



*Melissa Skirboll*  
*Jason Alan Carvell*

*show  
& tell  
tango*



MOZZLESTEAD PRESENTS A LIFEDREAMS PRODUCTION

A FILM BY MELISSA SKIRBOLL

MELISSA SKIRBOLL JASON ALLAN CARVELL MARIA CRISTINA SLYE JUSTIN G NELSON  
"SHOW & TELL TANGO"

MUSIC BY ANDY EVAN COHEN COSTUME DESIGNER DEBBI HOBSON ARTIST HAILEY CHOI

SCREENPLAY BY ANDREW BELLWARE & MIKE HURST BASED UPON THE BOOKS BY RIE OGURA & JASMINE SAWYERS

CHOREOGRAPHY BY MARY CHARLOTTE BAYNARD EDITOR HENRY STEADY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JAMAL SOLOMON

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER MARY C. BAYNARD PRODUCED BY MONTSERRAT MENDEZ

SCREENPLAY BY MELISSA SKIRBOLL DIRECTED BY MELISSA SKIRBOLL & NATASHA STRALEY

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## LOGLINE:

**At the crossroad of fantasy & reality, a couple dance around the idea of love...then the dance ends.**



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## SYNOPSIS:

When young we dream of true love and happily ever after. The fairy tale idyll where love conquers all is the only ending we can conceive. Then "life..things..happen" and we put up walls to keep our hearts safe. We learn to negotiate our desires to meet our needs, creating a quid pro quo around the intimacy we're willing to give and take. Show me yours and I'll show you mine the theme as we dance along the edge of desire - wanting to leap, fearing the fall.

This dance is the central theme of our film, brought to you through a thrilling collaboration between LifeDream Productions & The MozzleStead Company.

Written and directed by Melissa Skirboll, with co-director Natasha Straley, the film explores the yin and yang of love; the open and the closed, the free and the caged, the beginning and the end, with the understanding that when it comes to heartbreak, we often live the question without getting an answer.

The team took the short film, based on Ms. Skirboll's beautiful stage play, and with the help of cinematographer Jamal Solomon winner of the 2014 Zeiss Precision Image Award, gave it a cinematic vocabulary that elevated the material into a visual treat that we're sure your audiences will enjoy.

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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

They say write, "what you know," and as a single woman of a "certain age", the dance around real intimacy is far too familiar. The ease of falling in love in your teens and twenties disappears after one too many leaps of faith that ends in broken hearts. We build walls, act tough, play games – anything to hide that inside we still dream about "happily ever after"

"Show & Tell Tango" was written first as a short play. I was experimenting with form and language and wanted to see how what could be said by having the characters say very little. Written with a tango mix playing in the background, the rhythm and music in the lines became an integral part of the scene.

After a staged reading of the play, I became convinced that this story needed to be told cinematically. I expanded the screenplay by adding the dance – a visual representation of Alex's inner world. The fairytale/fantasy life brought to life through the language of dance showing us her hopes and her fears.

With a team of co-creators who found in this screenplay a story that resonated we were able to collaborate to create a story that uses the music of Andy Evan Cohen, the choreography of Mary Baynard, the intelligence and insight of producer Montserrat Mendez and the vision of co-director Natasha Straley to tell this tale in the way it needed to be told.

**Melissa Skirboll**  
**Writer/Director/Producer/Actor**

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## PRODUCER'S STATEMENT:

It took a glass of Sangria, and then we were making a movie. It is a rare moment in life when one gets to meet a creative artists whose vision exhilarates you.

And the story couldn't have been more personal. We all have a relationship that doesn't turn out the way you wish it. When the two people dance around their feelings, their desires, you negotiate the losses instead of the wins.

A yes one day, turns into a no the next, one month turns into years and what began as flirtatious, consumes you, then it exasperates you, and then it ends. Throughout, you imagine all the scenarios and always chose the most hopeful by which to dance.

Melissa got all of this in two scenes, and what I loved as a producer is that she didn't take the most obvious route; this films demands conversation, introspection, and resolution, not of the characters, but of a yearning deep inside you.

The best artists make you look within, and that is exactly the kind of artist that Melissa Skirboll is. I can't wait to see what we do next.

