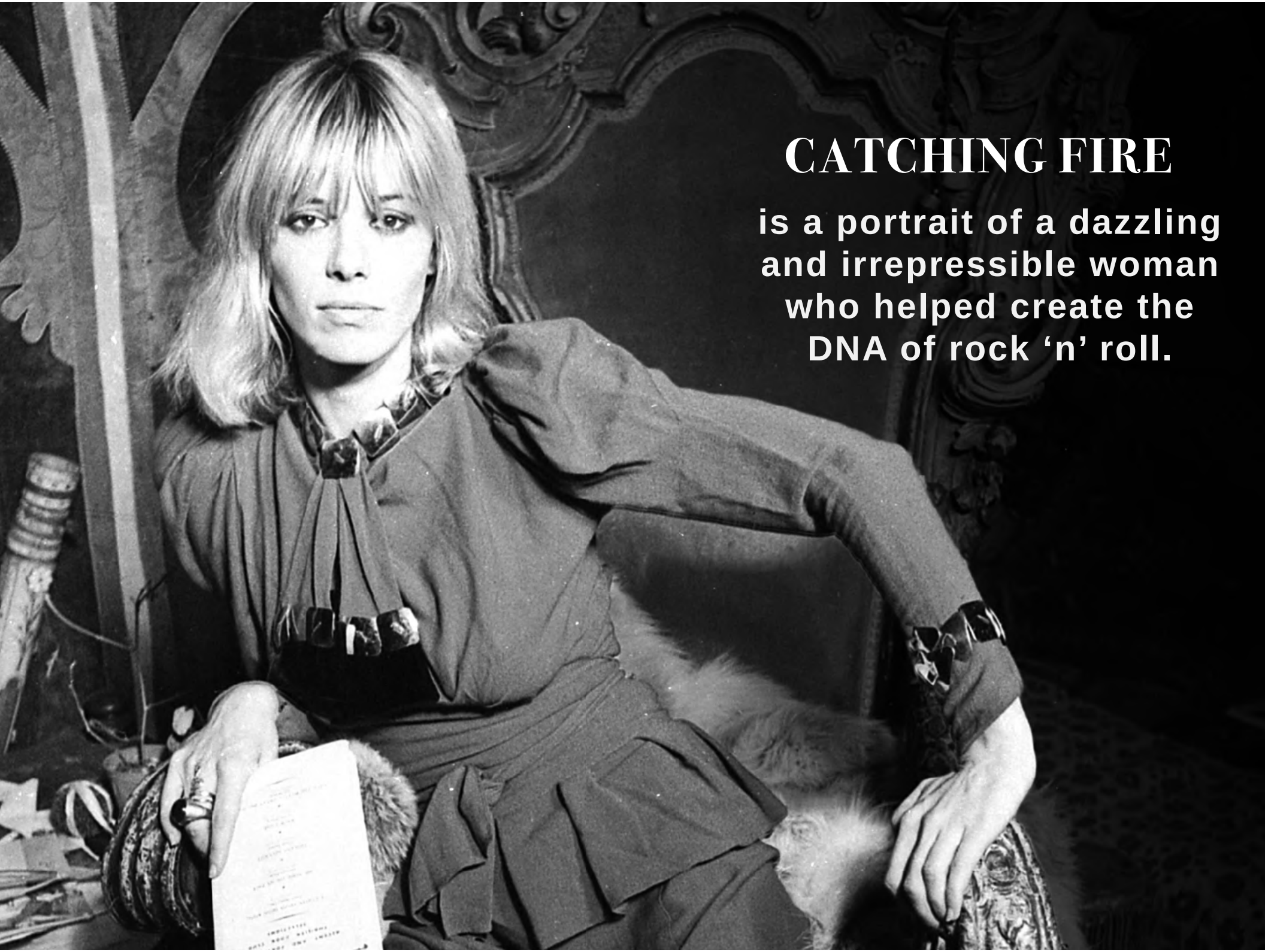

FESTIVAL DE CANNES
CANNES CLASSICS
2023 OFFICIAL SELECTION
CATCHING FIRE
The Story of Anita Pallenberg


CATCHING FIRE
is a portrait of a dazzling and irrepressible woman who helped create the DNA of rock ‘n’ roll.

SYNOPSIS

This intimate documentary reveals the story of an unapologetic rock ‘n’ roller, actress, muse and mother who rose to prominence in the 1960s and 1970s. Using the words of her unpublished memoir, Anita draws us deep into her world, with the help of a supporting cast that includes her family - Marlon, Angela, and their father Keith Richards.

