



## Anita Cordell: Making films that make a difference



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** In the beginning, it wasn't actress Anita Cordell's goal to actually make films. She says, "While I had been working hard to hone the craft of acting in film, a friend in the industry suggested that I join a 168 Film Project competition. Her challenge to me was to not only act in the film, but also to try my hand at producing it! To produce a film was definitely a stretch outside of my comfort zone."

Cordell states that initially she had to get past her own self-doubt and the fear to risk failure. "After I got past the insecurities that are involved

when you launch into a new project, it was not an option to fail. I was going to complete the task!" The film was called "Living Waters" (2011) and it brought two "firsts" to Ms. Cordell — the first time to wear the hat of film producer and her first nomination for best actress in a film.

The Midwestern filmmaker enjoyed the process so much that she established her own company, River Productions. "I had spent years working hard to become a credible actress, starting out on stage and then expanding to film." The actor turned producer says, "Working on the 168 Project was an opportunity to take the next step and start to produce content. Establishing a production company helped to mesh those two worlds. In the whole process, I've been able to go a step further and actually utilize filmmaking to advocate for causes that can potentially change lives."

In 2016 the I Will Rise Project was born when the decision was made to promote awareness of the sex trade industry. Cordell says, "I Will Rise is not simply a

project; my hope is that it will be a movement to implore the community to take a stand against violence, including human trafficking.” Through River Productions, two films have been made with the intent to provide education and equipping to those motivated to bring change. Both “House Mother” (2016) and “A Dangerous Profession” (2017) are being shown across the country at film festivals, and will soon be utilized by organizations combating the sex trade industry.

Looking to the future, Ms. Cordell is pleased to share her next film project, “Cry Purple.” Anita says that the story will focus on the life of Christine McDonald, the biographical author of the book “Cry Purple.” “Christine’s story is one that needs to be told. It encompasses almost two decades of the life she experienced as a prostitute, in and out of prison, with a cocaine addiction ... and brings her full circle to her restored life of happiness in the present. As a producer and director, I am excited to step into the challenge of my first feature length film project.”

Anita Cordell and River Productions look forward to continuing the creation of films that make a difference.

Anita Cordell’s production and directorial awards are as follows:

2018:

“A Dangerous Profession” (2017)

Produced and directed by Anita Cordell, River Productions

- Awarded the Judges Choice Award by the Human Trafficking Awareness Film Festival.

2017:

“A Dangerous Profession” (2017)

Produced and directed by Anita Cordell, River Productions

- Awarded the Silver Crown Award (2nd place on production value) by the ICVM (International Christian Video and Media).
- Nominated for the categories of Best Director, Best Short Film, Best Script, and Most Uplifting by the ICFF (International Christian Film Festival).
- Nominated Short Film Finalist by the BEACON Victims of Crime Film Festival.

2016:

“House Mother” (2016)

Produced by and starred in, Anita Cordell, River Productions

- Awarded the Silver Award by the Kingdomwood Film Festival House.
- Awarded the Audience Choice Award by the Clean shorts film Festival.
- Awarded Best Actress in a Short Film by ICFF (International Family Film Festival).
- Nominated for the categories of Best Director, Best Short Film, Best Actress at ICFF.

2015:

“Charismata” (2012)

Produced by and starred in Anita Cordell, River Productions.

- Awarded the Director’s Choice Award by the Attic Film Festival.
- Nominated for the category of Best Short Film by the International Family Film Festival.

2012:

“Pinky Promise” (2012)

Co-produced by and starred Anita Cordell, River Productions

- Nominated for the role of Best Actress in a Short Film by the Gideon Film Festival.

2010:

“Living Waters” (2010)

Produced by and starred Anita Cordell, River Productions

- Nominated for the role of Best Actress in a Short Film by the Gideon Film Festival.

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**About Anita Cordell:**

Anita Cordell is an award-winning actress, producer and director based in Kansas City. To date, she has over 50 IMDB credited films and 100 regional commercials on her resume. Anita has been involved with the Kansas City Women in Film since 2014 where she has had the privilege to serve as VP as well as a board member. For more information about Anita Cordell, please feel free to visit:

Anita’s website: <http://anita-cordell.com>

Anita’s Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/actressanita/>

Anita Cordell on IMDb: <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2718789/?ref =nv sr 1>

**About the I Will Rise Project:**

The I Will Rise Project was founded to help educate and bring awareness to the devastation caused by the sex/porn industry. The I Will Rise Project was key in helping to make the red-carpet prerelease event for “Same Kind of Different as Me” happen. For more information about the I Will Rise Project:

<https://www.facebook.com/IWillRiseProject/>

**About River Productions:**

Wanting to produce films that will make a difference, Anita Cordell formed River Productions, LLC. To date, the company has produced several award-winning shorts, with their first feature now in pre-production. For more information about River Productions:

<https://www.facebook.com/RiverProductions/>