

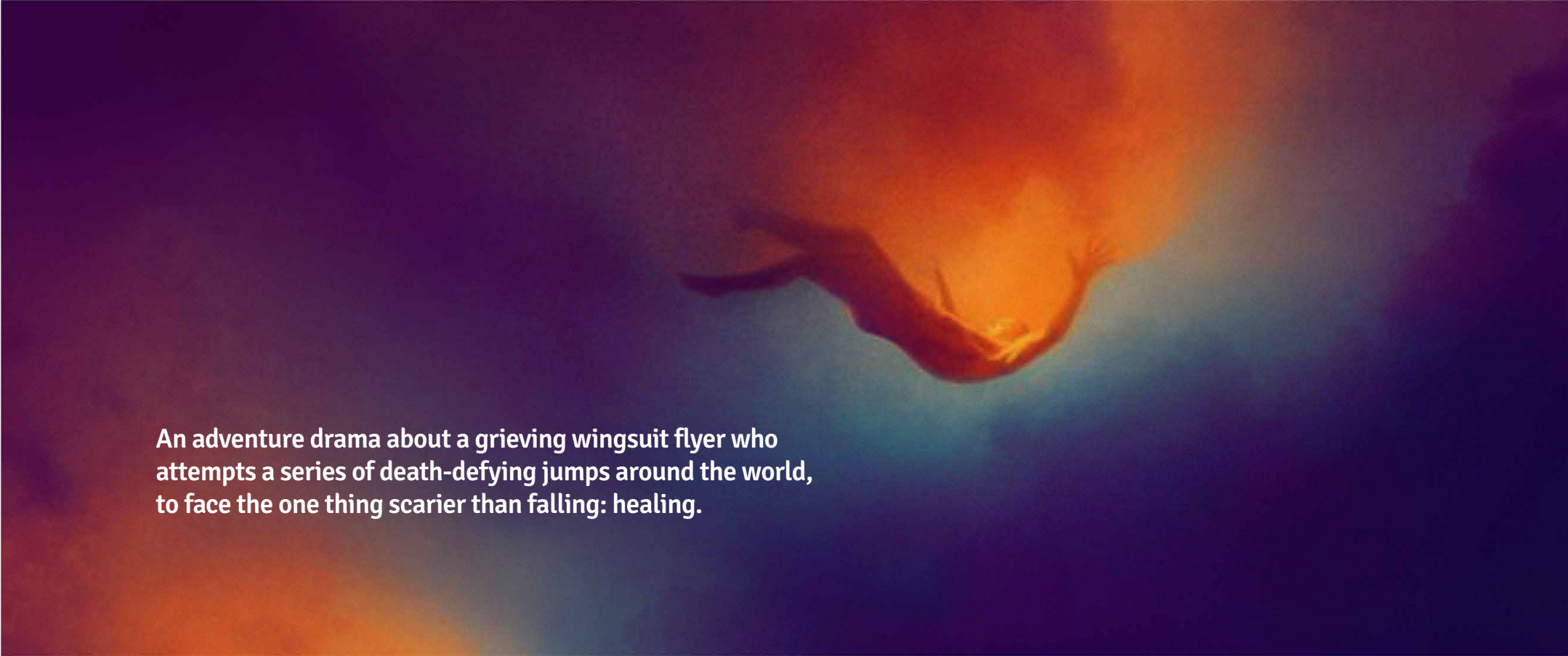
A RICHARD RUDY FILM



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A life worth living needs something worth losing.



A person in a wingsuit is shown in silhouette, flying horizontally across the frame. The background is a dramatic sky with a gradient of colors, ranging from deep purple and blue on the left to bright orange and yellow on the right, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The person's wings are spread wide, and their body is streamlined for flight.

An adventure drama about a grieving wingsuit flyer who attempts a series of death-defying jumps around the world, to face the one thing scarier than falling: healing.



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SYNOPSIS

‘Fall Up’ is a high-stakes, emotional drama about Ava, a fierce Latin old-soul wingsuit flyer, whose world is shattered by the death of her fiancé, Gabe.

Grounded and suffocated by her brother Sal’s overbearing love, and with no reason to live without flying, Ava steals Sal’s life savings to embark on what would’ve been her honeymoon—a daring quest to complete seven of the world’s most extreme jumps.

From Norway’s ice lakes to Socotra’s updrafts, Yosemite’s giant granite slabs, and Pakistan’s Trango Wall, each flight becomes more than a stunt; they’re crucibles through which Ava processes her grief, fear, and ultimately, her rebirth. Along the way, Ava’s joined by Leon—a free solo climber with his own demons—as Sal chases after her, desperate to save his only family.

As each jump becomes another leap towards healing, Ava’s quest culminates in a seemingly impossible flight; no parachute, no backup, with only the sky to catch her.

