



SAVAGE MAGIC
PRODUCTIONS

PRESS KIT

RAPTURE





A TRISTAN REGINATO FILM



When intimacy by the hour evolves into an ardent romance, a lack of trust exposes the quiet costs of survival.





SUMMARY

Rapture follows Luke, a young man attempting to leave sex work behind after meeting Wolf, an older, financially secure actor through a paid encounter that unexpectedly turns into a relationship. As their connection deepens, Luke trades transactional intimacy for domestic labor and emotional availability, while Wolf's affection becomes entangled with suspicion and class anxiety. When trust begins to fracture, intimacy shifts from desire to negotiation, exposing the limits of sincerity in a relationship shaped by imbalance.

A photograph of a couple embracing on a rooftop at sunset. The man is wearing a white shirt and the woman is wearing a dark top. They are standing near a white pillar. In the background, a city skyline is visible, including the Empire State Building. The sky is a mix of orange and blue.

TRISTAN REGINATO

BIO

Tristan Reginato grew up in New York City in a dozen different neighborhoods. That constant proximity to various artistic communities fostered an awareness of how environment and culture affect human behavior. An influence that remains central to his filmmaking.

Working primarily in drama, with a new found increasing focus on thriller, horror, and suspense, his films explore urban life as both a physical environment and a psychological condition.

His stories often center on imbalance between families, friends, classes, identities, and systems. His latest film, *Rapture*, draws from personal relationships, lived observation, and queer literature, grounding its emotional core in intimacy and survival. Across his work, Reginato favors atmosphere, performance, and moral ambiguity, rendering city life both intimate and unsettling.



CAST

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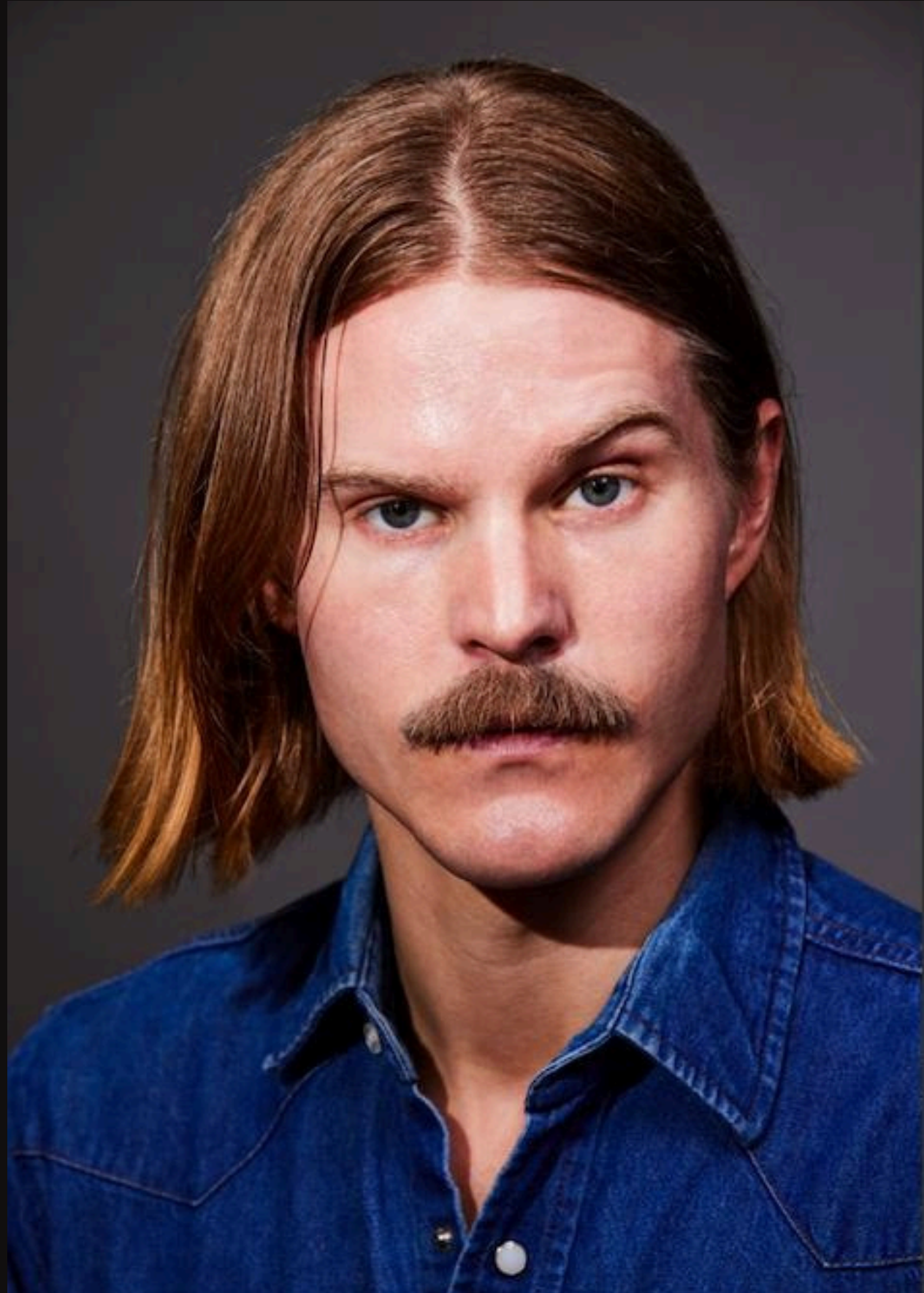
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JULIAN MANJERICO