Never-seen-before home movies and family photographs explore life with the Rolling Stones: this is a bittersweet tale of both triumph and heartbreak. From Barbarella to the Swiss Alps, and the Lower East Side of New York, Anita Pallenberg was a woman ahead of her time.

THE WORDS OF ANITA PALLENBERG ARE READ BY SCARLETT JOHANSSON









ANITA PALLENBERG

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL (1967)



“People think of Anita in one way – a 60s muse, all that shit – but she was so much more than that. A really talented artist, a great actor, intelligent, funny, thoughtful, fearless… she truly didn’t give a fuck what anybody thought of her.”

MARIANNE FAITHFULL



“She knew everything, and she could say it in five languages. She scared the pants off me.”

KEITH RICHARDS

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

CATCHING FIRE is a truly hand-made film by two directors motivated by the desire to create something lasting, and personal.

It's a film about family, made by family: Alexis and Svetlana were brought the idea in 2020 by Marlon Richards, the son of Anita Pallenberg and Keith Richards, who wanted his mother's story to be told in all its complexity. The directors have worked closely with Anita's inner circle over the course of three years, and the result is a private view of a life that was often lived in public.

The Super 8mm home movies woven throughout the documentary are the purest expression of this intimacy.

CATCHING FIRE is very much an expression of the honesty and love in Anita's family, but it's no hagiography. Anita was famous for her biting sense of humor and her contempt of false praise.

This film bucks the trend of "branded content" and "celebrity bios" by embracing both the bitter and the sweet, the heartbreak as well as the triumph. Anita Pallenberg is a true anti-hero, an antidote to corporate messaging.







DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT
[CONT'D]

The directors approached the film as an act of historical reclamation: putting the female perspective back in the official narrative of rock 'n' roll, making Anita visible again.

For Alexis and Svetlana, CATCHING FIRE was a deliberate recalibrating of history, and a celebration of an unapologetic leader.

Anita was doubtless a muse to many, and she continues to be an inspiration to the directors. In the words of one of Anita's grandchildren: "Anita was the original gangster; she was 'girl power' to the end."

Alexis and Svetlana developed the film with the conviction that something this personal can become universal. Anita struggled to balance her own professional life with the needs of her partner, motherhood with a desire for freedom – her themes are absolutely contemporary.

The directors hope that Anita's humor – and theirs - shine through a story that's unsparing at times. Anita took risks, and so did the directors: this is an immersive documentary with a style and rhythm all of its own.


“She was everything you want a rockstar to be – or for me, everything you want a woman to be.”
KATE MOSS



ALEXIS BLOOM
DIRECTOR

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Alexis now lives in New York. In her early career, she produced widely for the National Geographic Channel, and for BBC World. She also produced extensively for PBS Frontline and NOVA.
In 2014, Alexis won the Producers Guild of America Award for *We Steal Secrets: The Story of WikiLeaks*, a feature documentary for Universal Pictures, also nominated for a BAFTA Award. In 2017, she was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Directing for Nonfiction Programming, and an Emmy for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking (*Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds*, for HBO.) Alexis directed, *Divide and Conquer: The Story of Roger Ailes* and was nominated for an Emmy Award in 2019. Alexis' films have shown in film festivals around the world: the Cannes Film Festival, Telluride, Toronto, and the New York Film Festival to name a few.



SVETLANA ZILL
DIRECTOR

Svetlana Zill is a filmmaker born and raised in New York City. She has worked as a producer for some of the most renowned documentarians of our time including Alex Gibney, Errol Morris, and Morgan Spurlock. She began her career as an archival researcher on Michael Moore's *Capitalism: A Love Story* and Mike Mills' *Beginners*, and worked as a consulting producer for the Academy Award nominated *Cutie and the Boxer*, which also won an Emmy.

Her work explores an impressive range of subjects that include vast CIA conspiracies, eccentric sports fans, pop culture icons and fine artists, and has been presented by HBO, Showtime, Netflix, PBS and The New York Times. CATCHING FIRE is Svetlana's directorial debut.

DIRECTORS
ALEXIS BLOOM, SVETLANA ZILL

PRODUCER
CHARLIE CORWIN

PRODUCERS
ALEXIS BLOOM, SVETLANA ZILL

EDITED BY
HANNAH VANDERLAN, ADAM EVANS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
MARLON RICHARDS, SIDNEY KIMMEL, JO HENRIQUEZ, BRIAN KORNREICH, FISHER STEVENS

VOICE OF ANITA BY
SCARLETT JOHANSSON

PRODUCED BY
SK GLOBAL ENTERTAINMENT

DURATION: 1 HOUR 52 mins



CATCHING FIRE

The Story of Anita Pallenberg



SK GLOBAL
AN ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

CINETIC

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