



# THE PHOENIX

A FILM BY REGINA PIGSLEY



## **LOGLINE**

After successfully acquiring superpowers, a young girl attempts to fix her parents' marriage.

## *SYNOPSIS*

Inside a working class home in 90's America, eight year old Charlie wants nothing more than to be a superhero. Her overworked parents are drifting apart, and their arguments just keep getting worse. Charlie's only escape is her dream of being super. Eventually, the toxicity around the house boils over, and Charlie watches as her mother throws a frying pan at her father. BAM! Charlie freezes time, her arms outstretched in a gesture of protest. She has finally unlocked her super power! Instinctively, Charlie discovers that she can not only stop time, but turn it back. Immediately, Charlie turns back time just before her parents' most recent fight and tries to avert it through her innocent, eight-year-old diplomacy.

What unfolds is Charlie's growth to realizing that her powers may not be the solution to solving the problems of her broken home, but rather the answer to finding her strength to rise above hardship that lies within herself.





## *CHARLIE*

### **CHARACTER DESCRIPTION**

Charlie is a creative and imaginative young girl in the 90s who wishes to emulate the superheroes she watches on TV and have superpower of her own. Witnessing intense and violent fights between her parents at home motivates her childlike innocence and unconditional familial love to alleviate the animosity. Initially feeling alone and powerless to do anything herself, she develops the superpowers she longed for and finds she can freeze and rewind time to get what she wants. By using and understanding her superpowers, she realizes her inner strength to rise above her broken household, concluding that she is not the one responsible for her parents' relationship.

A close-up shot of a man with slicked-back dark hair and light blue eyes, wearing a grey button-down shirt over a white tank top. He is looking intently at a woman whose back is to the camera. She has dark, wavy hair with a small blue bow. The background shows a wooden door with decorative panels.

## *DAD (JEFF)*

### **CHARACTER DESCRIPTION**

Jeff is Charlie's father and Meg's husband. He seems largely disconnected from his relationship with Meg as most of their conversations end in a fight or him feeling like he's never doing enough/measuring up to her standards. His relationship with Charlie, while friendly and infused with fatherly love (nicknames like "kiddo" and "sweetie"), is somewhat by the wayside, most likely a result of his strained marriage and having to work and run errands.



## *MOM (MEG)*

### **CHARACTER DESCRIPTION**

Meg is the mother of Charlie, a young and imaginative girl, and the wife to Jeff, a clueless and unobservant husband. She is quick to anger to the point where it seems she starts fights just for the sake of having them. She is not averse to escalating to physical violence to “win” or get her way. She seems largely unconcerned with her daughter unless she is harping on her to clean or to chastise her. She has a need for control and somewhat arbitrary order in the way she deems to her standards.

## *THE TONE OF "THE PHOENIX"*

The tone of *The Phoenix* encapsulates feelings of childhood innocence and curiosity in a coming of age story about resilience in the face of adversity at home. While Charlie represents a character that we all once were, an innocent and imaginative child, she is also an exemplar of the untapped strength inside all of us. Charlie's journey encourages us to let go of guilt from childhood trauma and pave a healthier and happy future.



## THE WORLD OF "THE PHOENIX"

When scouting locations, we looked for a house that had a personality and character just as much as the actors themselves. The location in Arnold was just that, and felt lived-in in all the right ways. The kitchen fit our needs perfectly for blocking, and to add to it the house matched our existing color scheme! Not only did the house look incredible, the owner was wonderful to work with and was a huge supporter of the

project. As the entire story takes place in one location, it was imperative to find one that fit the story and Arnold turned out to be just right for us. This house is not only Charlie's home in *The Phoenix*, but represents a childhood home that is ingrained in all of our memories.



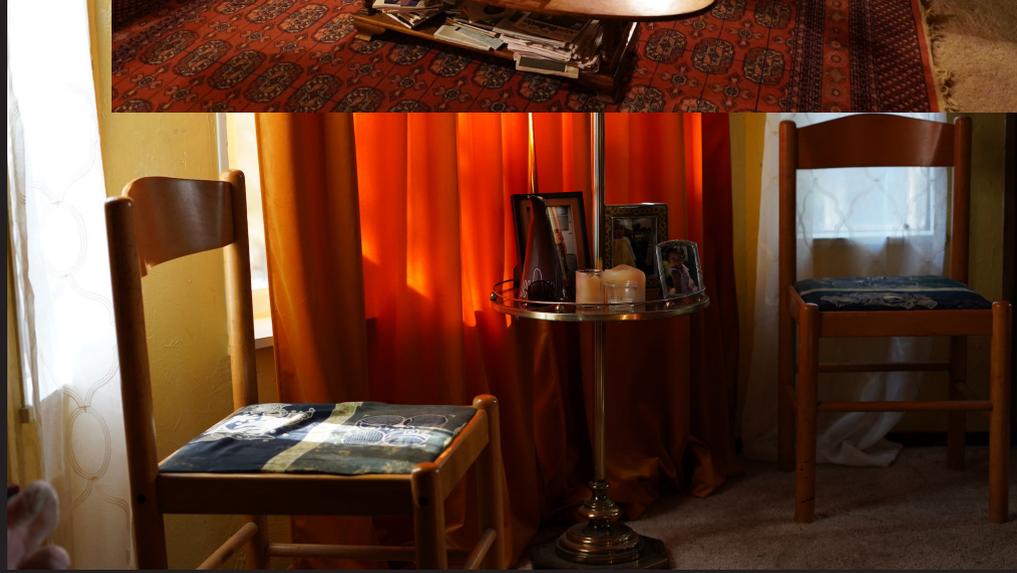
1998



THE  
WORLD  
OF  
"THE  
PHOENIX"



2006



# MEET THE DIRECTOR

## REGINA PIGSLEY

Regina Pigsley is a Bay Area-born, Los Angeles-based writer and director. She holds a degree in film at UC Berkeley, where she was the first female and BIPOC president of the Berkeley chapter of Delta Kappa Alpha, the professional cinema fraternity, leading the fraternity to win five national awards. She specializes in narrative filmmaking and music videos, and has experience with a diverse array of genres, from action to musicals to science fiction.