Julian Manjerico is a New York–based actor working across film, television, and theatre. On screen, he is known for playing Beppo the Clown opposite Tom Hanks in *A Man Called Otto*, Abe Lincoln in Cole Escolas Broadway smash hit “*Oh Mary*” and for appearing as Zack-Carlos in the TV series *Adults*. He also stars as Luke in Tristan Reginato’s short film *Rapture* (2025), a charged two-hander that follows a guarded actor who hires Luke—an ambitious young sex worker—setting off an intimate, volatile encounter.

Julian was selected for *Disney Television Discovers: Talent Showcase* (2024) and has built a parallel theatre presence, including work connected to *Oh, Mary!*.



NICHOLAS JAKOLA

Nicholas Jakola is a New York–based actor and writer whose work centers on contemporary characters navigating intimacy, ambition, and moral gray zones. He stars opposite Julian Manjerico in Tristan Reginato’s short film *Rapture*(2025), delivering a tightly controlled, psychologically charged performance. In addition to acting, Jakola is a co-creator and co-writer of the upcoming series *Green Angels*, currently in pre-production, which follows a group of women running an underground cannabis delivery service. Blending sharp dialogue with grounded realism, Jakola’s work reflects a strong interest in character-driven storytelling rooted in modern urban life.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My work is rooted in a belief that cinema can hold complexity without resolving it. I'm interested in the space where realism meets unease, where emotional truth is complicated.



AS OF NOW

The film has since screened internationally, including at the New York International Film Festival, Cannes Indie Shorts, Hamburg Film Festival, Silverlens, and Yellowstone Film Festival, and continues its festival run. Through its reception, Rapture has distinguished itself as an intimate queer domestic drama which highlights emotional realism and moral ambiguity over spectacle.



AN ODE TO REFLECTION

From the inception of *Rapture*, I set out to explore intimacy not as a romantic ideal, but as a lived negotiation—shaped by power, money, fear, and the desire to be seen. Raised in New York City, I've always been drawn to stories that unfold in private spaces: apartments, bedrooms, kitchens—places where emotional truth quietly accumulates rather than announces itself. *Rapture* grew out of an interest in how modern relationships, particularly queer ones, are shaped by economic precarity and unspoken hierarchies, even when love is genuine.

My aim was not to offer answers or moral judgments, but to create a space for reflection. The film invites viewers to sit with discomfort, contradiction, and vulnerability, and to consider how love operates when trust and stability are unevenly distributed. Ultimately, *Rapture* is about the quiet costs of survival, and the emotional clarity that can emerge when illusion gives way to truth.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Max Lakner

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Max Lakner is a New York City–based cinematographer working across narrative film, music videos, and commercial projects. His credits include TBFA (2019) and Itchy Blood (2024), and his visual work extends to editorial and commercial photography for brands such as Tom Ford, Calvin Klein, and Marc Jacobs.



