

Presents

GIANT LITTLE ONES

A film by Keith Behrman (94 mins, Canada, 2018) Language: English

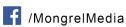
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GIANT LITTLE ONES PRODUCTION NOTES

SYNOPSIS

Franky Winter (Josh Wiggins) and Ballas Kohl (Darren Mann) have been best friends since childhood. They are high school royalty: handsome, stars of the swim team and popular with girls. They live a perfect teenage life – until the night of Franky's epic 17th birthday party, when Franky and Ballas are involved in an unexpected incident that changes their lives forever.

Giant Little Ones is a heartfelt and intimate coming-of-age story about friendship, self-discovery and the power of love without labels.

DIRECTOR NOTES - BY KEITH BEHRMAN

I envisioned *Giant Little Ones* like the best of pop songs, instantly appealing with its energy and flow, drawing the audience along with ease – yet, by the end we have experienced something distinct and meaningful and are left with insights and feelings we didn't see coming.

Giant Little Ones leaps into the dramatic world of 17-year-old Franky Winter and his lifelong best friend, Ballas Kohl. Things have never been better for these guys: they're popular among their peers, stars of their swim team and are entering exciting new terrain with their girlfriends. It is a time when erupting hormones and flourishing sexuality are coupled with a naiveté still lingering from childhood, when relationships and loyalties are changing along with a shifting sense of self. Giant Little Ones dramatizes something unique to today's teens. They are acting on the new levels of cultural acceptance for alternate sexual expression, yet still face old stereotypes and prejudices.

The experience of "self" and our inter-relatedness with others, especially in our closest relationships, has been a fascination of mine in both my films and private life. After making my first feature film, Flower & Garnet, and a few years of television directing, I gradually became more and more immersed in the study of...well...me. I stepped away from filmmaking and set off to study meditation in ashrams and monasteries in India, Burma, USA and Canada over a period of several years. It was as this chapter in my life was drawing to a close that the voices and story of **Giant Little Ones** began to emerge. I resumed writing because I knew there was something beautiful and important that needed to be told.

I wrote *Giant Little Ones* to explore modern teen life and family life in this unique cultural moment – to make a film that gives voice to the strength of self and love. And similar to that special pop song that people keep humming, a film has the ability to impact and deeply resonate with people. My wish is for *Giant Little Ones* to touch many people's hearts and be a source of hope and inspiration at this pivotal time.

ABOUT GIANT LITTLE ONES

Giant Little Ones marks writer/director Keith Behrman's sophomore feature film, following the success of his acclaimed debut feature Flower & Garnet. Shot in and around Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, it stars rising talents Josh Wiggins, Darren Mann and Taylor Hickson who share the screen with veteran actors Maria Bello, Kyle MacLachlan and Peter Outerbridge.

The past four years have been a beautiful creative partnership between Behrman and producer Allison Black to develop the script and bring this heartfelt story to life.

The story of *Giant Little Ones* began when Behrman grew concerned over the continuous LGBTQ+ youth suicides he was seeing in the news. These stories resonated with Behrman and while at a silent retreat he had a dream that sparked the film's narrative.

Black had been an admirer of Behrman's previous work and wanted to collaborate with him. "I thought what he did with *Flower & Garnet* was incredibly nuanced, thoughtful and elevated and I knew him to be an honest, humanist, compassionate filmmaker," says Black.

In *Giant Little Ones*, Behrman's characters grapple with powerful emotional experiences and attempt to navigate a formative chapter in their lives.

Franky Winter and Ballas Kohl are childhood best friends, leaders of their high school swim team and are enjoying their high school popularity with their girlfriends. On the night of Franky's 17th birthday, Franky and Ballas have an unexpected sexual encounter that starts to tear their friendship apart and affect their families and friends. While struggling with his conflicting feelings, Ballas starts a rumour about Franky's sexuality. The fact that Franky's father had come out as gay a year before the story begins further fuels the rumour. Solely based on assumptions, Franky is bullied and ostracized by his friends and peers. Life becomes further complicated for Franky when a secret past relationship with Ballas' sister Natasha (Taylor Hickson) is rekindled. As Franky and Natasha bond over shared difficulties, love and romance start to blossom along with self-acceptance.

"I think as human beings we have a wide range of capacities and experiences and attractions, areas of ourselves that we often don't feel free to explore or fulfill or understand," explains Behrman.

The story speaks to life's fluidity and the possibility of living the full spectrum of who we are without categorization.

"The film arose out of wanting to tell a story that talks about the ambiguity we can experience in our lives in terms of who we are, how we change and come to understand different things about ourselves, and about the resistance that can come from those around us and our society," says Behrman.

Josh Wiggins was first to join the cast. Wiggins had recently worked with Black on the 2016 audience darling *Mean Dreams*, which had great success premiering at the Cannes Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival. Behrman knew Wiggins "had a great depth and sensitivity to him and wisdom beyond his teenage years which was key to the portrayal of Franky."

After reading the script given to him by Black, Wiggins was very eager to play Franky and what made him really want to be a part of the project was the subject matter. "I had never really tackled [this subject] before but once I read it and saw the story and what happens and what it's about, I really wanted to jump on board," says Wiggins.

For the role of Ballas, Behrman and Black were looking for someone who could embody the heightened "alpha" masculinity of the character – his physical strength and athleticism, attractiveness, and popularity – but Behrman admits "we saw a lot of guys that did that but there weren't many people who could do that and also have a real vulnerability in their eyes."

The filmmakers found Ballas in Canadian actor Darren Mann. According to Behrman, "Darren was really able to express fear and uncertainty, and the fragility that Ballas is walking into just through his eyes and little looks within that bigger scope of all the bravado."

In Wiggins and Mann, the filmmakers were able to find the right chemistry needed to portray lifelong friends. "It's been very interesting going from script to screen and seeing Josh and Darren's incredible chemistry and bond as these two young men," says Black.

The story follows Franky and Ballas from the deepest boyhood friendship through its rupture. Franky and Ballas are faced with real inner battles at an age when perception by their peers outweighs being true to authentic parts of themselves. It is an emotional

roller-coaster for these characters as they grapple with confusion, fear and betrayal and ultimately love and acceptance.

