

# GREGORY

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written, produced and directed  
by Ben McHugh



BROOKLYN OZ PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A BEN McHUGH FILM

## GREGORY

*Searching for forgiveness never dies*

BROOKLYN OZ PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS GREGORY STARRING GODFREY J. RAYNER  
MADELYN McHUGH AND BEN McHUGH 'SHADRACK' WRITTEN BY ROBERT MacGINSEY PERFORMED BY GODFREY J. RAYNER  
AND DAISY SPENCER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ZACH COOPER MUSIC IVAN GEORGIEV EDITING BEN McHUGH  
CO-PRODUCER JENN PLOTZKE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HARRY PETCHESKY JILL PETCHESKY KAYE TUCKERMAN  
AND ELIZABETH McHUGH WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY BEN McHUGH



# THE FILM

An old man's eternal quest to make contact with his family.



# STORY

Feeding pigeons alone on his favorite park bench, Gregory regales them with the song 'Shadrack', and the joyful memories it brings him of his young son singing it. Distracted by a young father and daughter playing soccer nearby, joy turns to yearning. Of time lost and forgiveness for mistakes he made as a young, inexperienced parent.

Gregory prepares to leave as he is interrupted by a wayward soccer ball and the young girl, Skye. He shares with her it's his seventy-seventh birthday - a celebration with his pigeon friends 'Shadrack', 'Mesach' and 'Abednigo' - to which he playfully serenades the song to her.

Skye returns to her father with the birthday news of the old man she just met. James remembers that today would be his late father's birthday too, and sings 'Shadrack' to himself.

Skye quickly looks back to find Gregory has gone.



# WRITER'S STATEMENT

Many, many years have passed since my father died, and I have often wondered if he's been watching me - what he thinks of me as a man, and a father.

A quiet longing I've had, is that I see him again for a brief moment...across a crowded room, or on a street...where I catch a glimpse of him smiling and nodding, letting me know he's proud of me.

'Gregory' is that moment. I hope you enjoy it! - Ben



Ben McHugh, Writer ~ Producer ~ Director

Ben is thrilled to be sharing his heartfelt short film GREGORY at the Beaufort International Film Festival in beautiful Beaufort, South Carolina!

His other works include the award winning BIG BEAR, and RILEY which is currently in post-production starring Madelyn McHugh.

