

Kevin Machate – Writer, Producer, Director of *Promise Me*

While this was made in part as my undergraduate thesis (I started college at 38..Late bloomer) I usually ask that it not be called a student film. I was the only student involved in the process and it was made by professionals. (All of which got paid.) I do, occasionally, enter it into student categories, but that's only on rare occasions. (Or when it's a free entry for students. :) )

"Promise Me" is an emotionally charged social drama in which a once flourishing woman, now at the end of her life, struggles to ensure that her recently reconciled son does not make the same mistakes that she did.

Bio:

Kevin recently graduated from the University of Texas, with a BA in American Studies and minor in History. Although he began his film career as an actor, he quickly moved into Producing and eventually Directing. Kevin's films have won numerous awards worldwide having been screened in various cities in the US, Europe, South America, Oceania, and Asia. This is his eighth short film as Producer and sixth as Director. He is a veteran of the US Air Force and a three-time Guinness World Record holder. Kevin was recently featured by Business Insider magazine as one of the most "Impressive Students at the University of Texas."

Kevin is currently working on his Master's Degree in History through the University of Nebraska and is moving to the Los Angeles area in early 2016.

Director's Statement:

In 1998 I was working as an HIV Risk Reduction counselor in Philadelphia . One day, I was talking to one of my co-workers, when she mentioned that her Mom had died the year before. As we got to know each other better, more details came out about her mother's illness and the circumstances surrounding her death. While it's clear that her Mom died as a result of cancer, it wasn't the cancer that killed her. She took her own life before that could happen. I was stunned. My friend has never provided me with any details. This was the first time I had ever come face-to-face with the idea of Death with Dignity. The whole idea blew me away to the point that I never forgot about it.

We are all going to die. I think it's our wish that we all die a good death rather than the alternative. Ethically speaking, a good death is one where there is minimal suffering, and without violence. For many people, factors that constitute a good death include dying at home, with family and friends and without stressful physical symptoms (nausea and vomiting, pain, dyspnea, respiratory tract secretions, pain, and agitation). It may also include the knowledge that one would not be a physical or financial burden on others.

This film is a work of fiction, but it tells the true tale of what many individuals go through. Events much like this one take place in our country every day. Sometimes legally, other times, not.

Prior to production of the film, the script won Best Screenplay four times, including the Hill Country Film Festival, The Freethought International Film Festival and won the Platinum Remi for Best Short Screenplay at Worldfest Houston International Film Festival.

## Screenings

Austin Film Festival - Austin, TX  
October 29, 2015 - WORLD PREMIERE

SNOB (Somewhat North of Boston) Film Festival - Concord, NH  
November 12, 2015 - East Coast Premiere

ITSA Film Festival - Sonora, CA  
November 13, 2015 - West Coast Premiere

Los Angeles Cinefest - Los Angeles, CA  
December 20, 2015

Back in the Box Competition - Toluca Lake, CA  
December 21, 2015

Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival - Lafayette, LA  
January 23, 2016 - Louisiana Premiere

Trail Dance Film Festival - Duncan, OK  
January 28, 2016 - Oklahoma Premiere

North Carolina Film Awards – Raleigh NC  
February 26, 2016

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diseases International Short Film & Art Festival (2FICAE) – Valencia, Spain  
March 2, 2016 – International Premiere

Depth of Field International Film Festival - Nassau, DE  
March 31, 2016

Universe Multicultural Film Festival - Rolling Hills Estate, CA  
April 15, 2016

International Freethought Film Festival - Orlando, FL  
May 13, 2016