Wiggins felt the heavy responsibility that came with playing Franky, which took him through a broad range of emotions. "At the beginning of the story he's very happy, just a bright kid and the more the story goes on the more he descends into a complicated situation. There's a big shift that I've had to play with Franky that's been really fun to explore but also challenging."

While Mann and Ballas don't share the same inner struggles, Mann did relate to Ballas' need for approval and succumbing to peer pressure to maintain his status. As Mann explains, "for Ballas it's a really big moment, a realization of what all this means right there for him in his life and probably the biggest thing is questioning himself. He is very scared and worried about who he is and then how people will see him, how his dad will see him that way."

Franky's relationship with his parents is central to how he navigates the world around him and the situation he finds himself in. Powerhouse actors Maria Bello and Kyle MacLachlan brought compassion and generosity as actors and human beings to the roles of Carly and Ray Winter, and approached their characters with care and authenticity.

Bello was an early champion of the film and in addition to playing Carly came on as an Executive Producer. As Black recalls, "we sent her the script and heard back from her the next day, which never happens. Maria is such a special person that she personally reached out by writing a beautiful letter to Keith asking how she can be of service to this film."

Bello found the script captivating from the first page. "I received the script about a year and a half ago through my agents and read it in an hour, got back to them within an hour and 15 minutes and said I want to do this movie," says Bello. Meeting Black and Behrman was another affirmation that she was meant to play Carly Winters and as Bello puts it, "my soul's calling me to this movie."

Bello read the script around the same time her book <u>Whatever... Love Is Love:</u>

<u>Questioning the Labels We Give Ourselves</u> was published and saw parallels between her own personal journey and the story she was reading. Similar to Bello's book, *Giant Little Ones*' central message questions outdated ideas about partnership, love and family. Bello shares her experience of telling her then 12-year-old son that she was in a relationship with a woman. "He said, mom, whether you are gay, bi, lesbian, trans or

whatever, love is love, and really that's what *Giant Little Ones* is about, whoever, love is love," recalls Bello.

Behrman was thrilled when Bello agreed to join the team. While he was not very familiar with Bello's personal life, Behrman was a big fan of her work. "She is amazing. Once we approached her and she expressed interest, then I learned about that whole aspect of her life and I read her book, which was such a courageous telling of her own story of growth and love, and we realized it was such a meaningful match."

As a mother of a now teenage son, Bello completely related to Carly's situation with Franky. Recalling the scene where Franky is violently attacked Bello says, "the truth is it's happening to so many kids all over the world just because of their sexual orientation and it's really sad and unfortunate. That's why I think this film is really important, to share that sense of compassion and acceptance and hopefully bullying will become a thing of the past."

MacLachlan plays the pivotal role of Franky's father, Ray Winter. Franky is greatly affected by his father coming out as gay and the presumptions others make about him as a result. Ray's presence is felt throughout the story in everything Franky does including how he identifies as a young man and relates to those around him. In Behrman's eyes, MacLachlan's "beautiful combination of masculinity, sensitivity and vulnerability" made him perfect for the role of Ray.

For MacLachlan, it wasn't necessarily the character but the overall message of the script that attracted him to the project. "The message of tolerance, understanding, and patience, and I thought that Keith would be the perfect director to tell that story," says MacLachlan.

Behrman did not initially write Ray as a gay man. He was a few drafts in before the idea came to him and he was immediately excited by how it would create more uncertainty for Franky as he tries to reconcile his current situation with the unresolved issues he has with his estranged father.

"Ray is very comfortable with his choice, making a decision that is true to himself but had a great impact on his family which he understands. He also knows he would be doing a disservice to himself if he didn't follow through with the way he really feels," says MacLachlan.

For Wiggins, the father and son relationship is a deep part of Franky's character. Franky starts out not understanding what his father went through and the decision that he had to make but ultimately, it's Ray's journey that gives Franky the perspective he needs to

reconcile his own situation. "There is an understanding that develops within Franky and you hope that it aligns with the understanding that the audience starts to feel so they can identify with Franky a little more."

"In one of the scenes he just says, go, just don't put a label on it. It doesn't mean you have to be this or you have to be that, just be a little easier on yourself," adds MacLachlan.

For the young actors, working with Bello and MacLachlan was a wonderful journey. As Mann notes, "Both of them have so much experience, you can tell that when you watch them work, they know exactly what they are doing, they're pros but at the same time they are also very easy going. It's always nice when you find that out about somebody you have liked and watched before and when you get to actually meet them, it's always special."

Similar to everyone else involved with the film it was the overall story that drew Taylor Hickson to the role of Natasha Kohl, Ballas' sister and Franky's friend and love interest. "I don't think I have ever read a more beautiful script to be completely honest. The issues that touch you are dark but there are a lot of feel good moments," says Hickson.

Natasha is a tough and dynamic character dealing with a traumatic, life-changing experience of her own. Franky and Natasha have an undeniable connection and have always deeply cared for each other. What further ties them together and reignites their tender romance is the shared struggle with being judged and cast out by people they thought to be trusted and beloved friends.

Natasha is able to help Franky out of the doomed feelings he has. With her he is able to once again tap into his spontaneous, fun and daring side without judgement. "Her past, what Franky sees she is going through, puts him in touch with a lot of his own battles and feelings which I think is a very healthy output for Franky," says Hickson.

"It's just beautiful to see the blossoming happen. She brings back the lightness in him, and through sharing and dealing with her own experiences she's able to really help Franky through," adds Black.

Black knew immediately from the audition that Hickson was the actor to portray Natasha. "There was such an authenticity and freshness to Taylor. She was pure and honest and raw in her audition. She held both the radiance and lightness of Natasha, along with the depth and vulnerability that naturally comes from her character's experiences.

In her portrayal of Natasha, Hickson was also able to bring a lot of her own personality to the character. Hickson notes, "I didn't realize I was subconsciously pulling pieces of my own personality and my own experiences, my life in high school and what I went through."

