



LUKE AND EMMA

*and a gas station
on Franklin Ave*

Luke & Emma and a Gas Station Franklin Ave is a semi-autobiographical short film from award-winning writer-Director Levi Wilson, and produced by Lisa Hammer of Venture Bros fame. Luke is mixed Asian-American, and Emma is white, and they live in 1986 small town America. They have an incidental meeting in the parking lot of a local mini mart while waiting for Luke's Thai mother and Emma's white American father to shop. It's clear they both have crushes on each other, but they proceed with caution as they have an innate understanding of the community's prejudices reflected by their parents' awkward interactions inside.

~ CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS PROJECT. ~ LISA HAMMER ~
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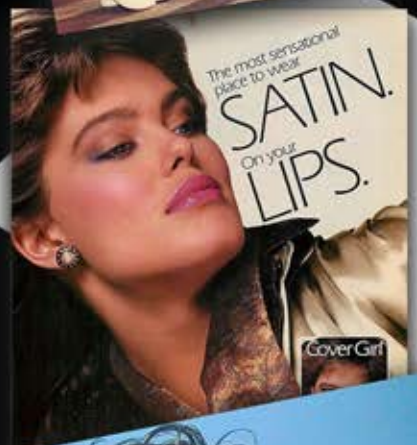
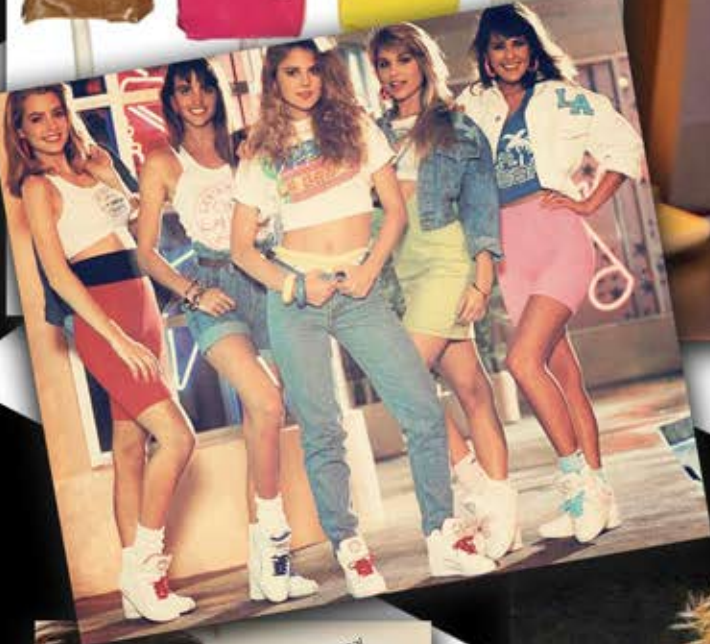
Luke and Emma is a 12 minute short film to be used as a "Proof of concept" piece to raise interest in the production of the feature film. The look will be retro in the style of "Licorice Pizza" with 1980's nostalgia as a backdrop for this coming-of-age story.



This short film will explore issues of racism and sexism in 1986 rural America. The story is told through the experience of adolescents who are exploring their feelings for each other as they push the boundaries established by their parents' and their extremely religious community.



