

THE SEND-OFF | MARCH 2022

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



THE SEND-OFF

PRESS KIT

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MIDNIGHT ROAD
ENTERTAINMENT

CINAPTIC

Three Oh Seven



Official Selection
CINEQUEST
FILM FESTIVAL

TRUTH IN LIES

THE SEND-OFF

MIDNIGHT ROAD PRESENTS A CINAPTIC PRODUCTION A FILM BY JOHN MICHAEL POWELL ZACHARY RAY SHERMAN LENK ORAKE SEAN HARRISON JONES
"THE SEND-OFF" BOBY UPHILL DEVERE ROGERS BRIAN REED BEN VONN JONES TERESA LEE MICHAEL BISHAWN ANGELO K. THOMAS
DAMIEN GOMEZ SCOTT KUTZ ROSIE KREIDER RYAN BUCKE BRAYDEN BALMAZZONE WITH BRAD BARNES BRETT BAILEY LUCKY DUCKY
CASTING MEGAN BRADFELD COSTUME DESIGNER ELLIAN GUESS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ALEX KIM CATHERINE FEGAN-KIM SABRINA POWELL VINCENT SIEBER SMITH
PRODUCED BY UNDIANE BUKA & BLANK ANIMAZION WRITTEN BY JOHN MICHAEL POWELL
MIDNIGHT ROAD CINAPTIC

THE SEND-OFF was a true labor of love built around an amazing cast of actors and a weirdly left of center premise that, hopefully, elicits a wide range of emotions and conversations.

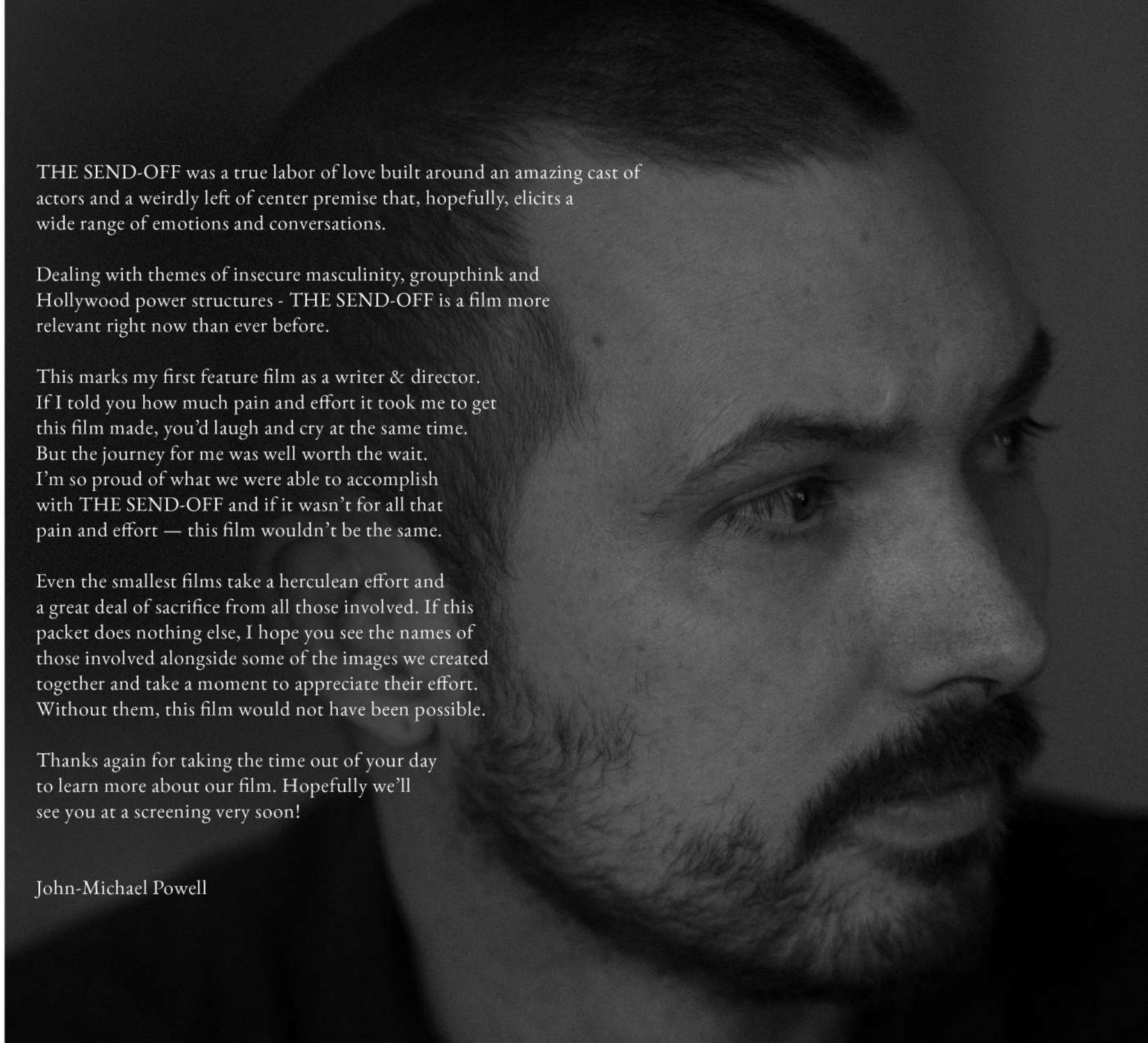
Dealing with themes of insecure masculinity, groupthink and Hollywood power structures - THE SEND-OFF is a film more relevant right now than ever before.