Franky and Ballas are stars of the school's swimming team. The conversations in the locker room and their interactions with their teammates have major significance in the overall theme and the story. "I always wanted the boys to be involved in a swim team because it is very competitive and it is a lot of testosterone," said Behrman. Putting the characters on a swim team also adds to the literal and figurative nakedness and vulnerability of the boys and their potential objectification by others. "These are young fit men who are quite physically exposed and in a sense on display – at swim meets for example. I thought this was a fascinating backdrop for the story, this world that is both aggressive and macho, as well as kind of sensual and intimate."

A competitive sports environment was very familiar to Mann who played hockey growing up. "You are kind of idolized in school when you are a high-level athlete, which makes it even more difficult when you are trying to hide something because you know your peers and the people around you don't necessarily see it the right way."

Franky's experience on the swim team is sullied by the false perceptions and rumours, leaving him to navigate his place within it. He loses the drive to be on the swim team. As Wiggins notes, "Part of it is being around the same people who have put him down. He is at a point where he's just down and he is shut out and he doesn't want to be a part of [the swim team] anymore."

For the cast, it was a great experience to work under Behrman's direction who created a collaborative environment on set and allowed the actors to feel very much part of the process.

"It's awesome working with Keith, he really understands the characters and what he wants visually and what he wants performance-wise but at the same time letting you do your thing as an actor," says Wiggins.

For Mann, it was Behrman's generosity and honesty as a director that stood out. "There were moments on set where I would have an idea and wasn't ever afraid to bring them up with him and he gave you an honest response. You always know you are going to get the truth out of him."

"The process of building this character [Natasha] has been a shared collaborative process with me and Keith. There are times Keith knows the direction she is going best — he created her — and then other times he lets me take the lead," says Hickson.

Black echoes the cast's sentiments, "Keith has a unique gift as a writer in that he respectfully, tenderly, and humorously gets inside the heads and hearts of young people (and the young at heart), and as a director this respect creates an on-set trust and connection that translates into naturalistic performances on screen."

While tackling an important and serious issue the film concludes on an empowering note and that's the overall takeaway for the audience.

"It's not about if Franky is going to have sex with a boy or a girl or both, you don't care, what you care about is him. Who he is and him finding his own bliss, his own future, his own soul, his own love, whatever that shows up as and whatever form," adds Bello.

As Wiggins notes by the end of the story, Franky also doesn't really know either. "That's fine, if you don't know what you feel or how you feel, you can live your life and you can maybe find out later."

"Something happens in high school and you think you are stuck with the definition of who you are but that's just one small step on a much larger journey that you are going to have through your life," notes MacLachlan.

The film has an open ending without a clear understanding of Franky's sexuality and that's the exact point Behrman wanted to get across. "The ending will leave people wondering, 'is he this or is he that?' but then also realize it doesn't really matter. What excites me the most about this film is that it respects the choices people make and how they want to define themselves."

ABOUT THE CAST

JOSH WIGGINS - 'Franky Winter'

Josh Wiggins is currently shooting Aaron Schneider's *Greyhound* opposite Tom Hanks for Playtone. He can most recently be seen starring opposite J.K Simmons and Julie Delpy in Kurt Voelker's *The Bachelors* which premiered at the 2017 Los Angeles Film Festival. His other recent projects include the Harbinger Pictures feature *Walking Out* alongside Matt Bomer, and Nathan Morlando's *Mean Dreams* with Sophie Nelisse and Bill Paxton.

Wiggins was the lead in MGM's *Max* for Karen Rosenfelt and Boaz Yakin, and starred opposite Josh Duhamel in the feature *Lost in the Sun*.

Wiggins was singled out at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival for his breakout performance in *Hellion* opposite Aaron Paul. He was also highlighted in Vanity Fair's 2014 Next Wave issue.

DARREN MANN - 'Ballas Kohl'

Darren Mann is one of the industry's brightest emerging stars with an extraordinary list of accomplishments already under his belt. Inspired by his actress/director mother, Mann started acting in Vancouver at the age of 8. He quickly landed roles on stage and in film. However, it was his passion for hockey that made Mann take a break from acting. From playing as a 4-year-old, Mann quickly climbed the ranks becoming a junior-level star, before turning professional. Eventually injuries would force him to retire which would lead him to return to acting.

All of this led Mann to book a starring role in *Stanley's Game Seven 3D* from Network Entertainment where he combined his two passions of acting and hockey. Since then Darren has been working non-stop in film and television. Roles on dramatic series include the award-winning ABC series *Motive*, Bravo's *Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce*, SyFy's *Van Helsing* and CW's *iZombie* and *The 100* as well as a recurring role on *Wayward Pines* for FOX. Keen to showcase his range, Mann also went on to book guest star roles in comedy such as the Canadian Screen Award-nominated series *Package Deal* as well as the award-winning Netflix series *Some Assembly Required*.

In 2016, Mann co-starred in the hockey drama *Hello Destroyer* which premiered at TIFF. He followed that with an intense guest star role on the pilot *Let the Right One In* for

A&E. Last year Mann completed two feature projects; horror film *The Wiccan* and the romantic comedy *Twisted Blues*.

Mann has just wrapped a guest star on new drama series *Blue Book* for A&E, playing an air force pilot in 1950's who has a UFO experience.

MARIA BELLO – 'Carly Winter'

Executive Producer

Maria Bello has established herself as a leading actress with a formidable and dazzling presence. A cool, incredibly literate blonde, Bello has captivated audiences with her many diverse roles in such films as *The Cooler* with William H. Macy (Golden Globe and SAG Nomination), David Cronenberg's *A History of Violence* opposite Viggo Mortenson and Ed Harris (NY Film Critics win and Golden Globe nomination), Oliver Stone's *World Trade Center*, *Prisoners* opposite Hugh Jackman, and Paul Haggis' *Third Person*. Bello was most recently seen in the hit James Wan thriller, *Lights Out*, and the Amazon original series, *Goliath*, with Billy Bob Thornton and William Hurt. She can currently be seen as one of the newest additions to the cast of *NCIS*, playing the role of Special Agent Jacqueline "Jack" Sloane.

