

RENDEZVOUS IN CHICAGO



CLARE KEVIN RASHAAD MATTHEW NINA SHANE
COONEY WEHBY HALL SHERBACH GANET SIMMONS
AND HAYDEE POLITOFF AS DR. SCHERER

Written and directed by Michael Glover Smith
USA/69 minutes/2018

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Critical praise / awards for RENDEZVOUS IN CHICAGO:

"Best Ensemble Cast of 2018"

- Matt Fagerholm, Indie Outlook/RogerEbert.com

"*Rendezvous in Chicago*'s music, camera work, 4:3 aspect ratio, narrative arc, vignette structure, and pacing, along with one of the most unconventional dance scenes in recent memory, all beg to be analyzed in a film theory course and written about in scholarly journals. After seeing *Rendezvous in Chicago*, film buffs and general audiences alike will be grateful that Michael Glover Smith chose to make a film in 2018."

- Joey Filer, ReelChicago.com

"It's a vision to treasure...a sweet, delightful, humanistic rom-com"

- Scott Pfeiffer, Cine-File Chicago

"Not just Smith's best film to date but a genuinely vital Chicago film"

- Daniel Nava, Chicago Cinema Circuit

"Refreshingly fun...there is nothing ordinary about these stories"

- Pamela Powell, Reel Honest Reviews

"Funny, clever and intriguing"

- Debra Davy, Splash Magazine

"An authentic and real look at relationships at their various complex stages"

- David J. Fowlie, Keeping It Reel

"*Rendezvous in Chicago* is the perfect escape"

- Leo Brady, A Movie Guy

WINNER! Audience Choice – 2018 Adirondack Film Festival

WINNER! Best Comedy – 2018 Strasburg Film Festival

Official Selection – 2019 Santa Fe Film Festival

Official Selection – 2019 Beloit International Film Festival

Official Selection – 2019 George Lindsey Film Festival

Logline: RENDEZVOUS IN CHICAGO is a romantic comedy consisting of three vignettes corresponding to the beginning, middle and end stages of a relationship.

Synopsis: RENDEZVOUS IN CHICAGO is a short comedic feature film comprised of three thematically-related vignettes. **Part 1: THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV:** Paul (Kevin Wehby), a charming young man, attempts to pick up Delaney (Clare Cooney), a bookish grad student, in an otherwise empty wine bar. She turns the tables on him in a most unexpected manner. **Part 2: CATS AND DOGS:** Rob (Matthew Sherbach) and Andy (Rashaad Hall) are enjoying the bliss of newly formed couplehood. Rob has planned to propose marriage as they walk from their apartment to the lakeshore nearby, but has he made the right decision? **Part 3: THE END IS THE BEGINNING:** Julie (Nina Ganet) comes home from work early to find her boyfriend, Wyatt (Shane Simmons), in bed with another woman (Melanie McNulty). After violently ejecting them from her apartment, Julie begins to fall in love with . . . you the viewer!

Director Statement:

As a filmmaker I have long been fascinated by the cinematic representation of relationships and communication. RENDEZVOUS IN CHICAGO constitutes the third part in a trilogy of films tackling these subjects (following my previous features COOL APOCALYPSE and MERCURY IN RETROGRADE) although, rather than telling a single narrative, this film is itself a trilogy; it is comprised of three vignettes that correspond to the beginning (THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV), middle (CATS AND DOGS) and end (THE END IS THE BEGINNING) stages of a relationship. This tripartite structure allowed me to come up with a distinct visual style in - terms of color palette and camera movement - for each vignette. The cast is the finest I've ever had the pleasure to work with, featuring many well-known Chicago actors (Rashaad Hall, Clare Cooney, Nina Ganet, Matt Sherbach, Shane Simmons, etc.) as well as French import Haydee Politoff (whose cameo is an homage to her mentor Eric Rohmer); but what really sets RENDEZVOUS apart from my previous work is its more overtly comedic tone and the way that it subtly abandons naturalism in favor of a dreamlike but gentle surrealism. I hope you walk away from it with a smile on your face and a song in your heart. - Michael Glover Smith

Cast Bios:

Haydee Politoff – Dr. Scherer

Haydee Politoff is an icon of world cinema best known for playing the title role in (and co-writing the screenplay for) Eric Rohmer's 1967 masterpiece LA COLLECTIONNEUSE. From the late 1960s through the early 1980s she starred in films by such acclaimed directors as Marcel Carne, Edward Dmytryk and Jacques Doillon. Her cameo role as Dr. Scherer in RENDEZVOUS IN CHICAGO marks her first screen appearance in 37 years.