Regina's film credits include *13 Reasons Why* (2019), *Clickbait* (2020), and *You Can't Say No* (2018), and she has worked on commercial projects for brands such as Verizon, Toyota, Salesforce, Shutterfly, Bed Bath and Beyond, and more. She currently works as a coordinating producer at Los Angeles-based production and live stream company Fortress Entertainment. In 2019, she ran the marketing campaign for the documentary *The Distant Barking of Dogs*, which became one of fifteen films shortlisted for the Oscars. Her short film "Face Value" (2020) was recognized with three festival awards, including Best Director at the Sweden Short Film Awards.

Regina hopes "The Phoenix" will be an inspiration to young women to find and embrace their own individual superpowers, and use them to fight their way to a better life.



# MEET THE CREW



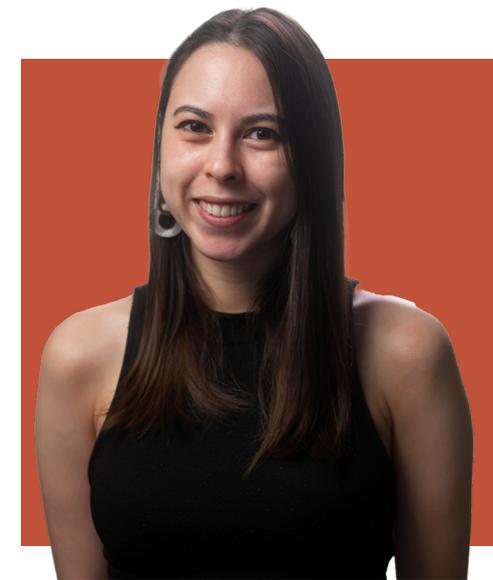
**MELODY CAREY**  
PRODUCER

Melody Carey is a Chicagoland-born, San Francisco-based producer and filmmaker. She has worked as a writer, director, producer, assistant director, and editor for award-winning short films and TV. Currently, she works as a Production Coordinator to produce virtual events for clients such as ESPN, Cartier, Accenture, Deloitte, and the Apollo Theater. Passionate about film as a vehicle for positive impact and change, she is excited to help bring the story of “The Phoenix” to life in order to help others find their inner strength.



**JACK BERKENFIELD**  
PRODUCER

Jack Berkenfield was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, and grew up with a passion for film and television. He studied broadcasting at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and has worked as a corporate video editor and post producer for Bay Area clients including Salesforce, Intel, and Apple. As a post-production specialist and sci-fi buff, Jack is thrilled about the technical challenges presented by the superpowers on display in *The Phoenix*. and sci-fi buff, Jack is thrilled about the technical challenges presented by the superpowers on display in “*The Phoenix*.”



**AVERY CHUNG-MELINO**  
PRODUCER OF MARKETING

Avery Chung-Melino is a digital marketer by day and a producer and production designer by night. Her passion for visual and written storytelling led her to filmmaking, where she enjoys working on projects that explore womanhood and cultural identity in America. She was the president of GiANT Filmmakers, UC Berkeley’s longest-running film club, and is an alumna of Delta Kappa Alpha, the cinematic fraternity. Her love of historical dramas and women’s empowerment unite in “*The Phoenix*,” and she’s excited to see the film rise up from the ashes to the silver screen.

# MEET THE CREW



**CARLOS GONZALEZ**  
CINEMATOGRAPHER

Carlos Gonzalez is a film creative with a passion for live action cinema. He developed an eye for visual meaning through early involvement in the grip & electric department, and is currently focused on pursuing cinematography and directing opportunities to add to his understanding of cinematic creation as well as to his artistic expression. Carlos brings a wide range of experience to “The Phoenix,” from commercial work to music videos to short films.



**DANIELLE DIAZ**  
EDITOR

Danielle Diaz is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker and editor. A former on-set editor for tech companies such as Salesforce and Intel, she now works for Open Road as a film trailer assistant editor. Danielle worked on the first XR stage to be used for commercial work. She holds a degree in psychology from UC Berkeley, which informs her emotion-driven editing, and was the showrunner of Berkeley’s cinema fraternity for two years.



**CHEYENNE MILNE**  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Cheyenne Milne is a San Francisco native and Bay Area based filmmaker. Cheyenne has over two decades of experience as a Decorator, Prop Master, and On Set Dresser across multiple industry platforms. Cheyenne’s passion is embracing the visual creative challenge of cinematic storytelling through design and decor. Some of Cheyenne’s most recent projects include *The Matrix Resurrections* (2021), *The Sky is Everywhere* (2021), and *Nash Bridges* (2021).



PRODUCTION STILLS



# THE BLUE PHOENIX

## CHARACTER DESIGN FOR ORIGINAL ANIMATED CHARACTER

The Blue Phoenix is the lead character in the original 90s-style superhero cartoon that we created for the production. The cartoon plays on the television in the beginning of the film and inspires Charlie to take flight and strive for superpowers.



## COLOR PALETTE

In the beginning, the palette is bright, superhero-esque primary colors.

During the parents' fight, the palette becomes more and more desaturated as Charlie turns back time, unable to stop the cycle.

The coloring stays very desaturated during the time jump to 2006. But, when the cartoon that inspired her as a girl comes on, it returns to full saturation. It's a beckoning light.





# THANK YOU

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