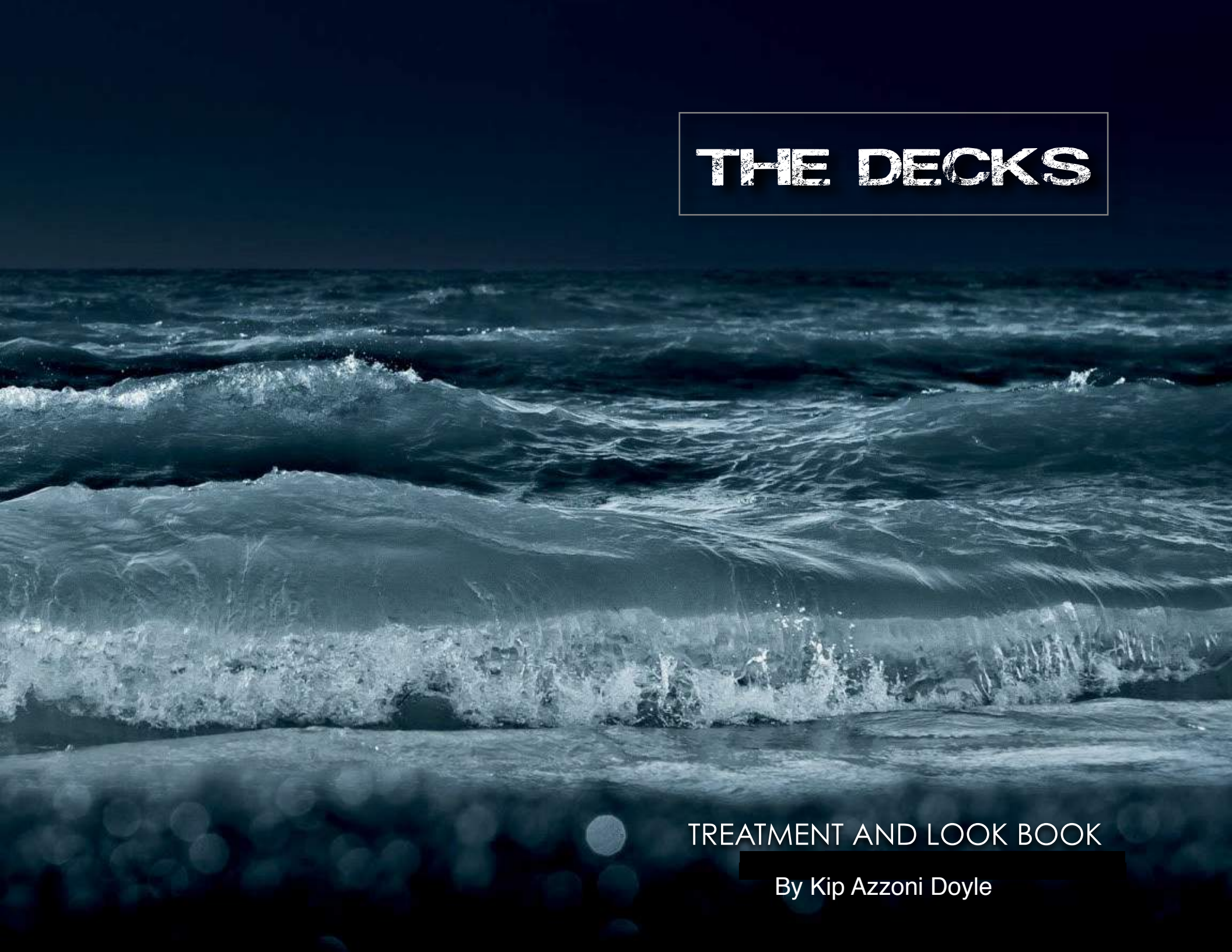




THE DECKS

TREATMENT AND LOOK BOOK

By Kip Azzoni Doyle

SYNOPSIS

A young woman, Sage, grew up on fishing boats in a small coastal town in Maine. Born to a woman who was inexorably pulled by a fever for the sea, Sage's mother was heralded as one of the best fishermen of her time. But Sage's passion is music, and she weaves the sounds of her upbringing (winches, boats and sounds of the ocean) into the dance tracks she creates. The sounds of the ocean layered into her music offers the perfect expression of how these worlds have collided in her very soul.

