

to fall in love

FEATURE FILM

# TO FALL IN LOVE



PRESS KIT



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**SAN DIEGO**  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL



STARHAWK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS "TO FALL IN LOVE"  
BETH GALLAGHER ERIC CASALINI MUSIC BY ROBIN WYNN AND ALEX McDANIEL  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ELLIE ANN FENTON EXECUTIVE PRODUCER WENDY GILLESPIE WRITTEN BY JENNIFER LANE  
PRODUCERS BETH GALLAGHER GHADIR MOUNIB JENNIFER LANE EDITED AND DIRECTED BY MICHAEL LEWIS FOSTER

to fall in love



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## TECHNICAL SPECS

<i>Title</i>	<i>To Fall in Love</i>
<i>Genres</i>	<i>Marriage &amp; Family Drama</i> <i>Romantic Drama</i>
<i>Production Year</i>	<i>2023</i>
<i>Country of Origin</i>	<i>United States</i>
<i>Language</i>	<i>English</i>
<i>Run Time</i>	<i>87 minutes</i>
<i>Screen Ratio</i>	<i>2.35</i>
<i>Sound Format</i>	<i>Stereo 2.0</i>

*contact info &*

TO FALL IN LOVE

TECH SPECS <sup>3</sup>



## LOGLINE

*When a woman estranged from her husband meets with him as a last-ditch effort to save their marriage, they grapple with psychologist Arthur Aron’s famous relationship tool, “The 36 Questions To Fall In Love,” and she must decide whether their love is enough to keep them together.*

## SYNOPSIS

*An estranged couple uses The 36 Questions to Fall in Love as a last-ditch effort to save their marriage after a horrible tragedy split them apart.*

*Wyatt – 40’s, a college professor and struggling poet – is seated at the counter of a cafe nursing an Arnold Palmer and waiting for someone to arrive. He has a ring box with him that he tucks into his pocket. After a few moments, Merryn – 40’s, office manager – joins him. They engage in strained small talk before agreeing to begin.*

*Merryn places sheets of paper in front of each of them, and on them are the 36 questions that scientists claim can make any two strangers fall in love. They begin asking each other the questions, and it becomes clear that these people are not two strangers at all, that they know each other better than they know themselves.*

*It is revealed that the two of them are married, separated, and that they had a son together. As tension rises, they leave the cafe and head somewhere more private to continue the conversation. After Merryn reveals how deeply their 5-year-old’s death impacted her, she is ready to throw in the towel, but Wyatt fights for them, encouraging her to keep going with the questions.*

*His passionate pleas turn into a passionate kiss and the two go to bed together. They fall into the familiarity of their marriage, and continue the questions, answering ones like, “If your house caught fire and you could safely retrieve one item, what would it be?” or “Of all the people in your family, whose death would you find most disturbing?”*

*Eventually, Wyatt admits that when their son died, he thought she was in the car with him, and he was more afraid of losing her than of losing their child. He tells her he made a bargain with God, asking him to take anything*

*he wanted to take, except her. She finds this shocking, and further proof that he simply doesn’t understand her grief. She places divorce papers on the table, ready to finally make a decision.*

*Wyatt rejects this, placing the ring box on top of the divorce papers. He wants to get back together, and anyway, they haven’t finished the questions yet. They must finish it with 4 minutes of uninterrupted eye contact, in silence.*

*Merryn reluctantly agrees and starts the timer. As they look into one another’s eyes, we see flashbacks of their life with their son. The film ends as the timer goes off.*

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

*An estranged couple uses The 36 Questions to Fall in Love as a last-ditch effort to save their marriage after a horrible tragedy split them apart.*

*Wyatt and Merryn meet at a cafe, having agreed to answer the 36 Questions that scientists claim can make any two strangers fall in love. They begin asking each other the questions, and it becomes clear that these people are not two strangers at all, that they have a long and tragic history.*