This marks my first feature film as a writer & director. If I told you how much pain and effort it took me to get this film made, you'd laugh and cry at the same time. But the journey for me was well worth the wait. I'm so proud of what we were able to accomplish with THE SEND-OFF and if it wasn't for all that pain and effort — this film wouldn't be the same.

Even the smallest films take a herculean effort and a great deal of sacrifice from all those involved. If this packet does nothing else, I hope you see the names of those involved alongside some of the images we created together and take a moment to appreciate their effort. Without them, this film would not have been possible.

Thanks again for taking the time out of your day to learn more about our film. Hopefully we'll see you at a screening very soon!

John-Michael Powell

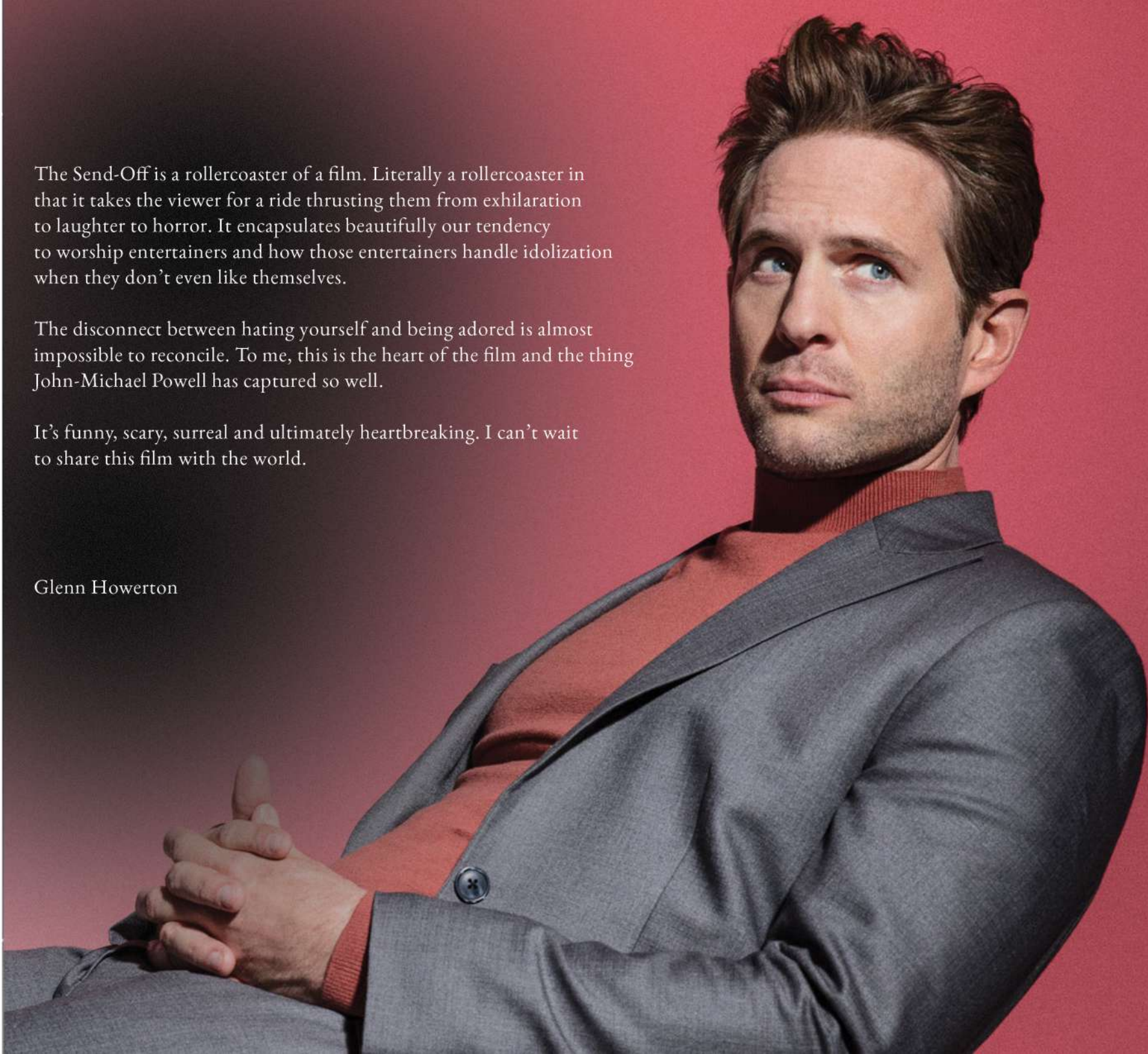


The Send-Off is a rollercoaster of a film. Literally a rollercoaster in that it takes the viewer for a ride thrusting them from exhilaration to laughter to horror. It encapsulates beautifully our tendency to worship entertainers and how those entertainers handle idolization when they don't even like themselves.

The disconnect between hating yourself and being adored is almost impossible to reconcile. To me, this is the heart of the film and the thing John-Michael Powell has captured so well.

It's funny, scary, surreal and ultimately heartbreaking. I can't wait to share this film with the world.

Glenn Howerton



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ABOUT

TAGLINE

Truth in lies.

LOGLINE

When Emmy Award winning actor, Dan Richards, throws an impromptu soiree at his Hollywood home with only his closest friends in attendance, a fun evening devolves into something much darker after Dan makes an unexpected announcement to the group.

SYNOPSIS

Dan Richards is a an award-winning actor living alone in his plush Hollywood Hills home when he receives an unexpected phone call that changes his life and career forever. In a spur-of-the-moment decision, Dan throws a last minute house party with his closest friends in attendance. What starts as a fun get together unwinds when