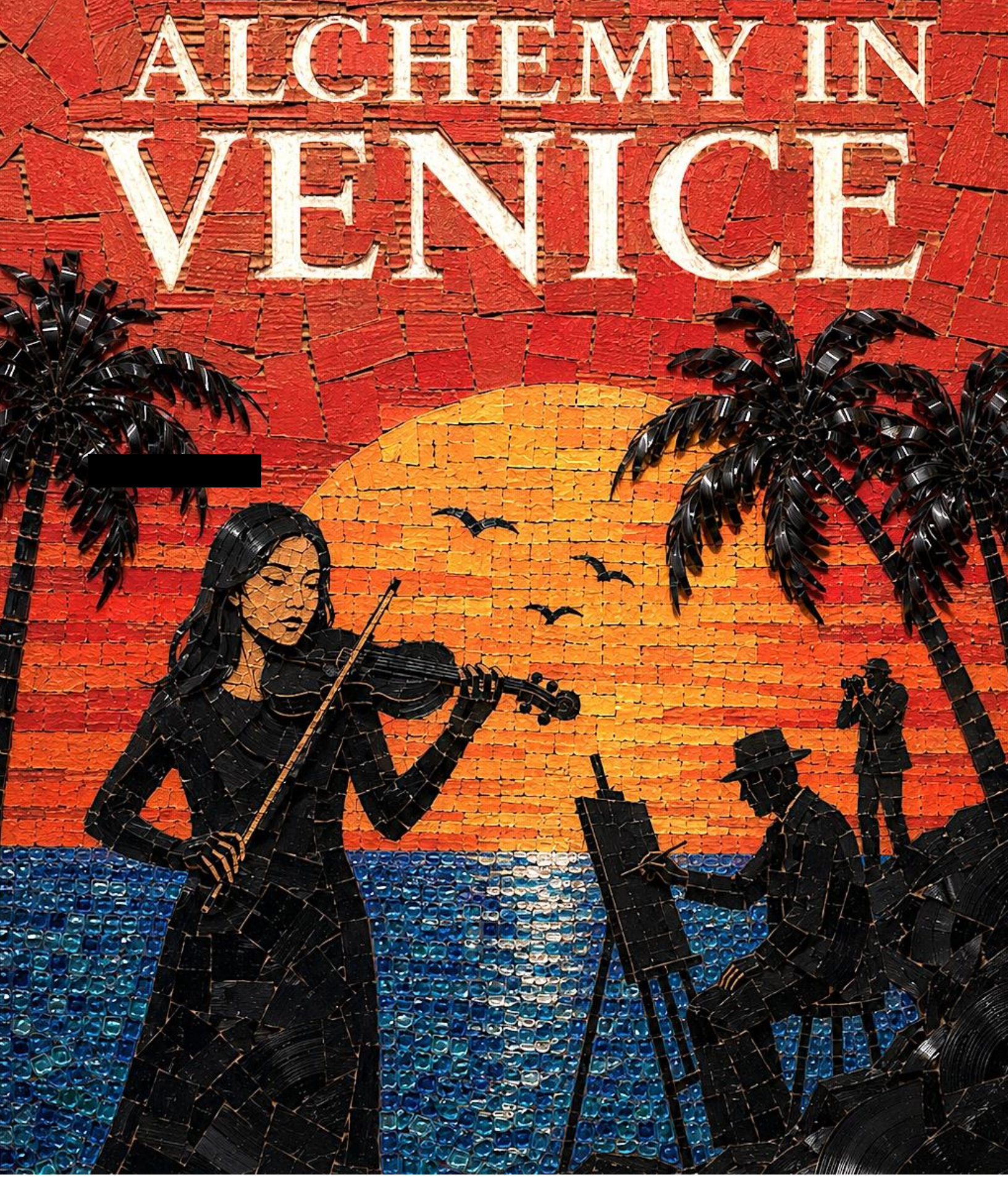


Press Kit

WATCH TRAILER

Logline & Synopsis

In the eclectic world of Venice Beach, three artists searching for purpose discover that transformation is possible when creativity, community, and human connection collide.

In the eclectic world of Venice Beach, three artists searching for purpose find their lives unexpectedly intertwined.

