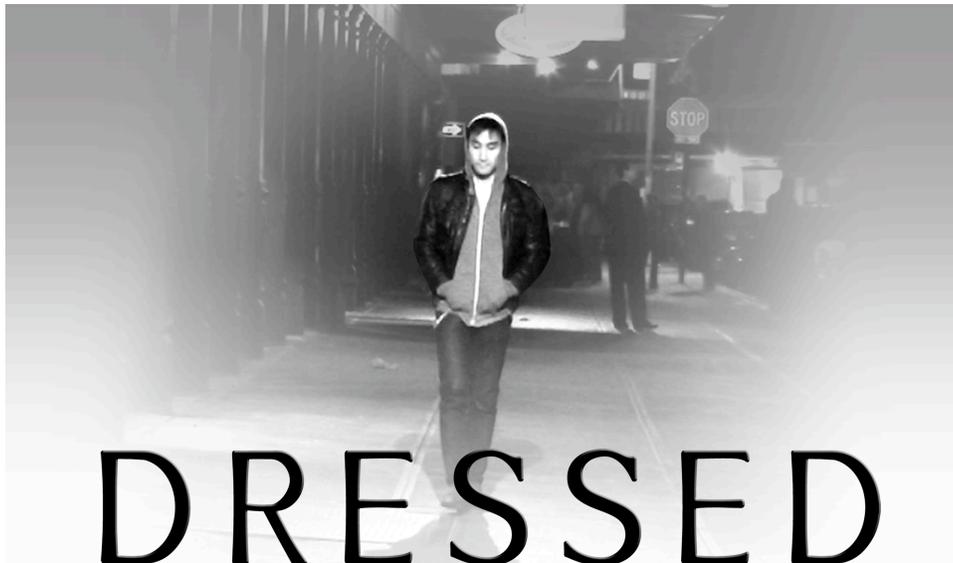


**onerock**  
MOVING PICTURES

Presents



# DRESSED

Homeless at 14. Every designer's dream begins somewhere.

A film by David Swajeski

Executive Producer: Maryanne Grisz  
80 minutes / English/ Dolby Digital /1.78:1 / Not Rated

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## **SYNOPSIS**

The documentary DRESSED is the inspiring story of self-taught clothing designer Nary Manivong, who defied the odds of a broken childhood and homelessness to pursue his ultimate dream, a showing his collection at New York's Fashion Week. Nary's story shows the strength of the human spirit as he navigates through one of the toughest businesses to achieve his goal – the one joy that brings him hope in the face of his personal hardships. A truly inspiring story that unfolds against a backdrop of the fashion industry in New York.

Woven within his story are accounts and commentary from leading fashion industry experts, celebrities, and designers who relate their own perspective about the fashion industry. Industry experts include Mickey Boardman, Paper Magazine; Simon Collins, Dean of Fashion at Parsons, The New School for Design; Simon Doonan, Author and Creative Director at Barney's; George Furlan, Fashion Industry Consultant; Mary Gehlhar, Author "The Fashion Designer's Survival Guide"; Margaret Hayes, President, the Fashion Group International, Nanette Lepore, Designer, Fern Mallis, Consultant, former Senior Vice President of IMG Fashion and creator of New York Fashion Week; Robert Verdi, Celebrity Fashion Stylist and Lynn Yeager, legendary fashion writer.

DRESSED was filmed in New York City, New York and Columbus, Ohio.

## **Director's Statement**

I've always been drawn to stories about people who rise above their circumstances and do extraordinary things regardless of the odds.

We all have our own journey through life. We all have talents and gifts but also limitations, obstacles and challenges to overcome. What makes one person succeed while someone equally as talented with more resources fail? Sometimes it comes down to the fabric of an individual's spirit, but more specifically an individual's belief and passion.

I first meet Nary Manivong, the subject of our film DRESSED in 2007. I was directing a commercial in Cincinnati Ohio and had just started prep on a new documentary. During a break in filming the commercial, I spoke with the stylist on the shoot about the documentary I was starting. Her response; "I think I have a better story for you". That stylist was Laura Baciu, a good friend from Columbus, Ohio, who produced Nary's first fashion show when (unknown to her) he was a homeless teenager. Laura, a member of Fashion Group International, joined the production team as Consulting Producer.

Back in New York, Laura introduced me to Nary. I was immediately drawn to his spirit, honesty and sincerity. His story was inspiring and there was one common theme to his tale, everything he accomplished was a result of an unwavering belief that he would succeed. I wanted to find out more about how someone who was homeless as a teenager, with no training or support would even dream to become a fashion designer in one of the most competitive industries in the US. His determination, spirit, his unique life story and his chosen profession I believed would make an amazing film. Nary agreed to start filming and one week later we began.

I've always been fascinated by the fashion industry. I did research on the industry as a whole and watched films on the subject. Most films about fashion are shown from the point of view of a big brand, an established designer or a fashion icon. I wanted to look at the industry from the perspective of a young designer, a designer who had no resources, just a dream, a passion and a belief.

To set a context of the fashion industry to the story I decided to set up two story lines in the film. One, Nary's story and the second, commentary from industry experts. Executive Producer Maryanne Grisz a fashion show producer and teacher at Parsons and Laura Baciu pulled together a cast that included Simon Collins, Simon Doonan, Lynn Yeager, Mickey Boardman and Nanette Lepore.

We began filming as Nary set out to fulfill his dream of creating his own clothing line for Fashion Week in New York City. Against amazing odds with no financial backing, just \$ 5,168.00, saved by working odd jobs, Nary began his journey.

