

# Across the Aisle

Official Press Kit



# Synopsis

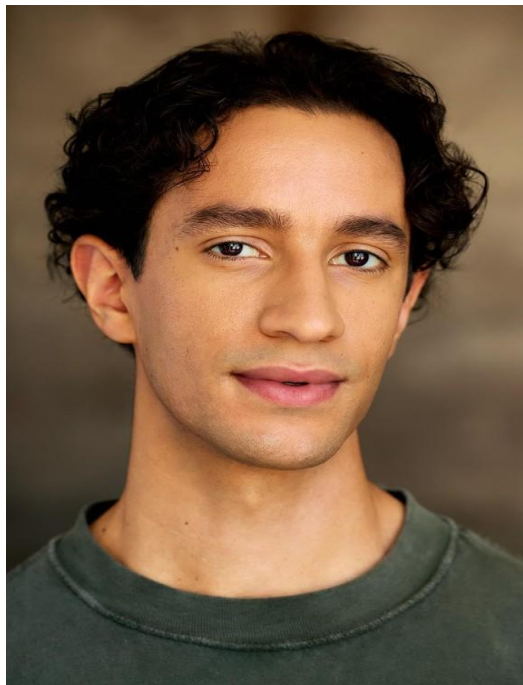
*Across the Aisle*, a romantic political comedy, sees Teddy, an idealistic, new congressman, celebrating his first legislative win with his staff. While toasting to his success, he decides to woo Jane, a rival congresswoman from the opposing political party. Through their flirtation, they learn more about their ideologies, what motivates them to vote how they do, and discover there's more to them than their votes suggest.

Written and  
Directed by:  
Thomas Block



- Previous directing credits:
  - The Grown Ups Table (2021)
- Experienced stage actor, performed with:
  - Porters of Hellsgate
  - School of Night
  - Sacramento Theatre Company
  - Sacramento Shakespeare Company

# Starring: Tiago Santos & Shannon Spangler



- Previous credits: Glamping (2025), There Can Be Light (2024)



- Previous credits: The Curious Woods (2021) The Lucky Ones (2020)

# Produced by: Matt Tornero & Delaney Heil

- Previous credits:
  - The Grown Ups Table (2021)
  - The Search (also writer/director) (2019)
  - Lucky Number 13 (2018)



- Producing debut!
- Previously worked in events industry for Black Ink Presents and PTTOW



# Director of Photography/Editors: Adam Gilmore & Tara Lexi Robertson

- Previous credits:

- Top Gun: Maverick (Production Assistant) (2022)
- Starcrossed (Writer/Director) (2019)
- The Grown Ups Table (also writer) (2021)



- Previous credits:

- The Grown Ups Table (2021)
- "For A" Series (Yearning for a Thursday, Lament for a Wednesday" (2017 - 2023)



# Multiple roles: Meg Hartung!



## Production roles:

- Costume Design
- Production Design
- Hair & Makeup Supervision
- Wardrobe Supervision
- Marketing artwork
- Onscreen bartender
- Crafty

# Stills







# Behind the Scenes



# Fun Facts

- Principal photography took place in one afternoon, walking distance from the home of half the production team!
- Thomas Block, Adam Gilmore and Matt Tornero have been making films together since meeting in college 10 years ago - and have now recruited all of their partners to collaborate!
- Much of the dialogue is based on real-life conversations. Thomas Block's father (and Executive Producer) A.G. Block was Editor of the political publication California Journal and covered California state politics for over 40 years.
- The mouse story that Teddy tells to Jane actually happened - Thomas Block had a pet mouse he bought off of his science teacher on a bet!

# Director's Statement

"As the son of a political journalist and a political activist, politics and government have been part of my world for my entire life. While we live in a world where reaching across the aisle seems more and more unrealistic, I still hope that there will come a point when we can, and will, find more commonality in our shared humanity than allow hate and ignorance to keep us from seeing each other as human beings."

- Thomas Block, Writer/Director

# Trailer

From Writer & Director  
Thomas Block

# Selections and Awards

Official Selection: LA Shorts International Film Festival - Los Angeles, CA

Official Selection: Breckenridge Film Festival - Breckenridge, CO

Official Selection: Sacramento International Film Festival - Sacramento, CA

Official Selection: Los Angeles Lift-Off Film Festival - Los Angeles, CA

**Winner:** Award of Excellence - Best Shorts Competition (Online)

**Winner:** Award of Merit, Special Mention (Lead Actress) - Best Shorts Competition (Online)

# Contact Info

For inquiries, please reach out to Matt Tornero at:

- [mbtornero423@gmail.com](mailto:mbtornero423@gmail.com)

# Engage with us!

- Follow us on Instagram  
@acrosstheaislefilm
- Come watch the film!
  - LA Shorts: Fri. 7/18 at 5:30pm - Regal LA Live
  - Sacramento: Sat. 8/30 at 3:15pm - California Railroad Museum
  - Breckenridge: 9/18 - 9/21/2025