- Montserrat Mendez

The MozzleStead Company

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13 Minutes 15 Seconds - Red Camera - 16:9 - November 2016 – United States



**Producers:** Melissa Skirboll  
Montserrat Mendez  
Karen Manor Metzold  
Tom Metzold

**Written by:** Melissa Skirboll

**Directed By:** Melissa Skirboll  
Natasha Straley

**Director of Photography:** Jamal Solomon

**Production Sound Mixer:** Todd Lockwood  
Pandora Machine

**Edited by:** Henry Steady

**Production Companies:** LifeDream Productions  
The MozzleStead Company

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## The Crew



**Melissa Skirboll (Writer/Director/Producer)**

With, LifeDream Productions, she's produced the plays HELL IS WHERE THE HEART IS - Writer, Actor, Producer, BLIZZARD : A LOVE STORY Writer/Actor/Producer (win Writing), THE CLOSET - Director/Producer (win Directing) at Planet Connections. She is currently in post production for MY DINNER WITH SCHWARTZEY (Writer/Director)



**Montserrat Mendez (Producer)**

Founder of The MozzleStead Company, Feature films: APRIL FLOWERS (starring Celina Jade) the upcoming CHISHOLM (starring Anika Noni Rose). Shorts: SHOW AND TELL TANGO, HUSH LITTLE BABY, ROGER AND THE THERAPEUTIC THERAPIST. MozzleStead.com



**Natasha Straley (Co-Director)**

Select films include SOUND/VISION, PICKUP, PESI, and BREATHE. She is scheduled to direct two more short films, CAULIFLOWER and SANDRA, as well as produce SLAPFACE, before the end of the year. [www.natashastraley.com](http://www.natashastraley.com)



**Jamal Solomon (Cinematographer)**

Jamal has been working in the industry for 5 years in New York City, as well as internationally. Shooting short films, feature length movies, as well as artistic videos for brands and artists. [Blackborne.co](http://Blackborne.co)



**Henry Steady (Editor)**

House Editor for Pandora Machine sci-fi motion picture company, other films; APRIL FLOWERS, FRENCHIE COMES TO AMERICA, MISMANAGEMENT, CLONEHUNTER.



**Andi Evan Cohen (Composer)**

His theatrical compositions have been performed at Lincoln Center, Fordham University, The Public Theater,, 59E59, La Mama, HERE, the Ohio Theatre, Theater for the New City. [Andycomusic.com](http://Andycomusic.com)

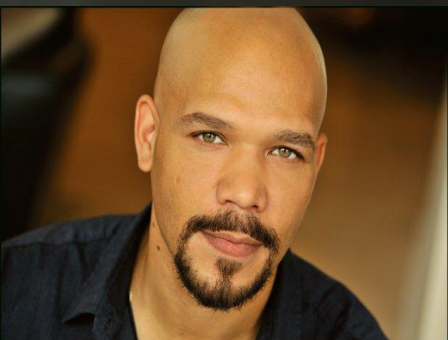
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## The Cast



### **Melissa Skirboll**

Melissa has been acting for over 25 years and has appeared on stage in New York, Boston and Los Angeles. She was nominated for outstanding actress for her work in *BLIZZARD: A LOVE STORY*. Her performance in *SHOW & TELL TANGO* garnered Awards of Merit from NYC indie Film Awards and Southern Shorts Awards.



### **Jason Alan Carvell**

Is an Actor with extensive Film, TV, Theater and Commercials experience and also specializes in Narration. Film/TV: *AMERICA'S UNTOLD JOURNEY* (2016), *BETTER OFF SINGLE* (2016) and *BLINDSPOT* (2015). His performance in *SHOW & TELL TANGO* has garnered an Outstanding Actor Award from Top Indie Films and an Award of Merit from Southern Short Awards.  
[JasonCarvell.com](http://JasonCarvell.com)



### **Mari Christina Slye**

National Tours: *The Bodyguard the Musical*, *Ghost the Musical*, *Elf the Musical*. Regional: *The Bodyguard the Musical* (Swing, Paper Mill Playhouse), *Seven Brides...Seven Brothers* (Dorcas, Ogunquit Playhouse), *A Chorus Line* (Diana Morales, John W Engeman Theatre), and more... [mariacslye.com](http://mariacslye.com)



