

The Gods as My Friends

She's looking much more
far into the future (sic)





The Gods As My Friends

Running Time:

94 minutes

Directed By:

Nicole Zwiren

Written By:

Nicole Zwiren

Produced By:

Jacqui Zwiren

Nicole Zwiren

Production Company:

Livamond Productions

Edited by:

Bruno Kohfield-Galeano

Cinematographer:

Nicole Zwiren

Composer:

Jacqui Zwiren



LOGLINE

Despite battling with past drug and sex addiction and a diagnosis of mental illness, Jacqui Zwiren wants to become a Buddhist nun now. Right Now.

SYNOPSIS

Jacqui Zwiren, a rogue intellectual/artist, known to roam the streets of Los Angeles, stars in the documentary directed by her sister, Nicole. The film's story begins with Jacqui (nun name "Janakee") wanting to buy a wig to hide her shaved head from her family in her efforts to become a Buddhist nun. Despite her attempts to prevent Jacqui's ordainment as a nun, her traditional Jewish grandmother from New York is unknowingly aiding in her endeavor by putting her up in her very own apartment room in Korea-Town within walking distance of a Buddhist temple. As Jacqui dives into nun garb, she flirts with all religions, and her mental instability steers her onto an unexpected path.

OUR STORY

Jacqui's life was special. She was a beautifully talented visual and musical artist, the essence of which is captured in this film. And she urged people to consider where their souls would end up in the eternal span. Unfortunately, Jacqui's soul was set free during the production of the documentary...

Nicole's mission is to save people's lives who suffered like Jacqui did on earth. She wanted to help people while she was alive, and her essence in this film will definitely help people by showing them that they are not alone in their depression or mental illness.

Jacqui believed that having spiritual friends is the closest thing to "godliness." She will be remembered and loved by all of the friends she could have made on earth who never even met her.



Jacqui Zwiren, as herself

Jacqui is 29 years old. She is outgoing, manic, resistant to authority, fearless, and insensibly intelligent. She dropped out of Brown University at age 19 to pursue her goal of being a Buddhist nun, but took a detour as a hitch-hiking prostitute. She will stop at nothing to get where she needs to be, even if that means getting committed to mental institutions.



Helen Samett, Jacqui's grandmother

Helen is stubborn like her grand-daughter, Jacqui. She constantly butts heads with her and is determined to get Jacqui out of her house so she can live on her own for the first time since college. Helen raised Jacqui and her younger sister, Nicole since they were children and their mother had a nervous breakdown. Helen gives Jacqui tough-love. She is monetarily stingy and manages Jacqui's money for her because Jacqui is incapable of handling money.



Bhante Piyananda, Jacqui's mentor

Bhante Piyananda is the head monk at the Dharma Vijaya Buddhist Temple on Crenshaw blvd. He has known Jacqui since she was age 14. Jacqui thinks Bhante is enlightened and one of the sweetest guys she has ever known. Bhante shows unconditional love for Jacqui. He donates food and needed items to her whenever she is around him.



Nicole Zwiren, Jacqui's sister

Nicole is four and a half years younger than her sister. She is a soft-spoken, quirky, goodie-two shoes type. She just graduated with her Master's in film from Chapman University in Orange County. Now she is ready to make a documentary on the most interesting person she knows...her sister. Jacqui used to be Nicole's role-model up until college when Jacqui turned out to be more like an "anti-role model." Nicole's biggest fear is Jacqui becoming addicted to drugs again and ending up back in rehab or at the mental hospital.



Producer, Jacqui Zwiren

Los Angeles native and writer of the 2009 country/rock album, "Glued to the Nude," and painter/ sketch artist of dozens of portraits of her musical inspiration, Bob Dylan. Jacqueline (AKA Jacqui) is the main subject of the documentary "The Gods as My Friends" and her life was tragically cut short due to suicide during the filming process.

Director Nicole Zwiren

Nicole Zwiren is a Los Angeles native involved in the film industry for over ten years. She has experience in low budget indies as well as working on top shows like the new Twin Peaks and Supergirl. After graduating Cum Laude from UCLA, Nicole graduated with her Master in Fine Arts from Dodge College of Film and Media Arts (Chapman University graduate school) majoring in Sound Design. She later went on to make the feature-length film "Behind the Fear, the hidden story of HIV," (narrated by Ed Asner) which premiered at the Awareness Festival in Los Angeles, received a "Making a Difference" award at the Commfest Film Festival in 2016 in Toronto, and won "Best Documentary" at the Cinema New York City Film Festival in 2016. Nicole released a 14 track country rock album in 2009 with her late sister Jacqueline Zwiren entitled "Glued to the Nude."





