



Electronic Press Kit

TABLE of CONTENTS

Pg. 3 Specs

Pg. 4 Logline & Trailer

Pg. 5 Director's Statement

Pg. 6 Bios

Pg. 11 Main Cast

Pg. 12 Stills

Pg. 13 BTS

Pg. 14 Credits

Pg. 18 Contact

SPECS

Genre | Satirical Horror

Short Film

TRT | 15:45

Written, Directed and Edited by | Jonathan DiMaio

Produced by | Antonio Alonzo Ayala, Heather Brawley

Filming Locations | Northern California
(Santa Clara, Mountain View, San Francisco and Oakland)

Country of Origin | USA

Language | English

Year | 2024

Aspect Ratio | 2:1

Resolution | 3840 x 1920

Sound | 5.1 or Stereo

Formats Available | DCP or Digital



[Link](#) to all images in this deck

[Link](#) to Press & Festivals



LOGLINE

When the wealthy mother of a high schooler discovers that her son can get extra time on the SAT if he gets injured, things spiral out of control.

[TRAILER](#)

SYNOPSIS

All is not well in prim and proper Beth Simpson's exclusive enclave of wealthy, tech industry parents: her high school senior Teddy, despite being a talented pianist, is struggling during the pressurized college admissions process—he can't break 1200 on the SAT. When Beth learns that Teddy can get extra time on the all-important test if he's injured, her heart leaps at the thought of a high score and entrance into an elite, cloistered university. Darkness overwhelms her maternal instincts, and she decides to do whatever it takes to get the standardized testing outcome she wants.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Princeton's in the Mix is my story about what happens when one status-obsessed parent finds a shortcut, a cheat on the SAT that is resisted by her principled and earnest piano-obsessed son.

I wanted to make a film for audiences that is a satirical, fun, and disturbing parable about what happens when wealthy parents' obsession with college admissions makes them lose sight of their children's actual well-being. *Princeton's in the Mix* takes the time-honored traditions of elitism, academic cheating, and parental pressure and turns the results physical and horrifying, and I hope viewers will see the movie as an indictment of the warping of our society's higher education admissions process.

The horror is intensified by presenting the story's satire, comedy, and splashes of camp with a controlled and gliding camera, opulent lighting, and the hauntingly beautiful Franz Liszt étude *La Campanella*, which is quickened, warped, and chopped up when appropriate. The performance of Heather Burns, known primarily for comic roles, strengthens the darkly comedic elements of the movie.

I'm pleased to share what I think is a very engaging and thought-provoking film about insecure parents who no longer see — or have never seen — education as an end in itself.

— Jonathan DiMaio
Writer/Director

BIOS



JONATHAN DIMAIO Writer, Director, Editor

Jonathan DiMaio is a filmmaker and co-founder of the education and human rights non-profit, Yspaniola. His 2014 short film, *Without the Ancestors*, played at numerous festivals in the U.S. and Europe, and his music videos for Dominican rappers Chokola y Gimby helped launch the duo to national prominence in the Dominican Republic. Jonathan's first feature, *Unconformity*, premiered at Heartland International Film Festival and is currently available to stream on multiple platforms.

[IMDB](#) | [WEBSITE](#)



JASON JOSEFFER Director of Photography

Jason's high school years coincided with the heyday of Cable-Access television in San Francisco. Learning how to work with a camera ignited a passion that ultimately lead him to pursue a degree in filmmaking at UC Santa Cruz. Jason's first job was working as a news camera operator. Honing in on camera department, he moved up to focus-pulling, which lead to a career pursuit in cinematography. In 2010 Jason lensed his first feature film, *Coldwood* and has been working as a cinematographer ever since. In 2017 his music video *On the Road* was featured in *Film and Digital Times* magazine. In 2019, a Sci-Fi feature he photographed, *The Alternate*, screened at major festivals around the world. Documentaries have screened on major streaming networks, including his recent doc feature, *Like A Rolling Stone: The Life & Times of Ben Fong-Torres*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

[IMDB](#) | [WEBSITE](#)

BIOS



ANTONIO ALONZO AYALA

Producer

From making budget proposals to Mayor Gavin Newsom at 16 years old, to starting his Video Production Company at 21, Antonio is one passionate young Producer. He received his B.A. in Broadcasting & Electronic Communication Arts at San Francisco State University and his M.A. from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Antonio has won 2 consecutive Emmy Awards before the age of 30 for his work producing & writing Spanish Video Content with The San Francisco Giants Baseball Organization, targeting the Hispanic/Latinx Community. Antonio has produced many short films and was UPM & Co-Producer on the 2020 feature, *I Wrote This For You*.

