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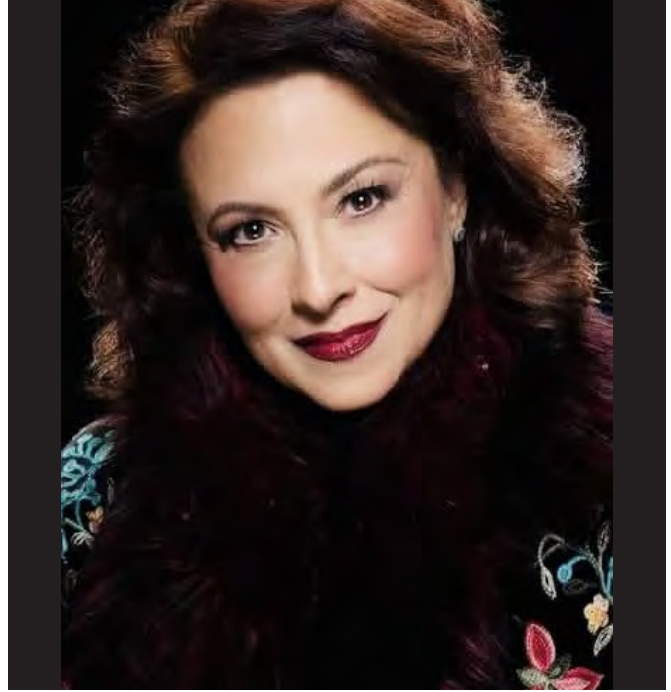
**BEGINNERS  
ARE  
ALWAYS  
WELCOME!**



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# Letter from the Editor

After living in Ojai for more than twenty years and raising my children there, I realized that there wasn't a place for people like me to truly connect — women, artists, professionals, and parents who share similar creative and personal journeys. Although I'm deeply grateful for all of the friendships I built while raising my two kids, I still found it difficult to network locally, especially while balancing life between Ojai and Los Angeles.

My background is in the entertainment industry, and motherhood has always been my greatest role. Over the years, I've worn many hats — launching several businesses in Ventura and Ojai in 2010 and 2012, producing independent projects for businesses, networks, and more under my media company, G Plan Media. Since 2018, I've produced numerous feature films and shorts throughout Ojai and Ventura, many of which have earned awards all over the world. Along the way, I've casted local talent and helped launch careers for emerging actors right here in our community.

Through my work with Ventura Actors Studio, I've had the joy of guiding many students who have gone on to work with directors, producers, fashion brands, restaurants, and hotels across Ojai, Ventura, and Los Angeles. My local students have also made appearances on network shows like 911 & Grey's Anatomy. For the past ten years, our casting branch, 805 Casting, has been a trusted resource for local talent, and we're now expanding those opportunities as networks and studios continue to reach out more now.

Looking ahead, we're also launching a Veterans Foundation for Actors through Ventura Actors Studio called HEROIC ARTS ALLIANCE this year and plan to produce films that address important topics like mental health. We will have non-profit status by this summer. Supporting families, veterans, actors, writers, artists and small businesses will always be at the heart of what we do.

This magazine was created to bring people together — to celebrate creativity, community, and the beautiful diversity of life in the 805.

Many of the articles in this first issue were written by talented contributors from both Ojai and Ventura,



and I couldn't be prouder of what's taking shape. My hope is that this publication becomes a platform for connection, collaboration, and inspiration — a place where we can all come together to share our stories, talents, and dreams.

Please feel free to reach out if you want to be involved in our next SUMMER issue by emailing [vasacting@gmail.com](mailto:vasacting@gmail.com)

I'm so excited to begin this journey with all of you — and I truly believe the best is yet to come.

Warmly,

**Gina Nemo**

Founder & Editor  
**805 Casting Magazine**



# KYLE R FULLER

Ventura Veteran, Actor, and Advocate for Veteran Artists

Hailing from **Ventura, CA**, **Kyle R. Fuller** is an actor, military veteran, and creative force whose work spans film, television, and service-driven advocacy. With a growing list of credits on **IMDb**, Fuller’s screen presence continues to expand — and so does his mission to support veterans in the arts.