Some of Bello's credits include *McFarland*, *USA* with Kevin Costner, *The 5th Wave* with Chloë Grace Moretz and Liev Schreiber, *Grown Ups* and *Grown Ups 2* with Adam Sandler, the John Wells drama *The Company Men*, *Thank You For Smoking*, *The Jane Austen Book Club*, *The Mummy 3: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*, *Towelhead*, *Yellow Handkerchief*, *Auto Focus*, *Beautiful Boy*, *Permanent Midnight* with Ben Stiller, *Payback* with Mel Gibson, *Flicka* opposite Tim McGraw, Bruce Paltrow's *Duets*, Jerry Bruckheimer's *Coyote Ugly*, *Secret Window* with Johnny Depp, *Silver City* with Chris Cooper and *Assault on Precinct 13* with Ethan Hawke.

No stranger to the small screen, Bello starred in the Lifetime TV movie *Big Driver*, based on the Stephen King short story. She also starred as detective Jane Timoney in the NBC series *Prime Suspect*, and for one season in the role of passionate and headstrong pediatrician Dr. Anna Del Amico in NBC's critically acclaimed series *ER*.

In April 2015, Bello released her first book <u>Whatever... Love Is Love: Questioning the Labels We Give Ourselves,</u> from Dey Street Books, an imprint of Harper Collins. In her book, Bello expands on her news-making "Coming Out as Modern Family" column which ran in the New York Times in 2013. The book explores themes and ideas surrounding family, partnership, sexuality and spirituality.

Bello is an internationally renowned actor, activist, author and producer. She has been an activist working in women's rights for 30 years and was voted one of Variety magazine's most powerful women in Hollywood for her activism with women in Darfur. Bello also travelled to Kosovo during the war to interview women about the genocide and sexual violence against them and lobbied congress to organize the first-ever hearing on rape as a weapon of war. She started a women's clinic in Haiti and holds the title of Ambassador at Large for the women in Haiti. She has spoken at the State Department on women and social business and at the UN on women in media. She is also a ReFrame Ambassador for Women in Film to work toward gender parity in the entertainment industry.

KYLE MACLACHLAN - 'Ray Winter'

Kyle MacLachlan is an actor who has brought indelible charm and a quirky sophistication to some of film and television's most memorable roles.

MacLachlan is best known for his performance as FBI Agent 'Dale Cooper' in David Lynch's groundbreaking series *Twin Peaks*, for which he received two Emmy nominations and a Golden Globe Award in 1990. 27 years later, in 2017 MacLachlan reprised his role in David Lynch's critically acclaimed *Twin Peaks* revival, which earned him a 2018 Golden Globe nomination.

He most recently starred as the gregarious and enthusiastic Mayor of Portland, alongside Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein, in the eighth and final season of the cult-hit-comedy *Portlandia*. The series finale aired on March 22, 2018 on IFC. MacLachlan will next be seen in Eli Roth's film *The House with a Clock in its Walls* alongside Cate Blanchett and Jack Black.

In 2015, MacLachlan voiced the role of "Dad" in Disney Pixar's award winning film, *Inside Out*, which made record-setting box office numbers for an original film. MacLachlan had regular appearances on ABC's *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D*, CBS's *The Good Wife*, and NBC's *Believe*, produced by JJ Abrams. He also had reoccurring guest roles as "The Captain" on *How I Met Your Mother*. The role was loosely based on some of MacLachlans's early sitcom heroes, such as Thurston Howell III and Jethro Bodine.

MacLachlan reprised his role as "Dr. Orson Hodge" on the eighth and final season of ABC's highly rated Emmy-nominated television series, *Desperate Housewives*. MacLachlan joined the cast in 2006 and appeared regularly on the show until 2011. In 2012, MacLachlan appeared in IFC Films' *Peace*, *Love and Misunderstanding*, directed by Bruce Beresford and starring Jane Fonda, Elizabeth Olsen and Catherine Keener.

In 2010, MacLachlan appeared as immigration attorney Charles Foster in *Mao's Last Dancer*, a film based on the true story of ballet dancer Li Cunxin. Directed by Bruce Beresford, the film was released by Samuel Goldwyn Films and ATO Pictures.

MacLachlan also starred in two seasons of HBO's highly successful comedy series Sex and The City as Charlotte's husband, "Dr. Trey MacDougal". He has also appeared in a recurring guest-starring role in Law and Order: Special Victims Unit.

MacLachlan's other television credits include *In Justice* for ABC (2006); TNT's *The Librarian: Quest for the Spear* (2004); HBO's award-winning film *Against the Wall*, the story of the 1971 Attica prison riots (1994); and Showtime's original film *Roswell*, based on the infamous story of an alleged UFO sighting in 1947 Roswell, New Mexico (1994).

MacLachlan made his feature film debut in 1984 in the futuristic drama *Dune*, directed by David Lynch. This was followed by his second collaboration with Lynch in 1986 in the uniquely disturbing film, *Blue Velvet*, opposite Isabella Rossellini and Dennis Hopper. Other film credits include *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2* (2008); *Touch of Pink* (2004); Miramax's *Hamlet* (2000); *Timecode* (2000); *One Night Stand* (1997); *The Trigger Effect* (1996); Paul Verhoeven's cult classic *Showgirls* (1995); *The Flintstones*, produced by Steven Spielberg (1994); *The Trial* (1993); *Rich in Love* (1992); and Oliver Stone's 1990 film *The Doors*, where he portrayed legendary keyboardist Ray Manzarek.

MacLachlan made his directorial debut in 1993 with an episode of the darkly comic HBO hit series *Tales from the Crypt*.

In the fall of 2003, MacLachlan made his Broadway debut as "Aston" in Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker*, starring opposite Patrick Stewart and Aidan Gillen. Directed by David Jones for the Roundabout Theatre Company, it was nominated for "Best Rival of a Play" by the Outer Critics Circle that 2003/2004 season. In 2002, MacLachlan made his London stage debut in the West End production of *On an Average Day* opposite Woody Harrelson. Directed by John Crowley, the play returned MacLachlan to his theater roots after a 14-year absence.

MacLachlan is the ambassador of Callaway Golf Foundation and is a supporter of many charities including God's Love We Deliver, American Foundation for AIDS Research, Elton John AIDS Foundation, The Humane Society and UNICEF.