‘Fall Up’ is a intense, visually exhilarating journey about chasing dreams, the cost of freedom, and what it means to truly let go.



CHARACTERS

AVA CARDOZO

Ava, 24, is a focused, all-or-nothing, old-soul Latin woman, with the kind of energy that enters a room before she does.

Ava's sole reason to live is to fly. She needs for nothing but the wind in her face, clouds below and the sun guiding her way. Like a bird.

But after losing Gabe, her flying partner and fiancé, Ava spirals into silenced isolation. Even still, deep inside burns her need to fly. A need to confront her grief up in the sky, knowing that whether she lives or dies, she will at least fly again with Gabe.

Ava's journey is driven by love, haunted by fear, and ultimately fueled by the kind of purpose that demands her to jump if she wants to live.

Her transformation is breathtaking: from a woman trying to outrun pain, to becoming someone who can embrace it and still fly forward. Fierce, fragile, and courageous, Ava is a unique cinematic heroine for our times: facing grief not by hiding from it, but by jumping into it.

A man wearing a red helmet, a blue t-shirt, and a climbing harness is rappelling down the side of a tall building at night. He is positioned on the right side of the frame, with his arms outstretched. The building's facade is illuminated with warm lights, and the city skyline is visible in the background.

SALVATORE ‘SAL’ CARDOZO

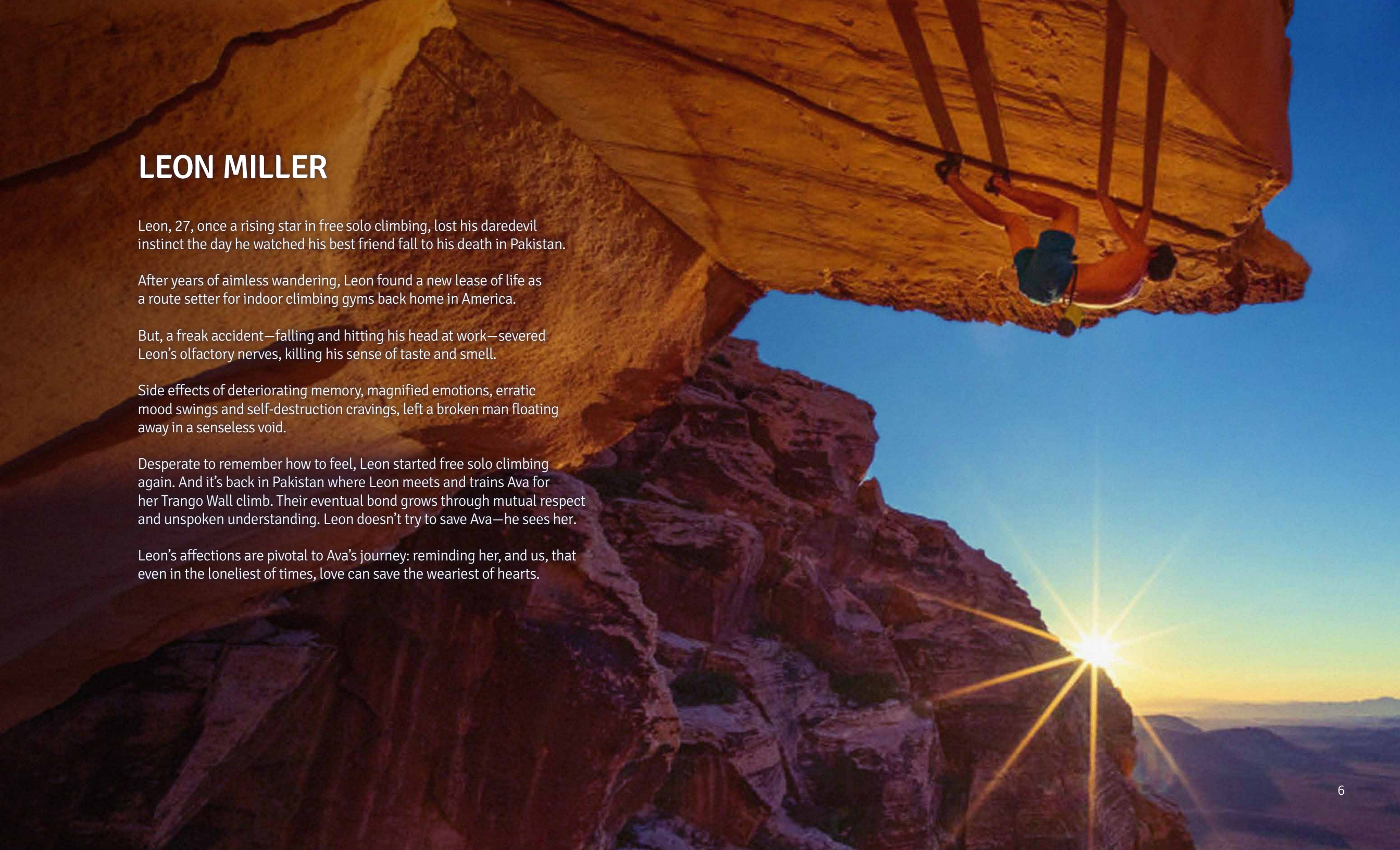
Sal, 34, was born rebellious, but it's his 'counter phobia' that defines him—a condition that forces him to actively seek out his fears to overcome them.