THE LOOK AND FEEL OF 1980'S RURAL AMERICA



➤ KEY PERSONNEL ➤ WRITER-DIRECTOR ➤



LEVI WILSON IS A PRODUCER, AWARD-WINNING WRITER, DIRECTOR AND ACTOR. HE HAS CREATED AND PRODUCED COMEDY SHORTS, COMMERCIALS, AND CONTRIBUTED TO FEATURES SUCH AS *PUNK'S DEAD: SLG PUNK! 2* WHERE HE WORKED WITH DIRECTOR JAMES MERENDINO, DEVON SAWA (*FINAL DESTINATION*, *CHUCKY*), BEN SCHNETZER (*THE BOOK THIEF*, *Y: THE LAST MAN*), AND SARAH CLARKE (*TWILIGHT*). HE HAS WORKED WITH AND CREATED MULTIPLE PROJECTS WITH BEN EDLUND (*THE TICK*, *SUPERNATURAL*), AND THE POX SHOW WITH DOC HAMMER AND LISA HAMMER (*THE VENTURE BROS.*), JONATHAN KATZ (*DR. KATZ*), H. JON BENJAMIN (*ARCHER*, *MASTER OF NONE*), CLAYNE CRAWFORD (*LETHAL WEAPON*) AND ARDEN MYRIN (*INSIDE AMY SCHUMER*). HIS AWARD WINNING ORIGINAL SERIES, *MAYBE SUNSHINE*, IS AVAILABLE ON THE ROKU CHANNEL. HE IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING A WEEKLY COMEDY NEWS SERIES, A COLLECTION OF SHORT FILMS, A COMEDY FEATURE AND A FULL SLATE OF SCREENPLAYS. THE CMJ FILM FESTIVAL WINNER, *THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF THOMAS LYNCH*, IS CURRENTLY BEING REBOOTED AS A STREAMING SERIES FOR TUBI OF WHICH LEVI WILL REPRIS HIS ORIGINAL ROLE. HE WAS THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF A NEW FEATURE STARRING MOLLY RINGWALD AND CHARLIE TAHAN WHICH WILL BE RELEASED SHORTLY.

➤ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT ➤

"THIS IS A STORY I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TELL FOR A LONG TIME. IT'S A STORY THAT ISN'T TOLD OFTEN. IN POPULAR MEDIA I FIND THAT RACE AND ETHNICITY ARE DEPICTED AS HAVING REACHED A NEW CELEBRATED AND ASPIRATIONAL HARMONY IN MODERN SOCIETY. POPULAR DEPICTIONS OF DECADES PAST ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY SHOW SEGREGATED SUBCULTURES, SINGLE ETHNIC GROUPS LIVING APART FROM EACH OTHER, GHETTOIZED WITHIN THE BROADER MELTING POT OF AMERICA. "ETHNICALLY AMBIGUOUS" PEOPLE ARE SPRINKLED ALL OVER MODERN STORYTELLING MEDIA. BUT IN THE 80'S AND EARLIER PEOPLE OF MIXED ETHNIC HERITAGES EXISTED AND HAD UNIQUE EXPERIENCES WITHIN SUPPOSED MONOCULTURES. THE SOCIETAL PULL TO AFFIRM ONE CULTURE OVER THE OTHER (OFTEN FROM THE DOMINANT CULTURE) OFTEN PUT CHILDREN AT ODDS WITH THEIR OWN PARENTS.

"I WANT TO EXPLORE THESE THEMES AS I DEVELOP THIS SHORT INTO A FEATURE FILM. ADOLESCENT CHILDREN WILL BE THE MAIN CHARACTERS AS THEY HAVE YET TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD AND ARE OFTEN EARNEST AND VOCAL AS THEY EXPLORE HOW THEY FIT INTO THEIR COMMUNITY. THE STORY OF INTEGRATION BEGAN WITH THESE ACCIDENTAL PIONEERS WHO CHALLENGED THE PREVAILING WISDOM BY SIMPLY EXISTING."



← KEY PERSONNEL → PRODUCERS →



STACIE JONES GENTZLER IS A PRODUCER WITH OVER 15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN FILM. MOST NOTABLY, SHE SERVED AS UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER ON THE ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATED *MARGIN CALL*. SHE HAS WORKED ALONGSIDE A-LIST TALENT INCLUDING JEREMY IRONS, BRIE LARSON, JONATHAN GROFF, SONEQUA MARTIN-GREEN AND DEMI MOORE. SHE HELMED AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS FOR THE U.S. ARMY, AS WELL AS BEING ON THE PRODUCTION TEAMS FOR THREE FILMS THAT PREMIERED AT SUNDANCE. STACIE HAS EXPERIENCE IN ALL FACETS OF PRODUCTION, ON A VARIETY OF PROJECT SIZES AND BUDGETS. ADDITIONALLY, SHE TEACHES FILM COURSES AT STEVENSON UNIVERSITY IN BALTIMORE.