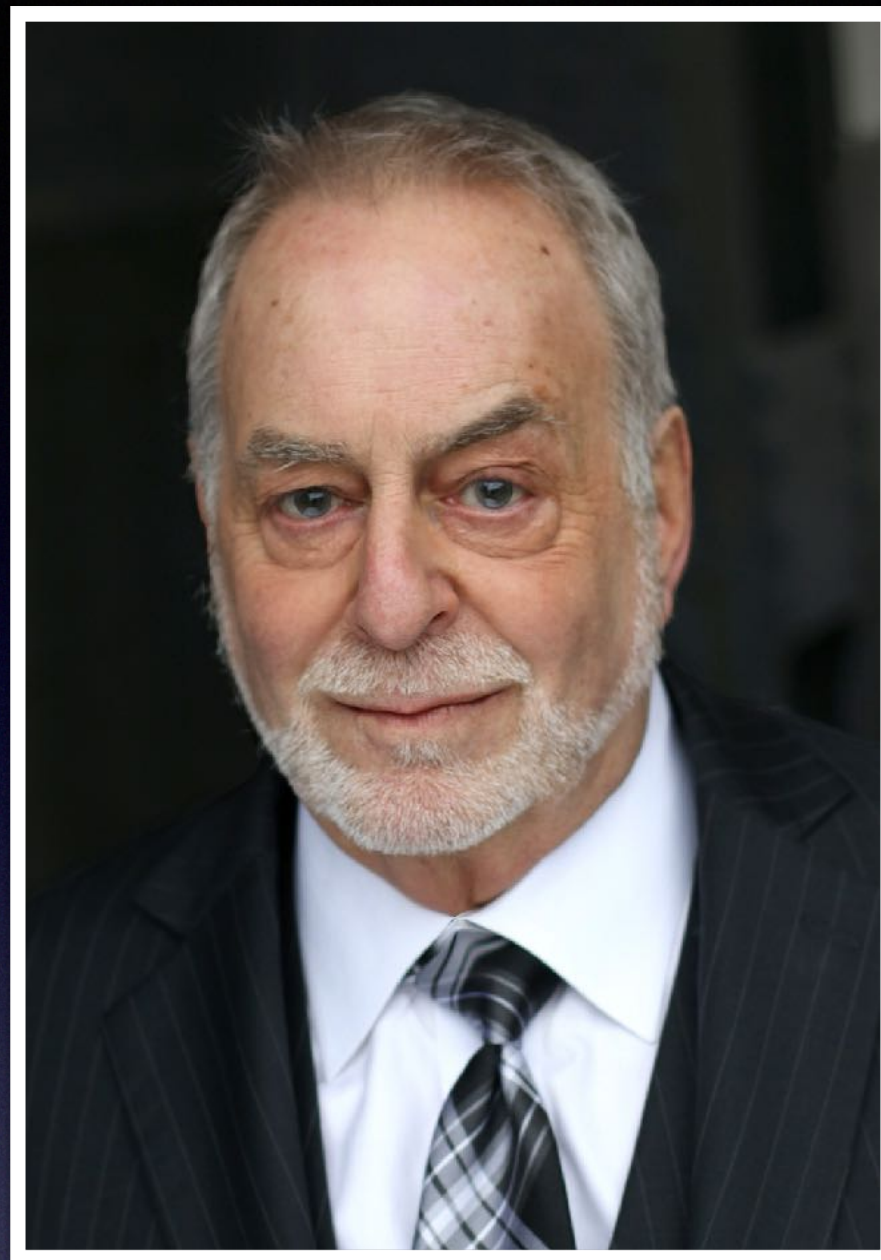
He has been an editor for over twenty years, working on many projects including the award winning NANA'S ROOM, STILL HERE and BLACK CANVAS directed by Kaye Tuckerman, HOTLINE directed by Jeremiah Kipp, and the 2020 Youtube Tribute for the 20th Anniversary of THE BOY FROM OZ amongst many other things.

# THE CAST



Madelyn McHugh - Skye

Madelyn has been an aspiring actress since an early age and can be seen in the short films BIG BEAR, GREGORY and as the title role in the upcoming RILEY.



Godfrey J. Rayner - Gregory

Godfrey is a British New Yorker who has become quite the indie short film darling in the last four years. The actor is busier than covid variants but it's his performances that are proving infectious.

Italy's 8 & Halfilm Awards is Rayner's second Best Actor for GREGORY. In October 2021, he won his first Best Actor award for the film at the New York International Film Awards.

In 2020 he was honored by the Long Island International Film Expo with a Best Supporting Actor award for his role in THE LONG COMMUTE. Rayner continues to enjoy working in pictures with a message such as GREGORY. His dramatic turn in FRESH AIR, playing someone suffering from Alzheimer's turned into a Best Actor award at the Brightside Tavern Film Festival in 2019.



Ben McHugh - James

Ben has appeared in the television series BLUE BLOODS, THE LOUDEST VOICE and the short films PICKUP, STILL HERE, BLACK CANVAS, BIG BEAR and RILEY.

He is a veteran of the stage appearing in many plays and musicals including the Broadway smash hits MAMMA MIA, THE PRODUCERS, and the off-Broadway immersive production of SLEEP NO MORE.

# FESTIVALS & AWARDS



# PRESS

“An honest, effective short film.  
*Gregory* is refreshingly intelligent  
in its approach.”

~Richard Propes, *The Independent Critic*

Read the full review here:

<https://theindependentcritic.com/gregory>

“An endearing story of family connection.”

~Nate Raven, *Take 2 Indie Review*

Read the full review here:

<https://take2indiereview.net/2022/04/gregory/>

“McHugh’s film is as beautiful as it is simple.”

