

# ***MY NEXT GUEST***

***A FILM BY LUCAS HYDOCK***



***INTRODUCING  
AUSTIN HYDOCK  
EMILY HART***

Filmmaker Contact

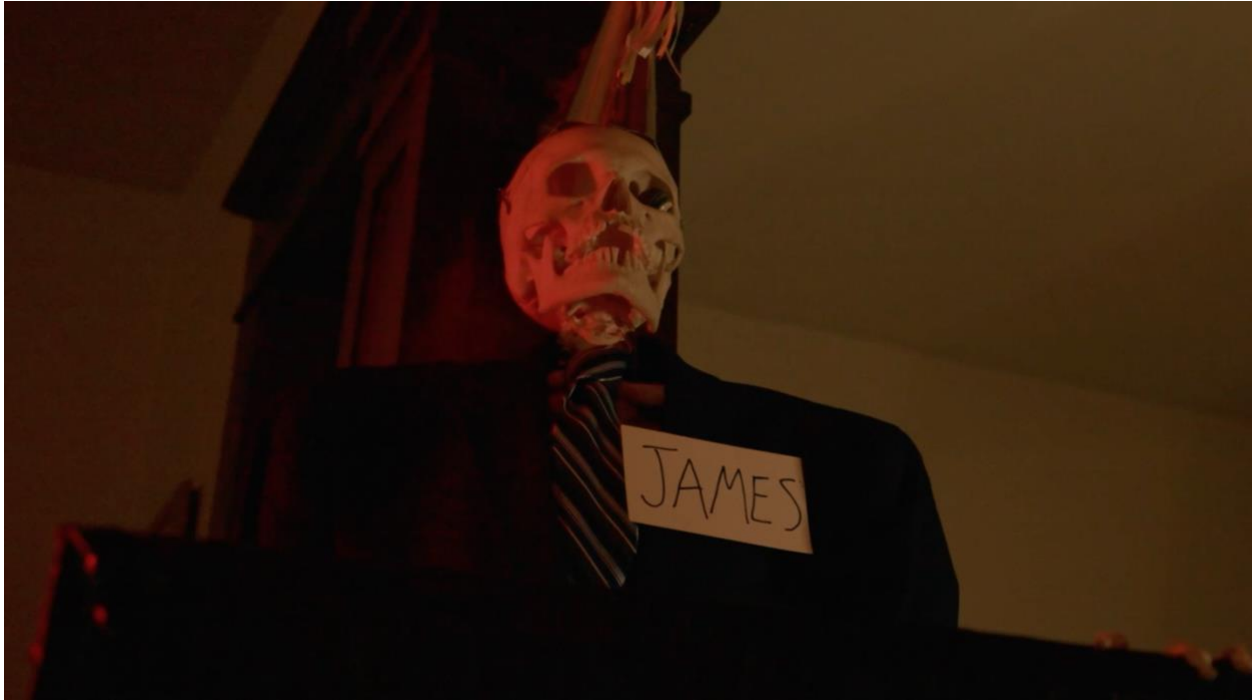
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**JIMMY** is an introverted high schooler who struggles to make a genuine connection with his crush **CHLOE**, the captain of the volleyball team. With the help of a **TALKING SKELETON**, Jimmy pretends to be a charismatic talk show host to win over Chloe's affection.



# ***MY NEXT GUEST***

## **Lucas Hydock Director's Statement**

When I was little, my dad used to come home from work and pop in a recording of last night's episode of Late Night with Conan O'Brien. This was the days before DVR, so he'd have a physical tape he'd reuse for years. There was something magical about the top of the show: Max Weinberg's drums, Mark Pender's trumpet, Joel Goddard's enthusiastic cries for joy. Knowing that New York City was just two hours away, the little brown animations of the skyscrapers painted a frontier of excitement, national importance just within my fingertips. Then there was Conan, sauntering with a triumphant leap and a couple spins. There's an old recording my family has of me jumping in excitement to the 6'4' pompadour. I mean this guy was like a clown. He'd yelp, squeal, play with the camera like he was a shark. I didn't understand the jokes about Angelina Jolie, but I did understand the purity of physical comedy.

Fast forward twenty years, the main way I connect with people for the first time is by trying to make them laugh. Once I'm comfortable with somebody, I don't feel that need as much, but the first impression is always about putting on a show. It's how I made friends in high school, it's how I stood out. One night I was at a party and there were these girls I was talking to like an interview. I didn't realize how Q&A based it was until one of them joked about it being such a formal interaction. That really stuck with me.