LISA HAMMER IS A NY INDEPENDENT FILM DIRECTOR/PRODUCER BEST KNOWN AS THE VOICE OF TRIANA ORPHEUS ON ADULT SWIM'S CARTOON *THE VENTURE BROS*. SHE HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO *JOANIE4JACKIE*, A FILM ANTHOLOGY PROJECT RUN BY MIRANDA JULY, WHICH FEATURED HAMMER'S FILM, *EMPIRE OF ACHE*, WHICH WAS RECENTLY ACQUIRED BY THE GETTY MUSEUM. IN THE PAST LISA HAS COLLABORATED WITH BEN EDLUND (*FIREFLY*, *THE TICK*) AND DOC HAMMER (*THE VENTURE BROS*) AND WITH JAMES MERENDINO (*SLC PUNK!*). HAMMER HAS DIRECTED SUCH OUTSTANDING TALENTS AS CLAYNE CRAWFORD, JAMES DUVAL, AARTI MANN, H. JON BENJAMIN, JONATHAN KATZ, EVE PLUMB, COURTNEY LOVE, THURSTON MOORE, AND ARDEN MYRIN. PAST PROJECTS INCLUDE A BIOGRAPHICAL WEB SERIES *MAYBE SUNSHINE* (DIRECTED BY LEVI WILSON) AND THE RELEASE OF HER MUSICAL COMEDY FEATURE FILM *THE SISTERS PLOTZ*. (WHICH WAS SCREENED AT NYWIFT/ANTHOLOGY FILM ARCHIVES) HER NEW SCREENPLAY, *GHOSTAPUS*, IS WINNING AWARDS AND HAS GREAT TALENT ATTACHED. HAMMER IS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND EDITOR ON A NEW FEATURE FILM *MONTAUK*, STARRING MOLLY RINGWALD, CHARLIE TAHAN (*OZARK*), SADIE CALVANO (*MOM*) TO BE RELEASED IN 2022, AND EDITOR ON A COMEDY FEATURE *OUT OF ORDER* STARRING BROOKE SHIELDS, SANDRA BERNHART, LUIS GUZMAN AND BRENDAN ROUTH (*SUPERMAN RETURNS*) FOR RELEASE IN 2023. SHE WILL BE PRODUCING AND STARRING IN THE SERIES *GREAT KILLS* BASED ON HER AWARD-WINNING FILM *THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF THOMAS LYNCH* WHEN SHE PLAYS A CALLOUS FILMMAKER FOLLOWING A LONELY STATEN ISLAND HITMAN WHICH SHE ALSO CO-DIRECTED WITH MERENDINO.

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DEVELOPMENT PRODUCER - **WILLIAM BISGROVE** STARTED AS A CLASSICALLY TRAINED ARTIST BEFORE SWITCHING TO FILM STUDIES. HOLDING A MASTER'S DEGREE IN FILM AND PERFORMANCE FROM BUFFALO UNIVERSITY AND IS AN ALUMNUS OF BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY'S (AVANT-GARDE) CINEMA DEPARTMENT, FOCUSING ON CRITICAL THEORY AND ANALYSIS. MENTORED BY FAMED NYC FILMMAKER AMOS POE AND THE BUFFALO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL'S OWN EDWARD SUMMER; THIS WRITER, FILMMAKER, AND FINE ARTIST - HAS HELPED CREATIVE MINDS BRING AN ECLECTIC MIX OF FILM, THEATER, AND NEW MEDIA PROJECTS TO LIFE FOR MORE THAN A DECADE IN BOTH FOR AND NON-PROFIT ARENAS.