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## Filmmaker Returns to Yukon Roots for Short Film Premiere at ALFF

January 29, 2019 – Writer, actor, producer Ashley Evans' (*Lucifer, I-Zombie*) will return to her Yukon hometown for the world premiere of her short film "*Rise n' Shine*" co-produced by her retired parents, Pat Wiens and Tip Evans, at the *Available Lights Film Festival* (ALFF) February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Yukon Arts Centre. Vancouver Director/Producer, Silver Kim, shot the film last summer with a large Yukon crew and cast in Evans' home town, Teslin, as well as Carcross and Whitehorse.

"Growing up in Yukon in the 80s and 90s, there weren't many opportunities to get involved in acting and film. I remember auditioning for a Sorel boot commercial and every kid in Yukon went out! I also auditioned for the Frantic Follies in my teens but unfortunately didn't make the cut," says Ashley Evans, Actor, Writer and Producer. "I left the Yukon in my 20s because I knew I knew I wanted to pursue film. It's been an incredible experience to come back to produce a film in the Yukon with my family, and it's because of the growing film industry here that it was possible."

*Rise n' Shine* is a 22-minute short film a part of the *North by North West* screenings along with other Yukon shorts at ALFF. The film is an action-adventure screw-ball comedy inspired by the Yukon's historical ties to the Klondike gold rush and the residual effect it left on the collective mentality of the people. The story centers on Amanda (played by Evans), a wife & mother, struggling to make ends meet. Amanda dreams of opening a bakery on the Alaska highway, but when her bank application is rejected due to her husband's gambling problem, she's devastated and takes means into her own hands.

"*Rise n' Shine* is a story more about the human condition rather than just a glimpse into the mind of a wife and mother, Amanda, who dreams of something more," says Director, Silver Kim. "The prospectors who travelled to the Yukon in a search of gold, spent their entire life savings, and some even lost their lives. Similarly, Amanda is driven by an obsession ignited by a deep yearning. By linking the past and the present through an unlikely scenario, we show how the dream for something 'bigger, better, and greater' is a universal human struggle."

The Yukon has a diversity of people, cultures and ideas. Inspiration for *Rise n' Shine* came primarily from the land and the people. Kim wanted to include belief systems of some of the indigenous cultures pertaining to objects and spirits, asking ourselves to reflect on how memories and the value we place on objects can influence our lives.

"We couldn't have done it without the support of organizations like *Northwestel, Yukon Media Development Fund, Yukon Film Society, Teslin Tlingit Council, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Village of Teslin, AirNorth* and countless people and businesses from our communities including *Dawson Peak's Resort in Teslin* and the *Chilkoot Trail Sourdough Bakery* in Carcross. The experience of making this film has positively impacted our communities, including many children who got to be a part of the project," says Pat Wiens, Co-Producer and Evans' mother.

*Rise n' Shine* will screen **February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** at the **Yukon Arts Centre**. It will also be airing on Northwestel this spring. For more information, visit [www.riseshinethemovie.com](http://www.riseshinethemovie.com) or for tickets to ALFF visit [www.yukonfilmsociety.com](http://www.yukonfilmsociety.com)

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