Dan gathers everyone around and divulges the content of his recent phone call. With the looming weight of this newly revealed news, the party explodes into a dark, uncomfortable unearthing of Dan's deepest secrets. Exploring themes of insecure masculinity and Hollywood culture, The Send-Off tackles Tinseltown from a wholly original perspective.

PROJECT SPECS

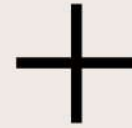
SPECIFICATIONS

GENRE :	Drama/Satire
RUNNING TIME:	88 mins.
COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION:	U.S.A.
SHOT ON:	ARRI AMIRA
SCREEN RATIO:	1.85:1 (2:1 crop)
RELEASE FORMAT:	DCP, HD Quicktime
FILMING LOCATION:	Los Angeles, California
COMPLETION DATE:	May 2021



The ensemble...

CAST.



Zachary Ray Sherman

Lena Drake

Sean Harrison Jones

Ben York Jones

Rory Uphold

Devere Rogers

Rhian Rees

Michael Rishawn

Scott Kuza

Damian Gomez

Brayden Dalmazzone

Angela K Thomas

Ryan Stone

Rosie Kreider

ZACHARY RAY SHERMAN

Zachary Ray Sherman is known for his roles in CBS's "90210", Netflix's "Archie's Final Project" & "Everything Sucks!" as well as other independent films. Born in Portland, Oregon he's an actor, writer, producer and director. He's directed 2 microbudget features, "Barbie's Kenny" and "Young Hearts" (executive produced by the Duplass Brothers) which will be released on HBO soon. He has lived and worked in both the Pacific Northwest and Los Angeles in the film industry and theatre. Recent theatre work includes Seattle Rep's production of "True West" playing Austin before the pandemic began. He can be seen in the alt-right drama "CUCK" as a man living with his mother in a run-down section of Van Nuys, California. Unstable and isolated, Ronnie binges on alt-right vlogs and creates his own video channel on the downfall of 'real America' with dangerous consequences. Zach received the Seymour Cassel Award at the Oldenburg Film Festival for Best Actor with his portrayal of the MAGA loner in which he entirely transformed gaining 45lbs for the role.



@zacharyraysherman



AS DAN RICHARDS

Successful Hollywood character actor with a hit television series. Beats to his own drum and floats through every group. Universally, liked.