Clare Cooney – Delaney

Clare is a film, television and theater actress in Chicago. A graduate of The School at Steppenwolf (Class of 2014) and The University of Notre Dame, her film and television credits include Steve McQueen's feature WIDOWS and the T.V. shows HOT DATE and SHRINK. She is also a filmmaker who wrote, directed, edited, produced and starred in the short film RUNNER, which received its World Premiere at the Sidewalk Film Festival in 2017 and won the Audience Choice Award at the Chicago Critics Film Festival in 2018. The film has also screened at the Academy Award Qualifying Atlanta Film Festival, the Fairhope Film Festival, the Women's Film Festival and the Oakton Pop-Up Film Festival. RENDEZVOUS IN CHICAGO reunites Clare with writer/director Michael Glover Smith after she served as casting director on his previous film MERCURY IN RETROGRADE.

Rashaad Hall – Andy

Rashaad is an actor, teaching artist, poet, and performance artist in Chicago. Since graduating from DePaul's BFA program in 2010, he has worked at Goodman Theatre, The Hypocrites, Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, Chicago Slam Works, and Black Ensemble Theatre, among others. Recently, he was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson award with the cast of THE HAIRY APE by Eugene O'Neil. Film credits include his guest-starring role on BROWN GIRLS, an Emmy-nominated web series that was recently picked up by HBO. He is a company member of For Youth Inquiry, providing sexual health and wellness forum theatre to students across Chicago with Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health.

Nina Ganet – Julie

Nina is a Chicago-based stage and screen actress who made a name for herself playing Autumn Gamble in Stephen Cone's acclaimed drama HENRY GAMBLE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY (2015). She is a graduate of The School of Steppenwolf (Class of 2016) who recently made her Steppenwolf Theatre Company debut in THE BURN. Nina's other theater credits include HAND TO GOD (Victory Gardens Theater, Jeff nominated for Best production Play-Large) and MOSQUE ALERT (Silk Road Theatre Project). Her other film credits include COOL APOCALYPSE (Michael Glover Smith) in which she played the lead role of Julie, ALPHA WAVED (Spencer Parsons) and CHIP V2 (Sadie Rogers).

Also starring: Kevin Wehby (MERCURY IN RETROGRADE), Matthew Sherbach (CHICAGO P.D.), Shane Simmons (PARTY TIME PARTY TIME), Maggie Scrantom (CHICAGO MED) and Chelsea David (COOL APOCALYPSE).

Crew:**Michael Smith – Writer/Director**

Michael Glover Smith is a filmmaker, author and teacher. His debut feature film, COOL APOCALYPSE (2015), won multiple awards at film festivals across the U.S. and screened at the Gene Siskel Film Center and Chicago's Movies in the Parks Onscreen Local Film Showcase before being picked up for distribution by Emphasis

Entertainment. His follow-up, MERCURY IN RETROGRADE, starring Roxane Mesquida and Najarra Townsend, won the top awards at the 2018 [Tallahassee Film Festival](#) and the 2017 [Full Bloom Film Festival](#). His first book, FLICKERING EMPIRE (Columbia University Press, 2015), is an acclaimed non-fiction study of the silent film industry in Chicago. He teaches film history and aesthetics at several Chicago-area colleges and is the founder and sole author of the film-studies blog <http://whitecitycinema.com>.

Layne Marie Williams – Producer/Assistant Director

Layne Marie is an award-winning filmmaker (AN ATRAMENTOUS MIND) located in Chicago. She is the Founder and Executive Director of **Women of The Now**, a video and event production company that focuses on empowering womxn in film. Layne Marie is the Co-founder and Director of Development of The Women's Film Festival in Philadelphia, PA. She and her WOTN crew are currently in post-production on their new short SCUTLY. For updates check out www.LayneMarieWilliams.com.

Cinematography by Alex Halstead (CALLIOPE).

Edited by Eric Marsh (ORDERS).

Full credits: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8092490/>

Social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rendezvousinchicago/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/film_chicago

