

VIRGINIA REECE
JEFFREY VINCENT PARISE

c r a z y
t h e s e
d a y s

written by VIRGINIA REECE
directed by TARA KARSIAN

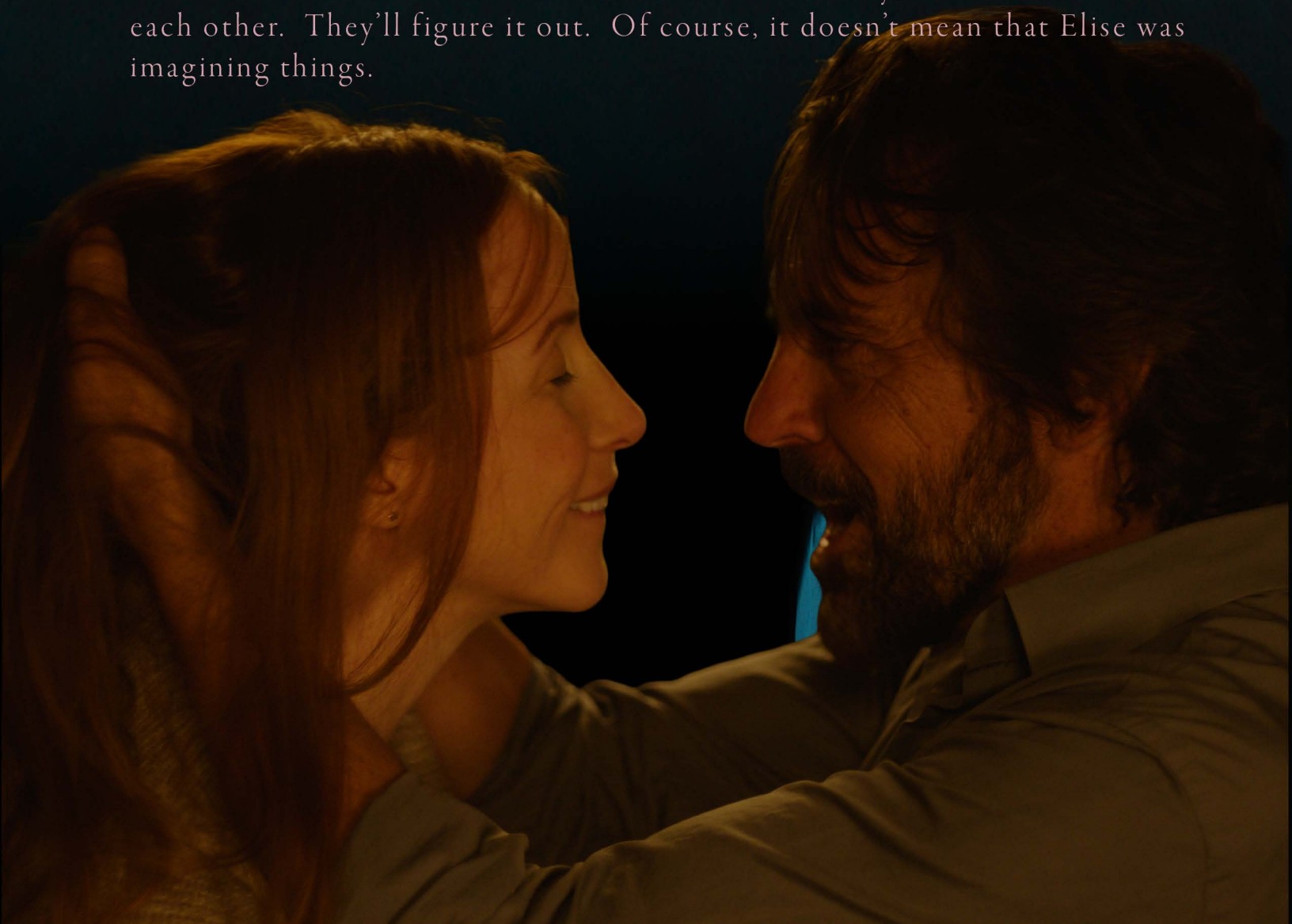


LOGLINE

CRAZY THESE DAYS is a short film that explores a couple in love desperate to stay connected in a modern world.