Sua, a talented young Korean violinist, spends her days busking along the boardwalk while contemplating her dream of performing on the world's great stages. Classically trained and deeply influenced by the artistic traditions that connected composers, painters, and creative visionaries throughout history, she sees music as part of a larger artistic conversation. When she meets Jacques, a French photographer captivated by her music, an unlikely romance begins to blossom between two outsiders navigating life in a foreign land.

Just blocks away, Evan, a gifted artist struggling on the verge of being unhoused, survives by sketching tourists while holding onto one final dream: an exhibition that could change the course of his life.

As a prestigious orchestral opportunity suddenly places Sua on the path she has always imagined, she becomes drawn into Venice's vibrant community of artists and changemakers. There she discovers an unexpected movement transforming discarded materials into works of beauty and meaning. Inspired by the possibilities of creative reuse and sustainability, Sua joins forces with Evan, blending influences from music, photography, art history, and upcycled materials into a new form of artistic expression that challenges everything she thought success would look like.

As love, ambition, and artistic purpose collide, each must decide what they are willing to sacrifice for the future they desire.

Set against the iconic beaches, canals, and creative energy of Venice, California, Alchemy in Venice is a moving story about reinvention, connection, and the transformative power of art. In a place where nothing—and no one—is ever truly discarded, the greatest act of creation may be the courage to transform ourselves.

Director's Statement

Venice Beach has always been a place where dreamers, artists, outsiders, and visionaries come together.

When Noella and I began revising the screenplay for Alchemy in Venice, we were inspired by a simple question: Can art change lives?

The answer became increasingly clear as we encountered artists transforming discarded materials into beauty, musicians bringing communities together, and individuals who had experienced being unhoused finding renewed purpose through creativity. But as the project evolved, so did the question. In a world facing challenges such as climate change, ocean pollution, and the housing crisis, we began asking something larger: Can art help change the world?

This film is not simply about Venice Beach. It is about our shared capacity for transformation. The title Alchemy in Venice refers not only to the ancient dream of turning ordinary materials into gold, but to the possibility of turning struggle into purpose, isolation into community, waste into beauty, and creativity into a catalyst for positive change.

Throughout the film, transformation occurs on many levels. People reinvent themselves. Relationships are repaired. Discarded objects are given new life through art. Communities come together around shared causes. The same creative spirit that transforms recycled materials into meaningful works of art can also inspire new ways of thinking about our relationship to one another and to the world around us.

My hope is that audiences leave the film not only moved by the story, but inspired to participate in that transformation themselves—whether by supporting a cause they believe in, engaging with their community, acquiring art that supports positive impact, or simply seeing new value in people and places that are too often overlooked.

If the arts can inspire us to see differently, perhaps it can inspire us to act differently. And if enough people are inspired to act, meaningful change becomes possible.

About the Film

Connect Beyond Words

At its heart, Alchemy in Venice is a story about communication. Its central characters come from different countries, cultures, and life experiences, often sharing no common language. Yet they find ways to connect through music, photography, painting, and acts of kindness.

The film explores a universal truth: long before words are spoken, people communicate through creativity, emotion, and shared experience. As the relationships deepen and language becomes part of their toolkit, new possibilities emerge, but so do new misunderstandings, expectations, and challenges. Alchemy in Venice examines both the beauty and complexity of human connection in an increasingly global world.

An International Story

Reflecting the multicultural spirit of Venice Beach itself, Alchemy in Venice brings together characters from Korea, France, and the United States. Each arrives carrying different dreams, artistic traditions, and perspectives, creating a rich tapestry of viewpoints united by a shared search for purpose, belonging, and human connection.

The film explores how people from different cultures communicate, collaborate, and sometimes misunderstand one another. Through the distinct sensibilities of its Korean, European, and American characters, Alchemy in Venice offers subtle social commentary on identity, ambition, community, and the universal desire to be seen and understood. This cultural interplay gives the film a uniquely international perspective and an authenticity that resonates across borders. Featuring an international cast and creative influences from multiple artistic traditions, Alchemy in Venice is socially relevant cinema that invites audiences to reflect on the common threads that connect us, regardless of language, nationality, or circumstance. Through its themes of communication, belonging, sustainability, and reinvention, the film offers a hopeful reminder that our shared humanity is often greater than the differences that divide us.

Venice as a Character

Few places in the world possess the creative energy and cultural diversity of Venice Beach, California. More than a backdrop, Venice serves as a living, breathing character within the film.

