



NOW FORAGER

A FILM ABOUT LOVE AND FUNGI

WRITTEN BY JASON CORTLUND DIRECTED BY JASON CORTLUND & JULIA HALPERIN

USA / POLAND 2012

PRODUCTION SMALL DRAMA

PRODUCERS JULIA HALPERIN & KIT BLAND

CO-PRODUCTION MONTERNIA.PL

DRAMA, 93MIN, HD

WWW.NOWFORAGER.COM

U.S. THEATRICAL/NON-THEATRICAL BOOKINGS

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JIM BROWNE (718) 369-1180

JIM@ARGOTPICTURES.COM

WWW.ARGOTPICTURES.COM

CONTACT FOR U.S. FESTIVALS:
JASON CORTLUND: (512) 297-5258
CORTLUND@ANTIQUIRK.COM

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CONTACT FOR NON-U.S. FESTIVALS:
ANJA SOSIC : + 48 666 525 788
ANJA@NEWEUROPEFILMSALES.COM
WWW.NEWEUROPEFILMSALES.COM





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LOGLINE

Lucien and Regina are foragers – they gather wild mushrooms and sell them to New York restaurants.

SYNOPSIS SHORT

Lucien and Regina are foragers – they gather wild mushrooms and sell them to New York restaurants. They live simply, according to the seasons. When Regina seeks more stability, their marriage is put to a test. A food lovers' film.

SYNOPSIS MEDIUM

Lucien and Regina are foragers – they gather wild mushrooms and sell them to New York restaurants. Their lifestyle is simple, their income unstable. As Regina seeks more stability and Lucien wants to devote himself to full-time nomadic foraging, their individual desires put the marriage to a test. A food lovers' film.

SYNOPSIS LONG

Lucien and Regina are foragers – they gather wild mushrooms in the woodlands of New Jersey and sell them to restaurants in New York. Their lifestyle is simple, their income unstable. To improve the financial security and to follow a more fulfilling personal career path, Regina decides to take a job cooking at a high-end restaurant. Lucien disapproves and instead, he proposes to give up their apartment and live as full-time itinerant foragers. As individual desires take them down divergent paths over the course of a year, their marriage slowly comes apart.

PRESS QUOTES

“...a counterbalance to the often romantic picture of cooking and eating in films with a culinary bent and meshes perfectly with today’s Slow-Food movement.” – [INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM](#)

“...this film is a gift to those who take their slow-food politics seriously.” – [NEW DIRECTORS/NEW FILMS](#)

“Refreshingly devoid of the romantic glow emanating from most foodie pics...” – [VARIETY](#)

“A delicate affair of subtle and original flavors...” – [HOLLYWOOD REPORTER](#)

“The film is refreshing...relying on subtle performances and uncluttered dialogue.” – [SCREEN INTERNATIONAL](#)

“It’s like Alice Waters meets Kelly Reichardt...” – [VILLAGE VOICE](#)

“Now, Forager beautifully depicts the connection between nature and our plates...” – [AUSTIN AMERICAN STATESMAN](#)



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DIRECTORS' STATEMENT (SHORT)

Based on our interests and experiences, we decided to make a narrative film where the food and cooking was real—a film that honored the lessons of our grandparents, but one that could also appeal to the rapidly expanding Slow Food generation.

While fungi are a key inspiration and structuring element within the film, the substance of the story is human. *Now, Forager* is about a relationship—one that is changing because of the individual needs of the participants. It's a story about mature love—about the compromises and conflicts that can only come from years spent living in close quarters.

We shot the film over the course of a year to capture seasonal changes in the natural world that have an impact on the couple's life. We intended for *Now, Forager* to show food, work, and love in an authentic way, with honesty and passion.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT (LONG)

Now, Forager started from a discussion several years ago regarding the nature of the “food movie”. As people who are very serious about both cooking and cinema, we found it odd that we didn't really like many of the films within the genre. For our tastes, these films are ridiculously romantic. They rely on broad metaphors and cultural stereotypes. Worst of all, the cooking is often technically inaccurate.

Based on our interests and experiences, we decided to make a narrative film where the food and cooking was real—a film that honored the lessons of our grandparents, but one that could also appeal to the rapidly expanding Slow Food generation. The ability to successfully find food for oneself in the wild awakens an intense primal pleasure. The specific context of collecting wild mushrooms offered us some very unique cinematic and dramatic opportunities from which to build a story.

In a grocery store, mushrooms are mundane. But in the woods, the Kingdom of Fungi is incredibly diverse, colorful, and mysterious. The golden morels of early spring inspire culinary reveries, while the ghost-white *Amanita* species known as *The Destroying Angel* evokes equal measures of mortal terror. We were pleased to be able to capture these and many more species of mushrooms growing in the wild during our production.