When tragedy ensues, she works her way south on a tugboat to New York City with dreams of becoming a DJ. New York can be a brutally hard city to settle in. Sage is forced to live in a squatter's boat up in a City Island marina. She attempts to be a waitress, but fails miserably and decides to go back to what she knows – fish. She heads up to Hunts Point Fish Market where she accomplishes everything the men do - and better.

Every night she descends alone into the underground dance music scene, determined to share her music and make her mark. She meets Santi, a DJ on the backside of the slippery slope of success. Sex, drugs, and rock n' roll have ravaged him, but somehow he can still seduce the crowds. Santi's lure doesn't work on Sage and his interest in her grows as he covets her focus. Santi, desperate to stay on top, betrays Sage after she shares her unique beats with him, then he presents them as his own.

Santi's manager, Tristan, uncovers the truth that the genius behind this new sound is Sage. This completes Santi's downfall. Tristan is a proud injured Iraq War Vet, able to give truthful perspective on life, which Sage so desperately needs.

Like her mother, Sage is a woman determined to succeed in a world dominated by men. Etched in her DNA is an unstoppable desire to have her unique music heard. The decks of the boat she grew up on have been fused with the DJ decks that she must earn the right to spin for an adoring crowd. *The Decks* is the story of an inspirational young woman who will stop at nothing to achieve her dream.

EDM's Cash Kings: The 5 Highest Paid DJs in the World "Male DJs rule the Ultra Music Festival and Winter Music Conference. The rise of dance music has been monumental over the past three years and top male DJ's are raking in the dough. Calvin Harris: \$66 million, Steve Aoki \$23 million, Tiesto \$28 million, Avicci \$28 million, David Guetta \$30 million"

"...EDM (Electronic Dance Music) has officially taken over the pop culture scene. EDM's takeover of pop culture—skipping the late 90s popular obsession with "bubble gum pop" and "angry hip-hop" has harnessed the exact underground scene of the warehouse raves sprawled across the East and West Coasts throughout the late 90s and early 2000s.

Haute Living Magazine, Mar 23, 2015, by Julianna Medina

"The Decks" explores one woman's (Sage) personal discovery among a tapestry that's richly engrained with unique contradictions. Underground Electronic Music scene surprisingly threads through this story stemmed from the dockside, folk music, and blue-collar underpinnings. Values endearing to Sage's childhood are now tested in the big city and she struggles to find herself. She is a fiercely independent woman searching for her meaning.

From the rich, Maine fishing docks to the claustrophobic New York City nightlife, we follow a daughter's parental loss, a fathers struggle, PTSD, suicide, love, mystery and more. Vast, unlikely lifestyles collide together like the music we hear and the life that populate it.





Working Approach

Our cast and their acting abilities are essential to communicating the overall sentiment of every scene. The energy on set must be very welcoming and fully offer a sense of a nurturing environment to encourage the best performances and creativity. The primary focus is to encourage that process, so that it translates beautifully onscreen. Respect and honor for the craft transfers to all members of the crew, starting with the director. Likewise, the crew will respect each other and be cordial in all aspects of the production in the most dignified way. Positive energy, mutual respect and smart work guide my sets - not the people who populate them - including myself.

My productions tend to move fast, pragmatic and in a creative way. I aim for and achieve the highest production values the budget will allow. There's always a sense of fun and enjoyment on my sets without big egos and negative attitudes. In this regard, I feel we must allow the production and set environments to be most welcoming, and as stress-free as possible.

My primary responsibility is to create a production environment that nurtures the creative process in an enjoyable way. I strive to set the stage and tone during production to grow and reveal the creative process. Filmmaking is larger than any person - story first and foremost – served and guided by the director who is calm, patient and prepared.

Visual style and tone

Story elements are highly influenced by the textural elements and natural environments that surround our characters. Visual and aural poetry, reflective textures and atmospheric mystery will enchant the audience and represent Sage's senses and musical inspirations.

The encroachment of humans on nature is ever-present to Sage. Reflections of mirrored glass among street puddles are reminiscent of an old home. She finds hope and a sense of calm even in these reflections. "Water seeks it's own level" her mother once said.

