

TOP OF THE ROCK

A SHORT FILM BY JES BICKHART | WWW.TOPOFTHEROCKMOVIE.COM



TOP OF THE ROCK

Electronic Press Kit
Updated June 23, 2015

Production Notes

Running time: 8:15 Minutes

Format: Theatrical Digital Cinema Print (DCP), HDCAM
Aspect Ratio: 2.40, Sound format: Dolby LtRt

www.topoftherockmovie.com

www.jesbickhart.com

Screeners Available upon request

For USA Press, Sales and Festival Inquiries Contact:

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Liam Alex Heffron, Producer
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THE CAST

Liam Tuohy.....	OLDER SONNY O'NEILL
Tim Moran	DES FRIEL
Liam Alex Heffron	SONNY O'NEILL
Todd Duffey	MATT DONOVAN
Bow Borden	JOHN YORK
Jim Cantafio.....	DOMINIC COSTA
Cesar Gamino	TONY PALUSEO
Johnny Cannizzaro	ALONZO REED
Rich Rotella.....	PAULO REED
Brian Brummitt	CHARLIE EBBETS
Paige Stroobach.....	INTERVIEWER

THE FILMMAKERS

Written and Directed by.....	Jes Bickhart
Produced by.....	Jes Bickhart
.....	Liam Alex Heffron
.....	John Fox
Director of Photography.....	William Carnahan
Visual Effects Supervisor.....	Richard Taylor
Visual Effects Artist.....	Michael Sheffels
.....	Jes Bickhart
.....	Douglas Martin
Editor.....	Marissa Mueller
Unit Production Manager.....	Andrew Tsoules
1 st Assistant Director.....	Patrick Murphy
Production Designer.....	Mina Mohaddress
Set Design and Construction.....	Kevin Refermat
Composer.....	John Dickson
Sound Editor.....	Tim Tuchrello

**Note: for full cast and crew list please see: www.topoftherockmovie.com*

PREMISE / LOG LINE

A fictional narrative exploring one of New York's most iconic photographs - "Lunch atop a skyscraper" taken by Charlie Ebbets in 1932 of iron workers taking a meal break from their deadly work building the Rockefeller Center.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT
THE STORY BEHIND *TOP OF THE ROCK*

On September 29th, 1932 photographer Charles Ebbets took one of Time's top 100 pictures of all time of 11 ironworkers enjoying their lunch break atop a girder on the 69th floor of the then-rising Rockefeller Center some 800ft above the street. This year marks the 80th year since that very picture was taken.

The Great Depression was a fascinating time in our nation's history. Stories of men and women chasing the "American Dream" and following their hearts to the Land of Opportunity exemplify what fighting for what you believe in is all about. The poverty and hardships that these men and women suffered through have been written in the soaring skyscrapers and sprawling metropolises we appreciate today.

This story however, is free from the depression of tenement life and endless breadlines, focusing instead on the inspiring tales of a fearless few hundreds of feet above a 1930s Manhattan skyline.

These Ironworkers were numb to the daily hardships of steel work. They moved fast, often working incredible hours in fear of being instantly replaced by the myriad of others down below. They were called "rivet gangs" and would throw red-hot rivets to each other across the girders, pounding them into the steel. But it wasn't their tremendous work ethic that makes these men so fascinating, it is the bond they shared amongst themselves, a brotherhood and family, traits that I hold dear to my heart and hope to embody as a filmmaker for the rest of my life.

THE PRODUCTION

Production began in November 2012, and ran for 3 days in Los Angeles on the Loyola Marymount University Sound Stage. Greenscreen was hung in 270 degrees around the stage later to be keyed out as the skyline of a 1932 Manhattan. New York City primarily serves as the backdrop of this story about brotherhood, family, confidence, and trust. Shot on a Panavision camera grant RED package, the vivid detail brings a classic photograph and time period to life with cutting edge visual effects supervised by VES board member and VFX producer Richard Wynn Taylor II. The score that heightens the emotional core of the film was composed by award-winning musician and composer John Dickson.

Made with the generous support of:

Loyola Marymount University
Habitat for Humanity®
Panavision® Cameras
424 Post

Our Generous Supporters from Indygogo, Friends, and Families

AWARDS AND SCREENING HISTORY

Finished in June, 2015

Official Selection
Best Shorts Competition, 2015

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

JES BICKHART (WRITER / DIRECTOR / PRODUCER)

A Philadelphia native, Jes grew up acting on the east coast and when he was encouraged to move to LA, his passions moved behind the camera. He holds a BA in Film Production from Loyola Marymount University and has shot many short films, commercial spots, and music videos. He currently works for Amy Baer, former Columbia Pictures studio head and founder of CBS Films, in the development of feature films, television and VR for emerging distribution platforms like Oculus Rift.