*We discover that the pair are married, separated, and that they had a son together. As tension rises, they leave the cafe and head somewhere more private to continue the conversation. After Merryn reveals how deeply their 5-year-old’s death impacted her, she is ready to throw in the towel, but Wyatt fights for them, encouraging her to keep going with the questions.*

*His passionate pleas turn into a passionate kiss and the two go to bed together. They fall into the familiarity of their marriage, and continue the questions, discovering that they are entirely at odds: She cannot live with him anymore; he cannot live without her.*

# synopsis & LOGLINE

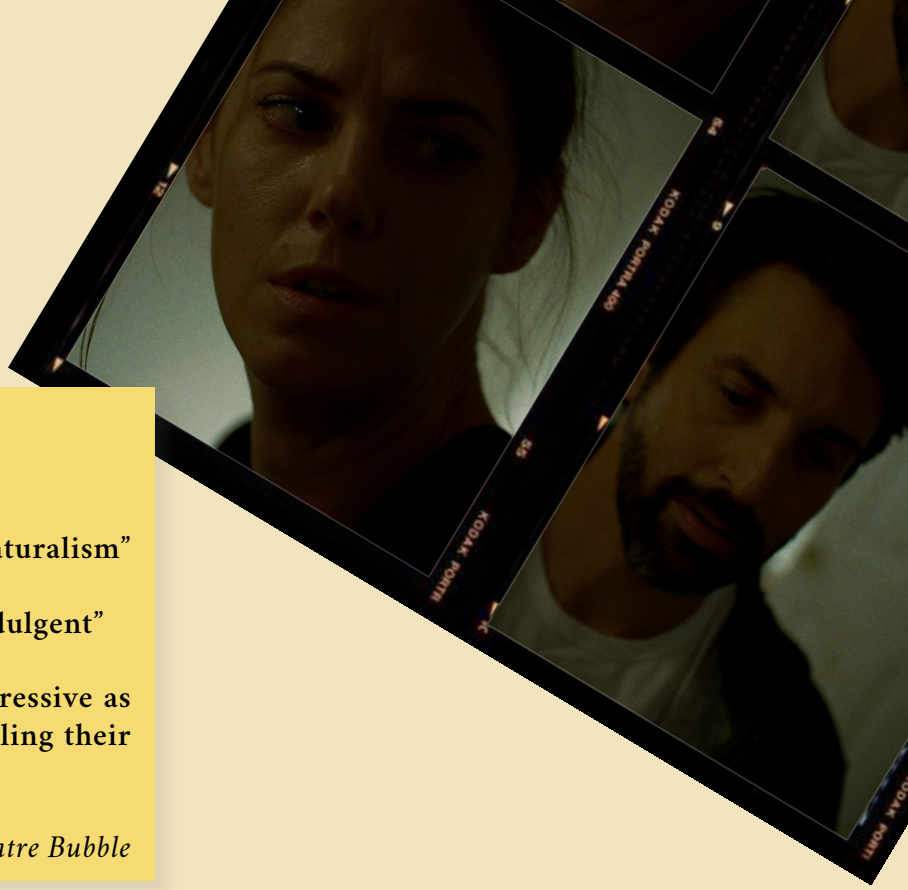
**“totally captivating”**

“full of feeling while displaying an astonishing naturalism”

“rich in detail and deep in feeling and never indulgent”

“the spark between these two actors is so impressive as they allow the other to shine without ever dulling their own performance”

Paul Hegarty, *Theatre Bubble*



**“satisfyingly bittersweet”**

“dramatic, interspersed with moments of levity to mitigate the dramatic tension”

“natural and intimate performances”

“every moment feels extremely realistic and authentic”

David Dixon, *San Diego Story*

**“palpably real”**

“wholly natural and credible at every moment”

“if you’ve ever thought, ‘I wish I were a fly on the wall,’ here’s your chance”

Pat Launer, *Times of San Diego*

*to fall in love*  
**PRESS**



## TRAILER



*or visit*  
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**FilmFreeway**  
[www.filmfreeway.com/to-fall-in-love](http://www.filmfreeway.com/to-fall-in-love)

