



# julia's farm

PRESSING PICTURES LLC and SUDESHNA SEN present "JULIA'S FARM"

starring KATE WITT, MEAGHAN HALVORSEN, BENJAMIN BARAK ANDREWS, TOM MCINTIRE, JAMES WEIDMAN and FRANK LAWLER (voice)

director of photography JOHN JEFFCOAT editor SEAN DONAVAN music by VINNY SMITH production designer TANIA KUPCZAK

executive producer SUDESHNA SEN producer JENNESSA WEST

directed BY SUDESHNA SEN

contact: sudeszna sen | sarashinanikki@gmail.com | 206.349.6309



# about julia's farm

total runtime: 17 minutes  
format: DCP, DVD, Quicktime

## logline

After their plan to come up with money to buy a farm falls apart, Julia and Jenny find happiness and friendship where they least expect it.

## synopsis

When Julia's dream of buying her own farm falls apart after her boss mishandles her pension, she and her best friend Jenny devise a plan to recover the money. As their scheme gets complicated, Julia and Jenny find true friendship and happiness where they least expect it.





# about the director

Following an early retirement from teaching, Sudeshna dove into her passion for filmmaking. She was involved in two productions, "Big in Japan" (dir. John Jeffcoat) and "My Last Year With the Nuns" (dir. Bret Fetzer). Both of these films screened at SIFF 2014. Sudeshna was Assistant Producer for "The Spring District," an advertising campaign from Seattle based Hey! Advertising.

"Julia's Farm" is her first narrative short, which she wrote and directed.

In a previous life, Sudeshna taught Japanese literature and language for a decade. She has a Ph.D in Classical Japanese literature from the University of Oregon.



## q & a with sudeshna sen

**What interests you about female friendships?**

I am fascinated by how women form friendships and nurture them. I find it fun and exciting to explore the complexities in the ebb and flow of female friendships, how and why women become friends, what is it that holds disparate personalities together. Is it possible for a twentysomething college girl to be BFF with a sixty year old retiree? What do they talk about? What do women think about as they go through board meetings/PTAs/soccer driving/work related travel and all the movements of daily life? How do they look out for each other? How do they take each other for granted? And most important, how much are they willing to give up for the sake of their friend?

**Which films and directors influence and inspire you?**

My favorite films that I'd take to a deserted island: Thelma and Louise, Il Postino, What's Eating Gilbert Grape, Rashomon and Vertigo. These are the top five but there's many more! Alfred Hitchcock, Akira Kurosawa and Satyajit Ray are some of my favorite directors. I also like the Coen brothers and Deepa Mehta.

**This is your first film, which you wrote and directed. What drew you to filmmaking at this stage of your career?**

I have loved films from early adolescence. Growing up in India as a girl with decent grades, I was encouraged to think of academics as a profession. So I followed that, did a doctorate in Japanese literature and started teaching at the University of Utah. But in all my courses on Japanese literature I was including a hefty chunk of film resources. I found myself going through films of Japanese masters looking for ways to include them in my teaching. And I had to ask myself: was this to help my students, or was I looking for an excuse to watch films 24/7? So when I decided to stop teaching, filmmaking was the obvious choice as a second career.

**What's next for you?**

I am writing a documentary. I also just finished writing a romantic comedy based in the San Juans. Seattle has so much to offer in terms of scenic beauty and technical innovation, I'd love to capture some of that beauty and energy in my films.

# crew



## John Jeffcoat / Director of Photography

John Jeffcoat is an award-winning writer, director and cinematographer. He co-wrote and directed the indie comedy hit, *Outsourced*, and was tapped by NBC to adapt the film into a 22-part prime time TV series. *Big in Japan* is Jeffcoat's second feature film, which he wrote, directed and shot on location in Seattle and Tokyo.



## Jennessa West / Producer

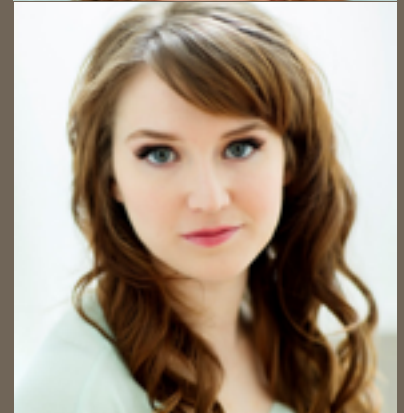
Jennessa started her production career working in episodic television within the art and accounting departments for companies such as Warner Brothers Television, the FX Channel and CBS Television while living in Los Angeles. Seeking a career as an independent producer, Jennessa headed back to her hometown of Seattle to produce live theater and film. She went on to become Director of Development for ArtsWest Playhouse, and later ACT – A Contemporary Theatre a world-renowned arts center. In 2012, Jennessa partnered to form Pressing Pictures, LLC – a production company dedicated to creating compelling commercial and narrative works. Jennessa's producing credits include *My Last Year with the Nuns* (line producer), which recently premiered at the 2014 Seattle International Film Festival. *SPIN* (producer) a short film premiering at the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival, *The 14/48 Project* (producer), and *Manos: Hands of Felt* (producer), which played to a sold-out audience at the Emerald City Comicon earlier this year. Jennessa has recently signed on to co-produce the Seattle based web-series, *Rocketmen*.

# cast

Kate Witt is a Seattle-based actress and holds an MFA in Theatre from the University of Mississippi. She is currently appearing as Caska in Wooden O's production of *"Julius Caesar"*. Film/TV credits include *"Only Connect"* (Comfy Bull), *"Left Behind"* (Trash Taco Productions), and *"Evil in Law: Love's Fury"* (Discovery ID). She has worked with many Seattle theatre companies including ArtsWest, Wooden O, SecondStory Repertory, New Century Theatre Company, 14/48, and Seattle Shakespeare Company. Favorite roles include Emilie in *"Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight"*, Holly in *"Next Fall"*, Beggar Woman in *"Sweeney Todd"*, Feste in *"Twelfth Night"*, Mrs. Segstrom in *"A Little Night Music"*, and Nancy Gordon in *"Third"*. She lives in Seattle with her husband, Steve, and their daughter, Molly. Read more at <http://www.katewitt.com>.



Meaghan Mary Halverson graduated from the University of Washington in 2011 with a degree in English Literature. She has appeared in various low-budget film projects in the Seattle area such as *"Somnambulism"* and *"The World is Hollow for I Have Touched the Sky"*, and she is the voice of Deirdre Shannon in the Nancy Drew PC Game series. Meaghan has also worked with several theatre companies in Seattle including Annex Theatre, Macha Monkey Productions, and most recently *The Horse In Motion*.



Writer/ Director: Sudeshna Sen  
Producer: Jennessa West  
(Pressing Pictures)  
Producer: Sudeshna Sen  
Director of Photography:  
John Jeffcoat  
Assist Camera: Jonathan Houser  
Sound/ Boom : Vinny Smith

Production Design: Tania Kupczak  
Gaffer: Art Reynolds  
Hair and Makeup: John Gardner  
Production Assistants:  
Valerie Needham & Megan Rosenfeld

Actors:  
Kate Witt - Julia Morton  
Meaghan Halvorson - Jenny Pollitto  
Frank Lawler - Gerald Worthington  
Ben Andrews - Doug Sanders  
Tom McIntire - Martin Doyle  
James Weidman - John Kennedy