

There's no time like the future



Spooky Action

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MA & PA PICTURES PRESENTS "SPOOKY ACTION" STARRING ALI BILL HANNAH SEUSY
MANDY BROWN DOUG HARRIS WITH JORDAN ALLEN BELL MARK KOENIG
ARTHUR AULISI JOHN HIGGINS GABRIEL VAUGHAN PRODUCTION DESIGN BY AMANDA STRASSLER
MUSIC BY BRIANNA WIEGAND ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS CATIE GRANT & ERIN RYAN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MARK STITZER PRODUCED & EDITED BY MAURA E. SHEA
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ROD BINGAMAN COPYRIGHT 2023



Synopsis

Time travelers kidnap a 1990s NASA scientist and loop him into the future in order to steal his anti-aging research. Meanwhile his wife suffers a sexual identity crisis and becomes the prime suspect in his disappearance.

Logline: There's no time like the future.

Statement

Spooky Action is a story about time.

Some things seem impervious to time, immutable, while others appear to either elongate or shorten it. In other words, time is a finite measure, but its relativity is philosophical. That's the inspiration for this project. Both love and faith are enduring qualities that share elements of reality and imagination. Each requires belief and devotion.

Our lives follow this unpredictable rhythm. As a parent, your child-raising time flies by. The loss of a loved one causes you to pause and reflect. Time, then, is relative to emotion. Our history also follows this rhythm. We are all time travelers of a sort. Think of what has transpired in your lifetime and what you have learned.

Regret is human. If you could view your life from a fresh perspective, what would you correct?

Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger (famously known for his cat) described quantum entanglement as: "Two interacting objects, observer and observed, woven into one." Science cannot determine what lies underneath our observations. Entanglement may be responsible for keeping objective reality behind a veil in human experience.

The trouble with time is its relentless persistence.

The trouble with life is its resistance to time's cold reality.

As Amelia says: "Destiny has a way of finding people."

Quantum Entanglement asks: is this experience real or imagined?

"Spooky Action" 104 minutes, 1.85:1, Stereo

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BIOS

Rod Bingaman (Writer/Director) & Maura Shea (Producer/Editor)



Rod & Maura launched Ma & Pa Pictures in 1999 to produce work with alumni and students at Penn State Bellisario College of Communication. They've made five feature films in the last 20 years: *A Holiday Affair* (Audience Award, 2000 Brooklyn FF); *Hooray for Mister Touchdown* (2005, Goliath Arts/Access Media Group); *Chasing Butterflies* (2009, Anderson Media/Vanguard); *Ripped!* (2015, Monarch Films); and *Spooky Action*. They began their professional careers in Boston, MA, and share experience in directing, editing, sound design and cinematography.

Mark Stitzer (Director of Photography)



Mark is a Pennsylvania-based, award-winning director of photography and editor. A 2002 graduate of Penn State's Film program, his work ranges from commercials and shorts to feature length independent films and documentaries. He has earned numerous industry awards and recognition including an Emmy award for his work as the Director of Photography on the nationally aired PBS documentary "Water Blues Green Solutions." Mark has performed just about every major crew role including grip, audio recording, camera operating including jib and Steadicam and even directing. Because of this diverse experience range and skill set, he has been called the "Swiss Army Knife of filmmaking."

Amanda Strasser
(Art Designer)



Amanda studied Film and Integrative Arts at Pennsylvania State University. After graduating in 2018, she moved to Brooklyn NY, where she worked in film and photo production. She founded Holy Moly Media in 2020 and graduated in 2022 with a master's degree in Corporate Innovation & Entrepreneurship. Her side projects include designing characters for Dungeons & Dragons and indoor bouldering.

Catie Grant

(Associate Producer/Asst. Director)



Catie Grant has 20 years of experience producing documentary and client-based media. She is an Asst. Teaching Professor in the Bellisario College (Penn State) teaching film production and producing; and she directs PSU's media production unit CommAgency. Formerly, Grant worked at WPSU in State College, PA, where she specialized in producing and directing short-form documentaries and branded content.

Erin Ryan

(Associate Producer/Director's Asst.)



Erin Ryan is graduate of the Penn State Film program. Curious, intentional, and team-spirited, Erin embraces opportunities that combine her love of human development and connection with the sport of visual artistry. Erin has co-directed a feature: *Love Isn't Enough*; shot the Troma feature comedy-horror *The Slashening*; and directed an award-winning short *Alex Stop*. She now works as a full-time producer-director at a creative agency in Philadelphia.