Several months later, as I returned from Los Angeles for my final year at Penn State, I decided to write a script about this dilemma. A part of me is Jimmy, the awkward guy who doesn't feel like he fits in with the people around him, the enthusiast of old talk show reruns from 15-20 years ago, and the outgoing persona that I present myself with about 90% of the time. It's hard for me to be chill.

We shot ***MY NEXT GUEST*** over the summer of 2024 on virtually no budget. Enlisting the help of several classmates from Minersville & Penn State, I was able to build a team of friends who provided their own equipment and talent. The biggest blessing we had was the generous accommodations provided by the Minersville Area School District. Principal Joel Motuk provided exceptional service in giving us the skeleton prop and giving us access to their spaces. Without his assistance and the board's, we would not have this film.

Penn State generously provides the Adobe Creative Cloud to all film students. I edited the film together throughout the fall when I had time outside of my jobs, classes, and thesis film. Crowdfunding for film distribution occurred during the early months of 2025, our team is so thankful for the generous contributions that allows this film to be screened across and beyond the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## ***ABOUT THE CAST***

### ***AUSTIN HYDOCK / JIMMY***

Austin began acting with his older brother Lucas in a 2012 production of A CHRISTMAS CAROL at the Strawberry Playhouse in Tuscarora, PA. He played the part of Tiny Tim and melted the hearts of parents across the region. Austin returned to acting several years later as a part of the ensemble in the 2019 Minersville Area High School production of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. The COVID-19 pandemic paused his acting ambitions, but he returned triumphantly in his senior year when he played Dimitri opposite Emily Hart in the 2024 Minersville production of ANASTASIA. MY NEXT GUEST was his first experience performing on camera. He was cast as Jimmy because of his range, an ability to perform naturally, awkwardly, and comedically.

Austin is a freshman studying cybersecurity at Penn State University. Outside of class he is involved in the Penn State Music Group, a professional club used to network young music makers with industry professionals. In addition to acting in MY NEXT GUEST, he scored the film. Austin wants to pursue a career in music business after he graduates.

### ***EMILY HART / CHLOE***

Emily began acting when she just six years old in a production of ANNIE at the Majestic Theater in Pottsville, PA. When she was in high school, she acted alongside Lucas, Austin, & Eve in musicals including FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, SOMETHING ROTTEN, and JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT. In 2024 she starred opposite of Austin as the titular character in ANASTASIA. She was cast as Chloe given her experience as a grounded actress, and her chemistry with Austin.

Emily is a freshman studying nuclear medicine technology at Millersville University. She is a part of volleyball club, and is a member of Paws On Deck which helps raise service dogs. Emily plans to have a career in radiation therapy after she graduates.

### ***EVE RYAN / VERONICA***

Eve began dancing at the now-closed LA Dance Studio in Schuylkill County. She continued dancing through the Crimson Academy, which opened her way into acting and doing musicals. She acted alongside Lucas, Austin, & Emily in musicals including GUYS & DOLLS, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, SOMETHING ROTTEN, and CHICAGO. She was cast as Veronica because of the commitment and vibrancy she puts into her characters.

Eve is a junior studying psychology and minoring in professional writing at Lock Haven University. Outside of class she is in the HEMA club and is the president of the psychology club. She practices Muay Thai and is a member of PsyChi. After college, she plans on going to grad school to pursue a career in neuropsychology.

## ***ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS***

### ***LUCAS HYDOCK / WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, EDITOR***

Lucas is from Minersville PA and is a film production senior at Penn State. He is the writer, director, producer, and editor of MY NEXT GUEST. He assembled a cast and crew of friends he met through college and high school, giving young Pennsylvanian filmmakers an opportunity to develop their skills. Outside of this project, he is the Video Dept. Executive for CommAgency, a student-run media firm. He is also a tour guide for the Bellisario College of Communications and is an America250PA intern for the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau. Lucas volunteered at the 2024 Centre Film Festival. He has also interned for Mandalay Pictures and Charles Osowik Management in Los Angeles. Lucas plans to move back to LA after he graduates to pursue a career in writing.

### ***JACKON MOYES / DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY***

Jackson is from New Tripoli, PA and is a film production junior at Penn State. He is the director of photography for MY NEXT GUEST. He collaborated extensively with the team on the film's aesthetics, directing G&E and the AC's. He is currently the Production Chair for the Delta Kappa Alpha Omega Chapter, a national cinematic society. He also works in the Bellisario Equipment Room.