LENA DRAKE

Lena is best known for her work in the Showtime series *Kidding*, starring Jim Carrey. She plays Gina in *Dinner In America*, which premiered at Sundance in the U.S Dramatic Competition. Her work in Universal Pictures film *Covers*, starring Tracee Ellis Ross and Dakota Johnson, was seen during its worldwide theatrical release. Lena's work as an actor and sketch writer has been featured by *Funny Or Die*.

Lena earned her BFA: Theater from the University of Michigan. She earned her Certificate of Higher Education in Scriptwriting from Oxford University.



@lena_drake

AS ALEXIS "ALEX" PERONI

Film critic and former actress who had her acting career smashed by a power player in town. Witty, sardonic and a bit shy. She is jaded with Hollywood and has one foot out of town.



SEAN HARRISON JONES

Sean began his acting career at the age of 9 when he was cast in a commercial for a local bank. He began his directing career roughly around the same time with the homemade misspelled classic, *The Assinator*. A graduate of the UCLA Theater program, he has acted in numerous plays, films and on television (He can still recite his single line from *7th Heaven* on command!) He wrote, directed and acted in two short films: *Gumball* (which our John-Michael edited!) and *I Knew Him Well*. He lives and breathes cinema and is always happy to discuss his deep, unwavering passion for Brian Wilson, *It's a Wonderful Life*, Bergman and *Twin Peaks*!



@seanharrisonjones

AS CLAYTON RHODES

Nerdy, whip smart cinephile who works at one of the last DVD/Blu Ray shops in town. Open heart type that's constantly being trampled on and desperately wishes he could be in the "it" crowd of an artist enclave.



DEVERE ROGERS

Devere Rogers is an actor, playwright, screenwriter, producer, and director. Born and raised in Atlanta, GA and a graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts. As an actor, he has performed in plays, musicals, and workshops on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regionally, as well as having roles on such TV shows like Grey's Anatomy, Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, and Will & Grace. Most recently, he starred in the NBC pilot Friends-In-Law, is recurring on IFC's Sherman's Showcase, and co-starring in the action comedy My Spy with Dave Bautista and Ken Jeong. As a writer, he wrote the critically acclaimed short film Ying & Yang as well as having an Off-Broadway workshop production of his play Excuse Me Ladies and Gentlemen. He is currently developing a TV show with Paul Feig's PowderKeg in addition to writing and developing several film and TV projects.



@itsdevererogers



AS NIKO SPIVEY

Successful set photographer. Sarcastic, but huge heart. Dan's biggest fan. Doesn't run with everyone in this crowd, but is known by all and aside from Dan, the most successful.



MICHAEL RISHAWN

Michael Rishawn Rishawn holds an MFA in Acting from UC San Diego and a BFA in Acting from The Hartt School. He has an extensive theater background. His Off-Broadway credits include Old Masters (The Flea), 24-hour Plays, History Boys (Gallery Players), workshops at Roundabout Theatre Company. Regional: Handjob (Echo Theatre), First Breeze of Summer (Alabama Shakespeare), Wig Out (Studio Theatre), Much Ado About Nothing, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Merry Wives of Windsor, and All's Well That Ends Well (Shakespeare Theatre Company); A Christmas Carol, Antony & Cleopatra (Hartford Stage); Henry V (Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre). UC San Diego credits: Incendiary (staged reading) and Monster (WNPF '19), Everybody Black, Mother Courage and her Children, Tambo & Bones (WNPF '18), A Raisin in the Sun, The Green Cockatoo.