Brianna Wiegand

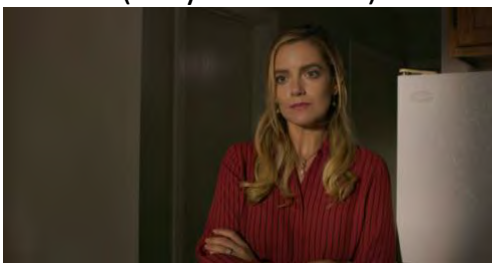
(Composer)



Bri Wiegand is a sound designer, composer, dancer, filmmaker, and percussionist who is an advocate for new music. She has performed in the international Penn State Vibraphone Century Festival, the Alvin Lucier Tribute Festival in Washington D.C, and the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Indianapolis. She is the inventor of the Frankenvibe, a vibraphone that uses simple circuits to trigger speaker heads and lights. Her work has been described as having a "special edginess."

Ali Bill

(Lucy Periwinkle)



Ali is classically trained, with a BFA from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She's played Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Phoebe for the *Friends* 25th Anniversary in Las Vegas and performed *Smelly Cat* with the Rembrandts. She completed the improv program at the Upright Citizen's Brigade Theatre, wrote and performed sketches. Ali has co-starred on *Bull* for CBS and stars in the ongoing web series *The Drive Thru Therapist*.

More at alibill.com

Hannah Seusy

(Dana)

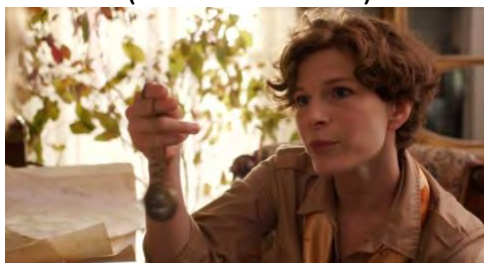


Hannah is a New York based actress and voiceover artist. Recent credits include *Gossip Girl*, the short *All Night Long*, and web series *Flyering*. She has performed in NY and regionally in *The Walls*, *Next Thing You Know*, *Anais Nin Goes to Hell*, *Dry Land*, and *J Train* (Best Actress, Planet Connections Festival). She's narrated numerous audiobooks, plus commercials for Intel, Selsun Blue, and Quiviq. Hannah is a graduate of the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts.

More at hannahseusy.com.

Mandy Brown

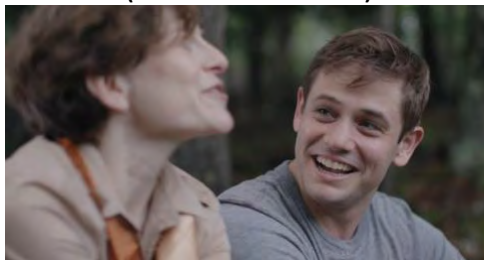
(Amelia Earhart)



Mandy Brown is an actress and photographer from Los Angeles. She's a graduate of the Joanne Baron/D.W. Brown Studio in Santa Monica, holds degrees from Penn State in both Theatre Arts and Film Production, and studied at The Imagined Life. Credits include the TV show *Longmire*, Sundance's scripted podcast *Exeter*, and she directed the award-winning short film *Allegiance*. *Spooky Action* is her fifth production with Ma & Pa Pictures.

Doug Harris

(Rick Periwinkle)



Doug Harris is an actor/writer based in NYC. His films include *December 1, 1969*, *The Wait*, *Viking Funeral*, and *Spooky Action*. He has extensive NYC Theater credits: *New Golden Age* (Primary Stages), *Disco Pigs* (Drama League), *The Rape of The Sabine Women...* (Playwrights Realm), *The Glass Menagerie* (Masterworks). In Regional Theater: *A Few Good Men* (La Mirada & Pittsburgh Public), *Still Life* (Angram Opera), *Sheepdog* (CATF), *It's Only a Play* (George Street), *We're Gonna Be Okay* (B Street), *10x10* (Barrington Stage Co.). Doug is currently in pre-production on a new feature called *Caravan*. More at www.dougharrisactor.com

Arthur Aulisi
(Henry Hudson)



Arthur is primarily a theater actor whose home base was NYC for over 25 years. He has also directed, taught, and written for the theater. He was selected by nytheatre.com as a Person of the Year for his contributions to the independent theatre scene in NY. He is a graduate of Northwestern University and has trained at Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Williamstown Theatre Festival and Circle Rep, among others. He previously appeared in Ma & Pa Pictures' films *Chasing Butterflies* and *Ripped!*.