TAYLOR HICKSON – 'Natasha Kohl'

Taylor Hickson had a lead role on SyFy's apocalyptic thriller series *Aftermath*. Created by William Laurin (*Missing*, *Power Play*) and Glenn Davis (John Woo's *Once a Thief*), Hickson starred alongside Anne Heche as Brianna, a disaffected loner who is kidnapped and forced to live on her own in order to survive.

On film, Hickson stars in *Ghostland*, a thriller written and directed by French filmmaker Pascal Laugier. She stars alongside Crystal Reed, Emilia Jones and Mylene Farmer. Hickson also has a lead role in the independent thriller, *Residue*.

Born and raised in Kelowna, BC, Canada, Hickson's career began at the age of 12, singing alongside her father on stages throughout BC. As her passion for music deepened, she began writing her own material and graduated high school a year early to focus on her music and acting career. Hickson landed roles right out the gate including a part in the psychological thriller *Blackway* opposite Anthony Hopkins, Ray Liotta, and Julia Stiles. She then booked a role in the international hit film *Deadpool* (Twentieth Century Fox Films) as Meghan Orlovsky opposite Ryan Reynolds. That was followed by a lead role in Canadian indie *Hunting Pignut* based on writer/director Martine Blue's true-life story, and a role in MGM's *Everything*, *Everything*.

While acting and music are two of Hickson's greatest passions, she also has a big place in her heart for charity and actively supports International Justice Mission and Free the Children, both of which focus on saving or preventing children being sold into child slavery, and providing relief to children living in extreme poverty. Hickson has participated in food drives, raised funds for both organizations, and while in high school raised enough money to build a school for underprivileged children and provide them with school supplies.

PETER OUTERBRIDGE - 'Nic Kohl'

Peter Outerbridge was born and raised in Toronto. He studied Theatre at the University of Victoria, receiving his BFA in 1988. He then co-founded the "fringe" theatre company "Way Off Broadway" and toured the various festivals across Canada for several years before crossing over to film and television.

His feature film credits include starring roles in Haunter, Saw VI, Burning Mussolini and Lucky Number Slevin. Other film credits include The Bay Of Love And Sorrows, based on the novel by Giller Prize winner David Adams Richards; Men With Brooms, starring Paul Gross and Leslie Nielson; Marine Life, starring Cybil Shepherd; Better Than Chocolate with Wendy Crewson; and early in his career, Paris, France with Molly Parker, which earned him his first Genie nomination.

Outerbridge's television credits include: the lead role in three Detective Murdoch Mysteries; two Chasing Cain movies; the mini-series *Trudeau*; Sturla Gunnerson's 100 Days In The Jungle; and the Gemini Award-winning Regenesis. Outerbridge also appeared in 10:5 Apocalypse, Sanctuary, and the ABC series Happy Town. He portrayed George Brown in CBC's John A: Birth Of A Country, and recurred on The Listener, and Nikita. He also had a role opposite Meg Tilly in the popular award-winning Global series Bomb Girls. Last year, Outerbridge shot recurring roles on the BBC America / SPACE hit series Orphan Black and the Syfy series 12 Monkeys. Some of his other television guest appearances include the critically acclaimed series 24, ABC's drama series The D.A., The Outer Limits, and Suits.

Outerbridge has received four Gemini nominations for his portrayal of David Sandström in *Regenesis*, and a nomination for his role as Detective Murdoch in *Murder 19C: Detective Murdoch Mysteries*. In 2012 and 2013 Outerbridge garnered an ACTRA Award nomination, and picked up the win for CSA's Best Performance in a Featured Supporting Role, *for John A: Birth of A Country*.

Last year Outerbridge was seen on the big screen in *He Who Dares* and the summer blockbuster, *Suicide Squad* followed by *Shut In*, alongside Naomi Watts.

Outerbridge also starred in the first season of the limited series from *Omni: Blood & Water*, in addition to two seasons of *The Art of More* for Sony's Crackle. Always in demand, Outerbridge has recurred and guest starred in ten series this past year including: Syfy's *The Expanse* and *Incorporated*; CBS's *Zoo*; ABC's *Designated Survivor*; USA's *Poor Richard's Almanack*; in addition to CBC's *Shoot the Messenger*, and their highly-regarded series, *Pure*.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

KEITH BEHRMAN – Director/Writer

Keith Behrman is an alumnus of the Director's Residency program of the Canadian Film Centre and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Simon Fraser University. His acclaimed and award-winning first feature *Flower & Garnet* premiered at TIFF and subsequently screened at the Berlin Film Festival and Karlovy Vary. The film received the Canadian Academy's Claude Jutra Award for The Best First Feature and was named one of Canada's Top Ten Films of the year. Behrman began his career as a filmmaker with the short films *Thomas and White Cloud*, and *Blue Mountain* which both premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and went on to screen at festivals around the world. His acclaimed third short film, *Ernest*, premiered at TIFF where it won

Honourable Mention for the John Spotten Award for Best Short Film. Behrman was a director on *The National Parks Project* alongside fellow acclaimed directors Louise Archambault, Catherine Martin, Zacharius Kunuk and Peter Lynch. The event documentary went on to screen at Hot Docs, SXSW and Berlinale.

ALLISON BLACK – Producer

Allison Black most recently produced the 2016 Cannes Director's Fortnight Selection *Mean Dreams*, directed by award-winning filmmaker Nathan Morlando. The critically acclaimed coming-of-age crime thriller next made its North American premiere as a Special Presentation at TIFF 2016, and was named one of Canada's Top Ten Films of 2016.

Previously, Black produced the award-winning true crime drama *Citizen Gangster* (IFC Films), written and directed by Morlando. The film made its world premiere as a Special Presentation at TIFF where it won the prestigious Best Canadian First Feature Award and Black was nominated for TIFF's Canadian Producer of the Year. The film went on to earn five Canadian Screen Awards nominations, two DGC Award nominations including Best Feature and was named one of Canada's Top Ten Films of the year. Black is currently in development on Morlando's untitled sci-fi thriller, the adaptation of the novel <u>Infidelity</u> by Sundance winning filmmaker Genevieve Dulude-de Celles (*The Cut*), and the adaptation of the acclaimed memoir by National Geographic "Global Innovator" Dr. Laura Bates, <u>Shakespeare Saved My Life: Ten Years in Solitary with the Bard</u>.