SYNOPSIS

Weird things keep happening while Elise is alone, so when her husband, Derek, returns unexpectedly from a business trip to surprise her, it has the opposite effect. In fact, it only raises more questions to her mounting suspicions. Frustrations spill into a huge fight over Derek's impending move to NYC, and they teeter on the cusp of major damage to their relationship. With their strong desire and trust in each other, they manage to calm the waters and realize that no matter the city, their 'home' is with each other. They'll figure it out. Of course, it doesn't mean that Elise was imagining things.



CREATOR STATEMENT

The story for *CRAZY THESE DAYS* popped into my head just before the pandemic hit. I remember fleshing out the details on January 1, 2020, before sitting down to write about a couple desperate to stay connected in a modern world. I am continually fascinated by love and relationships and in this specific instance, what keeps couples together when their lives are seemingly progressing in different directions. It's a very real story and I hope to touch everyone who watches it — I want them to see versions of themselves in Elise and Derek and if they're in any type of relationship, I want them to be moved to fight for it.

I feel like we don't talk about these (quiet) low moments that take over relationships enough. Though probably easier to follow in a feature/series length production — they are awful and insidious and excruciating and full of doubt. But the promise of relief is real and always just around that damn corner; and the individuals and relationship are always stronger for the better when they make it through. Hagai Levi's *SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE* is a beautiful example of a couple in turmoil taking time to communicate and find their balance. My challenge in choosing short film, was to explore and resolve this dilemma in under 12 minutes, and ours ends with a dose of 'life getting in the way'. Elise and Derek consciously chose each other -- it's the uncertainty of life that ultimately tears them apart. Love story. Or horror story?

And what is that silent horror? In some cases it's cancer, or getting hit by car, gun violence (hello America), but no, in this instance it's technology. We know it watches us, it listens to us, it follows us, we know it's fallible, and yet... it blends into the background. We excuse this frightening, intrusive, and voyeuristic behavior because we can't seem to live without its convenience. It messes with how we communicate with each other as a species. It causes anxiety. We have to consciously remind ourselves to put it second and practice human interaction. Crazy these days, right?

Finally, from my work as a producer, my greatest joy was knowing talented artists who could not only help me bring this story to life, but also elevate my vision. I've worked with each member of my core team on several film projects and our deep respect for each other's artistry and work ethic is invaluable. My passion and drive in this business, is to create beautiful and honest stories, always conscious of the importance of inclusion and diversity. As the first film to be produced by my production company, Uihlein Carpenter, I could not be more proud of *CRAZY THESE DAYS* and the efforts of my entire team.





THE TEAM & CAST

VIRGINIA REECE

writer/producer/Elise



Virginia spent years training to be an opera singer until she made her first commercial. From that moment, Virginia fell in love with camera work, and a pursuit of honesty and human understanding ensued — on both sides of the camera. Virginia made her film debut in Adam Sandler’s 50 FIRST DATES and has since been in many films and television shows, including FALLING and BULL MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT with Tara Karsian, both of which earned her Best Actress nominations. As a producer/AD, Virginia has worked on several award winning films including POP (Carol), MADE PUBLIC, DANNI & MAY, PLATYPUS, and coming of age hit BANGING LANIE (Susan).

CRAZY THESE DAYS is Virginia’s debut as a writer/creator. The culmination of years as a producer allowed her to hand pick a team of incredible artists to help her bring this story to life. It is the first film to be produced by her production company, Uihlein Carpenter, which celebrates beauty, honesty, and entertainment.

When not working in front of or behind the camera, you can find Virginia riding in Montana’s backcountry or sitting at the piano writing love songs.

TARA KARSIAN

director



As an actress, Tara has guest starred and/or recurred on over fifty television shows such as AppleTV’s THE MORNING SHOW (for which she was nominated for a 2022 SAG Award for Best Ensemble), MAYOR OF KINGSTOWN, AMERICAN HORROR STORY-1984, 9-1-1, DEAD TO ME, I’M SORRY, THE MAGICIANS, SHUT EYE, BROOKLYN NINE-NINE, REVIEW, PREACHER, SHAMELESS, among countless others.