Gabriel Vaughan
(Louis Le Prince)



Gabriel Vaughan's film & TV credits include *Chasing Butterflies* and *Ripped!* (with Ma & Pa Pictures), *Alto*, *Dear Edward*, *Public Interest*, *Mona Lisa Smile*, *A Beautiful Mind*, *As the World Turns*, *Master of the Kennel*, and *Zephyr*. Gabe has acted in over 20 professional Shakespeare productions and is a founding member of the Tennessee Shakespeare Company. He is also an Audie Award winning narrator and has recorded over 200 audiobooks. He studied acting at Sarah Lawrence College and in London at BADA. He lives in Brooklyn, NY with his wife and their two cats.

www.gabrielvaughan.com

John Higgins
(Ambrose Bierce)



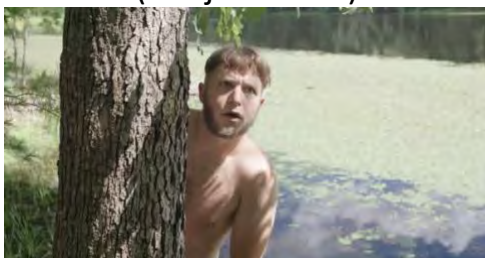
John Higgins returns to this side of the camera after a long career as a Producer. He was most recently seen as attorney Richard Martins on HBO's *Succession* and indie film favorite fox-therian papa Frank Kitsune in Dawson Campbell's *Otherkins*. Recent theatre credits include originating the role of Gordon in the off Broadway run of *Food Fighters*. *Spooky Action* was madcap fun playing Ambrose with Hudson, Le Prince & Earhart and joyfully memorable filmmaking. Visit www.johnhiggins3000.com

Jordan Allen Bell
(Jacob Hill)



Jordan Allen Bell is a passionate New York City theater, film, and television actor. He is also a dedicated father to two lovely children Abe and Emma, along with his beautiful and supportive wife Erika. His early life included disparate journeys from cities to hollers; Quaker meetings to the Marine corps infantry; study at the Sorbonne to Mexico motorcycle meandering; experiencing the vast spectrum of human emotions that fuel his portrayal of characters. His Sketch Comedy Show: *Series of Unfortunate Folks*, opened at The Players Theater on MacDougal Street. www.jordanallenbell.com

Mark Koenig (Benjamin Hill)



Mark Koenig is a New York based actor with TV appearances including *30 Rock* (2012) and films such as *Kill Your Darlings* (2013) and *Marry Me* (2022). Mark stars in the never-before adapted Stephen King short, *The Monkey*, set to release in 2023. Mark also performs in and serves as Artistic Director of *Our Bar*, a site-specific theater company that produces monthly original shows in NYC. www.markakoenig.com

Cole Flanders (Caleb Hill)



Cole Flanders is a middle schooler at Avon Grove Charter School in Chester County, Pennsylvania. He discovered his love of acting at the young age of five when he performed in his first play, *Doctor Doolittle*. Since then, Cole has appeared in movies, television, commercials, and print. When he's not on set Cole enjoys traveling, being a member of the local swim team, taking acting classes, hanging out with friends, and playing video games.

Michael Odofin (Chase)



Michael Odofin is a NYC based producer, writer, developer, and actor from Philadelphia. You may have seen him in theater productions *As Much as I Can*, *Skin in the Game*, and *Psycho Beach Party*. Michael was also in commercials for *Captain Morgan*, *Bud Light*, and *Cash Cannon*. He is no stranger to the independent film scene portraying roles in *Ori Inu*, *The Space Between*, and *Locked*. He has also produced *Bio: You Need to Know* and *Pop History* for A&E and History respectively.

Thomas Christopher Nieto (Donovan)



Thomas holds a BA from Texas State University and an MFA from the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. His film acting credits include *All She Can* (Sundance 2011), *Good Girl Jane*, and *Violent States of America*. He also appears in the TV Series *I Do*. He has performed in regional theatre throughout the US, including the Passage Theatre in New Jersey, New Fringe and NY Center Stage.



Spooky Action is the 5th Ma & Pa Pictures Production. Principle photography began July 2019 (1998 scenes) with a plan to resume a year later with the contemporary scenes. Because of COVID-19, shooting was delayed until July 2021. The locations are all in and around Centre County, Pennsylvania.