Based in Toronto and Los Angeles, Black has been profiled by *Variety* as part of their Producers to Watch series.

GUY GODFREE, CSC – Director of Photography

Guy Godfree considers story, performance and direction paramount, and aligns his work to those qualities within every project. Guy was recently nominated for a 2018 CSC Award for Best Feature Film Cinematography for his work on *Suck It Up*. Other accolades include an international IMAGO nomination, and a 2017 CSC Award for Best Feature Film Cinematography for his work on the film *Maudie* (TIFF, Telluride), starring Ethan Hawke and Sally Hawkins. Godfree's recent feature credits include *The Parting Glass* directed by Steven Moyer and starring Anna Paquin, Melissa Leo and Cynthia

Nixon. Godfree is a graduate of the prestigious American Film Institute and works in the USA, Canada and abroad. He is based in New York City and Canada.

SANDY PEREIRA – Editor

Like many kids stuck in the suburbs, one of Sandy Pereira's favourite pastimes was to sit in a dark theatre and get lost in the movies. After studying Cinema, Semiotics and English at the University of Toronto, she discovered she not only enjoyed the editing process, but she had a real flair for it. Whilst honing her craft, Pereira was fortunate to work as an assistant to many illustrious editors, and especially to Ron Sanders, on several features for David Cronenberg, including the award-winning Eastern Promises, A Dangerous Method, and Cosmopolis. She was credited as Additional Editor on Cronenberg's Maps to The Stars, and Patricia Riggen's docudrama, The 33. She recently shared the 2017 DGC Award for Editing on Nathan Morlando's Mean Dreams, which was an Official Selection of the Cannes Film Festival's Director's Fortnight (2016), and had its North American premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (2016). She has cut several independent feature films, and short films for many directors, but most notably for Semi Chellas (Mad Men), and Esta Spalding (Masters of Sex). Pereira is currently editing her next feature, Ricky Tollman's Run This Town, starring Ben Platt, Damian Lewis and Mena Massoud.

MICHAEL BROOK - Composer

Michael Brook is an award-winning film composer, musician and record producer. He has scored over 40 films including *Brooklyn*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *The Fighter*, and *Into the Wild* (Golden Globe-nominated for best-score) and recently *Stronger*, starring Jake Gyllenhaal. He is recognized for a unique compositional style that incorporates elements of Americana, electronic, ambient, world and symphonic music.

CHRIS DOURIDAS - Music Supervisor

Throughout most of the '90s, Chris Douridas was the Music Director at KCRW-FM in Santa Monica, one of the most respected and progressive radio stations in the country, and hosted the popular daily new music program Morning Becomes Eclectic (1990-1998). He was the first to play demos and live radio sessions from then-unsigned artists Beck, Gillian Welch, eels, and Kara's Flowers (later Maroon 5), among others.

While at KCRW, Geffen Records enlisted Douridas as an A&R consultant to identify and recruit new artists which brought bands Remy Zero and That Dog to the label. Two years later, he became an A&R executive at DreamWorks and shepherded the soundtracks for many Dreamworks films.

Douridas also hosted the debut season of Sessions at West 54th, a celebrated weekly PBS live music performance and interview program, which is still in syndication. The show featured 48 acts including Fiona Apple, Patti Smith, Sinead O'Connor, Beck, Philip Glass, Yo Yo Ma and the television debuts of Belle and Sebastian and Ani Difranco, among others.

As a former VP at AOL Music, Douridas oversaw <u>Radio@AOL</u>. He created, produced and hosted the popular Sessions@AOL program and interviewed artists including Paul McCartney, U2, Madonna, Moby, Radiohead, Peter Gabriel, John Mayer, Nelly and Avril Lavigne.

In 2001, at Sheryl Crow's recommendation, Steve Jobs personally hired Douridas as creative programming consultant for the launch of Apple's iTunes Music Store, which led to the creation of the critically acclaimed live performance and interview series, iTunes Original. Additionally, Douridas launched the iTunes Essentials, an ongoing series of downloadable music playlists for the iPod culture.

Douridas is best known in film circles as a music supervisor and consultant for major motion pictures and television series, having put together music for Northern Exposure, the Austin Powers series, 187, As Good as It Gets, Heat, Grosse Pointe Blank, Grace of My Heart, American Beauty, One Hour Photo, Down with Love, The Girl Next Door, Rumor Has It, Bobby, Shrek 2, and The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian.

Additional film/TV projects include the doc sensation American Teen, The Women, The Education of Charlie Banks, Shrek Forever After, The Details, What Maisie Knew, In a World, the award-winning Showtime series House of Lies, Flaked, Captain Fantastic, and the upcoming feature animation project, The Addams Family.

Douridas serves as a consultant for record labels, publishers, and online music service providers, most recently providing programming expertise for Amazon Music. He also continues his dedication to discovering and nurturing new artists through his widely popular weekly tastemaker live performance series, School Night!

Lastly, he continues to host a weekly live radio program on his beloved home KCRW-FM, where he also conceived of and continues to curate KCRW's long-running all music channel Eclectic24.

ZOSIA MACKENZIE - Production Designer

Zosia MacKenzie is a Production Designer based in Toronto, Canada and holds a degree in Radio and Television Arts from Ryerson University (2010).

Her credits include the feature films *State Like Sleep* (Tribeca, 2018), *Mobile Homes* (Quinzaine des Realisateurs, Cannes 2017), *Tomato Red* (Dublin International Film Festival, 2017), *Mean Dreams* (Quinzaine des Realisateurs, Cannes 2016), *The People Garden* (Buenos Aires Film Festival, 2016), and *Guidance* (Toronto International Film Festival, 2015).

MARISSA SCHWARTZ - Costume Designer

Marissa Schwartz is a Canadian Costume Designer. She is best known for her work on Nathan Morlando's *Mean Dreams* which premiered in the Director's Fortnight program at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival.

Her work on *How to Plan an Orgy in a Small Town* won her 'Best Costume Design' as juried by CAFTCAD at the 2016 Canadian Film Fest.

Schwartz's features also include Jason Stone's SXSW 2018 selected feature, *First Light*, and Stephen Moyer's directorial debut, *The Parting Glass*. Schwartz just wrapped work on acclaimed director Patricia Rozema's feature adaption of the award-winning play, *Mouthpiece*.

