I was excited "I" in two days. Till I saw the person I was. I was ready to say good bye to them.

Nervous/EXCITED! I had no idea what to expect. but I had worked hard to get to this point and it was my turn to finally be the real me.

Didn't feel any Chenges, still looked Some. But was hap that I was on ho and that I was doi myself.

# A RELATIONSHIP IN TRANSITION

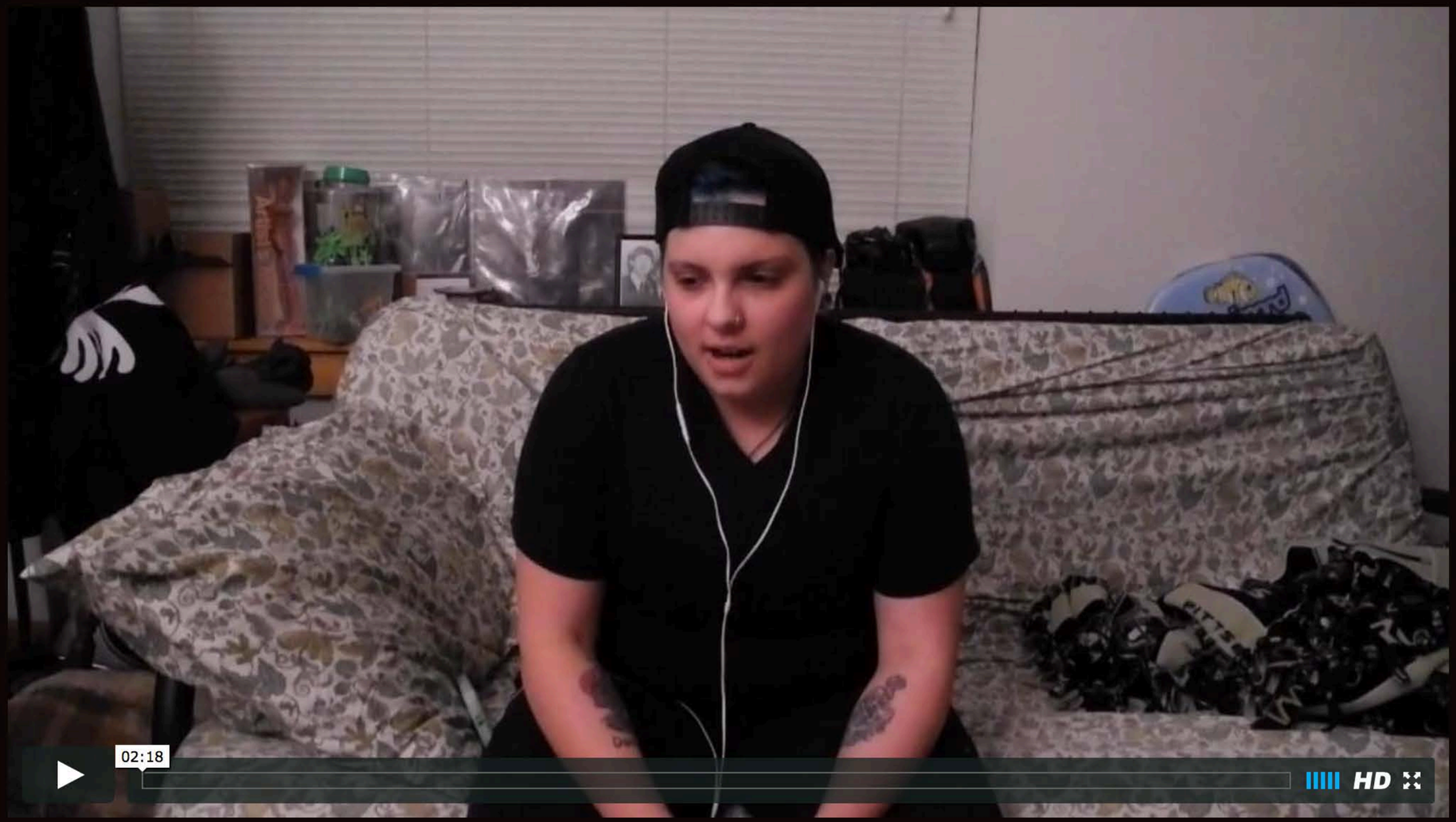
Ourselves is a multimedia documentary following Mikey and DJ, a transgender couple. Both are transitioning from female to male. The project was designed to focus on the emotional aspects of transition in contrast to the process. Ourselves began three months into their transition. Although having a partner to share a personal journey with can be beneficial, such dramatic change can have a heavy toll on a relationship. Mikey and DJ aren't just changing physically, mentally this process has been as challenging as it has been rewarding. Not only are they transitioning, their relationship is also.