BRUNO KOHFELD-GALEANO ***EDITOR***

Bruno Kohfield-Galeano began making short films at the age of 8 years old in Park City, UT. At 18 years old he wrote a screenplay which he directed in 2016. Bruno directed a documentary about his aunt Jill who is intellectually disabled and endured abuse in group homes. This short documentary, "The Quality of Life," has garnered over a quarter million views on Youtube. Bruno has worked as an editor and cinematographer on many projects including short films, sports events, podcasts, documentary and feature length narratives. In 2017 Bruno and his wife, Nicole were selected by the Filmmakers Alliance to create a short film in the course of 72 hours. This film was called "The Blinking Game," and became a hit success after its screening at the original Canon screening room on Sunset Blvd. and is now available on Amazon Prime. Bruno produced, edited, and was cinematographer on the experimental feature film, "Brother Side of the Wake," which screened in New York, Ann Arbor, and Los Angeles. Bruno is the editor and producer of "Gods As My Friends," and has been working on projects with Nicole since 2016. He has done some cinematography on "Gods As My Friends" as well, for interviews post Jacqui's death.



Esther Ancrum **Associate Producer**

Esther Ancrum, loves making films. Her father has been in the film industry for over 40 years in set-lighting. He is one of Esther's biggest inspirations because she remembers all of the wonderful memories of him taking her to the film sets he worked on when she was just a child. She was producer with Nicole on her other documentary, "Behind the Fear," which came out in 2016. She helped Nicole produce interviews for the documentary "Gods As my Friends," post Jacqui's death. She is a P/A on film and TV sets.



DARIO ANTEPARA **ANIMATOR/TITLE DESIGNER**

Dario Antepara is a filmmaker and animation artist based in Hollywood, California. He created 3D animations for Disney Junior online games and his clients include Jordan Belfort, the real wolf of wall street; Telemundo, and Channel 22 KWHY-TV Los Angeles.



PRAISE

Carol Sevilla, Art Collector

Loved it. Loved Jacqui, and wished I had known her. Recognized how she was bursting with talent and joy. Great structural progression leading our emotions where they need to be, when they need to be.

Christopher Titmuss, Dharma Teacher

It is a remarkable story of one Jacqui Zwiren. The anguish, the struggles, the creativity and the inner conflict take the breath away. The documentary serves as a tribute to her and a reflection of her sister's love, too. I hope many sit down and take a view. There are many Jaquis in the world.

All songs in the film were written by Jacqui Zwiren (music and lyrics). And were either performed by Jacqui or her sister, Nicole.

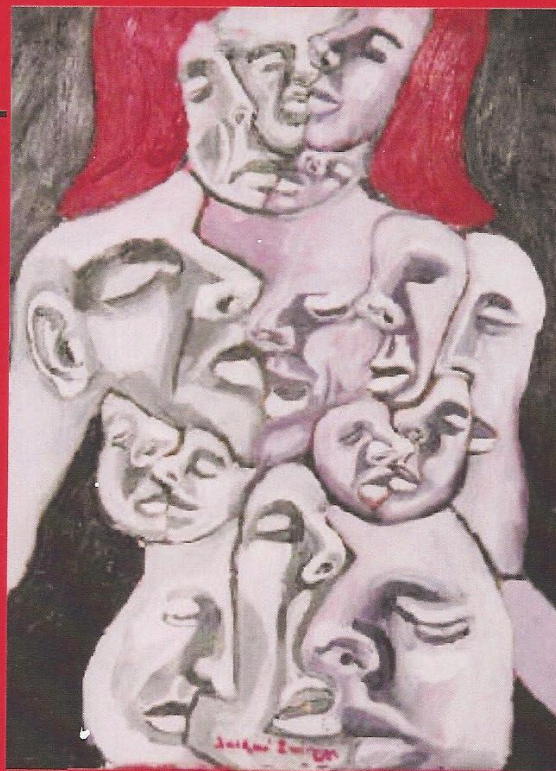
Jacqui sings::

**I'll Go Up in the Clouds
I'm a Jew for Jesus
Not Free Yet
Eliana's my Gorgeous Girl
Anything But Love
I'm Going Up
Bob Dylan
My Daughter is a Lucky One
There's a New Sun
I've Known Suffering**

Nicole sings::

**I'm Alive, Don't Know Why
To Keep From Doubting
Light of Love
You and My Somebody
Had an Ego**

Nicole & Jacqui



Glued to the Nude