Film Festival. Brown also edited and co-directed the environmental documentary THE NEXT FRONTIER, which won the regional EMMY Award in 2011 for BEST DOCUMENTARY. By night, Brown is a songwriter and composer whose music has been heard in films and TV. In 2012, he scored the pioneering documentary AN UNSENT LETTER, about legendary filmmaker Chris Marker. Brown's debut CD, NOW THAT YOU'RE FED was hailed as one of the best albums of 2006 by critics around the country.

QUINCY GRIFFIN (Composer/Music Consultant) has scored over a dozen feature films including Oscar nominated "Daughter from Danang" and Sundance Film Festival winner "My Flesh and Blood." His recent feature film scores include, "Without a Net", "A Kind of Order", "One in a Million", and "We've Got the Power". He was also the composer for the 2012 Oscar nominated documentary short "The Barber of Birmingham." His music can also

be heard in “The Waiting Room”(opening sequence), the Benjamin Bratt film “La Mission”, “The Two Escobars”, and “Better This World.” In addition, he recently wrote and produced the first ever Hip Hop songs for the television show “Dora the Explorer.” Quincy founded and produced the Latin Hip-Hop band “O-Maya”, produced rapper Deuce Eclipse’s album “Indigenous Noise”, and is currently writing with vocalist Luqman Frank.

Acclaimed San Francisco-based photographer **ANTHONY LINDSEY** (Still Photographer) has been photographing this project from the very beginning. He was initially drawn to it based on his interest in the Bay Area “locavore” movement and a desire to learn more about the realities of farming & ranching sustainably. Soon, however, he was captivated by the story of the Gleason/Prebilich family and their struggles to hold onto the family’s homestead and history in a rapidly changing agricultural landscape. Anthony has been an independent commercial photographer in San Francisco since 2000. After graduating from Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara (with concentrations in Advanced Photojournalism and Advertising/Illustration) he moved to San Francisco to begin working. In 2006 he was recognized by American PHOTO Magazine as one of the “Top 10 Young Photographers in America”. Alongside his commercial work he continues to search for compelling documentary projects to pursue personally.

ANGELA WOODALL is an award-winning journalist who is composing a book to accompany *On Her Own*. Angela was immediately captured by the journey of the Nancy and her family, but felt she needed something to contextualize their narrative. She quickly found however, that the Gleasons’ is a story not simply confined to one family: it depicts the struggles currently echoing throughout the Bay Area farming community. The book complements the documentary by journeying into those and other forces which are putting independent family operations like Gleason Ranch at risk of extinction in Sonoma County and the rest of the nation. Her work has appeared in the Washington Post, the Guardian, the California Health Report, San Jose Mercury News and other national and international publications. She also worked for six years as a staff reporter at the Oakland Tribune, where she first started writing about the industrial food system and alternative food movements

SPECS

Genre..... Documentary
Running time..... 80 min.
Language..... English
Country of Origin..... USA
Format..... DVCPro HD
Sound..... Stereo
Copyright Ownership..... Filmsight Productions

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END CREDITS

Written, Directed and Produced by

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Nicholas Carter

Director of Photography

Morgan Schmidt-Feng

Editorial Consultant

Chris Brown

Executive Producers

Heather Feng-Yanu

Albert Chan

Associate Producers

Nicholas Carter

Anthony Lindsey

Suzanna Aguayo

Brad Marshland

Chris Brown

Special thanks to those who appeared in this film:

Nancy Prebilich

Anthony Prebilich

Barbara Prebilich

Cindy Holland

John Holland

Samantha Holland

Nicholas Holland

Alex Holland

Sallie Calhoun

Anthony Chang

Freddie Fenk

Graham Lawler

Father Loren Allen

Khris Hawkes

Rachel Banks

Jacob Banks

Morgan Smith

Zoey Madden

Lydia Calkum

Cassie Calkum

Alden Graham

Still Photographer

Anthony Lindsey

Additional Cinematography

John Kabasakalis (Father's Funeral)

Anthony Lindsey

Assistant Editor

Marlon Schmidt

Location Sound Mixers

Greg Stidham

David Rosberg

Music Consultant

Quincy Griffin

Post-Production Partner

Hyperbolic Audio (NYC)

Audio Re-Recording Mixers

Max Chamberlin

Steve Bucino

Assistant Sound Designer

Pete Buckley

Color

David Rosberg

Production Assistants

Yenny Martin

Milo DeMartile

Amado Stachenfeld

Nancy Prebilich and Samantha Holland rehearsed the song
“Cowgirls Don’t Cry” by Brooks and Dunn.