[IMDB](#) | [WEBSITE](#)



HEATHER BRAWLEY

Producer

Heather holds a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Redlands and has spent fifteen years at Archstone Entertainment (worldwide sales and distribution company) in sales, acquisitions, and delivery roles, working on hundreds of films. In the last seven years, she has produced multiple short films and web series with over 50 festival selections and several awards; while working with the production team at Archstone where she is currently the VP of Marketing and Operations. Experience working on projects with a wide variety of budgets allows Heather to scale and execute a successful production from development to delivery.

[IMDB](#) | [WEBSITE](#)

BIOS



NAGI CHAMI

Executive Producer

Nagi Chami: A Multifaceted Entrepreneur and Creative Visionary

Nagi Chami's career spans successful ventures in entrepreneurship, publishing, visual arts, and film production. His diverse skills and achievements reflect a dynamic individual capable of making significant contributions across various fields, continuing to influence and inspire a broad audience.

Silicon Valley CEO and Entrepreneur

Nagi Chami is a prominent entrepreneur in the San Francisco Bay Area, known for founding and managing multiple companies. Specializing in real estate development and acquisition, Chami has transformed underutilized properties into high-value assets. His ventures extend to commercial real estate and technology startups, showcasing his ability to merge real estate with cutting-edge innovations.

Publisher at Dog Haven Publications

As the publisher of Dog Haven Publications, Chami manages high-quality publications, highlighting his versatility in diverse business endeavors and his commitment to sharing knowledge and creativity.

Visual Artist

An acclaimed visual artist, Chami's work is featured in the 10th Edition of the "Encyclopedia of Living Artists." His art is exhibited in galleries across San Francisco, Dublin, Paris, and Milan, and collected by enthusiasts worldwide, reflecting his artistic talent and universal appeal.

Film Producer

His work in this field complements his artistic and entrepreneurial pursuits, demonstrating his versatility and creativity.

BIOS



MATT STONER

Producer

Born and raised in Orange County, California, Matt Stoner was exposed to the arts at a young age. He spent much of his childhood immersed in music and theatre, and began taking acting classes and auditioning for productions at the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach at age 9, performing in several West Coast and a World Premier before graduating from high school. He graduated in 2009 after spending 8 years in the Laguna Playhouse Conservatory, and continued his training in the BFA program at Chapman University, graduating with the class of 2013. In 2017, he founded Foxstone Entertainment as a full service film and television production studio and completed his inaugural project, I Wrote This For You (2018). With a goal to raise awareness of racial and gender equality opportunities in film, Foxstone has since begun production on 10 projects in both Television and Feature Film in order to promote these necessary, and often lacking, ideals. He currently resides in Orange County.

[IMDB](#)



DAVID ZAX

Co-Producer & Additional Writing by

David Zax is a filmmaker living in New York. His screenwriting is in development by Popcorn Storm and A.C.E. Entertainment; his plays have been staged by Williamstown Theatre Festival and Playwrights Realm. His first short film, "Payment in Kind," played at a dozen festivals, including the Oscars-qualifying "Hollyshorts." Prior to filmmaking, David spent a decade as a journalist, contributing to The New York Times, This American Life, and other outlets.

[IMDB](#)

BIOS



ROB RIUTTA

Production Designer

Rob Riutta is a production designer living in northern California. He was born in southern California and has lived in various states in the midwest, south and pacific coast. He has gathered experience as an attorney, social worker, entrepreneur, non-profit director, factory worker, behavior counselor, office temp, landscaper, student, and paperboy, among other things. A life-long love and obsession with cinema brought him back to California. He was onset dresser on the acclaimed Fruitvale Station (2013) and within a few years was designing his first feature film, American Wrestler: The Wizard (2016). He has designed 13 independent feature films, including Fremont (2023), a Sundance Festival world premiere, along with numerous shorts, videos, and commercials. He thanks his crew, always.

[IMDB](#) | [WEBSITE](#)



CONOR ABBOTT BROWN

Composer

Conor Abbott Brown is in demand as a composer of concert works for orchestra (Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Albany Symphony) and as a music producer and arranger for film (Uncut Gems, The Social Dilemma). He is equally at home in the recording studio and in the concert hall. His experience as a performer (guest principal clarinet, American Symphony Orchestra) informs his vision as an orchestrator and his ability to communicate with musicians both via traditional music notation and verbally when producing recording sessions.