CREDITS

CAST

Franky Winter JOSH WIGGINS

Ballas Kohl DARREN MANN
Natasha Kohl TAYLOR HICKSON
Carly Winter MARIA BELLO

Ray Winter KYLE MACLACHLAN
Mouse NIAMH WILSON

Priscilla HAILEY KITTLE

Nic Kohl PETER OUTERBRIDGE
Angie Kohl STEPHANIE MOORE
Jess KIANA MADEIRA
Deanne Winter OLIVIA SCRIVEN
Connor EVAN MARSH

Michael CARSON MACCORMAC

Coach Klassen JEFF CLARKE

Ms. Soo CORY LEE

Driver STEVE GAGNE
Stunt Coordinator NICK ALACHIOTIS
Stunt Coordinator SHARON CANOVAS

Production Manager BRENDAN BRADY
First Assistant Director RYAN HYLAND
Second Assistant Director JAMES GILCHRIST

Line Producer BRENDAN BRADY
Post Production Supervisor LORRAINE SAMUEL

3rd Assistant Director

4th Assistant Director

Set Production Assistants

STEVEN MAIONE

JUSTINE CHALYKOFF

Casting Associate ASHLEY GRAY
Casting Assistant CATHERINE GILCHRIST
Background Casting ON CUE CASTING

Casting Consultant (US) ANGELA DEMO

Casting Associate (US) SHYREE MEZICK

Business & Legal Affairs JOEL BURCH

Script Supervisor CONSUELO SOLAR
1st Assistant A Camera ADAM BURROWS

1st Assistant A Camera CYLVAN DESLOUREAUX

2nd Assistant A Camera KORBYN MCLEAN

Camera Trainee NATHAN "JONNA" BOULIANE

DMT KYLE BRUNET

Stills Photographer SHANE MAHOOD
Gaffer MIKE ARMSTRONG

Best Boy Electric JULIAN SAMUELS Electrics JORDAN HEGUY

Genny OP ANDREA HERNANDEZ
Key Grip SPENCER JOHNSTON

Best Boy Grip MACKENZIE FRASER

Grips ALEX DORAN

JEREMY FRANCZAK

Production Coordinator ANGELICA BAILEY

Assistant Production Coordinator JENNIFER MATHEWSON

Production Assistants STEPHANIE POMBER

JEFFERY MASCI

LIAM THOMPSON

Production Accountant JAMES MILLIGAN

Assistant Costume Designer/ COURTNEY MITCHELL

Set Supervisor

Truck Supervisor JULIA PECORE
Costume Buyer MARA ZIGLER
Daily Wardrobe Assistants JULIA CRONIN

MELANIE OATES

MICHELLE LOUBERT

Art Director JOHN O'REGAN

Set Decorator CAILIN BATOR

1st Assistant Art Director ADAM MEDLY Lead Set Dresser SOPHIA BURKE

On Set Dresser STEPHANIE MAIONE
Set Dresser STEVE MOZAROWSKI

Daily Set Dressers GLEN GUISE Head of Department - Make-Up JEN FISHER Head of Department – Hair NANCY COSTA

Assistant Hair & Make-Up JESSICA WHYTE

Assistant MakeUp SARA LAW AMBER BENTLEY

KYLE HUTCHINSON

Property Master SHAUN MAJID

Asst. Property Master STEVE MOZAROWSKI

Sound Mixer NEIL MCINTYRE
Boom Operator PATRICK DAL CIN

Location Manager JOSH ARY

Assistant Location Manager MELISSA VILLENEUVE

Location Production Assistant JESSE GOTTWALD

SPFX Coordinator FX NORTH

SPFX On Set Key DONNI BOBIWASH SPFX JACOB SOLOMON

Transport Coordinator GARY GUISE
Transport Captain SETH GAGNON

Head Driver JOSH FAULKNER

Drivers JASON GUISE

LARRY WOOLLEY
TIFFANY WARDELL

RACHEL FLINT
MICHAEL NOLAN
LANDON RAMIREZ
ANTHONY BELLEAU
JORDAN VERNELLI

BRANDON SMITH

AZ Unit Movers KEVIN HACHE

PAUL LIDSTONE CHRIS CARSON

Set Medic SUPERIOR EMS

Caterer DISH CATERING

JEN BELLEROSE

Craft Service MATHEW RALPH
Assistant Craft Service CHRIS MCTAGGART

Craft Server BOBBI GUERIN

EPK Producer LORRAINE CLARK

EPK Camera Op GLEN DAVIS

Publicity Services TOUCHWOOD PR

ANDREA GRAU ALMA PARVIZIAN

POST PRODUCTION

1st Assistant Picture Editor **LUIS FREITAS** 1st Assistant Picture Editor **AMANDA MITRO**

Post Production Services by Post Production North

DIGITAL IMAGING BY

Colourist HARDAVE GREWAL Online Editor **KYLE CAMPBELL** Project Manager **IKE MURPHY Dailies Operator OREN EDENSON** Picture Operations Manager **BRUCE REES** Picture Facility Technician

ROBERTA BRATTI Operations Manager

SOUND EDITORIAL BY

Supervising Sound Editor TOM BJELIC Sound Designer **ADAM STEIN** Dialogue Editor JILL PURDY Effects Editor **ADAM STEIN**

Sound Mix Facilities provided by Urban Post Production

Re-Recording Mixers **KEITH ELLIOTT**

RUDY MICHAEL

JON MORRISON

Mix Assistant **ELLA MELANSON** TIM O'CONNELL Foley Artist Foley Recordist DAVE MERCEL **ADR Recordist ROB SINKO**

Visual Effects/Flame Artist HARDAVE GREWAL Main Titles Design JUSTIN STEPHENSON **MUSIC**

Score Production CRAIG CONARD

Music Mix CRAIG CONARD

Music Consultant JENNIFER NASH

Assistant Music Supervisor NASSIR NASSIRZADEH

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ASSOCIATES TORONTO

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Grip & Electric Equipment WILLIAM F WHITE

INTERNATIONAL

Production Vehicles DISCOUNT TRUCK AND CAR

RENTALS

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LUCY VEALE

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The Production Wishes to Thank