### **Justin G. Nelson**

is a singer-dancer-actor, originally from Memphis, TN. He holds a Vocal/General Music Education degree from Middle Tennessee State University and a Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Musical Theater and Film from the University of Memphis.  
[Justingnelson.com](http://Justingnelson.com)

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## FULL CREDITS



Directed By  
MELISSA SKIRBOLL  
and  
NATASHA STRALEY

Written By  
MELISSA SKIRBOLL

Produced by  
MONTSERRAT MENDEZ

Executive Producer  
MELISSA SKIRBOLL

Producers  
TOM METZOLD  
KAREN MANOR METZOLD

Associate Producers  
BETTI SKIRBOLL  
MARY CHARLOTTE BAYNARD

Cast  
MELISSA SKIRBOLL  
JASON ALAN CARVELL  
MARIA CRISTINA SLYE  
JUSTIN G. NELSON

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## FULL CREDITS

Director of Photography  
JAMAL SOLOMON

Editor  
HENRY STEADY

Original Score and Music  
ANDY EVAN COHEN

Choreographer  
MARY CHARLOTTE BAYNARD

Unit Production Manager  
NATASHA STRALEY

Assistant Director  
HOLLY HART

Assistant Camera  
PHOENIX FLIX  
ROSE POAGE

Gaffer  
DAVID OSPINA

Key Grip  
TONY SUR

Grip  
KYLE McCARTHY

Sound  
MIKE HURST

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## FULL CREDITS

Sound Editors  
PANDORA MACHINE  
TODD LOCKWOOD

Costume Design  
DEBBI HOBSON

Hair and Make Up  
RIE OGURA  
JASMINE SAWYERS

Scenic Design  
HAILEY CHOI

Script Supervisor  
HEIDI CHOI

Still Photographer  
WENKY LI

Production Assistant  
RAYYAN DABBOUS  
BECKY BROXMEYER

Production Assistant  
RAYYAN DABBOUS  
BECKY BROXMEYER

"Pull, Push, Love"  
Music by ANDY EVAN COHEN  
Lyrics by MARY CHARLOTTE BAYNARD  
Performed by  
MARY CHARLOTTE BAYNARD and BRUCE JONES

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## FULL CREDITS

### Special Thanks

Heather DiPietro, Lori Kee, Joanna Blais, Crystal Scott,  
Kristen Vaughn, Tracy Boak, Marila Slye, Evan Metzold,  
Phyllis J. Pezenik, William T. Johnson, Kaylene French,  
Connie Dankmyer, Marianne Rosenfeld, Mike Davis,  
Emma Velez-Lopez, Cheryl Davis,  
Jeremiah Kipp, Jeffrey Kraynak, Janet Bentley  
Wendy Mae Shelton, Sande Shurin and Bruce Levy