Recent roles include **Derek Hunter** in *My Boomerang: The Series* (2025), **Sgt. Knox** in *The Final Patriot* (2025), **Metal Man** in *MegaHeroeZ 2.0* (2025), and **Jethro** in *Bunzy’s Winter Camp* (2025). He also appears in the upcoming *Dustslickers* (post-production), showcasing his versatility across genres and formats.

Beyond acting, Fuller brings his military experience to the arts in multiple ways. He teaches weapons workshops for actors preparing for realistic on-screen roles, and he serves on the board of **Heroic Arts Alliance**, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering actors who are also veterans. Through the organization, Fuller helps veterans connect with creative opportunities, build community, and amplify their voices through performance.

For Fuller, storytelling isn’t just a craft — it’s a way to honor service, foster personal growth, and create meaningful pathways for veterans in the entertainment industry. His career exemplifies how artistry and advocacy can intersect, showing that the creative arts can play a transformative role in veteran wellness, transition, and empowerment.

**“Being a veteran in the arts gives me purpose, community, and a platform to help others thrive.”**





## An interview with Michael Shanahan of STUPID COURAGE PRODUCTIONS

By Micheal Frances



The premise is, admittedly, a bit outlandish. Launching a film, stage, and musical production company when you are in your 60s or 70s requires a specific brand of audacity. It's the kind of boldness that whispers "do it anyway!" even as logistics scream "are you crazy?" It's exactly why we named our company **STUPID COURAGE PRODUCTIONS**.

This interview, for *805 Casting*, brings together the partners behind the venture.

**Micheal Frances**

(psychotherapist and producer) sits down with creative partner, **Michael Shanahan** (former lawyer and returning director) to discuss the "second act" of a creative life.

**Micheal Frances: Tell us about your directing. When did you first realize you wanted to direct?**

**Michael Shanahan:** That realization hit me long before I ever thought about a law degree. In my early twenties, I realized I didn't just want to be *in* the story; I wanted to shape it. I was captivated by the idea of giving form to a vision and managing that electric energy between the actors and the audience. It was about the vision of the whole piece.

**Micheal Frances: What were your early experiences as a director before life took you on a different path?**

**Michael Shanahan:** My early

years were spent in the theater program at California State University, Sacramento. A standout moment was in the early 1970s when I directed a one-act play titled **PORCH**. I cast a young student named **Tom Hanks** who was just as brilliant then as you'd imagine. He received an acting award for his performance in that production. It was a thrilling time, but eventually, financial restraints meant sidelining my artistic dreams for a more "practical" career trajectory.

**Micheal Frances: MORNING SUN is an interesting choice of material for your return to the stage. Why did you choose it?**

**Michael Shanahan:** I've always been drawn to stories that



explore the quiet, complicated interiors of human life. *MORNING SUN* is a masterpiece of subtext—it's about the passage of time and the weight of things left unsaid. It celebrates the beauty and tenacity of an ordinary life. At this stage of my life, those themes resonate deeply. I felt I had gained life experience and the wisdom to do the material justice. And it met my requirement for a focus on acting, and not on sets and effects.

**Micheal Frances: Tell us about your biggest challenge directing *MORNING SUN*.**

**Michael Shanahan:** Trust. I had to trust the material, the cast, the audience, and—most importantly—my own instincts again. A play that is constantly shifting time, place, and characters could have been a mess. We had to trust that our work would translate to the audience, who were required to use their imagination with us.

**Micheal Frances: What were the surprises during the production?**

**Michael Shanahan:** The most wonderful surprise was the sheer synergy of the cast. I wanted talent who could collaborate with me in creating this vision. We were incredibly fortunate to find actresses like **McKenna Turner**, **Meredith McMinn**, and **Anna-Maria Strickland**. They didn't just play roles; they channeled truths. Watching them create and inhabit these characters with such vulnerability was a daily revelation.

