



# ANDA

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#### LOGLINE

When an elderly woman's mother returns, untouched by age, a search for answers draws her into a surreal realm of myth and buried memories—where the line between reality and illusion blurs, and power comes at a cost.

#### SYNOPSIS

ANDA is a visually haunting and lyrical directorial debut that blends Nordic folklore with surrealist storytelling and modern themes. The film follows an elderly woman whose mother returns—decades younger than expected. Her search for answers pulls her into a dreamlike realm where myth and reality entwine. As she unearths long-buried secrets, she must carefully navigate the brittle boundary between inheritance and freedom, confronting the cost of power and the illusions of love. Through the intimate lens of a mother-daughter relationship, ANDA explores the longing for youth, desire, and the enduring myths we live by.

#### JAYENDRA GANTA

WRITER / DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

[jayendra@pracina.com](mailto:jayendra@pracina.com)

#### CALEB BELL-JONES

SCREENWRITER / PRODUCER

[calebbelljones@gmail.com](mailto:calebbelljones@gmail.com)

#### CAST

Amy Warner as Old Norma

Peyton Michelle Edwards as Young Norma

Caroline Duncan as Young Mara

Michael Bonini as Matt

Ava Front as Nina

#### TITLE ANDA

GENRE Drama, Fantasy, Folklore, Surrealist, Fairytale

COUNTRY United States

YEAR 2025

LANGUAGE English

DURATION 76 minutes

ASPECT RATIO 16:9

FORMAT Digital

FILM COLOR Color

SOUND Dolby 5.1, Stereo

DELIVERY FORMATS 4K DCP, 4K H.264





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I grew up in South India, in a world where everyday life was interwoven with myth, faith, and fables. Stories were everywhere—carved into temples, whispered in the spaces between homes, painted on roadside hoardings, overheard on bus rides. For me, they created a sense of wonder while also reinforcing social control. That was where a flicker of awareness began—of how paradoxically patriarchal traditions and veneration of the Goddess quietly shape life in South India. At the same time, I was secretly falling in love with indie films from the West. They opened a crack in my world—glimpses of unknown cultures and the wide beauty of the world we live in. I was especially drawn to Nordic mythology and landscapes—their strange, haunting tales set against quiet, snow-blurred backdrops. Though it was half a world away, it somehow felt familiar.

ANDA is my attempt to bridge those two worlds. It's a surrealist fairy tale, anchored in a mother-daughter relationship. I wanted to create a new kind of folklore—one shaped by matriarchal strength and a deep, quiet longing for freedom, youth, and control in a world where our deepest desires slip away through the passage of time and in the blink of an eye.

I want audiences to feel like they're stepping into an unfamiliar place, where something ancient hums just beneath the surface and emotions take shape like shadows in the fog. The film doesn't try to explain itself. It dreams. It floats.

Living between cultures has taught me that meaning often lives in such in-between spaces. My creativity partakes of the mythical and the modern, Eastern and Western, the seen and the felt. ANDA is a Sanskrit word for "egg." A potent symbol of birth, and growth, ANDA is also the center and origin of the universe. I wanted to take this idea and transform it into a Scandinavian-American mythological fairytale.

ANDA is both a personal incantation and an invitation—to look inward and listen to the unknown within us.

**JAYENDRA GANTA**  
**WRITER / DIRECTOR / PRODUCER**



## PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

When I met Jayendra Ganta (writer/director), in early 2021 during a script exchange event, I knew immediately that his voice was uniquely personal, his story threaded together with a subtle lyricism that felt haunting and universal. We maintained a correspondence about his project *ANDA*, discussing the script at length, weighing the merits and metaphor of the imagery, and exploring both the practical and poetic considerations of this modern-day fairytale. His understanding of the way we can both long for life and yet seemingly withdraw from it were insightful and provocative.

My excitement about the film grew with each metamorphosis, and I was delighted when he asked me to come onto the project as a screenwriter and producer. *ANDA* has so many things that I love about independent storytelling, and having the opportunity to collaborate with a passionate cast and crew to reimagine our own life as an off-kilter fairytale was immensely rewarding.

The scale of the project allowed the narratives to breath and find balance as we worked with Matteo Bertoli (Director of Photography) and Alan De Leon Taverna (Gaffer) to discover the visual language of the mystery, folklore, and magic within this modern setting. Our incredibly talented leads Amy Warner (*Dark Waters, Carol*) and Peyton Michelle Edwards (*Weekenders*), who both play protagonist NORMA,

worked tirelessly with Caroline Duncan (*FBI: Most Wanted*), in her role as NORMA's mother MARA, to push and pull the viewer through a world of doubt and revelation, delicately exploring the tension between the meaning and myths we inherit versus those we make for ourselves.