## WANT MORE?

visit [tofallinlove.weebly.com](http://tofallinlove.weebly.com) for:

- ✔ promo video featuring the writer, director, and actors
- ✔ links to press coverage
- ✔ behind-the-scenes photos and production stills



# *media &* TRAILER



## **MICHAEL LEWIS FOSTER** | director & editor

*Michael is a filmmaker with over 25 years of experience. He began his professional career working behind the camera on the TV shows Silk Stalkings and Renegade, and the Showtime movie The Tiger Woods Story. He has shot and edited videos for Sony, Marvel, Petco, X-Factor, Taylor Guitars, Wrangler Jeans, IMDb and TCL, and worked directly with clients that include LL Cool J, Gwen Stefani, Jenny McCarthy, Simon Cowell and Kevin Smith. He was recently nominated for Best Editing by the HorrorHaus and Oceanside Film Festivals for the 2022 award-winning short film, Black Creek Trail. **This is Michael's debut feature film.***



## **JENNIFER LANE** | writer

*Jennifer writes plays, books, poems, and essays. Her work has appeared in The Mothership, Aberrant Tales, The Dionysian, Women in Theatre Magazine, Sisyphus Quarterly, HowlRound, and The Bayou Magazine. Jenny's play Harlowe was developed under the mentorship of Sarah Ruhl, won the Alec Baldwin Fellowship at Singers Forum, and was a Finalist for the 2015 Humanitas/CTG Playwriting Prize. Her dramatic writing is represented by Amy Wagner of Abrams Artists Agency. Jenny holds an MFA from Columbia University and a BA from Sarah Lawrence College. **This is Jennifer's debut feature film.***



## **ELLIE ANN FENTON** | director of photography

*Raised in the desert of West Texas, Ellie developed a passion for cinematography at UT Austin as a Longhorn. She came into her own as a cinematographer and storyteller at the American Film Institute. Ellie strives to be a continuous learner, explorer, artist and collaborator. Her work reflects the story and experiences of all that is around us. Her recent films Running with Beto, Mercy Black and Back Fork are currently available on streaming platforms. In addition to cinematography, Ellie is a camera operator, working on such notable shows as True Detective and The Rookie. Ellie is forever grateful to be doing what she does.*



## **WENDY GILLESPIE** | Starhawk Productions

*San Diego-based Broadway producer Wendy Gillespie brings stories to light and cultivates imagination and empathy. Wendy has co-produced Come From Away (Olivier Award Best Musical 2019 and Tony nominee), The Kite Runner (2022), Diana the Musical (2020-21), and Allegiance, a New Musical (2015-16). Wendy has several upcoming projects in development: The Outsiders, Working Girl, The Secret Life of Bees, and Sinatra. Wendy is a member of the Broadway League, NAMT and a former trustee of the La Jolla Playhouse. **This is Wendy's debut feature film.***

# *crew & producer* **BIOS**



## BETH GALLAGHER | Merryn

*Beth got her start on stage before transitioning to film, and her most celebrated roles to date are Younger Elizabeth Law in Andrew Bovell’s When The Rain Stops Falling at Cygnet Theatre and Kayleen in Rajiv Joseph’s Gruesome Playground Injuries with Max Fischer Players. Beth graduated from a two-year Meisner/Chekhov integrated training program and has a Master’s Degree in Acting from The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. While at RCS, Beth also completed intensive training at Shakespeare’s Globe in London. She originated the role of Merryn and is based in Los Angeles.*



## ERIC CASALINI | Wyatt

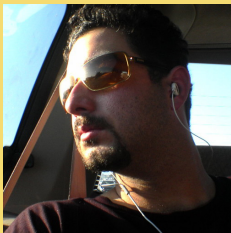
*After living too long non-creatively, Eric began to train as an actor, learning it’s better to listen than to speak. He graduated from the same two-year Meisner/Chekhov training program as Beth and is currently training at the Ruskin School in Meisner. His most notable roles are Tommy in the “real” west-coast premiere of Ironbound at Moxie Theatre, Johnny Cantone in 1940s Radio Hour at New Village Arts, Peter in the much-anticipated bluegrass musical satire movie Paradise: A Town of Sinners & Saints, and in the political thriller, 88, which screened at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival.*