**Micheal Frances: If you had a magic wand and you could have any wish fulfilled, what's next for you as an actor-director in Ventura County?**

**Michael Shanahan:** I hope our example will inspire a more vibrant, risk-taking creative community right here in the 805. I love seeing more "seasoned" artists dusting off their own dreams. I hope to do more performing as I grow into older parts. As a director, I'm drawn to characters later in life dealing with major life issues. Strong older female roles seem especially

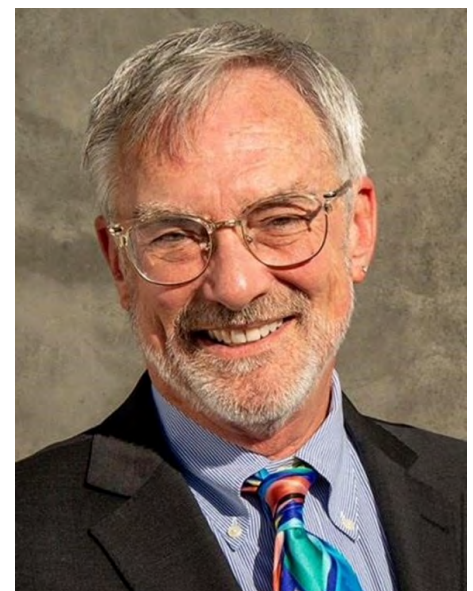
underrepresented, and I'd love to fix that. Specifically, I want to show that age only adds depth and wisdom to a performance.

**Micheal Frances: What future projects are you contemplating?**

**Michael Shanahan:** We just completed the film script for **WE:WA'S DREAM**. It's a project that's been on our radar for almost a decade and truly embodies the optimism of resurrecting an old dream. It's an historically inspired tale of misfits finding their power in the 1890's. The main character is a Zuni two-spirit. We're also exploring several screenplay ideas and a tv comedy series. I'm looking at scripts for my next directing challenge. And of course, I'm proudly following my husband's expanding career in singing and performing.

**Micheal Frances: Where can people follow you and keep track of your progress?**

**Michael Shanahan:** You can follow our journey, see updates on our latest projects, and connect with us at [www.stupidcourageproductions.com](http://www.stupidcourageproductions.com). We're just getting started—we've dusted off the dream, and now the real work begins.



# TEEN SPOTLIGHT

## HEITTOR D'MELO

**Heittor D'Melo** is a Brazilian-born actor raised in Florida who has quickly emerged as a promising young talent with a natural gift for comedy and on-screen presence. While living in Georgia, he participated in the pilot *The Servant*, working alongside established actors including Kevin Sorbo and Brendan Fraser. He moved to California in 2024.

Most recently, he stepped into his first leading role in the short film *Children at Play*, an upcoming project that highlights his growth as a young actor capable of balancing humor with emotional authenticity.

In 2025, Heittor collaborated with Nintendo on a commercial campaign for the new *Pokémon Professor* game, marking another significant milestone in his growing career. He has since appeared in vertical series and short films, taking on increasingly layered roles while continuing to showcase his natural comedic strengths.



## Eli Jesse Lipkin

**Eli Jesse Lipkin** was born in Ventura, California, and showed remarkable curiosity from an early age. A precocious and imaginative learner, he eagerly explored subjects ranging from tectonic plates and sharks to science fiction and fantasy.

As he grew, Eli's focus turned toward the arts. He now dedicates himself to studying acting, creative writing, and music theory. A voracious reader with a strong work ethic, he approaches every role and creative endeavor with enthusiasm and discipline.

Eli's screen credits include Jethro Lane in *My Boomerang: The Series*, Victor the Villain in *MegaHeroZ Cooking Academy*, Damon in the short film *Bunzzy's Winter Camp*, and a role in the feature film *The Simian Trials*.



# TERES ROCHELLE

## An 805 Creative Force



### How did growing up in Ojai shape you as an artist?

Growing up in Ojai rooted me in beauty, creativity, and healing. My mom and I lived very hands-on—we rode horses, tended gardens, canned fruit, baked bread, and even made soap. I was always creating, from painting designs on gourds and turning them into jewelry boxes to sewing my own clothes and even the curtains for our house. If something was needed on the ranch and we didn't have it, I figured out how to make it. That resourcefulness became part of my artistic identity. Creativity wasn't separate from life—it was life.

### You work across acting, dance, music, and art. Which discipline grounds you the most?

I've expressed myself through multiple art forms for as long as I can remember, and choosing just one would feel incomplete. I move through creativity in seasons. Painting grounds and quiets me. Acting challenges me and asks

for vulnerability. Dance feels like pure freedom, and music feeds my soul. Writing is another outlet—I have a poem published in a New Zealand collection, wrote a mystery novel in 2020, and I'm currently gathering more work for a future book.