As someone who grew up in rural Idaho, I enjoyed working with a diverse and international team, discovering new ideas together by swapping personal stories, cultural myths, and traditions with our cast and crew. We were able to draw on our multilingual environment to discuss the ways language itself shifts our perceptions of life, and as a result, found new motivations for the performances. Even amidst our team, the story held different meanings for each of us.

Age, memory, history, and hope, the simple fantasy of what would we do if we could turn back the hands of time are themes that resonate across the human experience. Jayendra Ganta has done a beautiful job working with the team to tell a story that traces the thin line between fragility and resilience in his surrealist fairytale *ANDA*.

**CALEB BELL-JONES**  
**SCREENWRITER / PRODUCER**



**JAYENDRA GANTA**  
**WRITER / DIRECTOR / PRODUCER**

Jayendra Ganta is an American filmmaker based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, whose storytelling roots trace back to his childhood in South India. From narrating vivid tales to friends during school bus rides to crafting cinematic worlds, Jayendra has always been drawn to the power of myth and place. His debut feature film, *ANDA*, is a contemporary surrealist fairy tale that blends Nordic folklore with modern themes. With a unique voice shaped by cross-cultural imagination, Jayendra brings a fresh, lyrical perspective to independent cinema.

**CALEB BELL-JONES**  
**SCREENWRITER / PRODUCER**

Caleb Bell-Jones is an Idaho-born, Minneapolis-based writer and producer working to promote independent voices in music and film. His diverse background in event production, commercial aviation, and digital media have allowed him unique opportunities to work in film, television, and education.

Passionate about music, he has founded a number of festivals and recurrent music showcases (South Fork Music Festival, Gigi's Neighborhood Showcase, Blue Roan Artists Showcase), and worked as a producer on several projects for the Blue Roan Artist Collective (*Brother Mae Waitin' on Love*, *Madrona Make it Out*, *Roz Prickel Bird of Passage*).

In 2024, he directed his first short film, *Acceptance*.

He is a resident member of the Backlot's initial cohort of filmmakers, a founding member of Blue Roan Artists, and currently serves as the Creative Director of the South Fork Arts Foundation.





## KEY CREW

### **MATTEO BERTOLI** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Matteo Bertoli is an Italian director and cinematographer currently based in Lisbon. Every frame in his work has an element of place. No matter which camera he's using, Matteo captures every frame in a very unique and personal way.

### **JEFF DEETH** SOUND SUPERVISOR

Jeff Deeth has had a long and extremely diverse career in audio production. His decades of experience have had him travel the world helping to produce content for major film studios, television networks, and music labels. He has worked with luminaries as wide ranging as Peter Jackson, Alex Gibney, Davis Guggenheim, Ron Howard, Amy Berg, Prince, U2, Willie Nelson, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and hundreds of others.





**AMY WARNER**  
**OLD NORMA**

Amy Warner has been directed by Todd Haynes in *DARK WATERS* with Mark Ruffalo and *CAROL*, opposite Cate Blanchett. She was also directed by Mike P. Nelson in *WRONG TURN*, Keir O'Donnell in *MARMALADE* and Jayendra Ganta in *ANDA*. Her television work includes co-starring roles in *ALLY McBEAL*, *BOSTON PUBLIC*, *THE GUARDIAN*, *THE PRACTICE*, *PROVIDENCE* and *E.R.* Her stage work includes three seasons in the off-Broadway repertory theater C.S.C. and numerous productions at The Guthrie Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and St. Louis Repertory Theater.



**PEYTON MICHELLE EDWARDS**  
**YOUNG NORMA**

Born and raised in the South, Peyton Michelle Edwards is an actor/writer/director with a passion for storytelling. With a BA in dramatic art as well as Spanish literature and culture from UNC, she is now based in NYC and has performed in countless independent film projects, including her theatrical debut: indie romance *WEEKENDERS* (2021) in which Peyton starred. Other notable credits include thriller *GOODBYE HONEY* (2020), and upcoming releases family drama *PATTERNS*, horror *HE SEES YOU WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING*, and her directorial debut short film *SKATEBOARD*.



**CAROLINE DUNCAN**  
**MARA**

Caroline Duncan (she/they) is a storyteller, working as an actor, writer and director in film, TV and theatre, in addition to being a healer working in the Earth-based Universal shamanism tradition. Favorite recent roles include guest starring as Jenna Marks in the season finale of *FBI: MOST WANTED* and guest starring in *WALKER* on the CW. When she's not working in the entertainment industry or making magic in the healing arts, you can find her interior designing or riding horses.