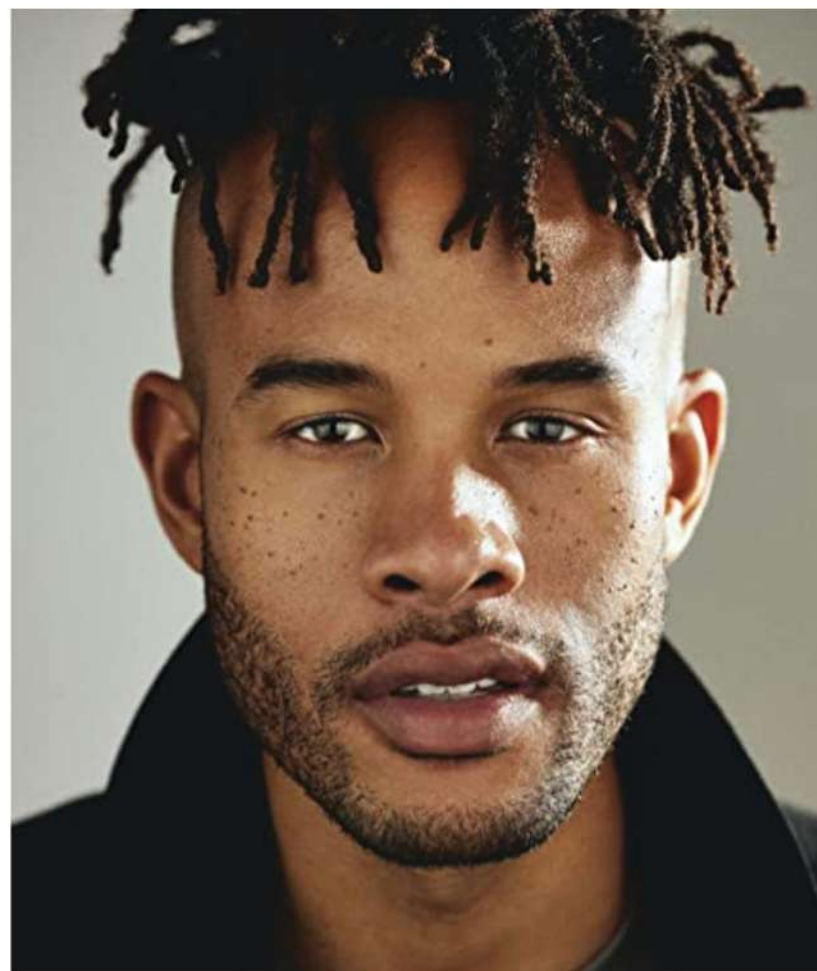


@michaelrishawn



AS CRAIG O'BANNON

Production Designer. Doesn't talk much, but is probably the coolest person at the party. Is the only one here who can really put Arnie in his place and make him consider an alternate view-point.



RHIAN REES

Rhian Rees was born on January 8th, 1986 in Hampshire, England, to fish farming parents.

Rees was raised in a small village in Wiltshire where she joined the local theatre group. During this time she took weekend courses at the Sylvia Young Theatre school in London.

At 18 she left home to complete her BA in Playwriting at the University of Surrey. Her thesis play was awarded with First Class Honours, leading to her placement on the Young Writers Program at the Royal Court Theatre.

Later she moved to New York to study movement and film at Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film School. Her first film role in the period drama, *Confession of a Child of the Century*, premiered at Cannes Film Festival in 2013.

Rees appeared in a number of commercials and independent film and TV series before joining Jamie Lee Curtis in the latest *Halloween (18')* directed by David Gordon Green. Her performance earned a nomination at the MTV Movie Awards.

Most recently Rhian returned to the stage with *Dutchman* and *The Slave* by Radical playwright Amiri Baraka directed by Harmony Holiday at MOCA in Los Angeles.



@squirrelthingg



AS MARA TREMBLAY

Intellectual, novelist turned screenwriter after her first screenplay won the Nicholls Fellowship. A staunch feminist and a staunch supporter of open and honest expression, even at the detriment of the status quo.



BEN YORK JONES

Ben York Jones is a screenwriter, filmmaker, and TV creator based in Los Angeles. Writing credits include LIKE CRAZY, BREATHE IN, ASHES IN THE SNOW, NEWNESS and the forthcoming HELLO, GOODBYE & EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. Jones also co-created and executive produced the Netflix original series EVERYTHING SUCKS! And has recently completed work on the feature screenplay AURORA in partnership with CJ Entertainment, the production company behind PARASITE. He's repped by CAA.



@benyorkjones

AS ARNIE LUDLOW

Cool as shit, but ultra-competitive actor, especially with Dan. Plays confident, but really he's just masking a soft, insecure interior. The type of guy who will hold a contradictory opinion even if it hurts someone's feelings because he knows he's right. To Arnie's credit, he usually is.



RORY UPHOLD

Rory Uphold is an actor-writer-director with over 14M+ views on digital shows she's created and starred in, which is impressive because she's also been on about 14M first dates. Clearly, the girl can multi-task. Though her first professional writing credits were for songs that played everywhere from Super Bowl commercials to critically acclaimed shows like GIRLS, Rory originally got into writing/directing because of her therapist. She suggested that Rory start doing things that scared her and since anal sex seemed a little aggressive Rory decided to make a short film instead. That short (SAFETY) resulted in a friendship with Ben York Jones, a Vimeo Staff Pick and Rory's love of filmmaking.