His greatest fear is death. So, flying allows Sal to cheat death for a rush.

But, as Sal's counterphobia hardens with age, Ava has become the glue that holds him together. She's the only person who fully understands him. If he loses Ava, he's doomed.

An intense, fiery Latin man, Sal channels his trauma through control. He represents a version of grief that strangles with devotion, that refuses change, even in the name of love.

His arc is powerful: from suffocating protector to someone who learns to let go and trust Ava to fly her own path. While his deep care is always evident, it takes a heartbreaking pilgrimage for him to see that love doesn't mean holding on; it means catching someone to let them fall up on their own.

A full-page background image showing a person climbing a steep, reddish-brown rock face. The climber is positioned in the upper right, silhouetted against a bright sunset sky. The sun is a large, glowing orb on the right side, casting long, sharp rays across the scene. The rock face has a textured, layered appearance. The overall mood is dramatic and adventurous.

LEON MILLER

Leon, 27, once a rising star in free solo climbing, lost his daredevil instinct the day he watched his best friend fall to his death in Pakistan.

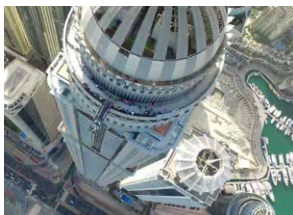
After years of aimless wandering, Leon found a new lease of life as a route setter for indoor climbing gyms back home in America.

But, a freak accident—falling and hitting his head at work—severed Leon’s olfactory nerves, killing his sense of taste and smell.

Side effects of deteriorating memory, magnified emotions, erratic mood swings and self-destruction cravings, left a broken man floating away in a senseless void.

Desperate to remember how to feel, Leon started free solo climbing again. And it’s back in Pakistan where Leon meets and trains Ava for her Trango Wall climb. Their eventual bond grows through mutual respect and unspoken understanding. Leon doesn’t try to save Ava—he sees her.

Leon’s affections are pivotal to Ava’s journey: reminding her, and us, that even in the loneliest of times, love can save the weariest of hearts.



BREAKAWAY

‘Breakaway’ is a 12-minute emotional thrill ride and the official short film prequel to ‘Fall Up’.

This is where Ava’s wings first opened...Without permission!

Focused on Ava’s first jump at age 14, it introduces audiences to the fire, fear, and fractured family dynamics that define her. It’s compact but powerful: an origin story in motion, where one act of defiance gives birth to a lifetime of flight. With minimal dialogue, breathtaking location work, and high-impact stunts, ‘Breakaway’ delivers both spectacle and soul.

While it stands alone as a gripping short film, it also expands the universe of Fall Up, evolving the narrative experience between both pieces.

‘Breakaway’ also serves as a test film for some of the ground-breaking camera rigs being developed for ‘Fall Up’; to allow audiences to experience Ava’s jumps in fully immersive 360°.

Whether screening as a companion to the feature or as a festival standout on its own, Breakaway is short-form storytelling with long-lasting impact.

The script for ‘Breakaway’ is available upon request.

ESPEN FADNES

Born in Molde, Norway, Espen Fadnes is a pioneer in wingsuit flying and extreme sports. A former professional alpine racer, he discovered BASE jumping at 21 and quickly rose to prominence through Norway's adventure collective VKB.

In 2007, they helped introduce the world to proximity wingsuit flying in 'Seven Sunny Days'. After turning pro in 2008, a serious injury briefly sidelined him. But, by 2010, Espen returned to dominate the World Wingsuit Flying Tour, World Base Race, and Pro Base Race.

Known for pushing the boundaries of flight, he's also a passionate advocate for safety and risk awareness in extreme sports, frequently speaking on the topic. Whether skiing in the WTQ Freeride Tour, competing in the World Wingsuit League, or filming airborne documentaries, Espen brings unmatched skill and insight.

'Fall Up' and its prologue short film 'Breakaway' are privileged to partner with him as Wingsuit Flyer and Story & Technical Consultant.

www.espenfadnes.com



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When they push you out of a plane, they tell you to scream.
So you don't pass out holding your breath.

It didn't make sense to me to scream.
Heaven felt like it was supposed to hijack your breath.