[IMDB](#) | [WEBSITE](#)

MAIN CAST



Heather Burns
"Beth"

Miss Congeniality
Manchester by the Sea
Julia

[IMDB](#)



Charlie Besso
"Teddy"

Fallout
Will Trent

[IMDB](#)

STILLS

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Princeton's in the Mix
approved stills gallery](#)



BTS

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Princeton's in the Mix
BTS gallery](#)



CREDITS

1st assistant director
covid compliance officer
costume designer
hair and makeup co-department head
hair and makeup co-department head
stunt coordinator
production sound recordist
production sound recordist
gaffer
gaffer
key grip
bay area casting by
2nd assistant director
director of photography
production designer
original music by
casting director

Kirstie Muñoz
Matt Stoner
Bridget Bruce
Antoinette Yoka
Melanie Leandro
Tony Vella
Aaron Garabedian
Renso Landa
Sean Ly
Aaron Ware
Juan Ruiz
Nancy Hayes Casting
David Bernstein
Jason Joseffer
Rob Riutta
Conor Abbott Brown
Stephanie Holbrook, CSA

cast (in order of appearance)

beth
teddy piano double
teddy
simon
jane
gregory
gregory juggling double
tina
proctor
beth stunt double
teddy stunt double
doctor
background

Heather Burns
Jesse Distiller
Charlie Besso
Nate Duncan
Syrá McCarthy
Mikee Loria
Zachary “Zeej” Anderson
Mya Travis
Matt Stoner
Kelly Fluery
Avery Castillo
Atim Udoffia
Peter Farias
Nicolas Playdon
Rosa Garcia-Ayala
Michael Lopez
Kirstie Muñoz
Jennifer Yeo
Antonio Alonzo Ayala
Roisin Longfellow

CREDITS

key hair and makeup
1st assistant camera
2nd assistant camera
steadicam operator
onset dresser
property master
set decorator
spfx
set dresser
set dresser
armorer
graphics
graphics
best grip / electric
grip / electric swing
grip / electric swing
construction foreman
construction crew
construction crew
set medic

Elizabeth Fox
Kelsey Rivera
Marcos Rocha
Eddie Akaba
James Kreuzer
James Kreuzer
Jesse Muick
Jesse Muick
Jesse Cortez
Pamela Brawley
Francis Hamada
Heather Brawley
Lauren Zawie
Hazim Muftic
Tehan Davis
Aaron Ware
Juventino Garnica
Rey David Victoria
Miguel Jimenez Vazquez
Melissa Martyn

key production assistant
production assistant
production assistant
assistant to producers
visual effects supervisor
color
colorist
color producer
supervising sound editor / re-recording mixer
additional re-recording mixing by
adr recordist (LA)
adr recordist (NY)
piano recordist
piano recording assistant
location
location
location
location
caterer
song

Michael Lopez
Rosa Garcia-Ayala
Phil Elleston II
Samson Lothshutz
Eugene Lehnert
Mission Film & Design
Chris Martin
Nick Castillo
Tom Ryan
Joseph Kennemer
Vanessa Lieberman
Simon A. Guzman
Renso Landa
Aaron Clark
Nagi Chami & Jennifer Yeo
Ed & Shelley Martinez
Tri-State Enterprises, Inc.
Pamela & Sanford Brawley
William Jay Catering
“LA CAMPANELLA”
Composed by Franz Liszt
Arranged for “Princeton’s in the Mix” by
Conor Abbott Brown
Performed by Jacob Rockower

CREDITS

a film by

produced by

producers

co-producer and additional writing by

executive producer

co-executive producer

Jonathan DiMaio

Antonio Alonzo Ayala

Heather Brawley

Matt Stoner

Jonathan DiMaio

David Zax

Nagi Chami

Jennifer Yeo

Antonio Alonzo Ayala

special thanks

Pamela and Sanford Brawley

Edwin and Shelley Martinez

Tri-State Enterprises, Inc.

Cory Fox

Siah Brawley

Denise Rueda

Pauly Harper

Element Camera

Jonathan Amatuda & Frances Douglas

Zack Boger

Ivan & Wendy Levison

Farhad Ali

Cher Culver

Fumiko Yamaguchi

more special thanks

Natasha Distiller

Amy Zанrosso

R Kassman Pianos

Rick Overton

Brent Howard

Jen Mistrot

Rose Ouzounian

Weng (Gary) Ng, EA

Bennet, Shay & Co.

Justine ong, lili Tarachand & Alec Pizarro

LTD Global

Ross Gualco and Piedmont Pianos

Steve Schwinn

Special Thanks to SAG-AFTRA

CREDITS



This is a work of fiction. Any similarities to persons living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

Princeton's in the Mix

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