Rory's since written/directed the viral web series' "Only in HeLLA" and "This Is Why We're Single" which were picked up by sites like BuzzFeed, Bustle, and Huffington Post. She also achieve a life long goal of being featured in Playboy, fully clothed. Rory was voted Top 3 in Funny or Die's "Make Em LAFF" competition with the Los Angeles Film Festival, which is where she met Baron Vaughn. After working on Rory's short film TRACTION, Baron and Rory created SWIRL an episodic series that landed them in the Sundance Institutes' "New Voices Lab". Rory's sold shows to Elite Daily, Comedy Central, Crackle and FX. She recently starred in Eminem and Joseph Kahn's racial satire BODIED. When Rory isn't thriving through awkward social situations she's busy writing her first book and trying to find her future ex-husband.



@icouldbeblonder



AS TANYA HIRSH

Tough-gal who worked her way up to producing by way of set-carpentry. Loyal to a fault. She's a producer who's got her sights set on running the studio. She's no-bullshit and you can either take her or leave her, asshole.



TERESA LEE

Teresa Lee is a stand-up comedian that has written for Good Mythical Morning, Cracked and MTV's "Middle of the Night Show". She's been featured on NBC Asian America and was a semi-finalist on Standup NBC. She has played in festivals including the Laughing Skull Festival, Women in Comedy Festival, Brooklyn Comedy Festival, Crom Comedy Festival, and The Comedy Comedy Festival. She has also performed at notable venues and shows such as The Knitting Factory in Brooklyn, Upright Citizen's Brigade, The Punchline in SF, The comedy Store Main Room, Laugh Factory Chicago and more. She was featured on Elizabeth Banks's emerging comedy website WhoHaha as a Funny Lady of the Week. Teresa has written comedy for Funny or Die, College Humor, Reductress, and Splitsider. She attended New York University where she received her BFA in Dramatic Writing.

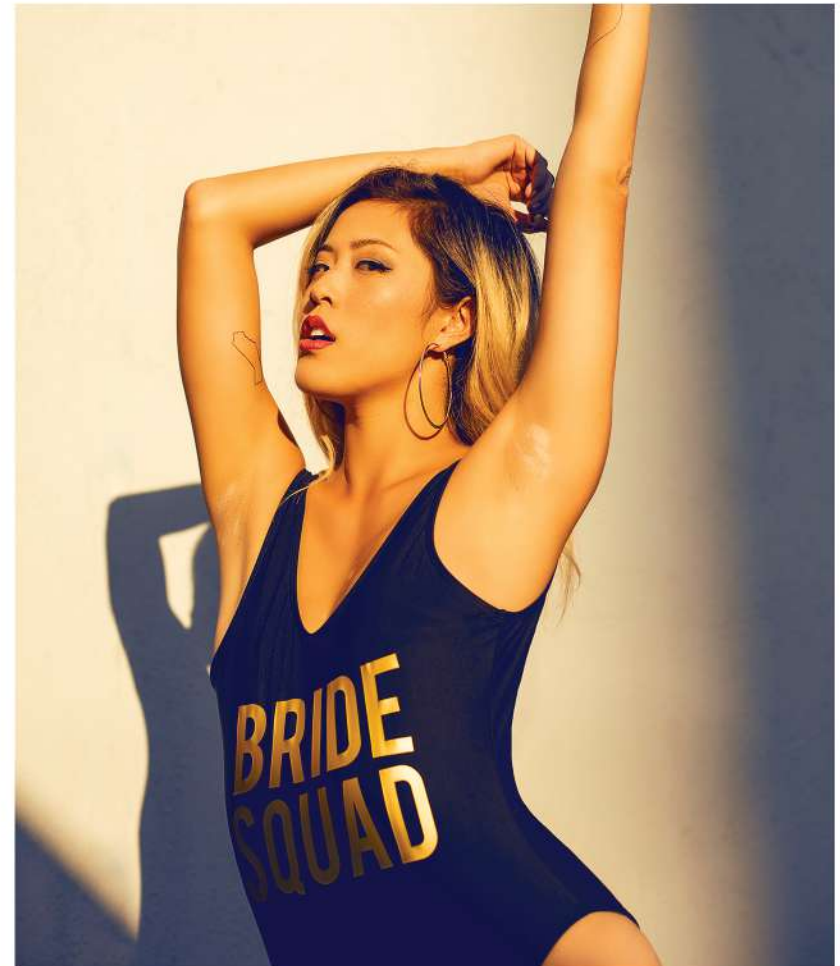


@teresaleebot



AS MICKY PARK

Koreatown born and bred. She's a rapper who is definitely the smartest gal at this party. She was the kid who had her toes dipped in every L.A. culture as a kid except her own. Funny and razor sharp with an open personality.