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DIRECTORS

JASON CORTLUND (Director, Screenwriter, Cast)

Jason Cortlund studied film and writing at University of Oregon and earned a Master's in screenwriting at University of Texas. He was 1998 postgraduate fellow at the James Michener Center for Writers. Jason also served as a senior programmer, curator at large, and board member for Cinematexas International Film Festival (founded by Athina Rachel Tsangari) from 1997–2004. His writing and films made with collaborator Julia Halperin have been honored by MoMA, Film Society of Lincoln Center, San Francisco Film Society, Texas Commission on the Arts, Houston Film Commission, Austin Film Society, Hershey Foundation, Centrum Institute, Journal of Short Film, and US-in-Progress. Jason was named as one of The Independent's "10 Filmmakers to Watch in 2012". His script *Lumberjunkies* was a finalist and received an honorable mention for the 2011 Hearst Screenwriting Grant.

JULIA HALPERIN (Director, Producer, Editor)

Julia Halperin received her B.A. summa cum laude from Hunter College and her M.F.A from the University of Texas. She was a senior programmer and board member for Cinematexas International Film Festival from 1997–2004. Julia's work has earned support from the Texas Filmmaker's Production Fund, Liberace Foundation, City of Austin Cultural Contracts, and The Texas Commission on the Arts. She was a finalist for a 2004 Rockefeller Media Art Fellowship and recently named as one of The Independent's "10 Filmmakers to Watch in 2012". Her films made with collaborator Jason Cortlund have screened at New Directors/New Films, International Film Festival Rotterdam, SXSW, Directors Guild of America, Royal Belgian Film Archive, Pacific Film Archive, Chicago Filmmakers, Houston Museum of Fine Art, and US-in-Progress (Special Jury Award). Julia has also worked as an editor for filmmakers such as Greta Schiller, Heather Courtney, and Redmond Entwistle.

WORLD SALES & PROMOTION

New Europe Film Sales is a boutique film distributor based in Warsaw, Poland but working across the world. The company holds full worldwide rights to a number of short films and works with theatrical, TV, VOD and internet buyers. NEFS has so far specialized in short film sales and worked with award-winning directors, such as Ruben Östlund, Tomek Baginski and Jonas Odell. Currently, the company sells, among others, the Oscar-shortlisted animation *Paths of Hate* by Damian Nenow. *Now, Forager* (USA, Poland, 2012) is the company's first full-length feature. WWW.NEWEUROPEFILMSALES.COM

U.S. THEATRICAL/NON-THEATRICAL BOOKINGS

Founded by Jim Browne in 2005, **Argot Pictures** is a distribution company that focuses on unique, independently produced, high-quality documentaries & features. We work in partnership with directors and producers from festival launch all the way through theatrical, digital, VOD & broadcast. Our recent films include *The City Dark*, *Resurrect Dead*, and *The Agony and Ecstasy* of Phil Spector. WWW.ARGOTPICTURES.COM

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CREW

PRODUCERS	JULIA HALPERIN, KIT BLAND
PRODUCTION COMPANY	SMALL DRAMA/NOW FORAGER LLC 2803 LAFAYETTE AVENUE AUSTIN, TEXAS, USA TEL. +1 512 478-4741 WWW.SMALLDRAMA.COM
CO-PRODUCER	MONTERNIA.PL UL. ZDROJOWA 42/1 02-927 WARSAW, POLAND TEL +48 22 651 52 57 WWW.MONTERNIA.PL
DIRECTORS	JASON CORTLUND & JULIA HALPERIN
SCREENPLAY	JASON CORTLUND
CAST	JASON CORTLUND - Lucien Echevarría TIFFANY ESTEB - Regina Echevarría GABRIELLE MAISELS - April Garrison ALMEX LEE - Mas
DOP	JONATHAN NASTASI
SOUND	JEREMY FLEISHMAN
EDITOR	JULIA HALPERIN
MUSIC	CHRIS BROKAW
SOUND MIX	JEREMY FLEISHMAN

FILM INFO

TITLE	NOW, FORAGER
INTERNATIONAL TITLE	NOW, FORAGER: A FILM ABOUT LOVE AND FUNGI
CATEGORY	DRAMA
GENRE	FOOD FILM, LOVE STORY
DIALOGUE	ENGLISH
COMPLETION	JANUARY 2012
WORLD PREMIERE	INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM
N.A. PREMIERE	NEW DIRECTORS/NEW FILMS
DURATION	93 MIN
SHOOTING FORMAT	HD
PICTURE	COLOR
SCREEN RATIO	1:1.78 (16X9 VIDEO)
SOUND SYSTEM	STEREO (LTRT)
AVAILABLE FORMATS	HDCAM, BLURAY, DVD, DCP

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