**MICHAEL BONINI**  
**MATT**

Michael Bonini is an award-winning Italian-American actor. He is best known for his roles as Zack Burnam in the hit CBS drama *BULL*, as well as Dick Wolf's *FBI: MOST WANTED* playing Italian mobster Tony Marks. Michael's film credits include *THE SNACK SHACK*, from the producers of *Knives Out* as well as Natalia Dyer's coming of age comedy, *YES, GOD, YES*. Michael is based in Los Angeles and New York City. He is represented by Kreativ Media Partners, Eris Talent Agency and Atlas Talent.



**AVA FRONT**  
**NINA**

Ava is a dedicated actress with eight years of experience in the industry, continuously honing her craft through professional training. She won Best Supporting Actress for her role in an award-winning short film and has been nominated multiple times for her exceptional performances. Currently, Ava is attending a middle school specializing in the arts, where she majors in theatre and deepens her love for the craft. Outside of acting, she has a passion for animals, meeting new people, and exploring different cultures through travel. Her diverse interests and experiences continue to inspire her journey as an actress and artist.



**MICHAEL HANEY**  
**THE MASTER**

Michael has appeared in the films *CAROL* (with Cate Blanchett) and *DARK WATERS* (with Mark Ruffalo) both directed by Todd Haynes. He has acted on Broadway, off-Broadway and in many regional theatres including Arena Stage (in whose company he toured the Soviet Union playing The Moscow Art Theatre), Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Actor's Theatre of Louisville and Cincinnati Playhouse where he was the Associate Artistic Director for 15 years. Other highlights include Artistic Director of Allenberry Playhouse, playing 14 roles in Charles Dickens' *NICHOLAS NICKLEBY* and performing in Elie Wiesel's *ZALMEN* on Broadway and on PBS.

**Written by** Jayendra Ganta  
& Caleb Bell-Jones

**Story Concept** Jayendra Ganta  
& Granger Taft

**Directed by** Jayendra Ganta

**Produced by** Jayendra Ganta  
& Caleb Bell-Jones

**Executive Producer** Anna Seastrand

## CAST

**Old Norma** Amy Warner  
**Young Norma** Peyton Michelle Edwards  
**Young Mara** Caroline Duncan  
**Old Mara** Anne Warner  
**Child Norma & Pook** Tenley Boushek  
**Matt** Michael Bonjini  
**Nina** Ava Front  
**Nina's Caretaker** Sonya Boushek  
**Olivia** Lynda Dahl  
**Clara** Eva Igo  
**Katherine** Kathryn Fumie  
**Theresa** Corinna Bolpagni  
**The Master** Michael Haney  
**Train Station Guy** Eugene Langlois  
**Birds** Blueberry & Chickpea

## CREW

**Director of Photography** Matteo Bertoli  
**Production Designer** Casey Williams  
**Costume Designer** Annie Cady  
**Original Score by** Monkeyscarf

**First Assistant Director** Caleb Bell-Jones  
**First Assistant Camera** McKade Riedman  
**Second Assistant Camera & Data Wranglers**  
Jake Handegard & Krystal Duong

**Gaffer & Key Grip** Alan de Leon Taverna  
**Grip** Eugene Langlois

**Sound Supervisor** Jeff Deeth  
**Production Sound Mixer** Oscar Deeth

**Editors** Caleb Bell-Jones, Jayendra Ganta  
& Matteo Bertoli

**Colorist** Matteo Bertoli

**Wardrobe Supervisor** Morgan Rainford

**Key Makeup Artist | Hair Stylist** Elena Miller  
**Makeup & Hair Assistants** Jacqi Beck  
& Ella Stefan

**Covid Compliance Officer** Ashley Brown

**Second Unit Director** Caleb Bell-Jones

**Second Unit DP** McKade Reidman

**Camera Operator** Eugene Langlois

**Bird Handler** Karen Andrew

**Illustrations** Caleb Bell-Jones, Sonya Boushek,  
Kimberly Wetzel, Yuliia Liyata

**Graphic Design** Ashley Brown

**BTS Videographers** Gabe Broderick, Deacon  
Warner, Corinna Bolpagni

**Catering Supervisor** Anna Seastrand

**Swedish Translation** Liz Stopka

**Lens Rental** Barry Andersson

**Look Up Tables** Buttery Luts

ORIGINAL SCORE PERFORMED BY

**Ginger** Gaei Palen

**Hand Drums** Todd Hartmes

**Violin** Ramon Campos

**Cello** Ash Berg

**Synthesizers & Programming** MONKEYSCARF

**Re-Recording Mixer** Jeff Deeth

**Mixed at** Depth Audio, Rochester MN

"Came Back but Not to Stay"

Written by Jake and Amanda Tillo

Performed by Madrona

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SAG-AFTRA

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