Maura Shea and Rod Bingaman are married, both Associate Teaching Professors in Film Production at Penn State's Bellisario College of Communications. The crew was comprised of PSU Film alumni, along with a handful of students. The cast is primarily professionals.

Historical Context

In 1998, same-sex marriage was not legal in any of the 50 U.S. States. Only the state of Vermont recognized same sex "civil unions" at the time. Being gay or lesbian was popularly referred to as a "lifestyle choice," as opposed to a natural occurrence.



The periwinkle flower produces over 130 chemical compounds, including two common in the treatment of cancer. It is also the last shade of blue before lavender. Lavender dye was discovered by the 16th century Phoenicians. By the end of the 19th century, Europe's Aestheticism art movement caused it to become associated with homosexuality. In 1953, President Eisenhower's Executive Order #10450 barred gays and lesbians from serving in the federal government. It created a climate of discrimination sometimes referred to as the "Lavender Scare."

Space travel and weightlessness causes you to age quicker than on the Earth due to the lack of gravity. NASA started research into anti-aging 5-lipoxygenase solution in the 1990s. The program was classified but is believed to have been discontinued around 2005. The agency moved on to pursue stem cell research. Today 5-L is used in various pharmacological products, including asthma medicine and some cancer treatment drugs.

Real Lives of the Time Travelers



Amelia Earhart was the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic. She was also an author, an engineer, and a champion of women's rights. On July 2, 1937, she disappeared in the Pacific Ocean during an attempt to circle the globe by air, somewhere near Howland Island. Neither she nor her Lockheed Electra aircraft have ever been recovered.



Henry Hudson was last seen in 1611, set adrift in James Bay, (Canada) along with his son and seven other loyal crew members following a mutiny. It was Hudson's 3rd voyage to the region seeking a water passage to the far East. His wife Katherine (known as Kate) sued the East India Trading Company over his disappearance and won. As a result, she became one of the richest women of the early 17th century, second only to the Anne, queen of Scotland.



Ambrose Bierce was a satirist and journalist who was a contemporary of Mark Twain. *Spooky Action's* inner titles are from his book *The Devil's Dictionary*. Bierce joined Pancho Villa's revolutionary army as an embedded journalist in Mexico in 1913. His last letter was dated December 26, which closed: "tomorrow I leave for an unknown destination." He was never seen nor heard from again, and his remains have never been found.



Louis Le Prince was an artist and inventor of the motion picture camera. He was last seen by his brother boarding a train from Dijon to Paris in 1890, but neither he nor his luggage ever arrived. His wife Elizabeth believed until her death that Thomas Edison had her husband murdered to secure the patent for the cinema camera. A competing theory is that his brother, who owed Le Prince a substantial amount of money, might have been responsible. Scotland Yard got involved, but the case was never solved.

Set Notes



The lake is a former Girl Scout Camp called (ironically) Golden Pond, now privately owned. It is located in Petersburg, PA.

The **time travelers' hideout** is the Centre Furnace Mansion, a museum run by the Centre County (Pennsylvania) Historical Society, located in State College, PA. The building is reputed to be haunted.



The **Gray/O'Toole Farm** (Jacob Hill Farm) was originally constructed by an Amish family. It is in Mill Hall, PA. The Mill Hall Walmart features hitching posts to accommodate its Amish customers.

Amish

The film is set in the Hudson Valley. There are 57 different Amish communities in New York; and over 90 in Pennsylvania. Rod's interest in the Amish came about when he hired an Amish man, Daniel King, to do some house repairs and later served as his driver.

Anecdotal

Rick's cell phone is the same model as Rod's from 1999, used on the set of Ma & Pa's first film *A Holiday Affair* (Nokia 5110) and was in fact the ONLY cell phone on that set, which is hard to imagine. It cost 10 cents to send or receive a text message in 1998.



Ripples (real name Marbles), Rick's beloved dog, belongs to Key Grip Mike Zelazny (right in canoe). Marbles had never been in a boat but would do most anything for Ritz crackers.



Mandy Brown (Amelia Earhart) cuts her 5-year-old son Wynn's hair and volunteered to give Cole Flanders the Amish "bowl" coif.



One reason Hannah and Ali are sharing a laugh here is that when male members were excused from set to stage this scene, the sound recordist had accidentally *locked himself in the closet*.