Neglected Beauty

Tidal flow, weathered wood and rusted metal gracefully appear in the fringes of Maine to New York. These textures serve as reminders of the discovery and recognition of beauty found among wreckage and the appreciation of home. It's elemental and empowering. Lonely boats, rotted brick-a-brac, signs of nautical neglect reveal nostalgia and history. This type of visual element serves as a metaphor for Sage's perseverance and the wisdom buried deep inside. It's an homage to Sage's old soul.

Sage's pleas and prayers to her lost mother go unanswered. As with all young adults, she must find her own way, fueled by grit and determination to succeed. Sage is raw independence and unrefined beauty – inside and out – but only she can define and master her destiny.

Water recurs as a soothing psychological element for Sage, and her keen eye – she spots beauty even in the darkest corners. Her youthful, poetic observations clearly inspire the perspective and point of view. Near the water - away from oppressive structures – Sage is calmed and grounded as when she was young.





Casting

My commitment to strong casting for the best actors for each role is paramount. There is a high degree of subtlety in each character. While meeting with potential actors (or name talent), my process involves getting to know and understand each actor in greater depth. Often times, special moments and great performances come from understanding an actor's personality, their strengths, weaknesses, emotional connections, and background. The stronger the bond to the characters, the better the performances when my direction creates trust between the team.

Casting talent requires meticulous attention and ability of directing intuition. My process with actors is as important as the chemistry and energy between the performers. It's extremely important for this energy to have real spark and to cultivate a nurturing ensemble and environment.

During rehearsals and pre-production, staging, scene preparation and more are flushed out. In my preparation, actor rehearsals are not performances and only revealed in front of the camera, in the moment.



Sage's Music

Love is in the air, the water and vibrations all around her. Musical patterns in sound and motion fuel her inspiration. Even the traffic has rhythm that only she can hear. Energy and vibration inspire her life in all ways. Nature and the urban, underground fringe collide with a uniquely interesting mesh of elements and sounds unlikely to coexist. Sage layers new sounds with the common trends, which makes her music different.

From thumping basement beats in electronic dance music, Sage hungers to define herself and her reputation by creating a different texture and sound. Her intuition and talents take hold to create something meaningful. People respond to her energy and passion whether she DJ's or skillfully filets a Halibut.

Sage

Sage is a fish out of water in New York City. Dedicated to music, her yearning eyes take in the endless opportunities presented in her new life and her search for her future. It's amazing how lost we can feel in a new place and for Sage, this is painfully so. She is strong, but sensitive, acutely aware of her surroundings. With a subtle glance, there's an undeniable strength and energy to her character. Spiritually, Sage is beyond materialistic greed or the false trappings of human created religion or fame. Yet, she must fight for everything she believes in and desires. Everyone misunderstands and underestimates her motives and the dedication buried deep inside her. Music and nature is her God. Sage follows the hidden intuition of her music.





Sage's Ma

Sage grows up loved by her mother until her tragic ocean disappearance. We see the relationship bloom in Sage's flashbacks that are triggered by visual references. The stoic Sage finds strength and resolves from her mother and later, Uncle Maynard - a strong and gentle man who raises her among the rich Maine shoreline.

Sage is compelled to pray to her lost mother with poetry or with a secret signal shared with her mom as a child represented in three flashes of light.

Sage always searches the horizon for her flashes to be returned. Finally, a ship floating on a far horizon responds to Sage. Then suddenly, the it fades offering an answer to Sage's continuous prayers, as if her mother had heard her all along.



Maynard

The essence of the fatherly bond is strong with Uncle Maynard and Sage. The profound tenderness, Maynard expresses in moments with Sage in which he reveals his loving heart. Beautiful, simple and authentic, Maynard reveals that he is her father. This important relationship is the cornerstone. Her backstory and future rests with Maynard, and his revealing that he's her father.