Tara has produced multiple award nominated plays in Los Angeles such as the world premiere’s of THE CAKE by Bekah Brunstetter and BED by Sheila Callaghan at the Echo Theater Company where she was formerly the Co-Associate Artistic Director. Tara co-wrote/produced and starred in the award-winning independent feature film, BFFs, which premiered at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival (and went on to play the worldwide film festival circuit for over two years) and can currently be seen on Amazon and various other platforms.

JULIANNE DOWLER

producer



Julianne Dowler is an LA based mom, actress, writer, and filmmaker.

After more than a decade working in the industry as an actor, Julianne began producing films that amplified under-represented voices. Her films have all employed women in key positions and the majority of her productions have nearly all-female crews.

Julianne's most notable filmmaker credits include her directorial debut, *DANNI & MAY*, a short drama that Julianne also wrote and starred in, about a dysfunctional mother/daughter relationship. The film had a successful festival run, including selection into an Oscar qualifying festival and garnered several award nominations, including 2 Best Director nods. Julianne produced and starred in *PLATYPUS*, a dark comedy short centering on a dysfunctional S&M relationship and *MY HOUSE*, a short drama about childhood trauma in which she also produced and starred.

Julianne is a proud SAG-AFTRA member, having served twice on the SAG Awards nominating committee. She has appeared in numerous films, web series, and commercial campaigns. She also serves on the board of directors for the musical theatre group, 30 Minute Musicals. She recently traveled with her company to Scotland for the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where they performed to sold out shows and garnered a Best of the Fest award. Born and raised in Hooker, Arkansas, Julianne moved to Los Angeles after earning her BFA in Theatre Performance from The University of Memphis.



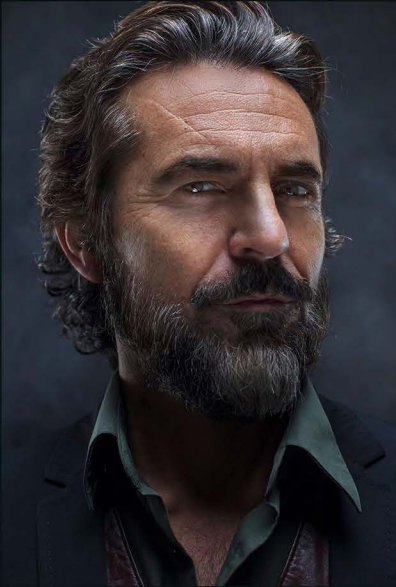
ERIN DELLORSO

producer

Erin is a Producer, Actor, and Comedian living and working in LA. She got her start at Upright Citizen's Brigade, performing nightly and also developing new and exciting live shows, some of which had extensive runs. In tandem, she worked in production for many years on different shows ranging from late night to scripted, and discovered a love for producing. She began with narrative shorts, working on award winning projects such as *PLATYPUS* and *DANNI & MAY*. Her career quickly transitioned to the more fast-paced TV world where she established herself as one of the youngest and most passionate producers in the industry. Most recently she produced *PASSWORD* with Jimmy Fallon and Keke Palmer, which premiered on CBS and has already been renewed for a second season, *LET'S MAKE A DEAL* on CBS, and *GO BIG SHOW* on TBS. She also currently produces multiple live shows at The Elysian and UCB in Los Angeles and The Bell House in New York with some of the biggest names in the comedy world. As a storyteller, she has always known that her heart was in narrative work. She has pitched projects to Paper Kite Productions, Broadway Videos, and Chelsea Handler's company Borderline Amazing Productions.

JEFFREY VINCENT PARISE

Derek/producer



Jeffrey Vincent Parise is an American multidisciplinary artist.