### Was there a turning point in your career?

A defining moment was being cast as the lead in a feature film created to inspire and help people around the world. When it was distributed internationally, it shifted my perspective on storytelling as a form of service. More recently, I worked with filmmaker Gina Nemo on a film she wrote, directed, and produced, where I again played the lead. That performance earned me a Best Actress award in Europe and reinforced how meaningful storytelling can be.

### How do dance and music influence your acting?

Dance and music naturally shape my performances. The lyrical dance I love tells emotional stories through

movement, which gives me a strong awareness of body language and connection with other actors. Music influences me just as deeply—much of what I play centers on healing and hope, and that intention carries into every role.

### What challenges come with being a multi-hyphenate today?

The biggest challenge is focus. Acting today requires enormous time and energy—from networking and social media to staying aware of industry trends. Balancing that while honoring my other creative outlets takes discipline, but I've come to see being multidimensional not as a weakness, but as an expansion.

### What advice would you give aspiring 805 performers?

If performing is truly in your heart, pursue it and don't let anyone stop you. Go at your own pace, stay positive, and be kind to everyone you meet. Trust your instincts, let your personality shine, and enjoy the journey.



# BELLE NEMO

## From Ojai to Los Angeles

From the quiet, tree-lined hills of Ojai to the bustling soundstages of the Los Angeles area, Nemo has always been a storyteller. Now, as a student at the University of Southern California and an active professional in the film industry, she is carving out a path that bridges the gap between scientific inquiry and artistic expression.

Her journey began in Ojai at just two years old. Surrounded by a deeply artistic community, her early childhood was grounded in a place known for nurturing individuality and imagination. That foundation expanded when her family lived in England, an experience that deepened her global perspective early on.

Returning to Ojai, Belle attended several institutions, each contributing to a thoughtful, creative, and self-directed education. She found a second home at Oak Grove School, which she credits as fundamental in shaping her early perspectives. She remains deeply grateful to the mentors who guided her during her childhood.

Reflecting on that nurturing environment, she notes: "I think Oak Grove School, as well as my secondary education, was one of the many experiences in my personal journey that showed me the profound impacts a teacher and learning environment can have on a developing mind--not just in a student's academic performance, but in a young person's world outlook; that of which, of course, extends into every aspect of an individual's journey... Teachers really do make a difference."

That curiosity carried into her later academic path at El Camino High School in Ventura, where she excelled in independent study. She remains deeply grateful for her peers, teachers, and support figures during those years, the Ojai and Ventura Rotary Clubs, the Ventura Elks Club, and the community as a whole.



Following her time at UC Berkeley, Belle embraced a period of intentional exploration, navigating different fields before arriving at her current calling. This season of growth taught her the value of resilience, confirming that her current path was chosen with purpose and maturity. It ultimately led her to USC, where she is currently balancing her studies with her professional pursuits.

Deeply grateful for the faculty who believed in her during this "foundational" period, she is driven by a desire to make a tangible difference. As she explains:

"Sometimes one of the biggest differences you can make is in ensuring another person feels seen and heard."

As a dramatic actor with over a decade of professional experience, Belle is also an animator and writer. At

USC, she is passionate about themes surrounding mental health, pairing her studies in cognitive sciences with her work in visual and performance arts. Whether acting in dramas and comedies, or working in scriptwriting or post-production, she credits her current opportunities to her "found families." She is currently working on her first animated short film, while crewing on other projects. She views varied roles—such as assistant directing to VFX supervising—not as separate interests, but as pieces of a larger whole. "I throw all of my varied experiences into my own little creative toolbox."

It is a toolbox built on the roots of an Ojai childhood, tempered by a journey of resilience, and sharpened by a variety of academic environments. As Belle continues to refine her crafts, she remains driven with purpose she continues to define: perhaps to explore intertwined worlds of science and art in the pursuit of meaningful storytelling.

She hopes to make her community proud.