Santi

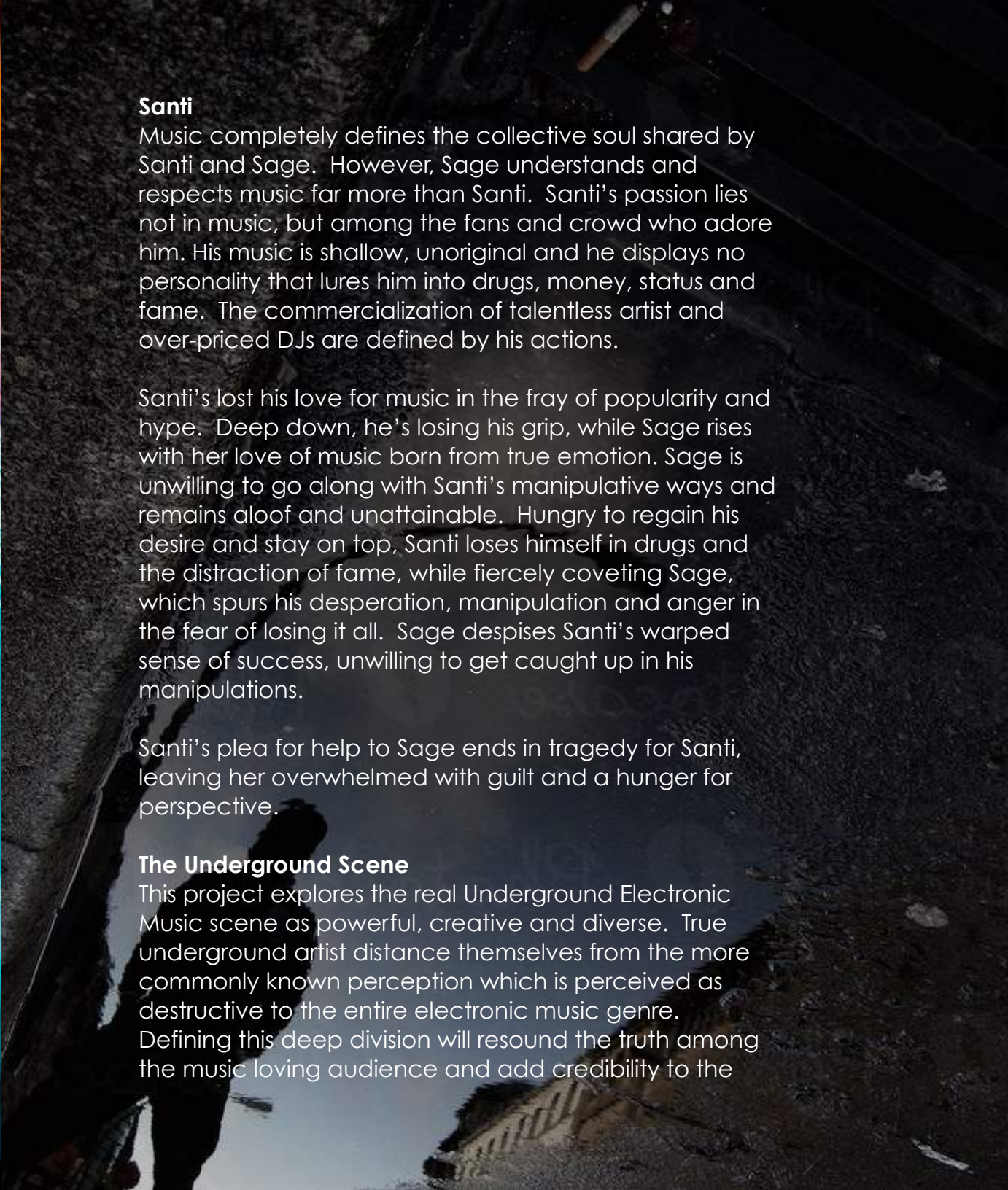
Music completely defines the collective soul shared by Santi and Sage. However, Sage understands and respects music far more than Santi. Santi's passion lies not in music, but among the fans and crowd who adore him. His music is shallow, unoriginal and he displays no personality that lures him into drugs, money, status and fame. The commercialization of talentless artist and over-priced DJs are defined by his actions.

Santi's lost his love for music in the fray of popularity and hype. Deep down, he's losing his grip, while Sage rises with her love of music born from true emotion. Sage is unwilling to go along with Santi's manipulative ways and remains aloof and unattainable. Hungry to regain his desire and stay on top, Santi loses himself in drugs and the distraction of fame, while fiercely coveting Sage, which spurs his desperation, manipulation and anger in the fear of losing it all. Sage despises Santi's warped sense of success, unwilling to get caught up in his manipulations.

Santi's plea for help to Sage ends in tragedy for Santi, leaving her overwhelmed with guilt and a hunger for perspective.

