

FUNNY / NOT FUNNY



"FUNNY/NOT FUNNY" DIRECTED BY MICHELLE LEUNG

WRITTEN BY JOCELYNE O'TOOLE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CARMEN HILBERT

EDITED BY ALEXANDER SPIESS SCORE BY HENRY BLOOMFIELD PRODUCED BY MINARD

POST PRODUCED BY DAVE BOBB CO-PRODUCED BY MICHELLE LEUNG AND JOCELYNE O'TOOLE EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY JOEL TOMPKINS

LOGLINE

An untethered comedienne bumbles through a frustrating day to try and cope with the loss of her mother.

SYNOPSIS

It's hard to get banned from an open mic in New York City.

But on this particularly very bad day for Rosie, she also happens to find out her ...

Mother has died.

While on stage. Getting banned.

And, to make matters that much more challenging, Rosie gets a very unwanted package from that same very, very dead mother. There is only one thing for Rosie to do, get rid of it.

If she can get rid of this package, she can get rid of all the complications with having a dead mom, or so she thinks.



WRITER'S STATEMENT

I thought I knew how I would feel when my mom died. That didn't happen. This quirky dark comedy explores the strangeness, oddities and ultimately the love of losing your mom.

In writing this over the past seven years, and in acting the role, I've been able to discover that making amends with a loved one is possible even after they've passed away. And depending on perspective, that as unfunny and hopeless as grief can be, it can also be hopeful and funny at the same time.

As a team of emerging artists, led by women, funded on our own, telling the tale of a woman finding her way through grief unconventionally to say the least, we hope to move you and challenge perspectives.

This project was developed after my mom passed with Shawn Regruto at the Writers Group he founded. Shawn changed my life in so many ways. He gave me a rich community. He constantly checked in, encouraging me to keep writing. And though he wanted to direct the film before he passed, I've persevered to make it nonetheless.

Honoring him and our work together, with the help of the Writers Group that Shawn founded, has now led me to sharing this story with the world.

It's a love letter to my Mom and Shawn, but it's also a love letter to all those that deal with grief and the issues that stem from it.



COAT RACK

★ MENU ★
BEER

WINE-GATE

SHOT S...

WELL

USED
GOTH



ABOUT MICHELLE LEUNG

Director, Co-Producer

Michelle is a New York-based producer and filmmaker whose work spans across hard-hitting documentaries and investigative video journalism to multi-million dollar ad campaigns, music videos, branded series, and now into narrative fiction. As a seasoned cameraperson and editor, her experience with the production process runs from the initial spark of an idea to final delivery. Her work has appeared on HBO, Vice, PBS Newshour, AJ+, Discovery+, and more. The feature documentary, *The Surge at Mount Sinai*, won two Webby awards. She was also selected as an emerging filmmaker in DOC NYC's Storytelling Incubator program.



ABOUT JOCELYNE O'TOOLE

Writer, Co-Producer, Actress

Jocelyne initially moved to NYC to pursue a masters degree in Vocal Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. After graduating, she sang with the Natchez Music Festival and in a New Works Music Festival at Carnegie Hall, twice. She has since transferred those talents to the big screen both as a screenwriter (*Eloise's Tree*) and as an actress, most recently featured in a national JP Morgan Chase commercial, in two upcoming episodes of an upcoming TV show to be released on HBO MAX, and as the lead in the pilot *Sister Kathleen and the Don*. Nonetheless, writing has been the constant artistic endeavor in her life.



ABOUT CARMEN HILBERT

Director of Photography

Carmen studied at the University of Texas at Austin, where her early work was recognized with an ASC Student Heritage Award nomination. She honed her technical fluency as a member of IATSE Local 484, working in grip and electric before moving full-time into cinematography. Her most recent release, *RATS!* (dir. Carl Fry & Maxwell Nalevansky), premiered at Fantasia Film Festival winning the Audience Award. Other credits include the ensemble coming-of-age feature *Party People* (dir. Joey LePage, Austin Film Festival), and *Frances Ferguson* (dir. Bob Byington, SXSW).



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What message does Funny/Not Funny convey to audiences?

A: That we can still make amends with loved ones after they have passed.

Q: Why choose to have a female protagonist surrounded by male supporting characters?

A: It highlights the male-dominated world of stand-up comedy as an analogy to the imbalanced world at large for women.

Q: Similarly, I noticed that the director, writer and cinematographer are all female. Was that intentional?

A: Yes, it's a goal of mine to make projects that are more inclusive and give more women opportunities to succeed.

Q: What does the title, Funny/Not Funny signify?

A: As funny as every situation in life is, it equally can be not funny at all depending on one's perspective.

Q: What role does the rumba play in the film's narrative?

A: It's the proverbial umbilical cord that ties Rosie to her mom even though it's already severed.

Q: What is the NYC Writers Group?

A: Shawn Regruto, who helped mold this story, founded this group fifteen years ago in Tribeca, NYC as a weekly session to hone writer's voices as storytellers.

Q: What camera did you use?

A: We used a RED Komodo with anamorphic lenses.

Q: How long did it take to make the film?

A: It took seven years to develop the finished screenplay as I went on my journey following my mother's passing, but we shot the film over three days and have worked in post-production to complete the film over the last six months.

Q: How did you make the film for a relatively small amount of money compared to many other narrative shorts?

A: We worked every angle, from caring benefactors donating equipment to crew members that worked under their normal salary to producers that helped bring the price of every aspect of the production down allowed for this film to get made.



CAST

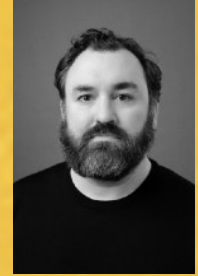
Rosie Richardson JOCELYNE O'TOOLE



Schlubby Emcee BRENDAN DALTON



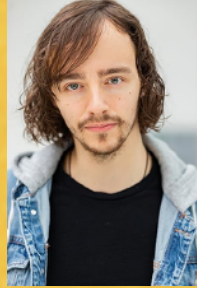
Fred JEFF LONG



Johnny Returns IMANI HANSON



Jesus LAURENT PITRE



Manny PAUL MAURIELLO



Bobbie Baldy DAVE BOBB



Stevie Sweats NIMO GANDHI



Henry Hipster FREDERIC WINKLER





REVIEWS/AWARDS

To be announced...



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Shooting Format: 6K (Anamorphic Wide)
- Aspect Ratio: 2:4:1
- Audio Format: Dolby Stereo
- Length: Seventeen minutes and fifty eight seconds
- Original Language: English

CONTACT INFORMATION

Funny Business LLC

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CREDITS



directed by

MICHELLE LEUNG

written by

JOCELYNE O'TOOLE

director of photography

CARMEN HILBERT

edited by

ALEXANDER SPIESS

score by

HENRY BLOOMFIELD

produced by

MINARD

post produced by

DAVE BOBB

co-produced by

MICHELLE LEUNG

co-produced by

JOCELYNE O'TOOLE

executive produced by

JOEL TOMPKINS

production design

NATHAN REINKE

makeup

MERALY LOPEZ

assistant director

NOAH BLAU

sound mixer

TREVOR MISPLY

key grip

GORDON CHRISTMAS

first assistant camera

JORGE MEJIA

second assistant camera

HOLLY FISCHER

gaffer

EMMET LUCIANO

colorist

DANIEL STUYCK

sound designer

AARON REPERT