**BACKGROUND**

I am a filmmaker, writer, and a 2021 [Guggenheim Fellow](https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/alison-mcalpine/), currently writing a screenplay inspired by my grandfather, whose story has been buried in my family for years.

My grandmother never spoke about her husband, Dr. Procter; if he was mentioned, the topic soon changed. My mum never met him, knew almost nothing about him. When my grandmother died some twenty years ago, I interviewed family, my grandparents’ friends, following clues to landscapes and people my grandparents knew. I began meeting with doctors in recovery in the US, Canada and Scotland, extraordinary physicians who are answering my questions; leading me to resources and contacts; sharing with me their lives. What is emerging is a complex, human story of a brilliant, kind doctor who was a drug addict. And the story of his wife in the shadows, the hidden sorrow and shame of my grandmother.

**SYNOPSIS AND ASPIRATIONS**

An archivist works by day in a prestigious university medical library. By night she descends into her personal archive, a vast shadowy world of objects, clues and evidence from the 1920s-40s which she has gathered, organized and constructed over years. She is investigating the mysterious secret life of her grandfather, cultivating archival rituals and routines in an attempt to order the past, orient herself and find the truth behind this complex tale. Yet like her family before her, she cannot contain or erase what is haunting her. This film is a cinematic, detective journey into the remarkable world of a doctor-opioid addict, an encounter with unforgettable characters including doctors in recovery today.

With DR. PROCTER, I aim to make an extraordinary film which speaks to something universal; a film which defies preconceptions about drug addiction, reduces stigma and inspires doctors, who are sick but scared to ask for help, to come forward; a film where the audience is compelled to feel as I do: that “addict” could be me.

**MY REQUEST TO DOCTORS IN RECOVERY**

I would love to hear your stories of addiction and recovery, have the opportunity to ask you questions. Anonymity will be honoured. Participant doctors in recovery will also act as advisors as the film moves forward; be invited to screenings at various stages (rough cuts, sample scenes); coach actors or doctors in recovery appearing in the film.

North America and many parts of the world are experiencing an opioid crisis and a public health emergency. It is the right time to tell this story.

**MY WORK**

Please see the [trailer](https://vimeo.com/438391369) of my recent film, CIELO.

“… McAlpine conveys the sky’s profound relationship to memory, family, spirituality, history and heritage. This majestic movie… looks up in order to look within.“- Variety [Read Reviews](https://cielo-thefilm.com/press/reviews/)

<http://alisonmcalpine.com/>

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