

BIG HOPE



- Lookbook
- Director's Statement

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A Statement from Michael Nash, Writer & Director of Big Hope

Over the last couple of years I've zigzagged across the country screening a documentary I directed to several hundred high schools and colleges. No matter the city or state, one thing seemed constant to females of this age: namely that popularity has become a cutthroat contest into which girls pour boundless energy. Young American females are bombarded with the assault of an endless quest to be perfect and the daily reality of bullying.

The media, brands & corporations, the internet and peer pressure have combined to create a generation of girls who feel so ugly, so disgusting, so unwelcome that they'd rather slide a razor blade across their arm than live with the reality of one more day of high school. We have created a pandemic of depressed, insecure anxiety-riddled young women who find themselves bullied on a daily basis. And because it's a competition, someone has to lose in order for someone to win.

Big Hope is about the girl who has been picked to lose.

Big Hope is the dramatic, tragic and ultimately uplifting story of a relentlessly bullied high school senior who is pushed to the brink until she snaps and changes forever the path of her own life, that of her tormentor and those around her. On its face, Big Hope is a thrilling road movie that tracks the journey of Hope & Kate, two girls once friends in the fourth grade, now enemies in high school who find themselves staring down the barrel of a gun on a Thelma and Louise-like chase across the vast American desert.

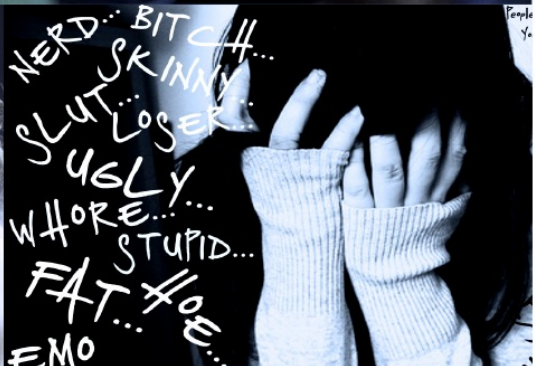
But while the thrilling story of these two very special girls is intended to be highly entertaining, at its core it is also the story of so many American girls, helpless against the relentless pressure of an unforgiving society that tells them that who they really are is worthless in comparison to the unobtainable ideals that our media-driven culture forces upon them. The journey our challenged girls take empowers them to stand up for what they deserve, what they believe in, what all young women are entitled to and the wonderful things that can follow when we stop judging a book by its cover.

I want to make this film to hold a mirror up to all of us, and illuminate the reality of what girls in high school are forced to go through and the horrifying level of bullying that faces so many of them daily. I believe that making this film will help to empower a generation of young women by engendering a conversation that must take place if we are to stem the tide of misery that has become so commonplace in the youth of America. It is my hope that after a successful theatrical release, we will once again zigzag across this country, screening Big Hope to high schools and colleges across America to create and support a call to action on bullying, self-respect and the right of every young woman to grow up in a world that allows her dreams to be possible.





DESIGN



TONE / MOOD

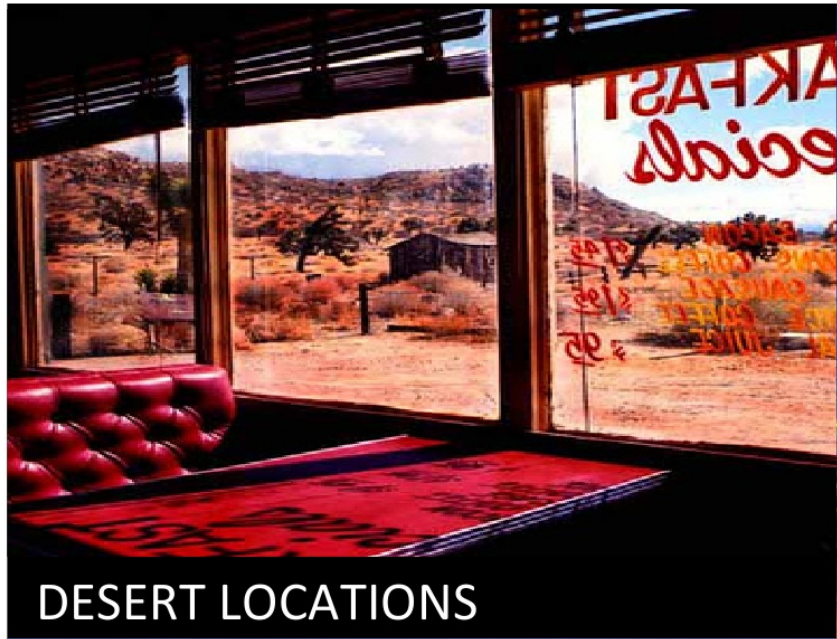


CINEMATOGRAPHY



KANSAS LOCATIONS





DESERT LOCATIONS





Michael P. Nash is a Irish/American filmmaker who was recently an honored recipient of the Social Change Global Institute Filmmaker of the Year Award. MovieMaker Magazine named Nash one of the “Top 10 MovieMakers Of The Planet” along with Davis Guggenheim, Morgan Freeman, Don Cheadle and Louie Psihoyos(The Cove). Nash has also won Senator Boxer’s Conservation Champion Award and the Neiman Marcus Environmental Visions Filmmaker Award. Currently, Nash and Harvard University have partnered on a military documentary. Nash’s last film, the multi-award winning *Climate Refugees* was for Congress, the Pentagon, The White House and the only film screened by the United Nations at the recent IIEA Copenhagen Climate Change Conference and Davos for world leaders and policymakers. *Climate Refugees* had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, and was noted by Robert Redford in the NY Times “as an agent for social change.”

Michael is currently traveling with WGA (Writers Guild of America) Showrunner’s Program, (including Executive Producers from Grey’s Anatomy, Touch and a Disney animation executive) illuminating environment and health issues to storytellers around the world. Nash’s past narrative features are Nebraska and the critically acclaimed “Fuel,” won top feature film honors internationally including two Grand Jury Awards. Currently Nash is development on a number of feature of films in various stages of development. He also has two television shows in development/production, the first is a scripted one hour drama that is in partnership with music producer Red-1 (U2,Lady Gaga’s, J-lo) and the second is reality show with the state of California and their prison system. Nash continues to serving as a judge on several film festivals both domestic and international.