# LORRAINE KAISER'S SECOND ACT:

## From Healthcare Executive to Rising Screen Actor



After two decades in healthcare leadership, Lorraine Kaiser is building momentum in film and television with roles in *Vande Bharat via USA* and *My Boomerang: The Series*.

In an industry that celebrates reinvention, my journey into acting didn't begin early—but it began decisively. Over the past two years, I've steadily built momentum in film and television, stepping into roles that reflect both my life experience and my passion for dramatic storytelling.

My path into acting was anything but conventional. Before stepping onto a set, I spent two decades working in healthcare on the business side, eventually rising to a Vice President position. On paper it looked like success, but creatively I felt stuck. The corporate world no longer offered room to grow. If I were a flower, I was wilting.

Then one day I had a simple thought: what if I tried background acting? That small step changed everything.

Within a short time, I moved from background work into speaking roles. One of my most exciting projects has been the feature film *Vande Bharat via USA*, a Gujarati-language romance where I play Jennifer, the mother of the lead actress. The role allowed me to explore emotional depth within a culturally rich story.

I also landed a recurring role in *My Boomerang: The Series*, portraying Victoria Sinclair, a high-status Hollywood agent. The character's polished authority feels natural after years spent in executive leadership.

Beyond acting, I've also stepped into entertainment media as a co-host of *Splattervision*, a horror-movie review show presented by *Silverscreen Previews* alongside film critic Rob Martin. Discussing upcoming releases and industry trends has deepened my appreciation of films from both sides of the camera.

As an actor, I'm drawn to characters with strength and complexity. I love playing high-society women—elegant, composed, and commanding—but I'm equally drawn to doctors and nurses. After years in healthcare, I understand how those professionals carry themselves and the confidence that comes from knowing you can help people.

Drama is where my heart lives as an actor. It's where emotion becomes raw and audiences connect with something real.

Recently, I signed with Golden Artists Entertainment in Los Angeles, which has opened the door to more auditions for supporting roles and nationwide commercial campaigns. Outside of acting, I also share fitness content on Instagram (@lorrainekaiser)—a passion I've had since I was a teenager recording Denise Austin workouts at 5:30 in the morning before school.

Looking ahead, I'd love to appear on a medical drama, blending my healthcare background with my acting career. I'm also inspired by performers like Rose Byrne, Jennifer Aniston, Cate Blanchett, and Patricia Arquette, whose work blends depth, intelligence, and humor.

Sometimes the most powerful reinvention happens when you allow yourself to grow in a completely new direction.

For me, acting is that direction—and it feels like the beginning of something much bigger.

<https://lorrainekaiser.com/>  
Instagram: @lorrainekaiser



# HEROIC ARTS ALLIANCE

Heroic Arts Alliance is dedicated to empowering veterans who are passionate actors in television and film. We provide support, resources, and community to help these talented individuals share their stories and enrich the arts. Through mentorship, workshops, and networking opportunities, we strive to honor their service while fostering a vibrant creative space that celebrates the unique perspectives of veteran artists."

Gina Nemo



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# Isabella D'Burke Tyler Hudson



## Isabella D'Burke

Isabella D'Burke is a dynamic actress who began her screen career after relocating to Ventura County in 2024. Since then, she has been training at Ventura Actors Studio under Gina Nemo while actively building experience on independent film sets throughout Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

Over the past year, Isabella has appeared in numerous films, gaining hands-on experience both in front of the camera and within the collaborative rhythm of film production. Through these projects, she has worked alongside a variety of directors, crews, and fellow actors, steadily refining her on-screen presence and deepening her approach to character-driven storytelling.

Before transitioning into film, Isabella spent over five years performing in musical theater and stage productions, where she developed a strong foundation in performance and character work. Her lifelong passion for storytelling continues to guide her work as she explores increasingly complex roles on screen.

In addition to acting, Isabella brings an extensive artistic and athletic background to her craft. She has more than 20 years of piano and vocal training, 10 years of flute, and over 15 years of competitive dance across eight styles. Her athletic experience includes collegiate track and cross country, boxing, and martial weapons training with swords, axes, and firearms. Whether on stage or on screen, Isabella approaches every role with intensity, discipline, and a commitment to constant growth.