A handwritten note that he keeps in his pocket with the word "Believe" became his inspiration to continue through all the setbacks he experienced.

The exciting aspect of a documentary is that when you start filming you really have no idea where the story will go. It's a unique peek into a person's life, seen from a perspective one rarely gets the opportunity to see.

Our main hope is that this story touches the audiences as it has us.

### **About David Swajeski, Producer, Director**

David Swajeski is Founder and Director of the creative production firm Onerock Movingpictures and co-founder and Creative Director of the Advertising / Design firm Location 8. David has produced projects ranging from Advertising campaigns, television projects, and documentary films. He has directed projects for some of the world's most influential companies and institutions including BMW, Fila Sports USA, Dupont, Dansko, JP Morgan Chase, President's Student Service awards, Benjamin Moore Paints, Ronald McDonald House, The Jefferson Awards, The Nemours Foundation and Mercedes Benz. During his professional career he has produced over 200 productions and his work has been shown at the New York Festivals, Chicago International Film Festival, Cleveland International Film Festival, Savannah International Film Festival, Sonoma International Film Festival, Columbus International Film Festival, Big Apple Film Festival and the White Sands International Film Festival.

### **About Maryanne Grisz, Executive Producer**

Maryanne Grisz is a producer and lawyer specializing in art, film, music and fashion ventures from concept to completion. She is a featured guest lecturer on industry topics internationally and partner at Onerock Movingpictures.

Maryanne has produced fashion shows and events internationally during Fashion Weeks in Paris and Milan and founding global design contests including "Cool vs. Cruel" and "Design Against Fur" with The Humane Society of the United States. She was member of the production team for Gregory Colbert's "Ashes and Snow" at the Nomadic Museum on Pier 54, NYC. She has coordinated VIP events for artists and celebrities, the gaming industry, with publications, retailers and charities. Maryanne served as Director of Development for The Philadelphia Music Alliance and CFO for Ana Martins Public Relations and Showroom in New York City, a company specializing in the luxury market and holding worldwide distribution for jewelry brands.

She is adjunct instructor at Parsons, The New School for Design and The Art Institute of New York. She has guest lectured for many design schools, Talk Cinema and has been honored for her volunteerism.

### **About Nary Manivong**

"I remember being inspired by the beauty of clothes," says New York-based designer Nary Manivong, "and what it would be like to create garments for the type of woman I want to dress." That dreamy muse would be the inspiration that lifted Nary Manivong from the rough-and-tumble streets of Columbus, Ohio, to his eponymous label as a self-taught fashion designer that has been praised by Women's Wear Daily—which listed Nary Manivong among one of twelve designers to watch. The Laotian-American designer's journey into fashion epitomizes the notion that without

pain, there is no beauty: Nary Manivong has been acclaimed by Fashion Group International (which nominated him for a Rising Star Women's Ready-to-Wear Award in 2009 & 2010 and stars in the much-buzzed about documentary, DRESSED, which chronicles his story from homelessness to the runway. Nary Manivong's design philosophy still centers on that dream woman: a self-assured, sophisticated and eclectic muse who expresses herself through clothing that flows effortlessly with the demands of her everyday life. The result: functionality, sensuality and attitude. Currently Nary has partnered with Alexandria Hilfiger, and launched the new design label NAHM, in February 2011.

### **About Alexandria Hilfiger**

Alexandria Hilfiger grew up in fashion her whole life, and with both a strong work ethic and supportive parents, she started working at the age of 11. From film and television producing, Broadway acting and painting, Alexandria has been involved in all aspects of the creative industries. She began styling at the age of 22, where she dressed bands, pop artists, and also fully styled and produced fashion shows and photo shoots.

In 2008 she met Nary Manivong, where he hired her to style and consult for both his Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 collections. After realizing how well they worked together, Manivong and Hilfiger decided to partner and begin their own design label.

Currently Alexandria Hilfiger has created a new line with design partner Nary Manivong titled, NAHM. NAHM represent the initials of the design duo and it also means "water" in Laos. The focus of the collection is dresses, which are inspired by men's shirt details combined with fine feminine accents in new and fresh fabrics and silhouettes. NAHM's aesthetic is clean, modern, sophisticated and chic.

Fall 2011 marked the premier of the NAHM collection for New York Fashion Week, and with the support from top fashion outlets NAHM was featured on the most sought after front page cover of *Women's Wear Daily*.

### **About NAHM**

NAHM represents the designer's first and last names, and also translates to "water" in Laotian. The duo debuted their first collection together during February 2011 **Fashion Week**.

### **CAST & CREDITS**

#### PRINCIPLE CAST

Nary Manivong

Featuring: Mickey Boardman, Simon Collins, Simon Doonan, George Furlan, Mary Gehlhar, Margaret Hayes, Nanette Lepore, Fern Mallis, Janet Mock, Jason Napier, Robert Verdi, Lynn Yaeger

Special Appearances by: Anastasia Griffith and Perrey Reeves

## MAIN CREDITS

Director/Producer: David Swajeski

Executive Producer: Maryanne Grisz

Co-Executive Producer: David Swajeski

Consulting Producer: Laura Baciú

Editor: David Swajeski

Music Score: Chris Orazi with music by Sink to See, 40s, The Dirty Pearls, Music for Animals, Blip

Blip Bleep, The Foreign Resort, Avenue C, KILLCODE and Phantogram

Cinematography: Floyd Dean, David Swajeski and Pascal Deickmann

Sound Design: Chris Orazi

Technical Director: RJ Miles

Art Direction, Online Design: Dave Bell

Consultant and Theatrical Distribution: Jeff Lipsky

Director of Marketing and Distribution: Maryanne Grisz