SCOTT KUZA

Scott Kuza is an actor, artist, born and raised in the metro Detroit area to immigrant parents. Scott showed great interest in acting and other art forms from a fairly early age, including a penchant for writing poetry as well as taking photos. He studied at various different schools, including a long stint with Gordon and Helen Hunt Acting Studio in Los Angeles. Scott's first film role was a small part in Charlie's Wilsons War, which starred Tom Hanks. Since then he has had several other movie parts in various independent films and theatre productions which included his debut Off-Broadway in 2018.



@scottkuza

AS ANTHONY "JUGG" JUGGERSON

Sharp, fast talking beatnik from the Midwest. A poet who floats around town to his own rhythm. Sees the world through a slightly manic lens and that's what make him Jug.



ANGELA K. THOMAS

With a smile that will light up the darkest room and unmistakable talent sure to catch anyone's eye, Angela K Thomas is looking for the opportunity to impress you! Born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, and having completed her undergraduate studies in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Kent, Ohio, she uniquely draws from many different life experiences in fulfilling every part she acquires. Her MFA training at the Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company of Providence, Rhode Island, has only increased her ability to tackle any role with truth and integrity. Angela currently lives in Los Angeles and is actively pursuing her dream of being a working actor.



@aktor31

AS **HARRIET GABRIEL**

Rock chick and supremely gifted songwriter. She's Rudie's ex and currently "with" Clayton, but she's not anybody's "girl". Harriet sees every relationship as an opportunity to evolve herself and thus, tends to see men as disposable.



DAMIAN GOMEZ

Originally from South San Francisco, Damian forged an active career in Los Angeles as a dancer, choreographer and actor appearing in television, film, and alongside the industry's top recording artists. He's had the fortune to work alongside artists like Janet Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Justin Bieber, Hozier, Black Eyed Peas, Katy Perry, Queen Latifah, Estelle, Jennifer Hudson, John Legend & many others.

He's been in films like La La Land, This is The End, The 5 Year Engagement, and television shows like Modern Family, Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist, Grey's Anatomy, Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, and The Odd Couple. Damian has performed on stages at the OSCARS, the Oprah Winfrey Show, Ellen, Coachella & Good Morning America.

He's taught dance in studios all across the country as well as overseas and worked with non profits like ASTEP and ADVOT bringing the arts to underserved communities. He believes that performance and training should be accessible to everyone. His experiences working with all types of people at different levels further drives his desire to share and continue telling stories.



@mrdamiangomez



AS DEAN "DEANO" ALVAREZ

Jug's right hand man and the only one who can seem to wrangle Jug. He's a poet as well and a man always trying to find the path of least resistance. For Deano, enlightenment is words, man.



BRAYDEN DALMAZZONE

A native of Newcastle, Australia, Dalmazzone trained in screen acting at Screenwise Acting School in Sydney and then spent the following years training in LA with Anthony Meindl, Margie Haber and Nancy Banks. Brayden recently completed screenwriting for TV at AFTRS.

Dalmazzone's acting credits include the lead in the Australian feature 'Wish for Tomorrow', the pilots 'Sidewalks' and 'Nancy in Hell', and was a part of the main cast of the LA Webfest nominated series 'CUT'. He's been seen in a range of short films, including the multiple award-winning 'Repentance' with award-winning director, Dean Francis. He can be seen in alongside 'Stargate: Origins' and 'Ash Vs. Evil Dead' star, Ellie Gall, in the short film 'Girl Falling', which premiered at Cannes Film Festival. In 2020, Dalmazzone filmed Screen Australia's 'Ding Dong I'm Gay' as one of the leads, which was recently AACTA and Queerty nominated and has over 11 million views on the series channel. Screen Australia has just funded development of season 2 and have opened the writers' room, with hopes of shooting early next year.