FOR

Sanchi Yanu

Ermine Peterson

Ellen Houge

SPECIAL THANKS

Maya Aguayo Schmidt-Feng
Suzanna Aguayo
Chris Brown
Sean Elias-Reyes
Brando Farr
Alex Feng
Bowbay Feng
Heather Feng-Yanu
Quincy Griffin
Anthony Lindsey
Julie Lindsey
Brad Marshland
Kiyash Monsef
Julia Prebilich
Julian Rebolledo
David Rosberg
Rob Rowe
Julie Schachter
Marlon Schmidt
Rick Schmidt
Jane Sellen
Angela Woodall

MUSIC

"Ships Passing in the Night"
Written by Giants & Pilgrims
Performed by Giants & Pilgrims

"Truth"
Written by Quincy Griffin
Performed by Quincy Griffin

"Longest Winter"
Written by Wilhelm
Performed by Wilhelm

"Translucent"
Written by Quincy Griffin
Performed by Quincy Griffin

"Neutral Father"
Written by Quincy Griffin
Performed by Quincy Griffin

"For the First Time – Instrumental"
Written by Matt Wertz
Performed by Matt Wertz

"After Darkness, Light"
Written by Wilhelm
Performed by Wilhelm

"Father Regrets"
Written by Quincy Griffin
Performed by Quincy Griffin

"Hopscotch"
Written by Afterlife Parade
Performed by Afterlife Parade

"Rest (Selah)"
Written by Wilhelm
Performed by Wilhelm

"Empty House"
Written by Quincy Griffin
Performed by Quincy Griffin

"Division"
Written by Quincy Griffin
Performed by Quincy Griffin

"Pastor"
Written by Quincy Griffin
Performed by Quincy Griffin

"Neutral"
Written by Quincy Griffin
Performed by Quincy Griffin

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Be Well Integral Healing Space
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Cheese Board Collective
Chez Panisse
Classroom Matters
Donkey & Goat
Etude Tasting
Farmer Veteran Coalition
Gather Restaurant
Hotel Zetta
iScream
Jamieson Ranch
Lalime's
Monterey Market
Monterey Fish Market
Northbrae Bottle Shop
Oakland Floats
Pegasus Books
Questzal Farms
Santa Rose Farmers' Market
Schug Winery
Smoke Berkeley
Spoon Korean Bistro
Solano Cellars
Sustainable Agriculture Education Association
The Cheeseboard Collective
The city and people of Sebastopol, CA
The Rare Barrel
Whole Family Acupuncture Clinic
Women, Food, and Agricultural Network

2015 PRESS / REVIEWS

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Gather Restaurant

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Michael Pollan

<https://twitter.com/michaelpollan/status/392329930522238976>

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Coi (Daniel Patterson)

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A “must-see.”
– MovieMaker Magazine

**“This doc goes beyond the romance of farming ...
Unflinching, compassionate, and beautiful.”**
– Michael Pollan, “Omnivore’s Dilemma”



ON HER OWN

a documentary by MORGAN SCHMIDT-FENG

with NANCY PREBILICH ANTHONY PREBILICH BARBARA PREBILICH CINDY HOLLAND JOHN HOLLAND SAMANTHA HOLLAND
NICHOLAS HOLLAND ALEX HOLLAND FREDDIE FENK executive producers HEATHER FENG-YANU & ALBERT CHAN
editor NICHOLAS CARTER director of photography MORGAN SCHMIDT-FENG
associate producers SUZANNA AGUAYO BRAD MARSHLAND NICHOLAS CARTER ANTHONY LINDSEY & CHRIS BROWN
location sound GREG STIDHAM & DAVID ROSBERG assistant editor MARLON SCHMIDT
still photographer ANTHONY LINDSEY editorial consultant CHRIS BROWN music consultant QUINCY GRIFFIN
post production sound by HYPERBOLIC AUDIO: MAX CHAMBERLIN STEVE BUCINO PETE BUCKLEY
directed by MORGAN SCHMIDT-FENG
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Above: Nicholas Carter, Editor



Above: Morgan Schmidt-Feng with Nancy Prebilich



Above: Barbara Prebilich



Above: Cindy Holland, Samantha Holland, Alexander Holland



Above: Nancy Prebilich with Anthony Prebilich



Above: Nancy Prebilich



Above: Nancy Prebilich



Above: Nancy Prebilich

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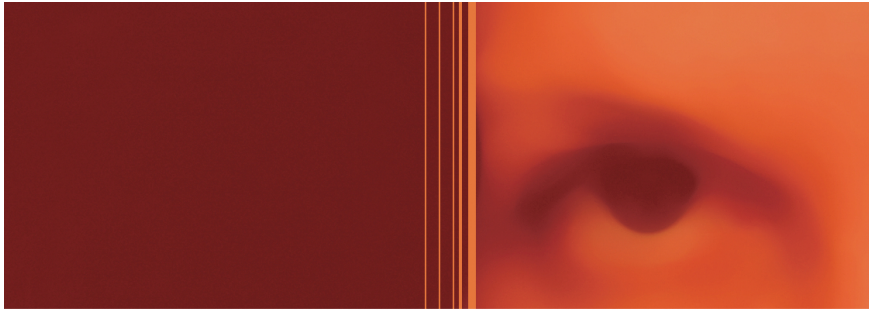
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