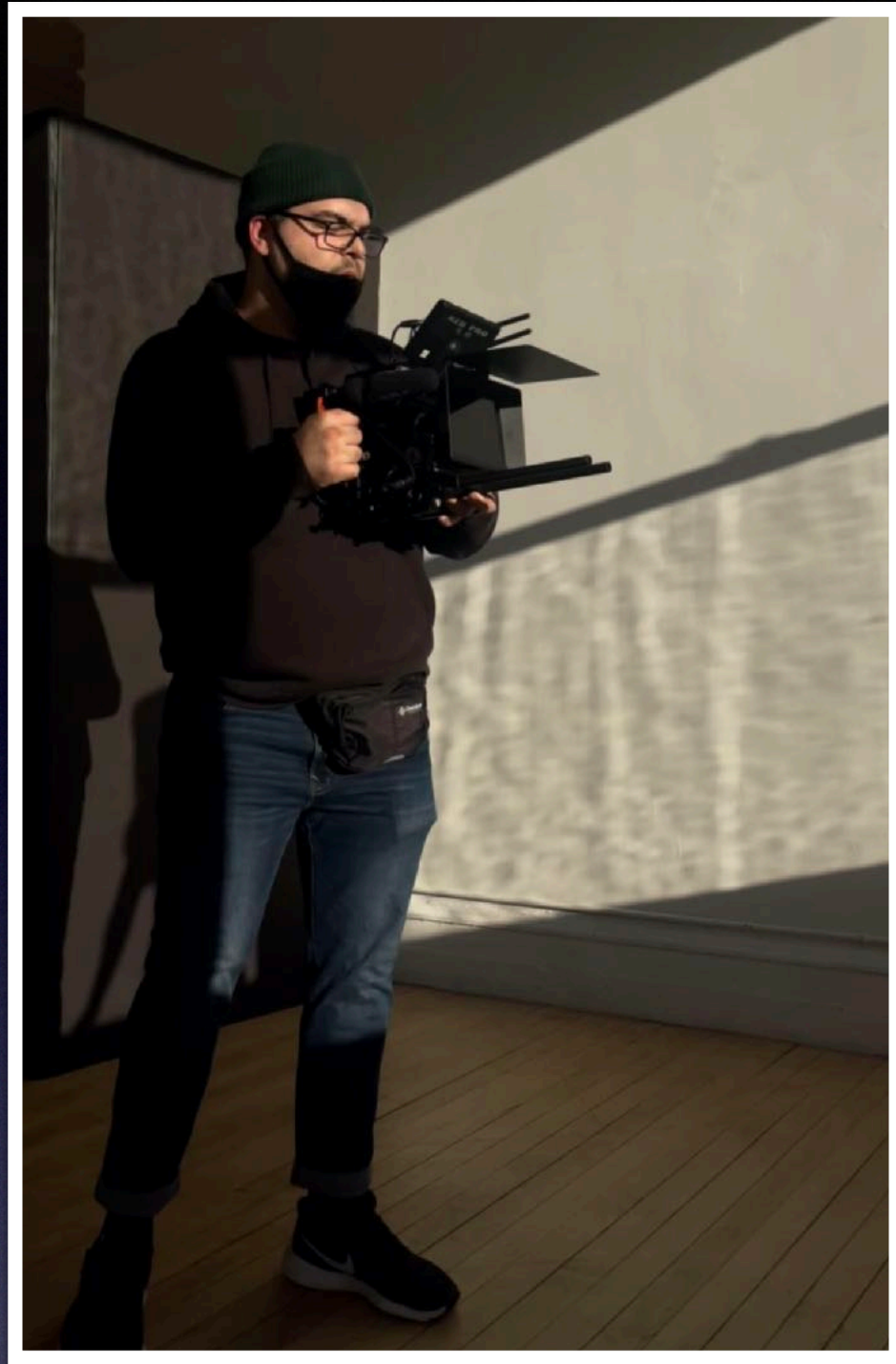
~Alan Ng, *Film Threat*

Read the full review here:

<https://filmthreat.com/reviews/gregory/>



# THE TEAM



Zach Cooper, Director of Photography

Zach Cooper is a New York City based Cinematographer with a burning passion for storytelling. Zach brings an authentic and raw feeling to his work by drawing inspiration through nature, nostalgia, and relationships. He prides himself on providing people the creative platform they deserve to express themselves freely. Creating content that is both organic and emotionally driven, Zach is able to portray stories that are timeless while focusing on the narrative.