As an actor, he can be seen on AppleTV's upcoming HIGH DESERT, starring Patricia Arquette and Matt Dillon, and soon will be seen in the upcoming Netflix series, GRISELDA. Other notable TV roles include MAD MEN, THE DETOUR, LEVERAGE: REDEMPTION, as well as SUPERNATURAL, where he played the beloved 7th Prince of Hell, Asmodeus. Parise is also known for playing Carlos Rivera and his twin Dr. Joe Rivera for 3 1/2 years on GENERAL HOSPITAL, earning him a 2017 Daytime Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama. Parise has appeared in over 40 films, including DON'T COME KNOCKING, and THE LOVE WITCH.

Parise is also a filmmaker, having written and directed several documentaries, including THE INLAWS & THE OUTLAWS co-directed by Cree Summer. When not around a camera, Parise can be found painting or making music. His paintings hang in homes and galleries around the world, many of which can be seen in his book, "Jeffrey Vincent Parise - a decade of paintings 2000-2010" published by White Crow Publishing. An avid percussionist, Parise plays djembe, cajon and the drumbrella.



KATHARINE WHITE

director of photography

Katharine White is an LA-based cinematographer. She has shot several award-winning narrative shorts, and was featured in American Cinematographer for narrative on the upcoming short "Dame", directed by Foster Wilson. Her work on music videos has been featured in publications such as AltPress, Glamour, Billboard, FADER, Refinery29, Complex UK, Kerrang!, NME, and Stereogum. She shoots in LA, NY, and everywhere in between.



JACK LAWRENCE MAYER

editor

Jack Lawrence Mayer is a writer, editor, and director from Atlanta, Georgia, based in Los Angeles by way of Chicago. He is known for the HBO mini-series, *SINGLE LONG*, and for his work on the digital comedy series, *MOONLIGHTER TO MARS* (Big Breakfast / Collegehumor), and *DISTANCE: THE SERIES* (Odessa Mama), which premiered at SXSW and was named by Indiewire as one of the Top Five Digital Series of 2018. Most recently, Jack wrote, directed, and edited his first feature film, *BIG HOUSE*, which won Best Feature at the 2020 Rhode Island International Film Festival and the 2020 NoHo Cinefest, and was released by Gravitass Ventures in August of 2021.



ADRIAN WITTENBERG

production designer

Adrian Wittenberg is a Los Angeles native who brings practical hands-on experience and an expertise in art history to her designs. She was doomed to the art department life. An actual profession where you play with power tools and art supplies, and an excuse to stalk thrift shops and horde props? Filmmaking combines her love of collaboration and the power of visual storytelling. She has been working in the international film community for 10 years.

FULL CREDITS

WRITER & PRODUCER	VIRGINIA REECE
DIRECTOR	TARA KARSIAN
PRODUCER	JULIANNE DOWLER
PRODUCER	ERIN DELLORSO
PRODUCER	JEFFREY VINCENT PARISE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	UIHLEIN CARPENTER, LLC
CINEMATOGRAPHER	KATHARINE WHITE
EDITOR	JACK LAWRENCE MAYER
PRODUCTION DESIGNER	ADRIAN WITTENBERG

CAST

ELISE	VIRGINIA REECE
DEREK	JEFFREY VINCENT PARISE
CIRCE	SILVIA BALDASSINI

CREW

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	COURTNEY HOPE THÉROND
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR	AMANDA MARTIN
1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA	TESSA KIER
2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA & DIT	KATE GRAVES
GAFFER	HANEUL KIM
KEY GRIP	ARMANDO VAZQUEZ
SWING G&E	KAITLYN SCARDINO
SOUND RECORDING	NICOLAS OSORIO
HAIR & MAKEUP	JESSICA VERGON
INTIMACY COORDINATOR	JULIANNE DOWLER
SOUND EDITOR	MICHAEL FARNAN
VFX	RYAN BLACKWELL
CCO	ALEX VAUGHAN
BEST BOY	BRANDON DOUGHERTY
PA	HAYLIE HARWOOD



TECH SPECS

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION
UNITED STATES

RUNNING TIME
11:47

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE
ENGLISH

SHOOTING FORMAT
DIGITAL, COLOR, 4:3





CONTACT

VIRGINIA REECE
UIHLEIN CARPENTER
virginiareece@gmail.com