## ROBIN WYNN | musician



*A Virginia native, Robin spent much of her childhood in the woods with a good book where she sang as loud as she could to anyone who would listen, mainly trees. She started a band that toured the east coast for several years, and her music appeared on the CW’s One Tree Hill and Vampire Diaries and Bob Boilen’s NPR show, All Songs Considered. She is raising a family in Charlottesville, VA, where she writes eco-fiction young adult novels and short stories based in a cemetery. Her day job focuses on food insecurity for homebound citizens.*

## ALEX McDANIEL | composer



*Born in Seattle, raised in Southern California with time spent in both Chicago and Los Angeles, Alex has been composing original music since childhood across a variety of genres and styles. Half Chilean and half Irish, he grew up listening to international folk music and was involved in theater and musical productions, adding to his influences for writing multilayered, emotional music. Alex has written original music for podcasts, short films, feature-length films, motion graphics, and a collection of live theater projects. Composing for To Fall In Love was an honor and a dream come true. Currently, Alex is working on compiling and releasing two official motion picture soundtracks and two albums of original work, spanning genres from electronic symphonic explorations to modern folk songs.*

# cast & musician BIOS

## WRITER'S NOTE

More than 20 years ago, psychologist Arthur Aron watched as two strangers, sitting directly across from each other, fell in love in his laboratory as they asked each other a series of 36 questions he created. Six months later, the two participants were married and invited the entire lab to the ceremony.

This story was written as a New York Times article titled "To Fall in Love With Anyone, Do This," and it rattled around in my head for a couple of years before I sat down to write a play using the 36 questions mentioned in the article. I had been in something of a dry spell, creation-wise, and had been working with actor Eric Casalini on another project. It was his voice in my head as I wrote Wyatt, a role I created for him. I wrote the first draft of the play in 3 days, a huge relief after months of not writing, and the play is largely the same, having undergone only basic tweaks since I first drafted it.

I shared the play with Eric, and he loved it, so we decided to enter it into the San Diego International Fringe Festival. He was in an acting class with Beth Gallagher and they did a private reading of it, just the two of them, and I think they both ended up crying in a hallway somewhere. We workshopped it with director Jacole Kitchen, of the La Jolla Playhouse, and it went on to win Best Writing and Best Drama at the fringe festival, and it just continued to grow from there.

There were two versions of the play, a shortened version that we did at the San Diego fringe as well as at the Edinburgh Fringe, and a longer "full-length" version, which went on to be performed in Florida, Colorado, Wisconsin, Italy, New York, and elsewhere, and also won the Tennessee Williams One Act Play Competition. Now, of course, it has been produced as a film as well.

## TIMELINE

1997

Arthur Aron publishes "The Experimental Generation of Interpersonal Closeness: A Procedure and some Preliminary Findings" in *PSPB*, cataloging the "36 questions to fall in love."

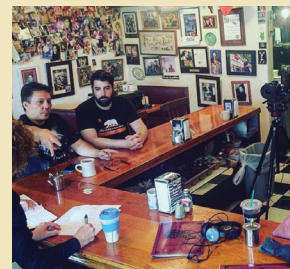


2017

Jennifer Lane is inspired by *The New York Times* article "To Fall In Love With Anyone, Do This" and writes the play in just three days, with Eric Casalini's voice in mind for Wyatt.

The play wins the Tennessee Williams One-Act Play Competition in the Tennessee Williams New Orleans Literary Festival.

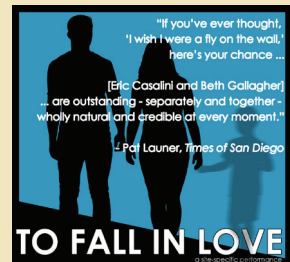
In its world premiere at the San Diego International Fringe Festival, the play wins Best Writing and Best Drama.



