

planet b234

A FATHER THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM HIS SON CREATES AN ALTERNATE WORLD TO HELP HIM COPE WITH THE ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, AND DESPERATION OF SEPARATION.



www.planetb234.com



Cast

Jorge Jorge Luna ('**The Week Of**')
Otto Otto Luna-Caratini

Dr. Hiroe Kinoshita Yokko

Dr. Vivian Sobin Keelie Sheridan

Documentary Narrator Judylee Vivier

Steve McBluffer Naren Weiss ('**Deception**')
Beth Taylor Schann Mobley ('**After Class**')



Director

Keelie Sheridan

Writers

Jorge Luna, Keelie Sheridan

Producers

Jay Friedman-Mendez, Jorge Luna,
Keelie Sheridan

Cinematographer, Editor, Colorist

Joe Spit

Executive Producers

Ian Weintraub,
Esther Alvarez-Weintraub

Costume Design

Valentin Peter Eisele

Foley, Re-recording Mixer

Diego Benalcázar

Composer

Carlos Iván Márquez

Composer

César Dávila-Irizarry

(FX - 'American Horror Story' - 8 BMI Awards,
NETFLIX - 'CRIME SCENE: The Vanishing at the Cecil Hotel' - 1 BMI Award)



Genre Drama
Length 60 minutes
Language English and Spanish
Format Digital
Aspect Ratio 16:9 (DCP 1.78:1)
Audio Format 5.1 Surround or Stereo



Official Selections



Awards

- **'Best Escapism Film'** - Tampa Bay Underground Film Festival - 2021
- **'Best Male Performance'** - MidWest WeirdFest - 2022
- **'Best Sci-Fi Feature'** - Atlanta Underground Film Festival - 2022
- **'Honorable Mention'** - International Puerto Rican Heritage Film Festival - 2022



Nominations

Aesthetica Short Film Festival - 2022

- 'Best Feature Film'

Tampa Bay Underground Film Festival - 2021

- 'Best Feature Film'
- 'Best Feature Director' (Keelie Sheridan)
- 'Best Feature Screenplay' (Jorge Luna, Keelie Sheridan)
- 'Best Cinematography' (Joe Spit)
- 'Best Editing' (Joe Spit)
- 'Best Production Design' (Valentin Peter Eisele, Jorge Luna, Keelie Sheridan)
- 'Best Supporting Actor' (Otto Luna-Caratini)
- 'Best Leading Actor' (Jorge Luna)



Synopsis

Jorge is a photographer living in New York City. He is fascinated by planets, the stars, and outerspace. His young son, Otto, lives far away. The film opens with Jorge's return flight after dropping Otto off at his mother's home. Haunted by loneliness of a newly empty apartment, Jorge wrestles with anxiety and depression. Otto and Jorge rely on text messages to sustain their long distance relationship, but to Jorge, it feels one-sided.

Jorge escapes into the news and learns that NASA has discovered a new exoplanet, planet b234, only one light year away from earth. NASA is preparing a group of young astronauts to explore planet b234. Jorge turns to the skies with his telescope- something he and Otto can do together while apart.

Excited by the fantasy of a fresh start and aided by his fertile imagination, Jorge develops a meditative ritual to visit planet b234, where he constructs a dream adventure with his son. In his fantasy, he and Otto explore the planet together and have the conversations he wishes they could have in real life. They talk about religion, identity, and being Latino in the United States. Otto shares that he thinks his parents are superheroes. Jorge prefers this imagined dialogue to his painful, real-life conversations with his son, who wants to know why his dad chooses to live so far away.



As the news reports turbulence and concerning discoveries regarding NASA's mission to planet b234, Jorge finds his fantasy world harder to control. On earth, Jorge and Otto make phone-dates to look at the stars through their telescopes, but take turns leaving each other hanging. They've become disconnected. Jorge's grip on reality is deteriorating and he is having trouble keeping up both his real life and imaginary relationships with his son.



At the climax of his recurring day-trances, Jorge is confronted by a surprise third being inhabiting planet b234- the NASA scientist Jorge follows in the news, Dr. Hiroe Kinoshita. She holds Otto hostage on planet b234 and demands that Jorge make a choice between fantasy and reality. Jorge chooses planet b234 and the closeness he feels to his son there. It is an act of self-preservation. We end on real-life Otto trying to reach his father on the phone, not knowing that his father is galaxies away and gone for good.