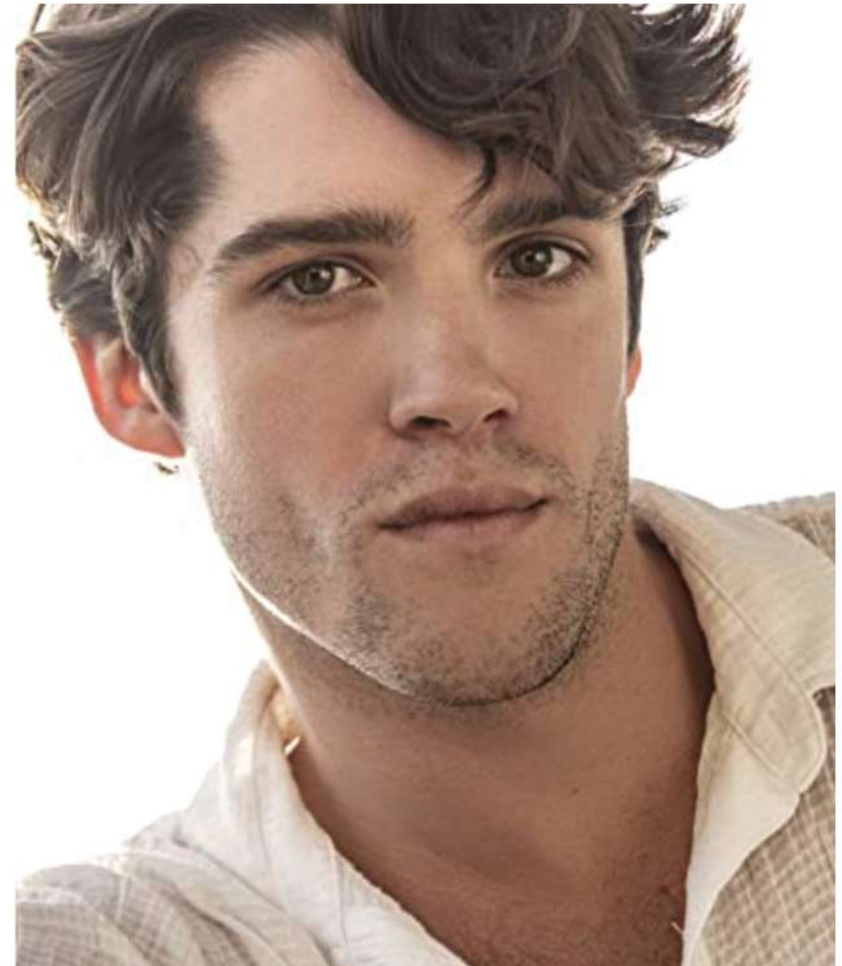


@braydal



AS LEE YOUNGER

Lee is a fresh faced young actor, fresh off the boat from Australi. He's a massive fan of Dan Richards and has aspirations to shape his career after Dan's.



ROSIE KREIDER

Rosie Kreider is an Indiana born actor and creative. She began in musical theatre, moving to New York to attend AMDA's Dance Theatre program. She's now based in Los Angeles as an actor and filmmaker.



@rosiekreider



AS **KIMBERLY SLATER**

Young, eager cinephile. Knows Clayton because she frequents his DVD shop. Has her sights set on being a director like her idols Kelly Reichardt and Chloé Zhao. Young and optimistic, unlike a lot of this crowd.



RYAN STONE

Ryan is an actor and musician originally from Kansas City, Missouri. His role as Mitch in the festival anthology WEST VIRGINIA STORIES, earned him recognition. He is cast in the lead role of Cole Kimbrel in the Sony Worldwide film TRUE FOLK, a film about folk music based on Stone's songwritings.



@mrrhinestone

AS RUDIE ROCKET

A musician who's played in every band that's hit the Whiskey in the last three years. He's the type of artist who thinks the booze and the drugs unlock his inner Eddie Vedder. Huge ego. Small wit.



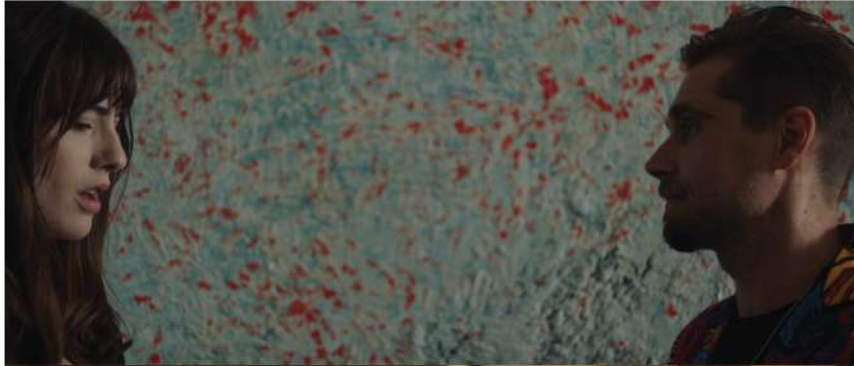


+

Production Stills.









MIDNIGHT ROAD

ENTERTAINMENT

GINAPTIC

Three Ok Seven



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@johnmichael_powell

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