The Underground Scene

This project explores the real Underground Electronic Music scene as powerful, creative and diverse. True underground artist distance themselves from the more commonly known perception which is perceived as destructive to the entire electronic music genre. Defining this deep division will resound the truth among the music loving audience and add credibility to the



Tristan

Tristan has nothing to prove and comes from a position of gratitude that often occurs from a second chance in life. An injured Vet, he finds his balance through music as well, but offers a clear contrast to Santi who is selfish and egotistical. His humble attitude and personality is refreshing for Sage - and a fitting counterpoint to the jealous, envious Santi.

The grounded observations made by Tristan take Sage by astonishment and help her recover her momentum, but it is her ability to finally open up to anyone that is groundbreaking and monumental to the final act in the story.

Pussy Shaker

Sage develops a deep friendship and connection with this charismatic transgender character which, strengthens Sage, thus defining her generosity. The positive energy and affection expressed and shared with Shaker is reinforced by the lessons Sage grew up with. Although both are stoically independent, a real and true friendship transpires between these two characters ascending from a common need for acceptance.

From within the underground scene, we discover an open culture that expresses genuine acceptance, creativity, belonging and friendship. Underground Electronic Music draws people from all walks of life and embraces everyone. By engaging in this culture, Sage and Pussy Shaker connect with each other on a higher level with complete honesty.



NYC and Nightclub

The environment is specific to amazing lighting/staging opportunities that engage and transport us to another world. A surrealistic and expressive environment will be exploited for authentic experience of the underground electronic music scene. Offering the backdrop and canvas for these scenes, the intense, colorful and moving light sources create a highly subjective palette.

During my childhood, my love for music was honed on percussion since the age of 5. Musical instincts and timing played a profound benefit when I shot award-winning music videos for iconic musicians. Directing, editing and cinematography in the musical genre is crucial for the underlying artistic themes this project embodies.

Music is the connective tissue in "The Decks." Eastern coastal music influences Sage early in life, and threads throughout her youth before her arrival in NYC. It's a visceral journey as hauntingly mysterious as the depths of the ocean.

Mystical ocean sounds, whispering cadences of water and rhythmic marine noises are powerfully woven throughout her music. Offering a unique take on the underground scene where the internal pull of the sea affects Sage - an influence she's bound to and embraces fully.

Perhaps it's only in her head...maybe not.

At times, softly spoken poetry (voice-over) consisting of layered thoughts or profound musings provided by young Sage's voice-over sent by thoughtful prayers to her mother. Set among the sea and later in the city, these recurring themes are featured throughout the film. Her inspiring words and music throughout the film embody the romance, love and mystery of these powerful





Cameras and lenses

Shooting with Arriflex Alexa (or RED Weapon) is the benchmark camera system that will retain highest detail and image control. High-stop latitude of these cameras will be essential in deep shadow details that will exist in city environments and dark nightclub scenes. The highest quality lenses and support will be sought for exposure, speed and shooting flexibility to retain pragmatic efficiency and beauty. Natural light and location is our muse and out guide.

In Sage's unrestrained freedom and carefree childhood, water continually inspires unrestricted and open framing. Elements of wind and sun embrace and envelop Sage freely. Later in Sage's life, visual contrasts and dramatic depictions of the city meeting the sea inspire and transform Sage as it did when she was young. Graphic edges and strong urban shapes imply the contrasting of adult Sage's emotional journey. Imposing and constricting, perspective and dimensional shifts interplay with layered graphic angles once Sage arrives in New York City.

Lighting, camera work and stylized shot design are inspired from external elements of the related to Sage. Subtle filmmaking execution at first, then gradually more deliberate without drawing attention to it. Initial use of controlled, hand-held camera offers a raw feeling with subtle tension on the boats during the time period set in Maine. Sage's struggles with her Uncle Maynard represents this tension.

Conclusion

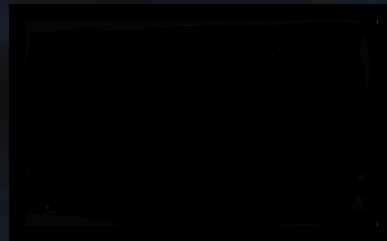
The story of The Decks is authentic and unique. What sets it apart is the clash of unlikely lifestyles, EDM, and culture while reflecting on our own human experiences in current times. It's an intimate story of discovery wrapped in vast elements that are exceptional as they are real. This film certainly is different and would be told from a perspective of music, love of nature and respect of the human experience.