Jes Bickhart Selected Filmography

- 2016 – “Top of the Rock” feature film (In Development)
- 2015 – “Tempus” short film (In Development)
- 2015 – “Top of the Rock” short film
- 2012 – “Shackleton” documentary short film
- 2011 – “Genre This” short film

JOHN FOX (PRODUCER / VISUAL CONSULTANT)

Producer and developer of features and entertainment IP’s under his Bryant Park Entertainment Banner, John has directed the CG feature film “The Reef” distributed by the Weinstein’s internationally as well as been the story artist on many of the highest profile projects and brand names in the world.

WILLIAM CARNAHAN (CINEMATOGRAPHER)

William Carnahan is a freelance cinematographer based in Los Angeles. In 2010 he earned his M.F.A. from Loyola Marymount University in Film Production, focusing on cinematography. Will and Jes have collaborated on multiple projects outside of school. He currently is shooting content for Disney and Ghirardelli chocolate.

RICHARD WYNN TAYLOR II (VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR)

Richard holds an extensive background in live action direction, production design, special effects, and computer generated images. He currently holds a board chair in the Visual Effects Society and is consulting in entertainment outlets abroad.

ANDREW TSOULES (UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER)

Andrew moved out to Los Angeles a few years ago to pursue his dream of producing. Having just wrapped his latest short, Monty and the Runaway Furnace, he moved onto his first producing gig on the feature comedy ImagiGARY (starring Charlie McDermott, Neil Flynn, Chris Kattan, and Haley Ramm), which will be released in theaters in Spring 2013. Andrew currently works as assistant to Alex Mebed at the Creative Artist Agency.

PATRICK MURPHY (1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)

Patrick has worked on countless short films while at Film School at Loyola Marymount University culminating most recently in a Producing role and 1st Assistant Director to Charlie McDermott in his directorial debut "ImagiGARY" (starring Charlie McDermott, Neil Flynn, Chris Kattan, and Haley Ramm), which will be released in theaters in Spring 2013.

MINA MOHADDESS (PRODUCTION DESIGNER)

A budding production designer and senior film production major at LMU. She has worked on over twenty productions and actively pursues photography and graphic design. Mina aspires to contribute socially conscious art and is for that reason, all the more excited to be a part of Top of the Rock's production team, promoting values of perseverance and unity.

KEVIN REFERMAT (SET DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION)

Kevin is a Loyola Marymount University College of Science and Engineering major focusing on electrical and computer engineering. His unique skill set has led him to the more technical realms of filmmaking, which in turn has allowed him to blend his love of scientific design with his passion for film.

TIM MIKULECKY (STUNTS)

Tim has worked on many films and television shows including The Dark Knight Rises, Due Date, and Water for Elephants. He has extensive work in the coordinator position as well as performing himself in front of the camera.

KELSEY BOUTTE (HAIR AND MAKEUP)

Kelsey Boutte is an L.A. based professional MakeUp Artist who relocated from Texas to pursue her passion for special effects artistry. She was trained at Cinema Makeup School and received awards in both beauty and character. She is accomplished in all aspects of make-up design and her extreme attention to detail reflects her achievements in TV, Film, Print, and Stage.

JOHN DICKSON (COMPOSER)

John has an exceptional background in composing music for film, television, and the recording industry as well as performing with such artists as Barbra Streisand, Elton John, and Ray Charles. John is currently working on the sixth season episodes of the USA Network smash hit Burn Notice. John has been a good friend of Jes's since he moved to LA and they have collaborated on most of his work since.

TIM TUCHRELLO (SOUND EDITOR)

Founding partner of 424 Post, an Academy-Award recognized post-production sound facility who's credits range from Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ* to CBS Film's *Last Vegas*.

NICK ANDERSON (CASTING DIRECTOR)

A professional casting director in Los Angeles, Nick has cast numerous films and TV shows including: "40-Year Old Virgin", "Will & Grace", "My Name is Earl", "Ugly Betty", "Big Love", "In Treatment", "True Blood", and many others.

CHAR BECK (PRODUCTION STILLS)

Char strives to capture people in their element and at their best. He encourages people to feel comfortable in front of the camera and approaches every photo shoot with professionalism and a plan. He has traveled to 21 different countries and has an extensive professional client resume. Char first picked up a camera at the age of nine and hasn't put it down since.

