

H O N O R E D²





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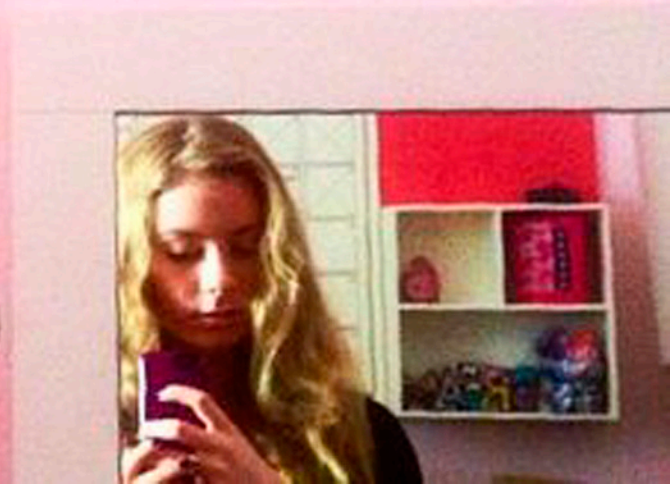
INTRODUCTION

"A teenager has to decide what they're going to do with their life, and that's one of the most important decisions that you'll make."

- Amy Heckerling

I spent my adolescence watching Amy Heckerling, Cameron Crowe, John Hughes and Michael Lehmann movies. It seemed like these filmmakers were able to uncover the mysteries and wonder of my youth. They captured the zeitgeist in a way that spoke directly to the viewer as an individual. Looking at more contemporary films, *Easy A*, *Mean Girls*, *The Edge Of 17* and *Saved*, all influenced me as a storyteller. When it comes to the great American teen comedy, these films present us with a few important facts; to never underestimate the intelligence of your viewer and that young women can be strong and honest heroes. Most importantly, they teach us to tell these stories with candor and heart. What attracts me to *Honored* is the juxtaposition of upbeat comedy mixed with the stark reality of life. As teenagers we come to many realizations, the biggest one is the moment when you realize you don't know it all and you probably never will. We deal with so many losses, first heartbreaks, friendships and their demise, we take on the proposition of life and death. My goal for this film is to embrace it's satirical nature in the high school world but also it's realism. The relationships and connection between these girls is something so true. If I could bottle the feeling of my youth, the moments I shared with my friends at 15 and I ask myself what made them so profound, so special, it's because of total freedom. We felt, in a sense, that we would live forever. This story begins at the moment our protagonists realize that is not possible. The moment they decide that they must embrace living and defeat their fears, that in itself, is the greatest responsibility of life.

I've spent the last 8 years working in both film and unscripted television. Much of my experience comes from interviewing teenagers around the country about high school life and the adolescent experience. What sets me apart as a director is thousands of hours getting into the mindset of the contemporary American teenage girl. From their dynamics at school, the high school hierarchy, to feeling misunderstood by their parents, I've had the opportunity to sit down with thousands of girls from all different walks of life and simply listen. This access, changes the way I approach teen story telling. Portraying characters that make these kids feel authentically represented while laughing at the absurdity of life is my ultimate priority.



STORY



We learn so much in the formative and important years of teenage girlness, like, vodka is portable (and flasks are preferable), boys will, more likely than not, break your heart, but also, our femininity and our power is truly discovered. We lose in relationships, we lose in life, we mourn our childhoods, we defy our curfews and our parents, we defy our own expectations. All in all, Seventeen Magazine's got nothing on reality and almost everything people told you about growing up was utterly BS.

Honored is a darkly comedic look at life, love and the unbreakable bonds of friendship. We meet Piper, Isabella, Sophie and Honor, once best friends, now drifting apart due to their high school hierarchy. What these four people don't know is that their lives are about to change forever when Honor suddenly dies and becomes the most popular post mortem high school student in history. When her three best friends reconnect to dig up their old time capsule, the girls go on a whole new journey, to execute their lists of things to do before graduating high school. Through checking all of the boxes, they find what they had lost, a connection to each other, to their true selves and to their departed best friend, as they say their goodbyes to Honor and also keep her memory alive, by truly discovering what life is all about.