From the iconic boardwalk and beachfront performances to the tranquil canals, colorful murals, and vibrant artistic community, Venice becomes the catalyst that brings the characters together and inspires their transformation. It is a place where dreamers, entrepreneurs, artists, activists, and outsiders coexist—a community that continually reinvents itself while encouraging others to do the same.

Art, Reinvention & Sustainability

Original artworks created for the film celebrate the worlds of cinema, music, and popular culture while demonstrating how discarded materials can be transformed into meaningful artistic expression. These works serve as visual centerpieces and metaphors for the journeys of the characters themselves.

Just as forgotten objects are given new life through art, the people at the center of Alchemy in Venice discover that transformation is possible at every level—personal, creative, environmental, and communal.
Venice Beach itself becomes the catalyst. Artists, dreamers, musicians, entrepreneurs, and outsiders from around the world converge in a place where cultures, ideas, and creativity collide. Together, these elements create the film's true magic—the alchemy of Venice.

In the end, Alchemy in Venice suggests that true alchemy is not the turning of metal into gold, but the ability to transform what has been overlooked into something meaningful, and to discover beauty, value, and possibility where others fail to look.

Impressions

Although Sua was inspired by many of my own experiences and emotions, she is not me. She has her own history, dreams, and way of seeing the world. One of the most rewarding parts of this journey was discovering both the similarities and differences between us as I moved from writing her story to fully inhabiting her character on screen. Alchemy in Venice is ultimately a film about transformation—not the erasure of life's wounds, but the way they can shape us, deepen us, and lead us toward unexpected beauty. Through art, nature, and human connection, the film explores the healing that becomes possible when we remain open to change. My hope is that audiences leave inspired to find beauty, hope, and purpose within their own journeys.

- Actress Noella Jung (SUA)

Jacques is a philosopher, traveler, and explorer living in Venice, California. What drew me to the character is his curiosity—his openness to people, ideas, and art. Although his relationship with Sua doesn't last, it becomes an important part of her journey toward understanding her identity and priorities. I was also fascinated by the role Venice plays in the film. Its creative spirit and eclectic community shape the relationships and encounters that unfold throughout the story. Jon Fitzgerald has crafted a rich mosaic of artists, dreamers, and seekers, and for me, Alchemy in Venice is ultimately a film about connection—between people, places, and the transformative power of art.

- Actor Yves Garvy (JACQUES)

Evan Golden is a character shaped by loss, change, and the search for a way forward. What drew me to Evan was his resilience, the quiet strength of someone who has experienced profound loss but chooses to keep moving, rebuilding, and staying open to life. Like Venice itself, he reflects the beauty of history, imperfection, and transformation. Jon Fitzgerald's vision with Alchemy in Venice is a reminder that everyone has a story to tell, and that the moments that challenge us often become the stories that define us. Through art, connection, and unexpected encounters, the film explores how we find the courage to start again, move forward, and discover hope in what comes next.

- Actor Jeff Phillips (EVAN)

Principal Cast

Noella Jung
SUA

Noella Jung is an internationally acclaimed violinist, actress, writer, and filmmaker whose work bridges music, visual art, and storytelling. She holds degrees in violin performance from the New England Conservatory of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Florida State University.

Known in Korea as a pioneer of interdisciplinary arts collaboration, Noella has built a distinguished career combining classical music with the works of artists such as Monet, Van Gogh, and Chagall through innovative performances, lecture-concerts, and multimedia productions. She has released two albums, authored the bestselling book A Moment that Painting is Audible and Music is Visible, and performed more than 150 lecture-concerts, including appearances at Korea's presidential residence, the Blue House.

As an actress and filmmaker, Noella has appeared in productions in both Korea and the United States, earning recognition at international film festivals for her work in front of and behind the camera.
Through music, film, writing, and visual art, she seeks to create meaningful connections across cultures and disciplines, inspired by the belief that art can enrich lives, foster understanding, and inspire positive change.

Jeff Phillips
EVAN

Jeff Phillips is an American actor celebrated for his versatility and captivating screen presence. His breakthrough came on daytime television: after debuting in Another World, he portrayed Kevin Marshall on As the World Turns, and Hart Jessup on Guiding Light, earning a Daytime Emmy nomination, and a Soap Opera Digest Award nod for Outstanding Male Newcomer.

