

THE INDIE BEAT

By Bud Jillett

Featured in *The Indie Beat!* this month is film director Elise Plakke (pronunciation of surname rhymes with “hockey”). Elise recently screened her short film *14 Minutes* in the Short Film Corner during the Cannes Film Festival. The film explores human relationships and reveals happiness is personal, often not related to popular notions of happiness.



Elise’s story is very interesting and I learned a lot by speaking with her. The script for *14 Minutes* won 1st Place in the 2009 Manhattan Short Screenplay competition. This came as a surprise to Elise as she’d only sub-

mitted the script after a lot of coaxing and encouragement by her boyfriend. After winning 1st Place, Elise spoke with the founding director of the competition about her idea to turn the script into a short film. He strongly encouraged this and recommended actress Jessica Embro from Toronto to possibly work on the film. Elise contacted Jessica and ultimately cast her as the lead.

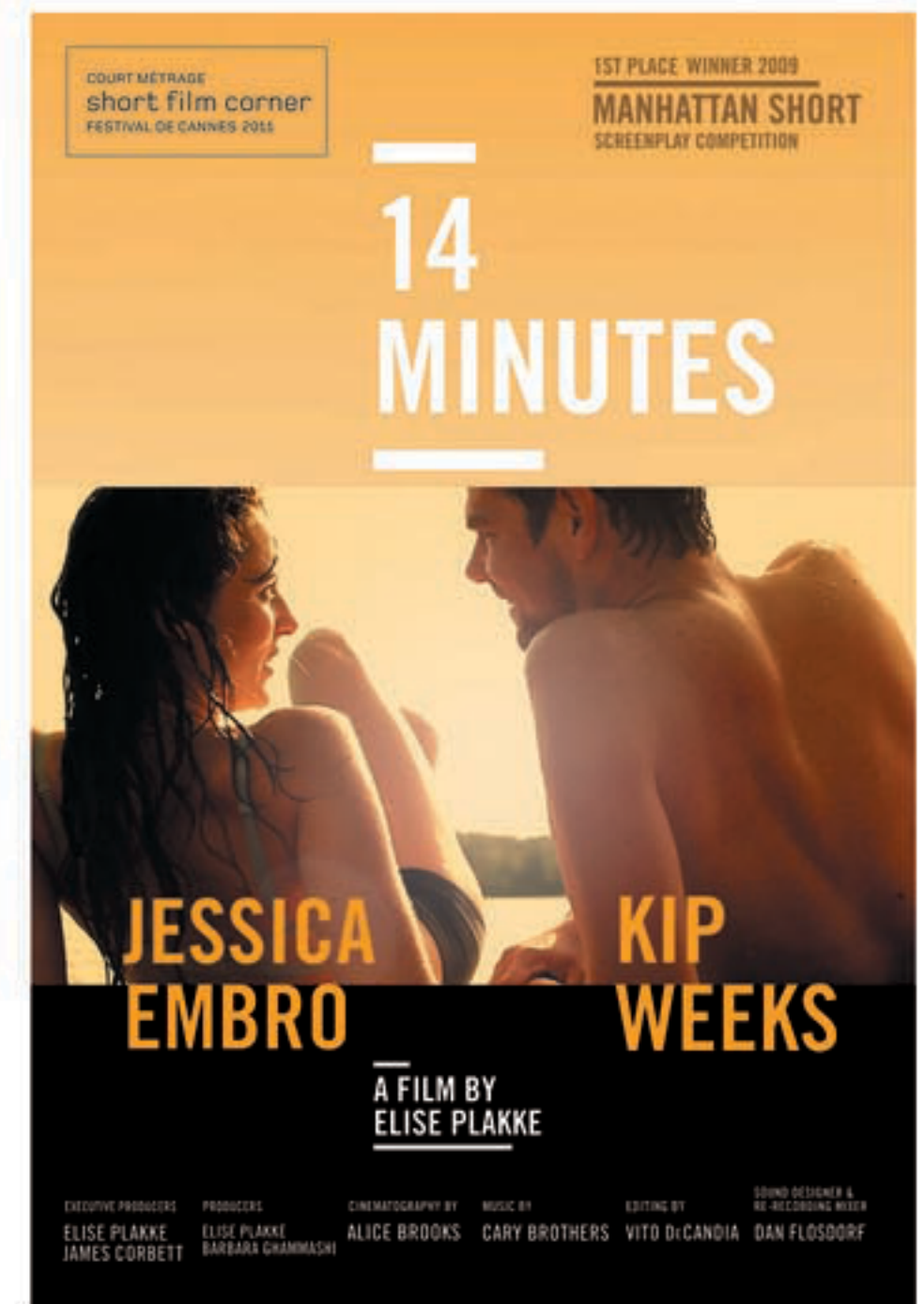
What’s next for Elise? Well, she’s already completed the feature length version of the screenplay for *14 Minutes* and plans to shoot a feature length film. She’s also submitted the short to several more film festivals including Boston, Maine, and some International Film Festivals and is waiting to hear back.

To learn more about Elise and her films, please visit her website: TheLastWordFilms.com.

14 Minutes, Elise’s first film, was shot in various locations throughout Maine including Alfredo’s Italian Pizzeria in Wells, The Kennebunker Motel in Kennebunk, and Citgo Gas on Auburn Ave. in Portland, various locations in South Portland, and Kingsley Pines in Raymond, where Elise had previously done some L.L. Bean photo shoots working as their Photo Art Director.

I asked Elise about her employment history as Photo Art Director for six years at L.L. Bean, and before that at another company in Milwaukee, WI. She said that being a photo art director is very similar to being a movie director, the only exception being that the end product is still imagery rather than a motion picture. As a Photo Art Director Elise’s responsibilities included: hiring the talent & crew, securing the locations, scheduling the shoot, directing the lighting & shot composition, and deciding on the “story” she wanted the photographs to tell--all of the same responsibilities as a movie director.

Executive Producers: Elise Plakke, James Corbett
Producers: Elise Plakke, Barbara Chammaschi
Cinematography by: Alice Brooks
Music by: Cary Brothers
Editing by: Vito DiCandia
Sound Designer & Re-Recording Mixer: Dan Flosdorf



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