Keelie Sheridan

Director, Producer, Writer



Keelie Sheridan is a theatre & film-maker, choreographer and educator. As a performer, she competed in the 2009 Irish Dance World Championships and has appeared in world premieres and reprised works by playwrights including Charles Mee, Ben Gassman, Paul Ketchum, Elizabeth Irwin and Mac Wellman. Keelie has been the Producing Artistic Director of NYC-based dance & physical theatre company The Ume Group since August 2016. With The Ume Group, Keelie directed 'by wing, fin, hoof or foot' (2017), a devised physical theatre piece about animal and human migration, for which she received a 2018 New York Innovative Theatre Award Nomination for Outstanding Movement and Choreography. Keelie has co-produced several new works initiatives and festivals, including The Lab at Grace & St. Paul's, UNFIX NYC, The Terry Schreiber New Works Initiative and The Schreiber Shorts, and devised/ directed immersive installations and performance art pieces with Chashama NYC and Creative Time. Keelie holds a MFA in Acting from Brooklyn College and was a 2016 George J Mitchell Scholar, which enabled her to receive a MFA in Directing at Trinity College Dublin/ The Lir Academy. Keelie has taught acting and movement at Brooklyn College, City College of New York, the T. Schreiber Studio and the University of North Alabama. She is currently an Artist-in-Residence in the Theater and Dance Department at Union College in Schenectady, NY. @keeliesheridan www.keeliesheridan.com

Jorge Luna

Writer, Producer, Actor

At the age of seven, in his native Puerto Rico, he was inspired by a virtuoso circus performance by a troupe called Círculo. Jorge Luna started off as a dj and loved being smuggled into nightclubs at a young age to spin. FILM: planet b234 (vail), The Week Of (Netflix), All The Beautiful Things, (Sundance), The Last Frankenstein, Catching Fireflies, All Is Not Lost, Angelo, Bx3M. TV: Lisey's Story, Elementary, The Blacklist, Law & Order: SVU, The Code, One Life to Live, Basile. THEATRE: Baipás (George Street Playhouse), Constellations (George S. Lindsey Theatre), Hamlet (Caborca - Jersey City Theater Center), Deathwatch (The New Ohio Theatre), The Dream Dances (The Ume Group - Irondale), EN:2021 (Ren Gyo Soh - Zoom), SHINKA (Ren Gyo Soh - Capital Fringe), Starry Messenger (Theatre For The New City), Cymbeline (Caborca - Chashama), Iphigenia at Aulis (Tiyatro Global), The Promise (CBA), FLORIDITA, My Love (INTAR), Barceloneta, de noche (IATI), The Tempest, Julius Caesar (BC). TRAINING: Shakespeare; RADA. MFA Acting; Brooklyn College. @jorgelunadj www.jorgeluna.net