### Camera, Lenses and Equipment

RED SCARLETT & RED EPIC CAMERAS  
ZEISS SUPER SPEED & ZEISS COMPACT PRIME LENSES

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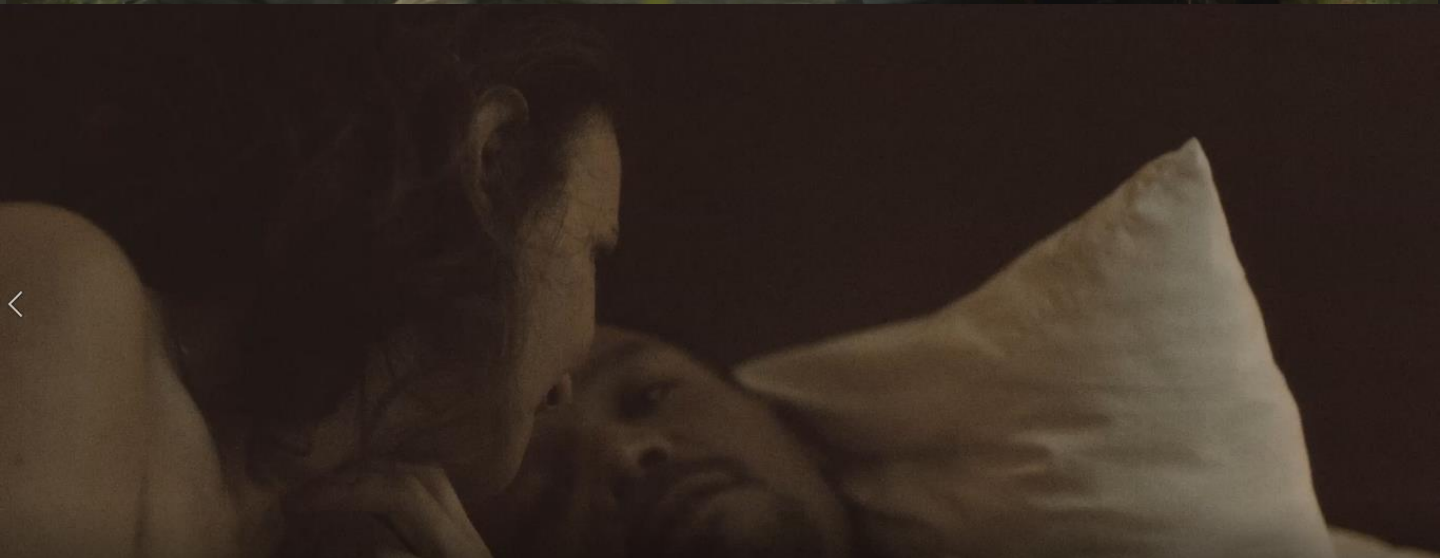
No animals were harmed in the making of this film.



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## UTAH FILM FESTIVAL FILM REVIEW

### Show & Tell Tango

*Show and Tell Tango* is a short film about a couple in an affair who differ to accept the strength of the other to comprehend the true nature of everything, the elements of which are illustrated in the form of their reflections tangoing in the blissful openness of the world. A truly remarkable exchange of succinct dialogue between the central characters Max and Alex pushes forward this short film with such vigour that it needs nothing else to underpin except the duo dancing to a beautiful music in between the scenes.

The film opens with a couple dancing with great emotion reflecting the passion between Max and Alex. When the act is done, the two characters start to guess each other's opinions, ideas, views on the concepts that are intimate, fantastic and also sensitive. When Alex pokes Max with words that are implied to undermine his argument about the secretiveness he maintains, Max counters that it is she who expects him to be an enigma which does not appease Alex. As the couple go toe to toe in this argument to weaken the defenses to make one another accept the passion that is evident between them for what it actually is, they drift apart a little guarding themselves.

Max goads Alex that she wants him to be devious and mysterious because she herself has some secrets of her own. When they go back and forth exchanging their images of each other, a story which is hard to accept comes up disappointing the fantasy which they are not yet ready to face. Max, in order to appease Alex, affirms the significance of her in his life and when this is all said, everything falls apart when he states the obvious and opens the doors to the reality. It can be comprehended from their discourse that what one may feel or believe may not be true enough to forget all about the reality and be in our own world of imagination. Alex tries to make Max forget about his past with her presence when she thinks that the story he narrates is a representation of the unattended wounds of his own. With life waiting outside and things needing his attention, Max leaves Alex saying nothing. The loneliness of Alex is delineated with the female dancer searching for her companion only to find the floral wreath which effectuated their union.

*Show and Tell Tango* is a beautiful film made possible with such intricate and pithy dialogues rendering the film its uniqueness. This kind of employment of dialogue is a genius and reflects the writer's comprehension of sensitive art. The intermittent tango by the duo to the music of Andy Evan Cohen completes the ideas of Max and Alex in such effective manner that it enhances the film viewing experience. Melissa Skirboll, Natasha Straley have done a well-organized job of presenting this idea in abstraction. Jamal Solomon adds beauty to the film with an arresting cinematography. More such films to represent the profound nature of love are essential.

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## Awards and Nominations



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## CONTACT

**Melissa Skirboll**

**LifeDream Productions**

**Writer | Producer | Director | Actress**

**1-646-387-0800**

**[lifedreamsprods@gmail.com](mailto:lifedreamsprods@gmail.com)**

**Montserrat Mendez**

**Producer**

**201-213-5956**

**[Montserrat@muzzlestead.com](mailto:Montserrat@muzzlestead.com)**

**The MuzzleStead Company**

**[www.muzzlestead.com](http://www.muzzlestead.com)**