# TRAILER

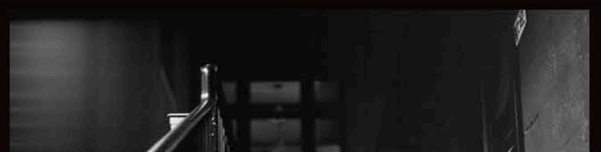
# VISUAL

September 2015: "If it wasn't for me, then this wouldn't have happened. Cause, you know. I had to find out that he liked mustaches and I had a tank top that said 'Free Mustache Ride.' So I had to be like, you know, 'Oh, hey! You should check out my shirt."

"It was a really weird way of meeting..."




October- December 2015: November marks six months of taking testosterone shots. A shot is administered to the upper leg muscle every two weeks. The leg that receives the shot is alternated, so each leg has testosterone injected once a month.



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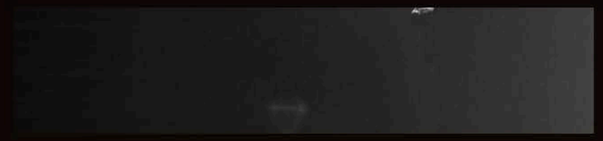

BOY

February 2016: "We didn't really expect how to feel around this time. But, we did kind of agree that we didn't know where we were going to be... after a while. Like, we weren't really sure how we were going to feel." -Mikey

After slowly becoming more independent in their processes and disagreeing on moving in the Spring, Mikey and DJ end their relationship. At this time they had still resided in the same apartment and interacted very much as close friends. Mikey had begun to sleep on the futon in the spare bedroom.

February 2016: "We didn't really expect how to feel around this time. But, we did kind of agree that we didn't know where we were going to be... after a while. Like, we weren't really sure how we were going to feel." -Mikey