ABOUT THE CAST

LIAM TUOHY (OLDER SONNY O'NEILL)

Dublin born Liam Tuohy (aka DJ Lee) enjoys an illustrious career in many aspects of the Media and Entertainment industry as an actor; writer; producer; disc jockey and TV/radio host. Film credits include: "Titanic"; "Seabiscuit"; "Red Eye", plus voice-over work on "Pirates Of The Caribbean" and prominent video games such as "Kingdoms Of Amalur: Reckoning", etc.. TV credits include such diverse titles as "Weird Al" and "America's Next Top Model". Many stage plays including 'Sagot' role in "Picasso At The Lapin Agile" at Theatre Palisades. Liam has written several screenplays and a TV pilot/series. All are under consideration with developers and major TV networks. Liam is delighted to have participated in the "Top of The Rock" film project in the role of the older Sonny O'Neill.

TIM MORAN (DES FRIEL)

Tim hails from a large Irish American family that settled around the steel mills in Ohio. He is one of 7 siblings and studied in New York at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Tim has been fortunate with numerous roles in independent shorts and features over the past two years. Including leading roles in, "The Frogman" Mr. Tucker's Great Day' and the soon to be released award winning horror film "Hate Crimes".

LIAM ALEX HEFFRON (PRODUCER, SONNY O'NEILL)

Liam Alex Heffron, is an award winning, Irish born, actor, filmmaker and advocate. Best known in Ireland for his TV drama work and satirical & political comedies, he trained as an actor and director with the Galway Theatre company and has written and produced several hit plays, before moving on into TV and film where he has worked with David Harewood and Colm Meaney. His 919 Films production company is currently producing the "Breaking Hollywood" TV comedy series. Liam Alex is also a patent holding inventor and engineer. He is also involved in agitating for social justice including wilderness protection and combat corruption, in his native land.

TODD DUFFEY (MATT DONOVAN)

Too short to play sports as a child, his mother put him into dance class. At the end of the year, a recital was held, and being the only boy in Houston, TX who was in a ballet class, he fell in love with the stage's adoration of his limited abilities. From there, he got an agent in Dallas, and had paid for college by the time he was out of high school. He went on to be a

puppeteer on the kids' show BARNEY AND FRIENDS, as well as the annoying "flair" waiter in the cult film OFFICE SPACE.

BOW BORDEN (JOHN YORK)

Bow Borden was born in Montana on a Blackfoot Indian reservation and given the birth name of Rainbow Borden. Bow moved from the mountains of Oregon to the streets of Los Angeles. In film, Bow has worked with Academy award winning directors Kathryn Bigelow, Ron Howard and John Schlesinger from the classic Midnight Cowboy and has appeared in over 25 shows including Justified, Prison Break, The Shield, NYPD Blue, Chicago Hope, and Just Shoot Me.

JIM CANTAFIO (DOMINIC COSTA)

Jim is a native Chicagoan where he has appeared on stage in many productions such as Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize winner Lost In Yonkers, One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest, Golden Boy, Hot L Baltimore, Sexual Perversity In Chicago, and Grease to name a few before moving to Los Angeles. Since moving to Los Angeles, he has appeared in several movies directed by Academy award winning director Clint Eastwood, including Million Dollar Baby, Flags Of Our Fathers and Changeling.

CESAR GAMINO (TONY PALUSEO)

César Gamiño is originally a mid-westerer from Milwaukee, Wisconsin now residing in Los Angeles. He's best known for his leading role in The Violinist which just finished a successful film festival run playing over 30 festivals worldwide and earning 11 awards and 5 nominations including a Best Actor for him. Currently he's in a film called Gears which just started it's festival run. He's also about to start production on a web series he co-created.

JOHNNY CANNIZZARO (ALONZO REED)

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Johnny has had a passion for the performing arts from a very young age. Since moving to Los Angeles, he has starred in many national commercial spots with Director Dave Coullier (Full House), short films, and features as well as focusing on Musical Theater where he has appeared in LA based "Guys and Dolls" and many others!

RICH ROTELLA (PAULO REED)

Rich began acting in the 2nd grade and was a comedic star in talent shows by the 4th grade. He stole the show as Costello, from the original sketch "Who's on First?" where he and his mother were approached by an agent after the performance, and since then the stage and cinema have been his life's focus. Rich graduated with his Bachelors of Science in Film with a minor in Theater from Towson University. He now resides in Los Angeles, CA.

BRIAN BRUMMITT (CHARLIE EBBETS)

Raised in a traditional Catholic household his blue print in life was followed until earning his degree from the University of Pittsburgh. It was at age 23 he set off west towards the golden coast to find both himself and the world around him. The future looks promising as Brian's most recent credits includes a co-star opposite Kiefer Sutherland in the Season 2 Premiere of Touch and his role as Charlie Ebbets in Top of the Rock!