So far, I've only jumped once. And it was a tandem jump.
Someone else was responsible for making sure I survived.

Knowing when to pull your cord in life often defines our journey.
'Fall Up' is a story born of my mistakes of not letting go. The
unnecessary fear that I allowed to rule my future, when on
the other side of that pain lay the freedom I craved.

But, above all else, 'Fall Up' is about love. That hurts. That strangles.
That catches us. Even frees us, if we can learn to let go of it.

'Fall Up' is a grand scale, intimate epic, that aims to hit an
audience's senses at an inner level of consciousness, like music.
To take their breath away. To shock them into the moment.

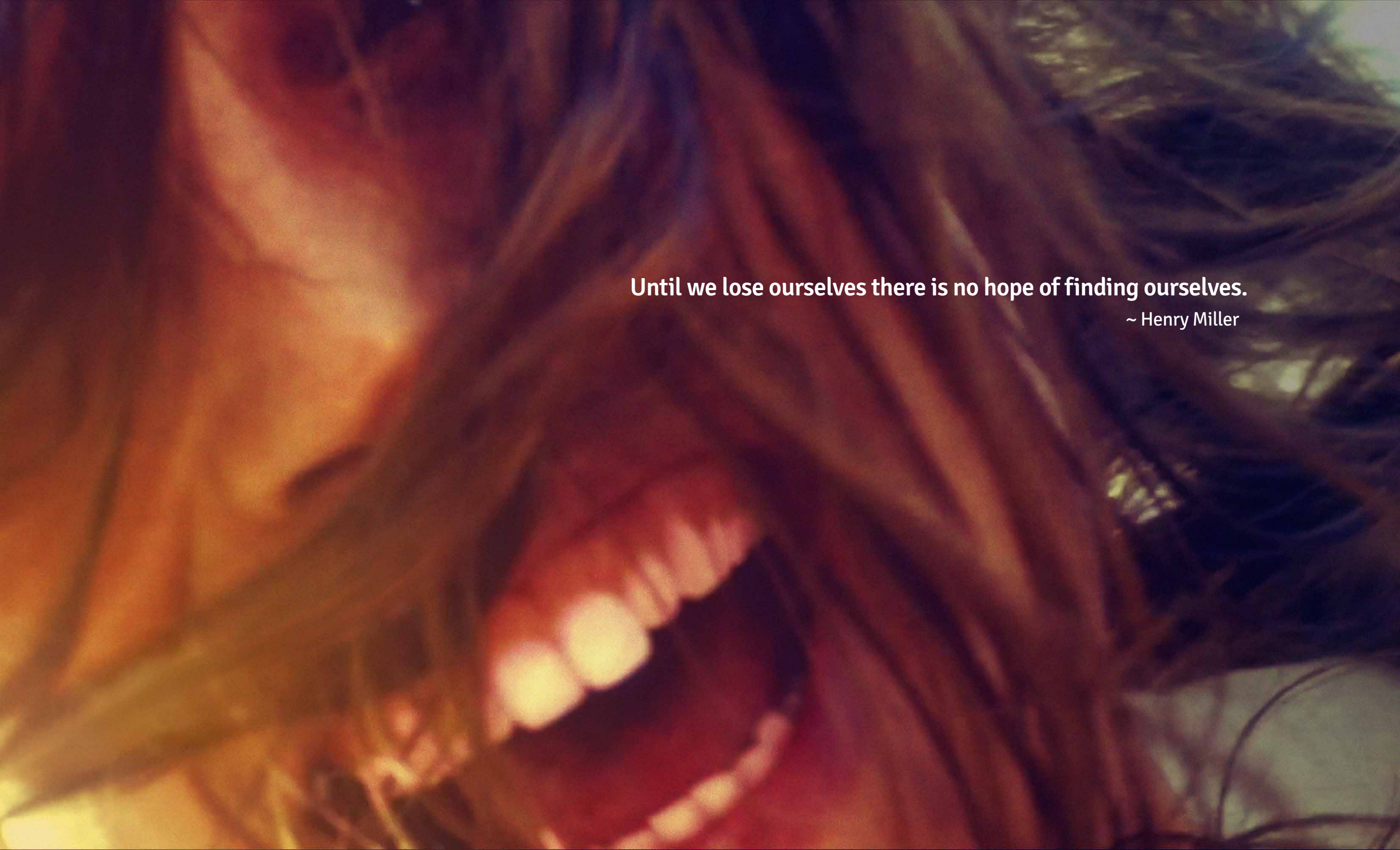
Enlightenment in Zen, known as 'satori', is the apprehension of the
true nature of reality. It is said that when you achieve satori there is
nothing left but to have a good laugh.

Or maybe a good scream.

Rich.

www.richardrudy.com





Until we lose ourselves there is no hope of finding ourselves.

~ Henry Miller