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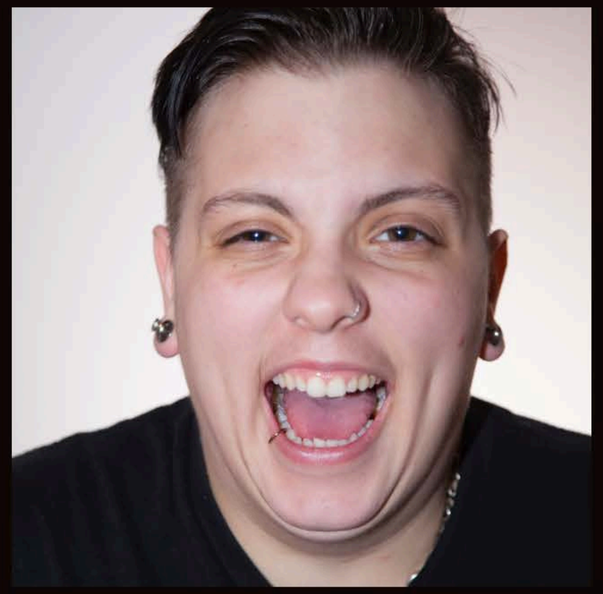
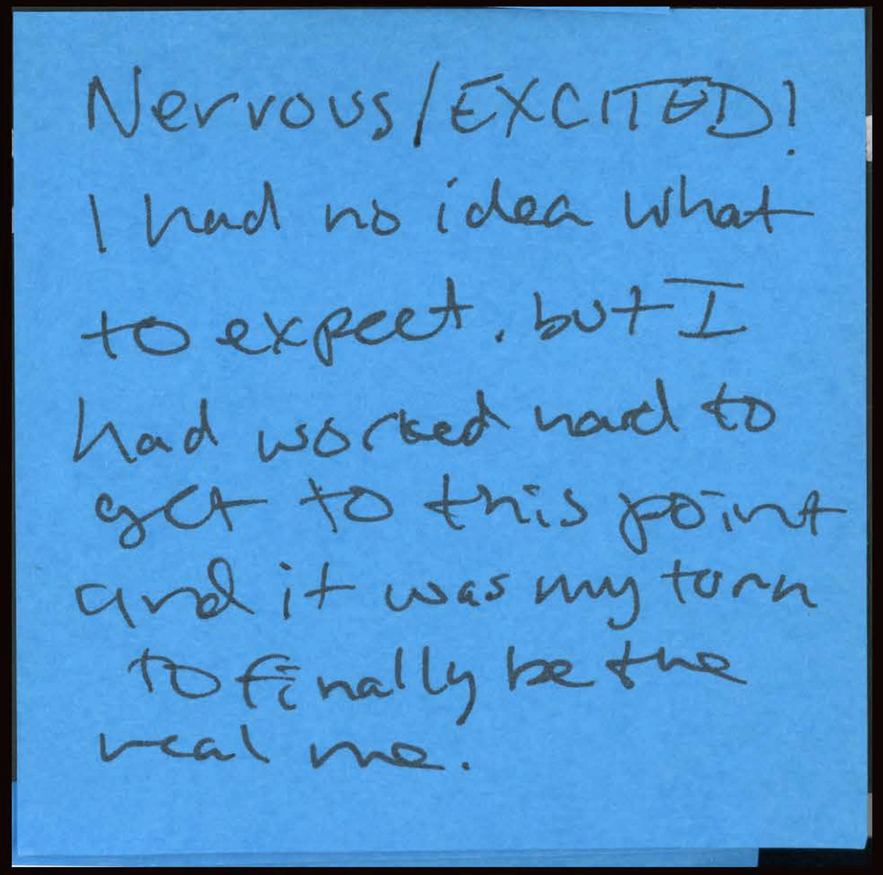


