

## MELANIE

My name is Melanie. I'm from Marietta, Georgia. Deborah McNary made a film called Ragged Heart with her brother, Evan. We went out to Athens for the hometown premiere. We were walking up to Cine, there are twenty to thirty people standing outside, and a woman comes out and says, please form a line — so they can check vaccinations cards. And, nobody moves. It's like we've all forgotten how to cue. This woman behind me says, did none of y'all go to kindergarten? I taught kindergarten for forty years. I know how to form a line. We get inside. It's packed. The screen lights up, and the movie is so good. It's this raw story about family and music, with lots of local artists in the film. Some of them are playing characters and some of them are playing themselves. And there's this beautiful scene where there are a bunch of children running wild in tall grass, and I realized that the kids are sitting behind me, but they're older now. At the heart of this movie is this question of how do you move forward when you have nothing left? And the answer is: you just keep going.