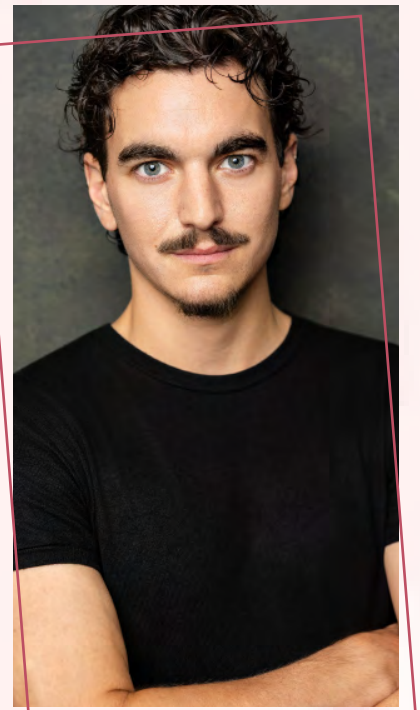
## Tyler Hudson

Minnesota-born and Ventura-based since Spring 2024, Tyler began acting after college and quickly developed a passion for storytelling on screen. Tyler started his career appearing in a Netflix series in Minnesota, and after spending a year and a half abroad in Scotland with his wife from 2022 to 2023, he relocated to Southern California and began training at the Ventura Actors Studio under Gina Nemo.

In the past year, Tyler has booked both lead and supporting roles in films across Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. His recent work has allowed him to build experience on a variety of independent film sets while continuing to refine his on-screen presence.

This spring, Tyler will take on the lead role in a dramatic short film slated for the festival circuit. The project marks an exciting step forward as he continues pursuing more substantial and emotionally driven roles.

A former collegiate athlete and musician, Tyler brings both discipline and creativity to his craft. With hand-to-hand combat training and a strong physical presence, he is especially drawn to roles that showcase his dramatic range and athleticism.



# BRENDAN O'NEILL

## From London to Ojai: Model, Dad, and Creative at Heart



Brendan O'Neill is a former international model, devoted father, and vibrant member of the Ojai community, whose journey has taken him from the bustling streets of London to Los Angeles, and finally to the serene, artistic landscape of Ojai, California.

Brendan's early career was marked by success in the world of fashion and modeling. Based in London, he traveled internationally, gracing runways and campaigns in major fashion capitals around the world. His work in front of the camera helped him develop a deep understanding of how to bring character and storytelling to life — skills that would later influence his evolving creative pursuits.

After spending several years in Los Angeles, Brendan's focus gradually shifted from the glamour of fashion to the joy and responsibility of fatherhood. Now based in Ojai, he is raising his son in a community deeply rooted in nature, art, and creativity. The move to Ojai has provided Brendan with the perfect environment to channel his experiences into supporting his son's creative growth while continuing to pursue his own interests in media, performance, and the arts.

On IMDb, Brendan has appeared in select film and television projects, bringing his unique presence and life experience to the screen. His work continues to reflect both

versatility and authenticity — qualities that first made him stand out in the modeling world and continue to resonate in his creative endeavors today.

Today, Brendan balances family life with artistic ambition, embodying the spirit of someone who has redefined success on his own terms. Whether collaborating on creative projects, mentoring young artists, or simply exploring the beauty of the Ojai landscape with his son, Brendan's story is one of reinvention, dedication, and heart.

- Cosmo



# KALEE VIDANAPATHIRANA

Cinematographer, Editor, and Nature Photographer



From capturing breathtaking moments in the natural world to shaping compelling stories on screen, Kalee Vidanapathirana is a creative force whose artistry bridges technical skill and visual storytelling.

On IMDb, Kalee is credited as a cinematographer, editor, and camera operator on projects

such as *The Final Patriot* (2025), *MegaHeroeZ 2.0* (2025), *I Always Wanted to Be a Gangster* (2024), *Shadow Farm* (2021), *My Boomerang* (2022). He also served as camera operator on the upcoming *Dustslickers* (post-production), showcasing his versatility in crafting the look and rhythm of diverse productions.

