

Film writer/director Marc Meyers visits Acting for the Smartphone Camera class

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Film writer/director Marc Meyers made a virtual visit to Visiting Assistant Professor Eliza Beckwith's Acting for the Smartphone Camera class on April 28.

Meyers spoke about his career, working with actors, and the similarities and differences between working on a film with a \$15,000 budget (his first) or a \$20 million budget (his latest). He answered questions from students about working with actors such as Ross Lynch, Liev Schrieber and Marisa Tomei, and discussed how working from scripts he had written compares with working from scripts written by a screenwriter. He has done both.

"Basically the job is the same," he said. "To tell a story."

Right now Meyers is isolating at home in Brooklyn, with his wife, producer Jody Girgenti, and their daughter, having directed three feature films over the last 14 months: *All My Life* for Universal Pictures, starring Jessica Rothe; *Human Capital*, starring Liev Schrieber, Marisa Tomei, Peter Sarsgaard, Maya Hawke and Alex Wolff; and his heavy-metal genre flick *We Summon The Darkness*, starring Alexandra Daddario, Johnny Knoxville, and Maddie Hasson.

Sadly, the last two were scheduled for theatrical release just as the Covid 19 pandemic hit, so they've now been released for streaming.

Meyers' previous features include the critically-acclaimed cult hit *My Friend Dahmer*, starring Ross Lynch, Alex Wolff, and Anne Heche, which *Rolling Stone's* Peter Travers called "a warped wonder of a movie"; *How He Fell In Love*, starring Matt McGorry and Amy Hargreaves; and *Harvest*, starring Academy Award Nominees Robert Loggia and Barbara Barrie.

His debut feature, *Approaching Union Square*, was based on monologues originally written and developed in the Writer/Director Lab at the Ensemble Studio Theatre, which was run by Beckwith, who also is an Alfred University alumna and who was an extra in the movie.

Her part, she told the class, is her only IMDB credit.