2018

*To Fall In Love* is a Semi-Finalist in the National Playwrights Contest at The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.

*To Fall In Love* runs as a site-specific show in Glasgow, Scotland while Beth is studying at RGS.



2019

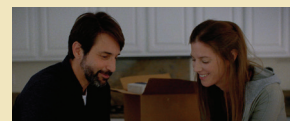
A limited run of site-specific performances in San Diego, CA are sold out and well-reviewed.

*To Fall in Love* has a month-long run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.



2022

*To Fall In Love* is adapted into a screenplay by Jennifer Lane, funding is secured, and the feature is filmed.



# to fall in love BACKGROUND

Read one question aloud to your partner, then both of you answer. Swap roles for the next question. Answering all the questions should take about an hour, but time isn't important.

1. *If you could invite anyone to dinner, who would it be?*
2. *Would you like to be famous? In what way?*
3. *Before making a telephone call, do you ever rehearse what you are going to say? Why?*
4. *What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?*
5. *When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?*
6. *If you were able to live to the age of 90 and retain either the mind or body of a 30-year-old for the last 60 years of your life, which would you want?*
7. *Do you have a secret hunch about how you will die?*
8. *Name three things you and your partner appear to have in common.*
9. *For what in your life do you feel most grateful?*
10. *If you could change anything about the way you were raised, what would it be?*
11. *Take four minutes and tell your partner your life story in as much detail as possible.*
12. *If you could wake up tomorrow having gained any one quality or ability, what would it be?*
13. *If a crystal ball could tell you the truth about yourself, your life, the future or anything else, what would you want to know?*
14. *Is there something that you've dreamed of doing for a long time? Why haven't you done it?*
15. *What is the greatest accomplishment of your life?*
16. *What do you value most in a friendship?*
17. *What is your most treasured memory?*
18. *What is your most terrible memory?*
19. *If you knew that in one year you would die suddenly, would you change anything about the way you are now living? Why?*
20. *What does friendship mean to you?*
21. *What roles do love and affection play in your life?*
22. *Alternate sharing something you consider a positive characteristic of your partner. Share a total of five items.*
23. *How close and warm is your family? Do you feel your childhood was happier than most other people's?*
24. *How do you feel about your relationship with your mother?*
25. *Make three true "we" statements each. For instance, "We are both in this room feeling ..."*
26. *Complete this sentence: "I wish I had someone with whom I could share ..."*
27. *If you were going to become a close friend with your partner, please share what would be important for him or her to know.*
28. *Tell your partner what you like about them; be very honest this time, saying things that you might not say to someone you've just met.*
29. *Share with your partner an embarrassing moment in your life.*
30. *When did you last cry in front of another person? By yourself?*
31. *Tell your partner something that you like about them already.*
32. *What, if anything, is too serious to joke about?*
33. *If you were to die this evening with no opportunity to communicate with anyone, what would you most regret not having told someone? Why haven't you told them yet?*
34. *Your house, containing everything you own, catches fire. After saving your loved ones and pets, you have time to safely make a final dash to save any one item. What would it be? Why?*
35. *Of all the people in your family, whose death would you find most disturbing? Why?*
36. *Share a personal problem and ask your partner's advice on how they might handle it. Also, ask your partner to reflect back to you how you seem to be feeling about the problem you have chosen.*

Congratulations, you've answered all the questions! Now for the hard part. In order to solidify your love, you have to look into your partner's eyes for four minutes. In silence. It's hard, and you'll squirm, but you'll learn an incredible amount. Good luck ...