5/19/13
11/21/13

DJ and Mikey (left and right respectively) have changed both physically and emotionally throughout transition. Often concerned that their transition isn't happening fast enough, these changes are a sigh of relief.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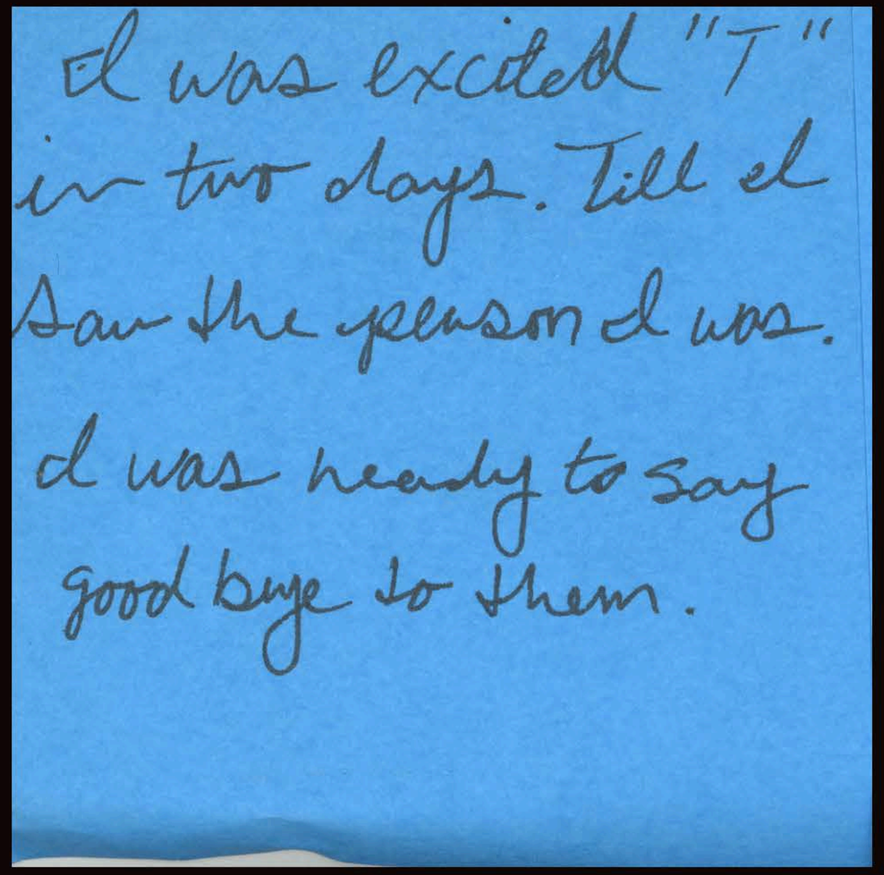
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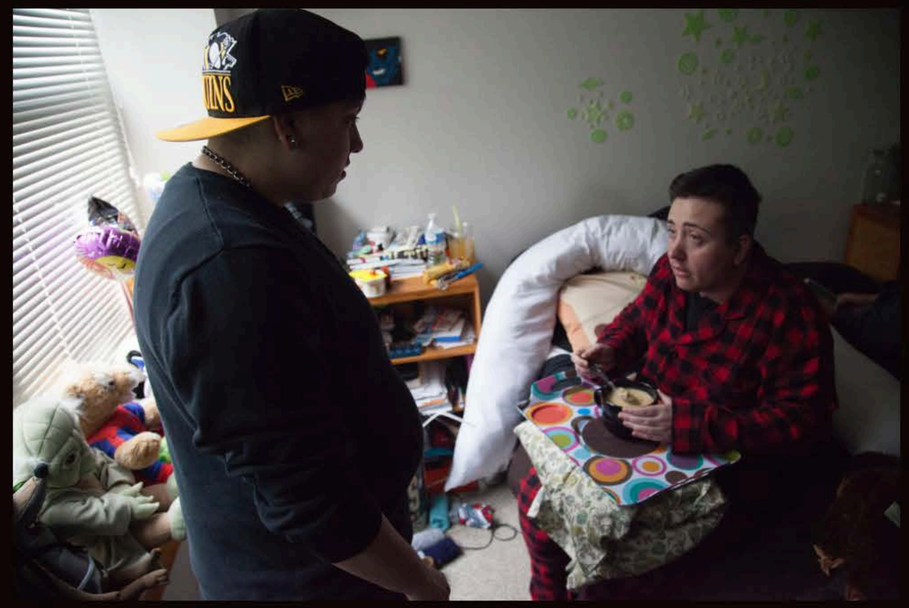

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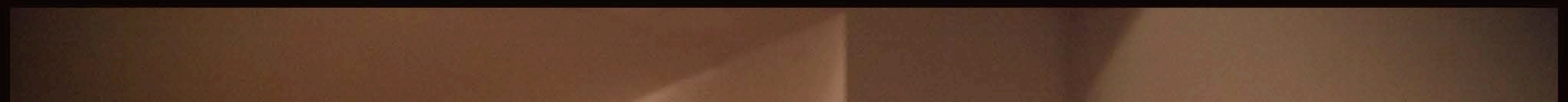

Ourselves is a multimedia project focused on the emotional impact of transgender individuals transitioning to the opposite sex. Although someone whom identifies as transgender may not seek transition, this project will concentrate only on individuals who are actively in transition. Transgender rights have been a relevant topic in public eye as of late. Celebrities such as Laverne Cox from the show Orange is the New Black and former Olympian Caitlyn Jenner have aided in public interest.

Though this topic has had extensive coverage in recent press, I felt that most popular coverage has been about individuals after the long process of transitioning. General interest, it seems, is about how an individual looks or whether they have had reconstructive surgery regarding their sexual organs. Ourselves is designed to shed light on the small day to day conflicts and victories associated with transitioning. The project is being made with the intention of existing as an online multimedia piece. The final result will include documentary video, video journal entries, stills, writings, and links to the blogs of my subjects.