Phillips then transitioned to prime-time and film, earning recurring roles as Whip Morgan on The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr. and Nick Pearson on All My Children. His television credits include appearances in Independence Day, ER, CSI: Miami, High Tide, Pacific Blue, Pensacola: Wings of Gold, Fastlane, The Handler, and Third Watch.

Across film and television, Phillips has demonstrated remarkable range and longevity. His roles span feature films, TV dramas, and soaps—work that has showcased his adaptability and dedication to storytelling. His body of work across genres and formats stands as a testament to his enduring talent.

Principal Cast

Yves Garvy

JACQUES

Bulgarian-born actor and filmmaker Yves Garvy (born Yavor Vesselinov) is based in Los Angeles and works internationally across film, television, and theatre.

A graduate of the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts (NATFA) in Sofia, Bulgaria, Yves has built a career spanning Europe, Asia, and the United States. His screen credits include Paper Tiger, directed by James Gray, and the acclaimed feature Cassandro, starring Gael García Bernal. He has also appeared in numerous independent films, television productions, and commercials worldwide.

Known for portraying introspective protagonists, complex outsiders, and sophisticated antagonists, Yves brings a multilingual and international perspective to his work, shaped by years living and working across Europe and North America. Alongside his acting career, he writes, develops, and directs independent film projects.

Erika Eleniak

SHEILA

Erika Maya Eleniak was born on September 29, 1969 in the Los Angeles suburb of Glendale, California. She is the eldest daughter in a family of four girls and one boy. Erika began her acting career at the age of 10, starring in numerous productions for television, film, commercials and theater. Her first film role was in the science fiction blockbuster E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982), by Steven Spielberg. Her film credit given was "Pretty Girl". Erika was spotted by a talent scout working for Steven Spielberg in a performer's audition showcase. Erika's mother was very determined for Erika to have a normal childhood and finish school, so Erika worked a couple of jobs a year throughout childhood and adolescence, until after graduating from high school.

It was directly after this, that Erika joined the original cast of the television series Baywatch (1989) and stayed there for the first two years. Erika decided to leave the series after it changed direction. She wanted to venture out into other avenues and so began a successful film career. Erika starred in such films as Under Siege (1992), The Beverly Hillbillies (1993), Chasers (1994), A Pyromaniac's Love Story (1995), Bordello of Blood (1996), among many others. Erika has also done many independent films and cable movies. Her credits include writing, hosting and producing, as well.

Erika's television work also includes a guest-starring role on CSI: Miami (2002) and a guest-starring role, rumored to be reoccurring, on Desperate Housewives (2004).

Director Q&A

Q **What was the original spark behind Alchemy in Venice, and how did a story about artists in Venice Beach evolve into a film about transformation and social change?**

Noella had written a beautiful story, about 3 artists from different parts of the world, a commentary on the challenges of communication, and the intersections of art forms. Her original story took place in Korea and I suggested the possibility of doing this in Venice Beach. California.This is a city known for its variety of buskers, artists and social activists. Thankfully, Noella embraced the idea and we expanded the ideas of sustainability and how that could apply to the arts

Q **The film asks whether art can transform not only people, but communities. Why was it important to place artists at the center of conversations about sustainability, homelessness, and environmental stewardship?**

Art became a central theme of our journey. We wanted to explore how communities —often raw, imperfect, and beautifully diverse—can be transformed through creativity. Drawing from a melting pot of artists, cultures, and experiences, we sought to show how artistic expression can not only provide a livelihood, but also inspire deeper connections and new ways of seeing the world. We were especially drawn to the idea of transformation: taking discarded objects, recycled materials, and forgotten goods and giving them new life through art. From striking portraits and vibrant landscapes to reimagined interpretations of classical masterpieces, these works demonstrate how creativity can turn what is overlooked into something meaningful and beautiful. At its core, this is a story about possibility—the power of art to elevate communities, celebrate human potential, and reveal beauty where others see waste.