### ***BRADY BAST / 1<sup>st</sup> AC***

Brady is from Nazareth PA and is a film production junior at Penn State. He is the 1st AC on MY NEXT GUEST. In addition to setting up dolly and gimbal equipment, Brady played a pivotal role in blocking the actors. He is currently interning at Echo Lake Management and White Horse Pictures in Los Angeles. Brady has also served as an executive producer of Nittany Talk, a student-run talk show, and has directed videos for CommAgency.

### ***ANDY YOUNG / SOUND, VOICE OF THE SKELETON***

Andy is from Lancaster, PA. They graduated from Penn State with a film production degree in 2024. They are the lead sound on MY NEXT GUEST, in addition to providing voiceover work for the skeleton. Andy is currently a television production teammate at WITF Inc. in Harrisburg PA. They also worked in the Bellisario Equipment Room, and continues to provide freelance audio work across Pennsylvania.

### ***COLLIN LESHER / GAFFER, KEY GRIP***

Collin is from York, PA. He graduated from Penn State with a film production degree in 2024. He is the gaffer and key grip for MY NEXT GUEST. Collin was a grip on DEADLOCK, an

upcoming feature that was shot in Philipsburg. He also was a photographer for Roundtop Mountain Resort in Lewisberry, PA.

***ABBY TARPEY / 2<sup>nd</sup> AC***

Abby is from Altoona PA. She graduated from Penn State with a film production degree in 2024. She is the 2nd AC on MY NEXT GUEST. Outside of this project, Abby directed FRAIL GROUNDS which was filmed in Centre County. She was also a Bellisario Fellow, a student ambassadorship program. She was a Production Executive for the Video Dept. at CommAgency and directed several short films during her tenure at Penn State. She is currently pursuing film work in Los Angeles.



# **MY NEXT GUEST**

## **Credits**

HYDOCK FILMS  
Presents  
A Film by  
LUCAS HYDOCK

Directed by  
LUCAS HYDOCK

AUSTIN HYDOCK EMILY HART

Written by...LUCAS HYDOCK  
Produced by...LUCAS HYDOCK  
Cinematographer...JACKSON MOYES  
Edited by...LUCAS HYDOCK  
Production Designer...MICHAEL HYDOCK  
Music by...AUSTIN HYDOCK  
Casting by...LUCAS HYDOCK

## **CAST**

Jimmy...AUSTIN HYDOCK  
Chloe...EMILY HART  
The Skeleton...ANDY YOUNG  
Veronica...EVE RYAN  
Audrey...ALYSSA SHERIF  
Friend #1...CHA DULLARD  
Friend #2...CAMRYN COLNA  
Mom...DEBRA HYDOCK

## **LIVE STUDIO AUDIENCE**

SOPHIA DOUGHERTY  
MARCO FALCUCCI  
RHYAN LEHMAN  
MATT LIETCHY  
RAIYAAD KHALED  
ISABELLA HEATWHOLE  
MARLENA NAZZARO

SHANE RAYZIS  
AVERY SELIVAN  
LIAM VAUGHAN

1<sup>st</sup> Assistant “A” Camera...BRADY BAST  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant “A” Camera...ABBY TARPEY  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant “B” Camera...COLLIN LESHER  
Gaffer...COLLIN LESHER  
Key Grip...COLLIN LESHER  
Sound Mixer...ANDY YOUNG  
Boom Operator “Present”...LUCAS HYDOCK  
Boom operator “Past”...ANDY YOUNG

**Post Production**

Color by...VICTOR HUGO MARQUES

**The Filmmakers Wish To Thank**

Nathan Jost  
Debra Hydock  
Cheryl Hart  
April Moran

Brenda Schuettler  
Amy Seddon  
Crystal Antonelli  
Heather Sinko

Logan Hartman  
Dionisio Fowler

**Special Thanks To**

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Catie Grant  
Mike Maley  
Joel Motuk

Shreya Narsinghani  
Paige Taylor  
Maura Shea  
Jordan Spagnolli  
Jim Westrick

Mike Zelazny  
The Minersville Area  
School District Board

**Music**

“Chat Show”

Written & Performed by Richard Bodgers

The Tonight Show with Conan O’Brien owned by NBCUniversal Media LLC.

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