Jennifer Plotzke, Co-Producer

Jennifer is an award winning actress and producer, recently appearing on **THE BLACKLIST** on NBC, **THE SEX LIVES OF COLLEGE GIRLS** on HBO Max, in **FIZZLE** opposite Peter Friedman and Geoffrey Owens and featured on PBS in **LOST + FOUND**. Other film credits include **LA VIDA INESPERADA**, **THE RED LOTUS** and the award winning series, **AWKWARDLY**. She has produced a host of independent films, her recently produced tv pilot **HOW AM I DOING** (awarded Best Drama Pilot at the Manhattan Film Festival) is now streaming on IFT Network and she is in development on a feature film thriller, **TRINITIES**.



Ivan Georgiev, Music

Ivan has composed for several short films, documentaries and TV series including **LES GALETS**, **MODUS OPERANDI**, **LA VIDA DE MARIA DE MAGDALA**, **FOOTBALL MADE IN BRAZIL**, **WATERLOO: THE LAST BATTLE**, **EYE OF THE VEIL** and **GREGORY**.

# CREDITS

Written, produced & directed by Ben McHugh

## Executive Producers

Harry Petchesky & Jill Petchesky

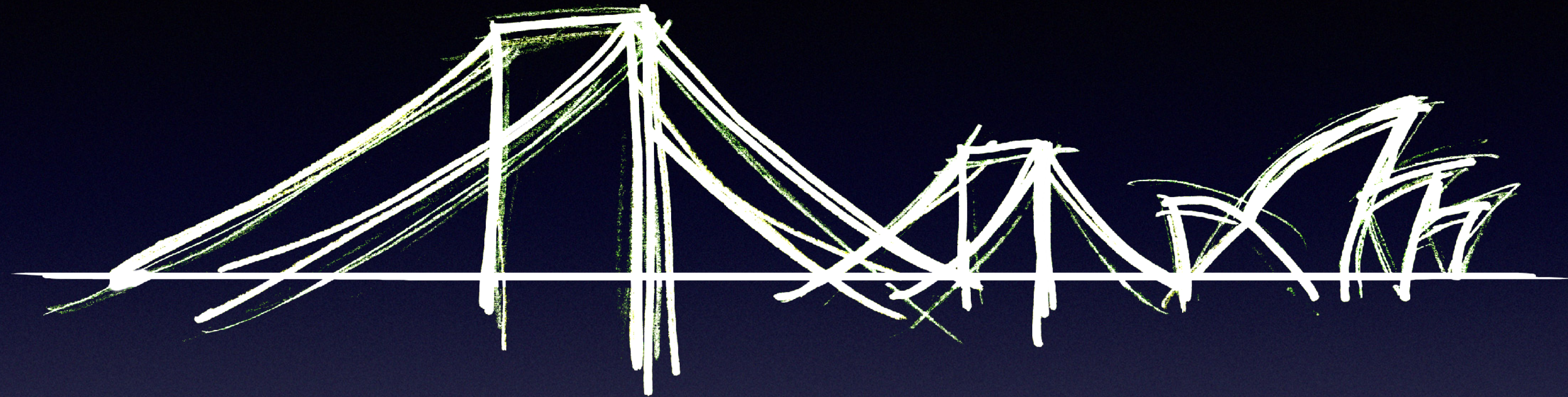
Elizabeth McHugh & Kaye Tuckerman

‘Shadrack’ performed by

Daisy Spencer & Godfrey J. Rayner

Co-Producer.....Jenn Plotzke  
Director of Photography.....Zach Cooper  
Music.....Ivan Georgiev  
1st AC.....Kurt Sneddon  
Production Sound.....Ej Markland  
Re-recording mixer.....Joel McLean  
Editing & Color.....Ben McHugh

# CONTACT



BROOKLYN OZ PRODUCTIONS

[www.brooklynnozproductions.com](http://www.brooklynnozproductions.com)

[brooklynnozproductions@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynnozproductions@gmail.com)

917.848.8476