visual Approach



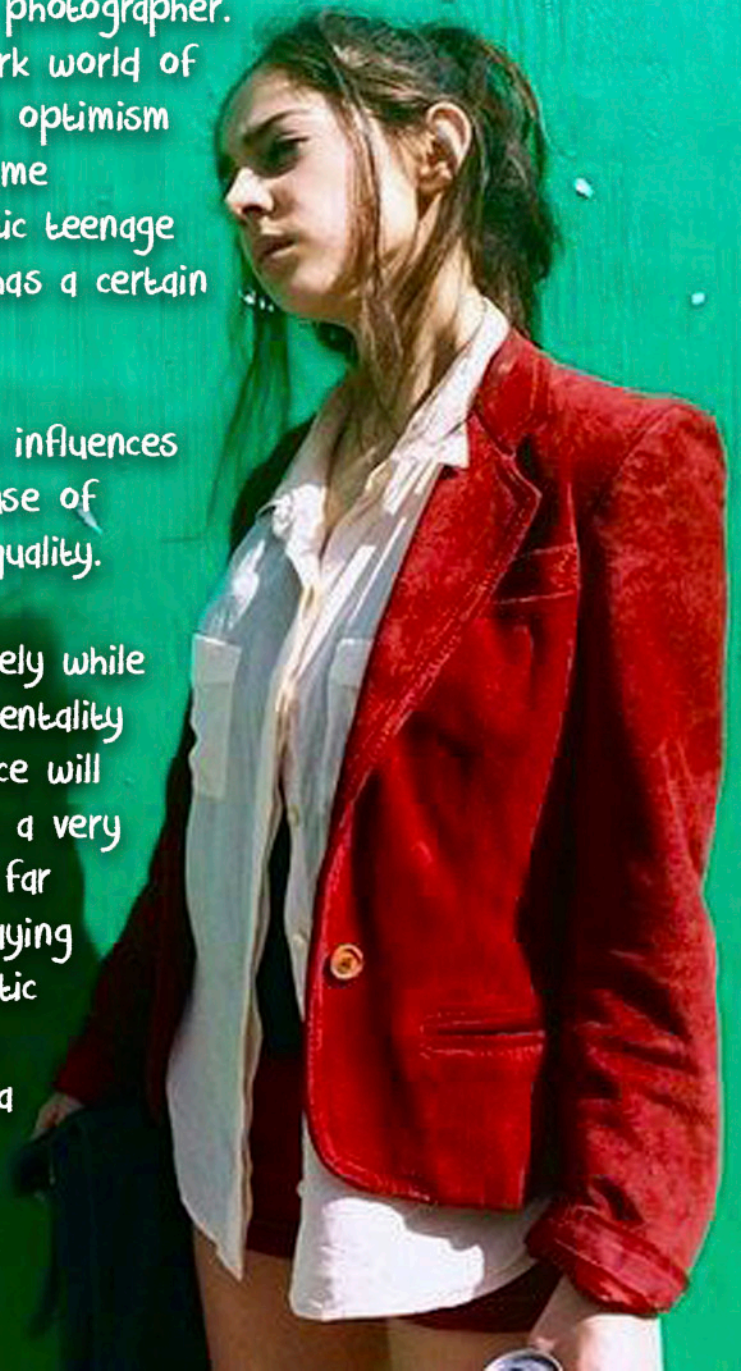
Because of user generated outlets like Instagram, as viewers, we are lucky enough to get a real time look at the teenage experience. We see the world through their filters and compositions. This is why many of the images you'll see in this look book are shot by photographers under 20.

One of my favorite artists is Olivia Bee, at 17, she began her rise to notoriety for depicting her teenage friends. She creates a dreamlike and innocent world with pale undertones and ombré washes of color (often pink). Despite the rule of thirds and off center composition, she places her subjects in the middle of frame. Her photos evoke a nostalgia and drive home the magical quality of creating a memory. I think this look perfectly captures connection, both to the outside world and to ourselves.

Ruby Red Rose is 18, and a budding Tumblr photographer. Her use of bright saturated color in the stark world of a teenage wasteland, so perfectly articulates optimism in the face of reality. This is what attracts me cinematically to this material and the authentic teenage perspective, it's hopeful and light but also has a certain dark and stoic undertone.

Alex Prager and Aaron Ruell are always huge influences to my work, their technicolor splashes and use of bright light creates a timeless and stylized quality.

Our camera will follow the protagonists closely while portraying the rest of the school's crowd mentality as one fluid being. The groups they reference will be, visually, quite autonomous. I see this as a very clean movie, dollies, sticks, steady cams, it's far less handheld in it's nature. But when portraying Honor, I would love to indulge in an aesthetic that feels different, one that mystically and magically captures her memory. Playing with a few more handhelds and bluer more washed out color palettes.