Q **The title refers to the ancient pursuit of turning ordinary materials into gold. What does "alchemy" mean in the context of this film?**

This word comes with many meanings. Literal. Symbolic. Personal. Not only the base definition of transformation into gold, but how the combination of materials, people, cultures and the arts all have different layers and forms of expression. And, of course. I'm a huge fan of Paulo Coelho 's The Alchemist. This book had a profound impact on me and my own transitions into adulthood, and becoming some kind of artist

Q **Venice Beach feels like more than a setting in the film—it feels like a character. What makes Venice such a unique place for this story?**

It is a place where cultures intersect, ideas compete and merge, and reinvention is a way of life. Like the ocean that borders it, Venice is constantly changing, washing away old identities and creating space for new ones. It welcomes outsiders, celebrates individuality, and transforms people who arrive searching for something more. Here, a street musician can become a voice for change, a homeless painter can become an artist, an immigrant can find a new beginning, and strangers can become collaborators. Venice thrives on creative friction, the collision of backgrounds, ambitions, and perspectives that sparks unexpected connections and new possibilities. Beneath its colorful murals, bustling boardwalk, and eclectic storefronts lies a deeper spirit: a belief that art, community, and imagination can reshape both people and places. In Alchemy in Venice, the city itself becomes the catalyst for transformation, proving that when diverse lives intersect, something greater than the sum of its parts can emerge..

Director Q&A

Q

You ' ve spoken about the film as the beginning of a larger movement through SuArt Studios, exhibitions, community partnerships, and impact initiatives. What do you hope audiences do after they leave the theater?

I hope audiences leave inspired not only by the story, but by the idea that creativity can be a force for positive change. Through SuArt Studios, upcycled art initiatives, community engagement, cause partnerships, and our traveling Roadshow, we ' re creating opportunities for people to connect, participate, and take action in their own communities. If the film encourages someone to support a local artist, join a community project, rethink waste as a resource, or become involved with a cause they care about, then the story continues far beyond the theater.

I hope audiences leave inspired not only by the story, but by the realization that they can be part of the change it celebrates. This is an exciting time for independent film, where audiences have the opportunity to engage with a project beyond the screen—experiencing the film alongside upcycled artwork created by filmmakers, meeting the creative team, learning about partner organizations, and discovering ways to get involved in causes that matter.

Through SuArt Studios, community partnerships, and our Social Impact Roadshow, we aim to create meaningful experiences that spark conversation, build connections, and empower people to take action in their own communities. If the film inspires even one person to create, collaborate, or contribute to positive change, then its impact extends far beyond the theater.

Production Credits

PRESENTED BY

Cause Pictures

STARRING

Noella Jung

Jeff Phillips

Yves Garvy

Erika Eleniak

Marwa Bernstein

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Rene van de Zande

Claire McLeod Hill

Cindy Fitzgerald

PRODUCERS

Carey Campbell

Jon Fitzgerald

WRITTEN BY

Noella Jung

Jon Fitzgerald

PRODUCTION DESIGNERS

Razan Saylami

COMPOSER

Hubert Aouattah

EDITOR

Mathew Gelzer

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Vince Nett

James Hammond

DIRECTED BY

Jon Fitzgerald

Film Information

TITLE

Alchemy in Venice

GENRE

Drama

LANGUAGE

English

COUNTRY

United States

DIRECTOR

Jon Fitzgerald

SCREENPLAY

Noella Jung & Jon Fitzgerald

PRODUCTION CO.