Jay Friedman-Mendez

Producer

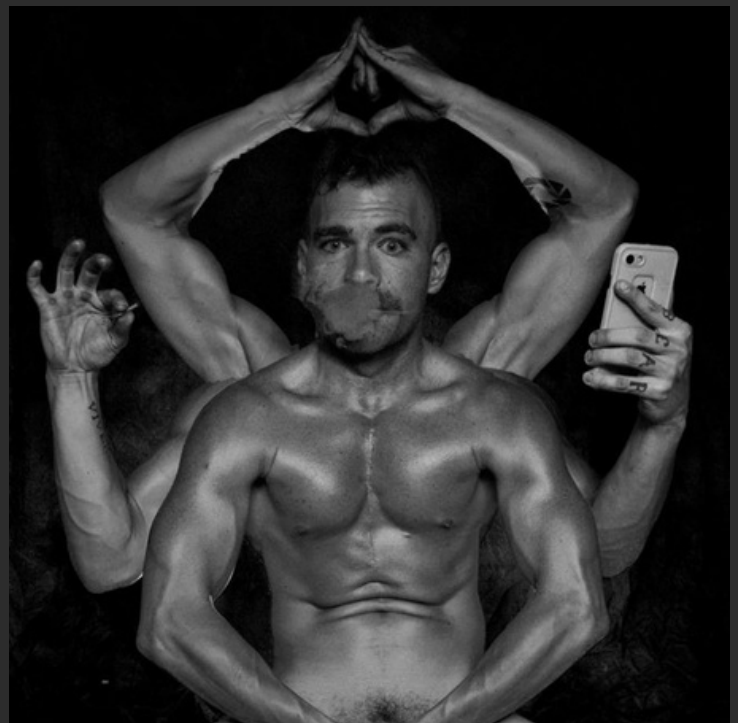


Brooklyn-born and raised, Jason Friedman-Mendez has built a winning reputation in the film and television industry over a decade. He has worked on a wide array of projects, including commercials, television shows, and feature films. Jason's Omega Jay Sound began as a single owner-operator company but quickly expanded into a hub for film and television production professionals. With clients such as HBO, Discovery, NBC, ESPN, CNN, ABC, HULU, MTV, VH1, SyFy, Bravo, HGTV Lifetime, and Style, Omega Jay Sound has become a respected brand in NYC and LA. @jay_fm

Joe Spit

Cinematographer, Editor, Colorization

Joe Spit works extensively with UCB Comedy, IFC, MTV and VICE. He is also an unlicensed falconer. @joespit137
www.joespit.org



Valentin Peter Eisele

Costume



Valentin Peter Eisele studied Graphic Design in Graz, Austria. After working multifariously in this area, he completed the Masters Program in Stage Design at the National Academy of Dramatic Art – The Lir – in Ireland. Currently he is focusing on Set and Costume Design and is located in Stuttgart, Germany. Valentin has worked with The Ume Group, backsteinhaus produktion, citizen.kane.kollektiv, Junges Ensemble Stuttgart and others. @carlos_cortletti
www.valentinpeter.de

César Dávila-Irizarry

Composer, Supervising Sound Editor

César Dávila-Irizarry left his homeland of Puerto Rico to develop his own artistic voice in the world of sound art and electronic music. After accumulating over a decade of experience as a sound designer in Hollywood, and winning multiple music awards, he is now focused on his sonically adventurous music. It is his fearless way of composing that has made critics describe him as a “mad genius” (Empire Online). César’s blend of sound design and music is said to “speak to us on an unconscious level” (Huffington Post). César is mostly known as the main composer of the theme song of American Horror Story. He holds nine BMI Awards @cesardavilairizarry
www.cesarsounddesign.com





Carlos Iván Márquez

Composer, Sound Editor

"Carlos Iván Márquez is a prolific, multi-format audio manipulator born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and currently living in Central Florida. He edits and twists sounds into his own beautiful yet anguishing soundscapes that give color to many storytelling projects. The calculated chaos of his compositions can be heard in projects like The Pulse Diaries, Hide The Potion, art shows, fashion runways, video games, among many others. There's always something new happening with Carlos. He keeps exploring and experimenting with new ways to express emotions that describe the world around him."

@cimarquez www.carlosivanmarquez.com

Diego Benalcázar

Foley, Re-recording Mixer

Diego Benalcázar is an audio professional with vast experience in several fields of audio and education. He has been involved with audio and music from an early age. Diego obtained a BA in Music and sound production from Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Berklee international Network). In 2014 he obtained an MA in Audio Production from the University of Westminster (London, UK) where he worked as a lecturer. In 2013 he started dB Audio Lab, an audio post production studio for interactive audio, sound design, and audio mixing. He currently works as an Associate Professor at Universidad de las Artes, while sound designing and mixing local and international films.

@diego_benalcazar @db_audiolab
www.diegobenalcazar.com



Yokko

Actor

Yokko is an actor, Butoh & Theatre Artist from Japan. Her work has been presented across the USA and Europe, and has received several awards. She has acted in, devised, and choreographed a variety of local and international shows and films. Most recently, her Butoh work has been seen in several music videos, including *I Don't Know Where We Went Wrong* (HOKO, 2020) and *Ready To Let Go* (Cage The Elephant, 2019). She is the artistic director of the Butoh Theatre Group, Ren Gyo Soh. @yokko.online www.yokko-online.com



Otto Luna-Caratini

Actor

Otto Luna-Caratini was born in Puerto Rico. He currently splits his time between Los Angeles, New York, and Puerto Rico. He is interested in becoming a stop-motion animator when he is older and has made numerous animations including *Blob and Crab* (Official Selection - RYFF 2017), *Evolushape* (1st Place - Lindero Canyon Middle School Film Festival), and the pilot episode of *Clay Universe* (in post production). His film credits include *planet b234*, *Sanky Panky 3*, and *The Last Frankenstein*. His commercial credits include: *Chef Boyardee* (recurring), and *Walgreens*. @ottolunacaratini





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