The subjects of Ourselves are Mikey Stipkovits and DJ (Dane) Kunst. Both of them are currently in transition from female to male. Though this process is unique in itself, they’re doing something extraordinary. Mikey and DJ are a couple transitioning together, taking testosterone at the same time. They had vowed to stay together, even as their relationship itself was changing. Before both of them came out as transgender, they identified as a lesbian couple. This process is complicated to do alone and doing it together has brought support and conflict. Although having another to speak to that knows exactly what you’re going through is beneficial, it also brings unwanted comparison and sometimes lack of compassion.

The story of Ourselves has continued to follow DJ and Mikey throughout transition. Both have noticed changes in themselves and each other. They don’t seem to speak about the transition to one another as openly as they did in the early phases. Mikey will be moving back to Pittsburgh in April, alone. Ourselves is titled exactly how it is meant, something that is plural yet individual at the same time.

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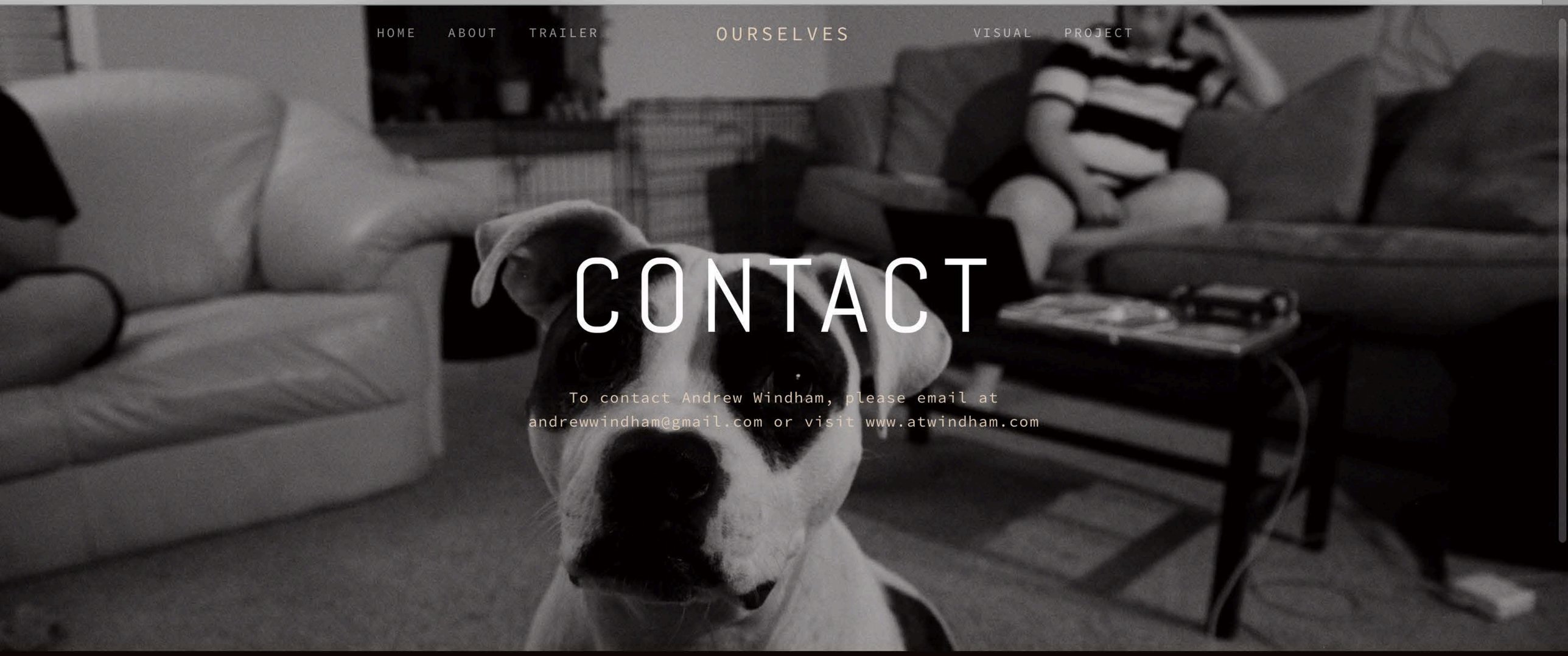

# CONTACT

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Last Name

Email Address *

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Email Address *

Subject *

Message *

SUBMIT

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