Cause Pictures

YEAR

2026

RUNTIME

87 Minutes

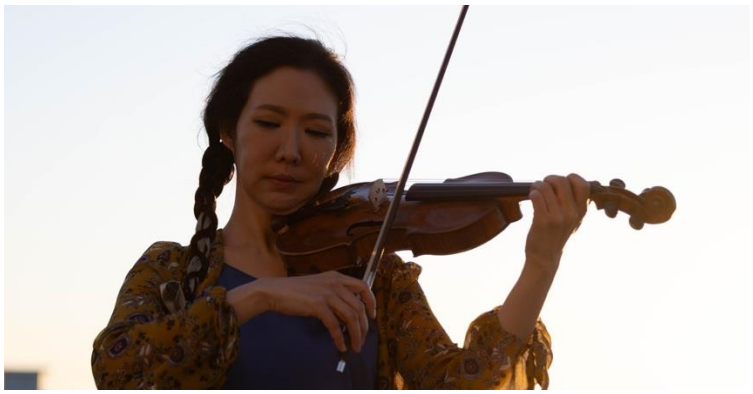
ASPECT RATIO

16:9

FORMAT

4K

Still Images



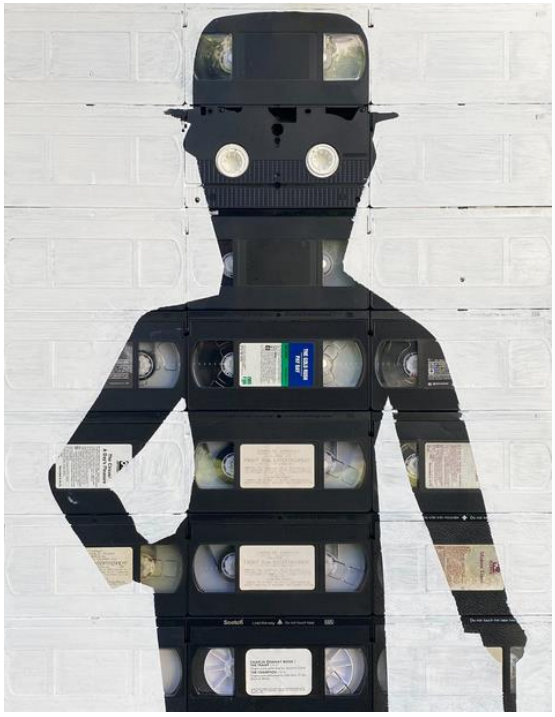
SUA
Noella Jung

SHEILA
Erika Eleniak

3 SHOT ON BOARDWALK

Art From The Film

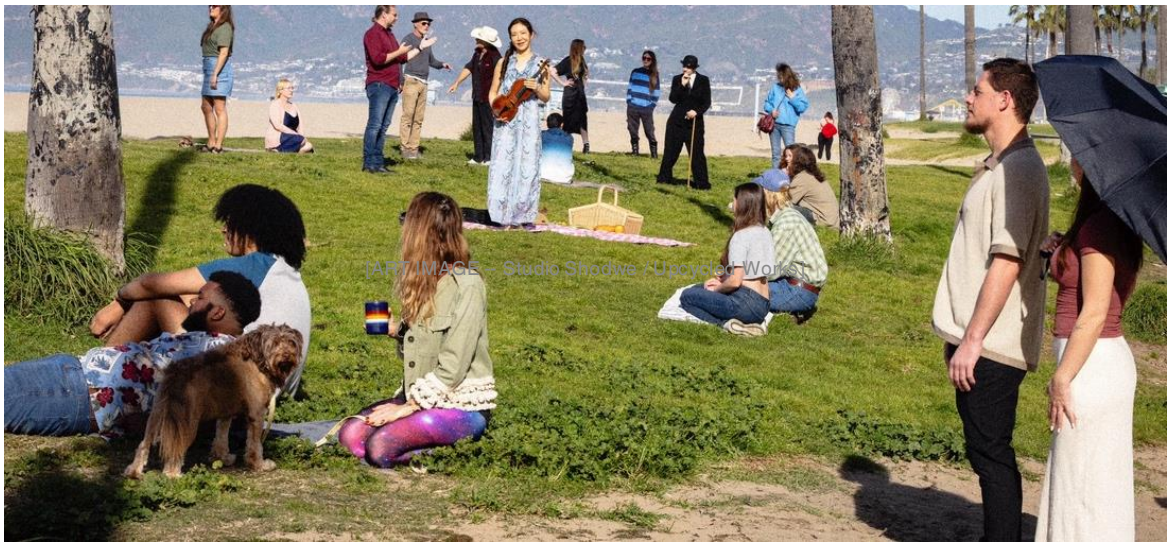
This reimagined interpretation of Monet's Water Lilies uses mixed media—recycled goods, disposable plastic bags, vintage records, and plastic bottles—to transform discarded materials into luminous water, flowers, and reflections of the sky.



Using recycled VHS tapes and vintage video materials, this piece honors Charlie Chaplin, one of cinema's most influential pioneers, who filmed and spent time in Venice during Hollywood's early creative years. By incorporating obsolete film media into the artwork, the piece becomes both tribute and artifact—celebrating cinema's enduring legacy while connecting to the filmmaking spirit behind Alchemy in Venice.

Using audio cassette ribbon and recycled music media, this piece honors Marilyn Monroe and the enduring magic of Some Like It Hot, reflecting her connection to Venice Beach during Hollywood's golden era. By transforming analog tape from the film's soundtrack into a layered portrait, the artwork becomes both tribute and artifact—celebrating the timeless relationship between music and cinema while connecting to the creative spirit behind Alchemy in Venice.