# *the 36* QUESTIONS

Producer	BETH GALLAGHER JENNIFER LANE GHADIR MOUNIB
First Assistant Director	RYAN CASSELMAN
Assistant Camera	EDUARDO ALEJANDRE JOHN FREEMAN
Grip	OSCAR PEREZ
Sound	DYLAN HIRSCH
Hair and Makeup	RENE GONZALES HALEY PETERS
Photographer	ERIK JEPSEN

## **CAST**

Wyatt	ERIC CASALINI
Merryn	BETH GALLAGHER
Jacob	REESE LILY BUELL
Customer	CASSANDRA BETANCOURT
Customer	RYAN CASSELMAN
Customer	MARGARET COOPER
Customer	WENDY GILLESPIE
Customer	JENNIFER LANE
Customer	ALYSSA METZ
Customer	SUZANNE METZ
Customer	GHADIR MOUNIB
Customer	HASSAN OMAR
Customer	NINA TAN
Customer	JOSEFINA TRIGUEROS

### **SPECIAL THANKS | THE FILM**

Ryan Buell • Sheryee Buell • Mark Goldstein • Jonathan Hammond  
Joseph Samo • Jonathan Truesdail • Mandy June Turpin  
Daryl at AAA (for unlocking our U-Haul)  
Infrastructure Productions • LensRentals • Snakebyte Productions  
Ted Caplaneris and The Old Townhouse Restaurant

### **SPECIAL THANKS | THE PLAY & PROOF OF CONCEPT**

Lisa Berger • Heidi Bridges • Jayden Foss • Jennifer Foss • Jesse Foss  
Jeffrey Ingman • Jordan Jacobo • David Jester • Ryan Kelly  
Jacole Kitchen • Jess Ordon • Liz Shipman • Dan Thale • Big Kitchen Cafe

### **SPECIAL THANKS | EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE**

Rakefet Abergel • Caroline Amiguet • Nayia Anastasiadou  
Jennifer Anschick • Nick Ayars • Shelby Blackwood • Laura Bohlin  
Kathy Brett • Kate Caceres • Kimberley Cassidy-Neff • Cristyn Chandler  
Malinee Churanakoses • Casey Cipriani • Cindy Clevenger  
Ciarlene Coleman • Mary Parisi Copelli • Erin Counihan  
Jenine Crawford • Chandra Davenport • Sandra Davis • Susan Davis  
Betsy Newman Dennig • Adriana Dimond • Vanessa Dinning  
Joyce Drozda • Gary Ducharme • Julann Ducharme • Jacqueline Eells  
Kristine Ehrich • Rodrigo Espinosa • Nicole Fisher • Libertad Flores  
Kristen Fogle • Lizzie Forman • Mike Fraunces • Sara Fraunces  
Selena Frederick • Joan Gallagher • Joseph Gallagher, Sr.  
Joseph Gallagher, Jr. • Maria Gallagher • Megan Gallagher  
Tim Gallagher • Rachael Minden Garcia • Brian George • Kori Gillis  
Joel Goldstein • Marta Goldstein • Laura Gricar • Keith Hammond  
Carl Hannah • Lauren Herring • Gale Hill • Derek Jeck • Kurt Kalbfleisch  
Diane Kee • Alison Kertz • Danielle Kiminski • Aj Knox • Tomaz Krajnc  
Breanna Lake • Karensa LeGear • Ari Levine • Hannah Logan  
Bill Lucas • Greg Lum • James Marchetti • Jennifer Marchetti  
Rebecca Mast • Margaret McCormick • Rose McEachern • Suzanne Meheu  
Katie Memmel • Spencer Milford • Wanda Milwee • Bridget Musante  
Tali Nadav • Mike Neumann • Caitlin O'Connell • Lindsey O'Connor  
Ashley Pieraccini • Gavin Preis • Julia Preis • Susan Preis • Krista Purnell  
Ana Raley • Rona Rice • Blaire Ridge • Christina Roussos • Emily Sandifer  
Claudette Santiago • Claire Christine Sargenti • Michael Shantz  
Ed Sheehan • Pam Sheehan • Alexis Sheffer • Matt Sivertson  
Bobby Souers • John Spilsbury • Tom Stephenson • Tom Steward  
Tiffany Tang • Shaun Taylor-Corbett • Carina Triolo • Darin Triolo  
John Van Roekel • Whitney Wegman-Wood • Julie White  
Kathy Wichert • Mike Wichert • Michelle Wyskochil