The real underground EDM movement is thriving, edgy and is a uniquely untapped market. People from all backgrounds inhabit this world and by exploring this exploding culture realistically, we engage in a story that's inspiring and compelling.

This raw and intense journey of music culture expresses a viewpoint through a strong, female character that defines her dreams through individuality.

Text

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VISUAL DECK





VISUAL DECK



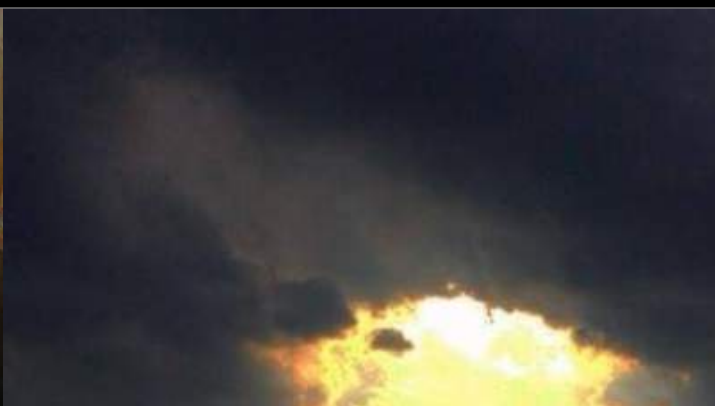


VISUAL DECK





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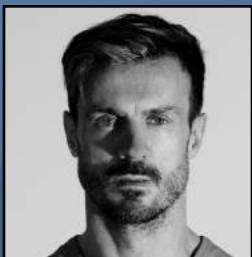


KIP AZZONI (Screenwriter-Producer) is also a journalist, humanitarian and adventurer with a Masters Degree in Screenwriting from the Tisch/Gallatin Division at NYU. Kip has a range of feature films and TV properties in play. She has traveled deep in Venezuela, embedded with the counter 22 sequester unit to tackle the epidemic of kidnappings that has paralyzed that nation writing "Sequester".

She has just completed a dark comedy called "Paranormal Amour" about a romance novel 'Books on Tape' narrator, and another called "Pirate Queen" based on the true story of the life of Grace O'Malley. The story's graphic novel is currently in the works with adaptive writer Jean Morris and illustrator Tomask Jedruszek.

She has completed two follow up stories featuring other strong female characters in history: "Alvilda" - a Viking pirate princess set in the 900s and a female Knights "Temple Tempeste" set at the end of the Templar's reign. Kip also worked deep in the Amazon Jungle with the indigenous tribe, the Yanomami, where she lived down in the Amazon Basin on "Lo Braso" River researching for a script about illegal gold mining on indigenous lands - "Diary of a Seducer" based on Kierkegaard's work.

Other TV properties she has developed include "Hot Laps" a sexy, alternative programming show about fearless female athletes who transfer their athletic skills and competitive edge to racing.



French born **Stephan Luke (Composer-Producer)** flows electric blood through his veins. His father was a 1970's DJ and Stephan started early in the 1980's. Is it genetically determined? Maybe. It is more likely Stephan Luke was influenced by New York's pulsing life – especially the night life.

In 1985 he witnessed the birth of House Music, got his first dj gigs at Nell's and The Tunnel and later had his first dj residency at Chaos NYC in '97. Soon afterwards he moved to Miami and secured a residency in all the biggest clubs in town, Space, Crobar, Mansion, Liv and Story. In 2005 he creates Sundance, a weekly sunday night party which quickly becomes the "Industry" favorite. In 2012 he moves back to New York City and secures a residency at Provocateur.

Released 2003 Single "Waterfalls" entered as # 1 on the DMC buzz chart, 2006 he was nominated best resident DJ for Sundance, 2008 Serge Devant "Sweet Harmony" with Stephan Luke remix # 1 DMC buzz chart, 2008 single "Pressure" named Ibiza track of that summer. Stephan's productions and remixes (for artist such as Kaskade, Erick Morillo, Dirty Vegas) can be found on the biggest labels such as CR2, Subliminal, Ultra Records and are regularly supported by all the top DJ's.