The Art of Transformation



Inspired by Georges Seurat's iconic masterpiece, Venice in the Park transforms a contemporary Venice Beach photograph into a work created from recycled bubble wrap. The progression from photograph to darkroom print to artwork reflects the film's central themes of reinvention, sustainability, and the power of creativity to reveal new meaning

Sustainability & Impact

From Film to Movement

At its core, Alchemy in Venice is a story about transformation. That theme extends beyond the screen through SuArt Studios, an initiative inspired by the film's vision of turning discarded materials into meaningful works of art.https://suartstudios.com/

SuArt Studios serves as an ongoing platform for artists, makers, and creators who transform waste, recycled materials, and found objects into original works of artistic expression. By connecting artists with audiences who value creativity, sustainability, and social impact, the initiative seeks to demonstrate that environmental responsibility and artistic innovation can work hand in hand.

The project celebrates the growing global movement of upcycling—reimagining discarded materials not as waste, but as valuable resources capable of inspiring beauty, conversation, and change.

Community Partnerships

A central goal of Alchemy in Venice is to connect storytelling with community action. Through partnerships with environmental organizations, schools, artists, social enterprises, and sustainability-focused businesses, the project seeks to extend the film's message beyond the screen.

Organizations such as 4Ocean, re.grocery, arts education programs, and community groups represent the type of collaborative relationships envisioned around the film. Through screenings, exhibitions, workshops, and educational initiatives, these partnerships can help raise awareness around sustainability, creative reuse, and positive social change.

For distribution partners, Alchemy in Venice offers a unique opportunity to engage audiences through an existing network of artists, educators, nonprofits, and community leaders. Through screenings, exhibitions, educational outreach, cause-related partnerships, and live events, the project is designed to build lasting participation beyond the theatrical experience—creating awareness, fostering community engagement, and generating grassroots momentum around both the film and its broader mission of transformation.

Art With Purpose

Reflecting the themes of the film, a portion of proceeds from participating artwork sales supports organizations and initiatives aligned with environmental sustainability, creative education, community development, and related social causes.
The goal is not only to create awareness, but to provide meaningful opportunities for audiences to participate in positive change through the arts.

Entertainment For Change

Through partnerships with artists, nonprofits, educational institutions, and community organizations, Alchemy in Venice aims to foster dialogue around sustainability, creativity, and human connection.
The film serves as both a story and an invitation—encouraging audiences to see new possibilities in the people, materials, and communities around them.

Immersive Experience & Community Tour

Beyond The Screen

Alchemy in Venice is designed as more than a film—it is a platform for community engagement, artistic expression, and social impact. Through a series of immersive events, audiences are invited to experience the themes of the film firsthand while connecting with artists, filmmakers, educators, nonprofits, and local changemakers.
By blending entertainment, creativity, and purpose, the initiative transforms audiences from passive viewers into active participants.

The Alchemy Roadshow

The Alchemy Roadshow is a traveling experience that combines film, art, music, education, and community engagement. Each event can be customized to reflect the needs and interests of local communities while maintaining the core themes of transformation, sustainability, and human connection.

Potential elements include:

- Film screenings and filmmaker Q&A sessions
- Art exhibitions featuring original and upcycled artworks
- Artist talks, demonstrations, and workshops
- Book signings and author discussions
- Live musical performances
- Sustainability and environmental awareness activations
- Community partner showcases
- Educational programs with schools and universities
- Cause-related fundraising opportunities
- Networking events for artists, educators, and community leaders

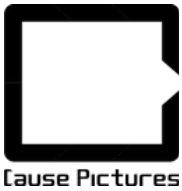
Creating Community Through Art

A key component of the initiative is collaboration with mission-aligned organizations, schools, artists, and social enterprises. Partnerships with environmental groups, arts education programs, sustainability-focused businesses, and community organizations help extend the film's impact beyond traditional distribution.

Organizations such as 4Ocean, re.grocery, educational institutions, and local nonprofits represent the types of partnerships envisioned to raise awareness around environmental stewardship, creative reuse, and positive social change.

Through exhibitions, conversations, educational programming, and hands-on experiences, Alchemy in Venice seeks to build a grassroots movement that connects audiences with meaningful causes while inspiring new possibilities in the people, materials, and communities around them.
At every stop, the Roadshow reinforces the film's central message: transformation is possible—through art, connection, and collective action.

Contact



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ALCHEMY IN VENICE