

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My advanced thesis project from New York University *Idle Speed* is a story of survival and resilience. It is about facing uncertainty and stepping out into the unknown. Made as I was graduating from college within the pandemic, the film was heavily influenced by the instability and doubt felt at the time.

I was furthermore inspired by the land we filmed our project on: Pueblo de Cochiti. The indigenous community in northern New Mexico hosted our production with open arms. Given exclusive access to the Pueblo during their celebrations, I learned so much about the families who have inhabited the land for centuries. I was humbled as I compared my own experience as a first generation American to the lives within the community, which were marked with beauty, struggle and integrity.

This film was also inspired by the magnitude of gun violence in the country. It is absolutely terrifying how easily assault weapons can be acquired and how common situations like the one featured in *Idle Speed* truly are. As our protagonist Duncan is forced to take the lead amongst the terror of an assault rifle, we are subsequently forced to realize the immense power these weapons hold.

I hope that, when watching this film, you are inspired by Duncan's shift in momentum towards bravery. As Duncan's mind is meant to reflect the uncertainty of the past three years, his development represents our own. It is my belief that times like these strengthen us and much like Duncan, we can all adapt to the uncertainty.