Jake de Nicola

FILM PRODUCER

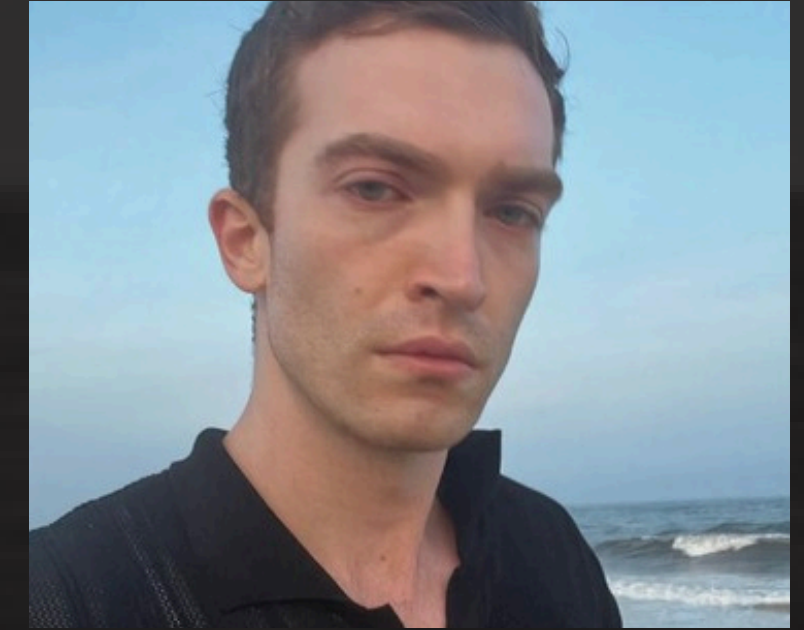
Jake DeNicola is a New York City filmmaker, cinematographer, and co-founder of the production company Anima Works, where he produces, directs, and shoots narrative and visual media. Working across film, music videos, and branded content, DeNicola's work emphasizes texture, performance, and collaborative creativity, with projects selected by festivals and industry showcases.



Julian Evans

FILM EDITOR & SOUND DESIGNER

Julian Evans is a lead manager and audio producer at AudioWorks TV, where he oversees sound design and mixing for film, television, and digital projects. His work includes projects for Syfy and Refinery29, as well as independent films screened at festivals such as Austin Film Festival and Slamdance, bringing a precise, atmospheric approach to storytelling through sound.



Tristan Reginato

WRITER AND DIRECTOR

Tristan Reginato is a New York–born filmmaker and director whose work spans drama, thriller, and suspense with an urban edge. His films include shorts such as Rapture (2025), Lovers on a Train (2019), The Cost of Change (2017), and A Stranger's View (2017), blending personal storytelling with psychological depth. In addition to directing and writing, he has appeared in and contributed to projects like Blade Runner 2049 (2017) and The Killer (2023).

KEY FACTS

**GENRE
SUBCATEGORIES** Drama, Romance, Self-discovery

**TOTAL RUNNING
TIME** 20 Minutes

**PRODUCTION
COMPANY** Savage Magic Productions

**PRODUCTION
LOCATION** New York City

ASPECT RATIO 2.39:1

AUDIO FORMAT Advanced Audio Technology

LENGTH Short Film

**ORIGINAL
LANGUAGE** English

**PRODUCTION
YEAR** 2025

**EXHIBITION
FORMATS** Digital Projection (DCP)

LANGUAGES English

SUBTITLES English, French, Spanish, Italian, Japanese

FESTIVALS



**MANHATTAN
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**



NEW YORK CITY, USA
OCTOBER 19-26 2025



**HAMBURG
FILM FESTIVAL**

HAMBURG, GERMANY
10th - 18th June 2025



**CANNES
INDIE SHORTS**

CANNES, FRANCE
18th - 20th Sept 2025



**SILVER LENS FILM
FESTIVAL**

LOS ANGELES, USA
15th - 23rd June 2025



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THANK YOU