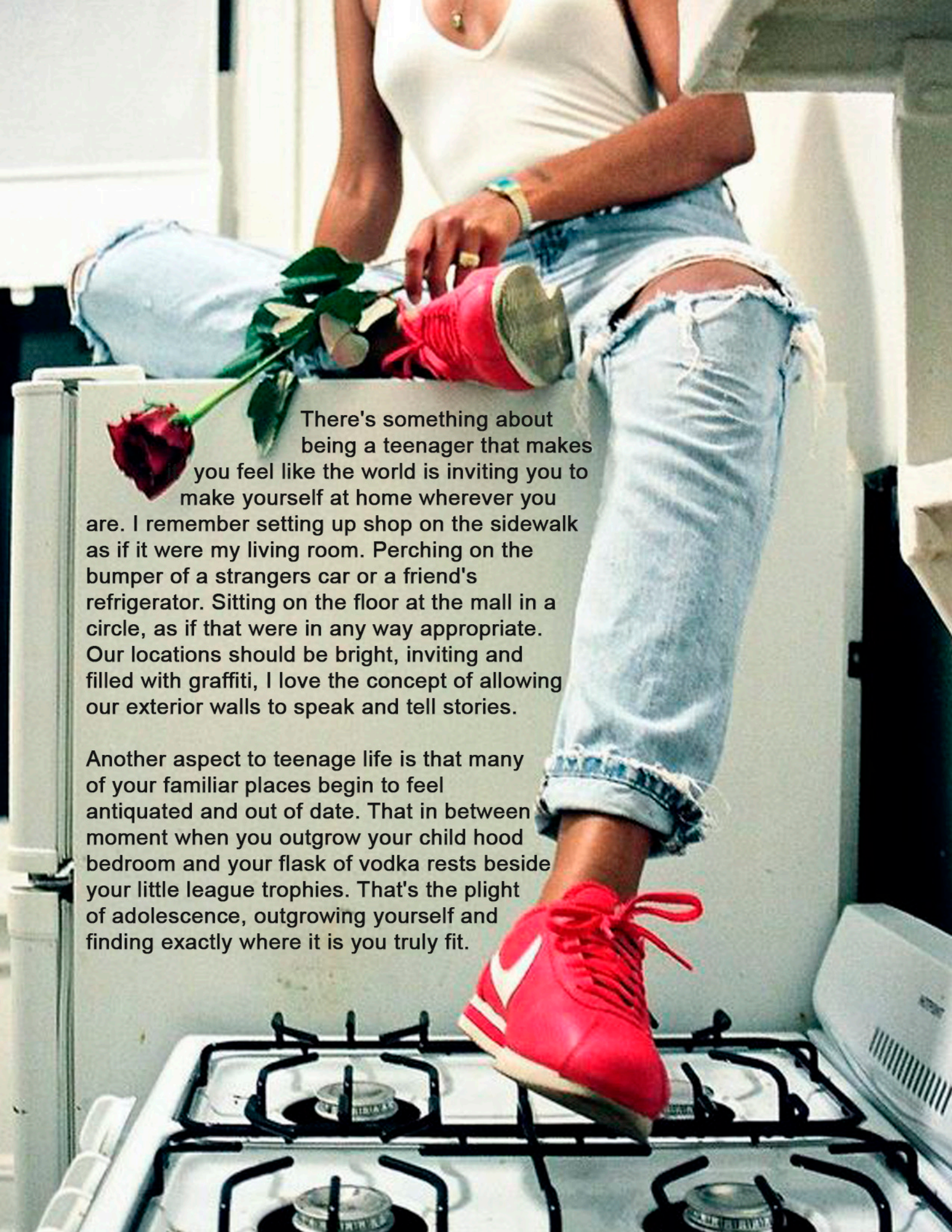








LOCATIONS



There's something about being a teenager that makes you feel like the world is inviting you to make yourself at home wherever you are. I remember setting up shop on the sidewalk as if it were my living room. Perching on the bumper of a strangers car or a friend's refrigerator. Sitting on the floor at the mall in a circle, as if that were in any way appropriate. Our locations should be bright, inviting and filled with graffiti, I love the concept of allowing our exterior walls to speak and tell stories.

Another aspect to teenage life is that many of your familiar places begin to feel antiquated and out of date. That in between moment when you outgrow your child hood bedroom and your flask of vodka rests beside your little league trophies. That's the plight of adolescence, outgrowing yourself and finding exactly where it is you truly fit.





BOBIE

LIVE A
GREAT
STORY

SWATTIVAS

Shanda

@tylinromann

Shanda

@PAMY OTIS

LOVE







"Instant gratification takes too long" - Carrie Fisher

Three years ago, I buried my own time capsule. On a postcard from a nearby hotel, my best friend and I wrote letters to our future selves. Looking for the perfect spot in Joshua Tree, we mutually decided

on our favorite street, an actual place called, "Memory Lane." We dug through the dry desert sand with a tiny soup spoon. In miniature mason jars, we folded up our cards, sealed them next to each other, to uncover in the future. The truth is, like the characters in this film, we've grown apart and lost touch, while our capsules rest in the sands of the

middle of nowhere, our perspectives are frozen in time. For now, I have this picture, to help remember the exact location of our memories. With so much of our lives being instantly captured on social media, this moment, is kept sacred. For me, there is so much Honor in that fact.

Underground, here's a certain solace that this moment together, through awkwardness, heartbreak and unearthed. We experienced our teenage years together, through awkwardness, heartbreak and the absurdity of coming of age and coming into ourselves. Now, on a tiny street in the sands of the



DON'T EVER

LET THEM

SILENCE YOU



girl,

you are sensational

what you have to

say is important,

it is relevant.

you are undeniable

you are capable,

indescribable,

revolutionary

YOU ARE

FUCKING

BEAUTIFUL.