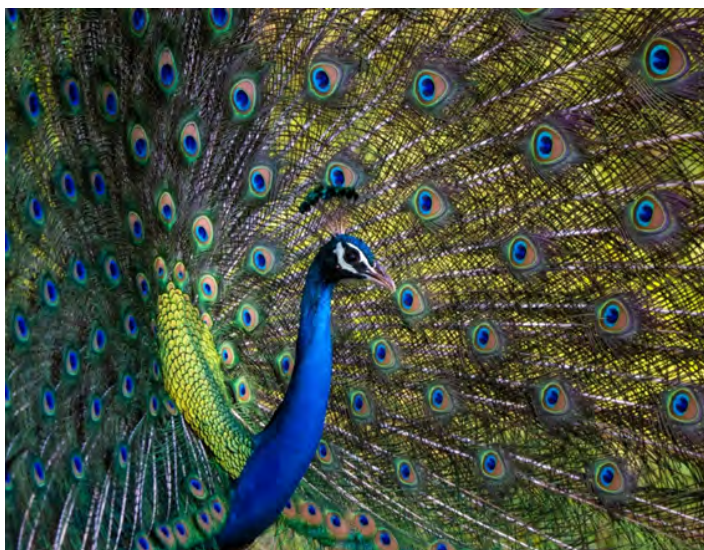
Photography has been a part of Kalee's life since age eight, when he discovered an old camcorder in his father's belongings. Shooting a dove on a power line from his apartment window in Sri Lanka became his first subject. Surrounded by tropical wildlife and inspired by his father, who was both a photographer and filmmaker, Kalee's love for nature

photography grew with him. Over the years, he's captured everything from birds to insects, sharing his work online through platforms like Project Noah and Instagram (@onerandomhero). "The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera," a quote from documentary photographer Dorothea Lange, reflects his approach to both photography and filmmaking.

Life has taken him from Sri Lanka to college in China and finally to the U.S., but his passion for capturing the natural world remains constant. For Kalee, photography

offers balance, creativity, and joy — a personal practice that continues to inspire both his work and those who view it.

Whether framing a cinematic scene or patiently waiting for the perfect moment in nature, Kalee Vidanapathirana demonstrates how storytelling, artistry, and technical mastery can coexist. His work celebrates the beauty of the world around us while reminding us that every story — on screen or in the wild — begins with observation and vision.



# FUN THINGS TO DO IN OJAI

## Last summer I accidentally discovered I like golf.



I am always looking for ways to have fun with my teenagers. Families that play together stay together, as they say. Slowly I convinced my fifteen year old son, Beau, to join me at Soule Park Golf Course. I had no idea what I was doing, just whacking balls at the range and in hindsight I would have taken lessons with Bob Garza, the Soule Park golf pro but that's not what I did. By the time I had a session with him he said I had a lot of bad habits to break. Bob, this ain't nothing but a swing, you should see the other bad habits I've broken. I highly recommend working with Bob.

None of this mattered for Beau, he watched enough YouTube instructionals to play well and quickly turn into my teacher. He also made the Nordhoff Golf Team even though he only played with me, ha!

I have lived in Ojai for twenty years and can't believe I have not taken advantage of what a great resource Soule Park is. It is one of the most economical options for recreation. I became a "member" which means I pay \$50 per month for daily range balls and get half off twilight tee times. You can rent a cart for a fee or walk the course. Every tee box has an incredible view of the Topa Topas or the back valley mountain. In the winter, sunset features one of the best vantage points for Ojai's Pink Moment.

Everyday we go to Soule Park (weather permitting which is almost always) and practice our drives, putts and chips. We play 9-holes at least twice a week, usually at twilight and play until it's too dark to see the ball. We've come to love the restaurant, Zadee's at the golf course. They have a simple well priced menu, the California Burger and Crispy Buffalo Chicken Sandwich are favorites. We can smell the charbroiled burgers at hole 9 and want one whether we are hungry or not. You can sit outside and enjoy the view or since we've already been on the course we like to sit inside, watch sports, socialize with the regulars – it really feels like Ojai's very own Cheers!

**Tracy Miller**  
[tmillerojai@gmail.com](mailto:tmillerojai@gmail.com)

Bob Garza  
541.480.4564

Lessons are 45 minutes for \$80, a package of 5 is \$350 and a package of 10 is \$675.



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# HEROIC ARTS ALLIANCE

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# ECONEMO

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