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Levin, The Royal Cinema staff, St Andrew's United Church, Dan Lyon, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 25, Emmanuel United Church, Palmer Maniacco, Vanessa Tam, Parkland Baptist Church, Michael McLennan, Team Aquatic, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kathleen Meek, Kelly Thorne-Stone, Aiden Colynuck, Terry Morgan, TYR, Arturo Comegna, Charlotte Mickie, Simon Vidoczy, Amy Cunningham, MNP, Jason Wagner, Cyclepath Norco, Chris Muckley, Cole Weurdemann, Candice Day, Sault College, Melanie Muncaster, Paul Widgett, Delta Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront Hotel, Kristine Murphy, Steve Wiggins, Cedar Dewar, Cody Nadon, The Wilcock Family, Fausto DiTommaso, Cafe Natura, Desmond Wood Anderson, Dolfin Swimwear, Dominique Ninnes, Danish Vahidy, Helen du Toit, Norco Bicycles Velorution.

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Amrita Ahuja
The Behrman Family
The Black Family
Tom Morlando and the Morlando Family

Shutterstock footage courtesy of Rick Ray
"Where on earth is Carmen Santiago?" Courtesy of DHX Media (Toronto Ltd)
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SONGS

"Burns"

Written by George FitzGerald and Duncan Tootill
Performed by George FitzGerald
Courtesy of Domino Recording and Publishing Company

"Young and Dumb"

Written by Esben Nørskov Andersen

Performed by Rangleklods

By arrangement with Friendly Fire Licensing

"Bout That Life"

Written by Lamont Chapman, Lesia Chapman, Vincent Nelson Jr.

& Trevor Hughes

Performed by Natural Habitz

Courtesy of BZEE Roc Music Group, LLC

By Arrangement with Spirit Music Group

"Fog Rolls In"
Performed by Doombird
Written by Kris Anaya and Joseph Davancens
Courtesy of Gold Standard Records
By arrangement with Castle Peak Music

"Maluca"
Written and Performed by Christopher Rude
Courtesy of 10K ISLANDS

"On the Rise"
Written by Martin Coogan & Scott Dittrich
Performed by Brett
Courtesy of 10K ISLANDS

"Cold Light"

Written by Dan Boeckner, Sam Brown, Biljana Mirkovski, and Dustin Hawthorne
Performed by Operators

Courtesy of Last Gang Records

"This Love Is Upon Us"

Written by Matthew Joseph McClanahan and Bryan Dean Bassett

Performed by Bambi Lambo

Courtesy of The Music Playground

"Dab on Em"
Written by Sam Fishman
Performed by Sam F

"Turning Blue"
Written by Nicholas Alfonso Ruiz, Greg Braccio, Robert James Sodaro and Black
Edward Allard
Performed by Joyous Wolf
Courtesy of Joyous Wolf Music

"2020"

Written by Benjamin Shemie, Max Henry, Joseph Yarmush and Liam O'Neill

Performed by Suuns Courtesy of Secretly Canadian

"Lovely Allen"
Written by Brian Borcherdt, Graham Walsh, Michael Bigelow, Loel Campbell and
Kevin Lynn
Performed by Holy Fuck
Courtesy of Young Turks Recordings

"Birds"

Written by Fredrika Ribbing and Daniel Nigro

Performed by Miynt

Courtesy of B3SCI International / Kobalt Music Recordings

"Doll"
Written by Martin Coogan & Scott Dittrich
Performed by Brett
Courtesy of 10K ISLANDS

"Penny Arcade"
Written by Jonathan Geer
Performed by Music Beyond
Courtesy by BMG Production Music

"You Mean the World To Me"

Written by Freya Ridings, and Kieron Mcintosh

Performed by Freya Ridings

Courtesy of Good Soldier Records Ltd. / Kobalt Music Recordings

"In Undertow"

Written by Molly Rankin and Alec O'Hanley
Performed by Alvvays
Courtesy of Polyvinyl Record Co
By Arrangement with Bank Robber Music

"The Dark Side of The Sun"

Written by Paul Affeld, Gernot Bronsert, Sebastian Azary

Performed by Modeselektor feat. Puppetmastaz

Courtesy of BPitch Control

"Runaway Love"

Written by John O'Regan

Performed by Diamond Rings

Licensed Courtesy of Secret City Records Inc. and

Capitol Records under license from Universal Music Canada Inc.

"Venus At Your Back Door"
Written by Michael John Dubue
Performed by HILOTRONS
Courtesy of Kelp Records

"Computers are Cool"
Written by Bud Powers
Performed by Bud Powers
Courtesy of All Sorts Music

"Don't Let It Get to You (Reprise)"

Written by Rostam Batmanglij and Paul Simon

Performed by Rostam

Courtesy of Nonesuch Records

By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film & TV Licensing

"Hope"

Written by Theophile Antolinos, Vincent Dinis, Clement Libes, Augustin Charnet, Nathan

Davrinche-Hamet, and Leo Faubert
Performed by Kid Wise
Courtesy of Maximalist Records/The Wire Records
under license from Universal Music Canada Inc.

MONGREL MEDIA presents a EUCLID431 production in association with SUGAR SHACK PRODUCTIONS STORYBOARD ENTERTAINMENT SCYTHIA FILMS VIGILANTE PRODUCTIONS "GIANT LITTLE ONES" starring JOSH WIGGINS DARREN MANN TAYLOR HICKSON PETER OUTERBRIDGE with KYLE MACLACHLAN and MARIA BELLO casting by ROBIN D. COOK JONATHAN OLIVEIRA csa director of photography GUY GODFREE csc edited by SANDY PEREIRA production designer ZOSIA MACKENZIE costume designer MARISSA SCHWARTZ music supervisor CHRIS DOURIDAS music by MICHAEL BROOK co-producers KAREN SHAW LAUREN GRANT consulting producer ROSALIE CHILELLI co-executive producers SUSAN WRUBEL TOM SPRIGGS executive producers PATRICE THEROUX MARIA BELLO NATHAN MORLANDO RICKY BLUMENSTEIN JASON POTASH PAUL FINKEL HUSSAIN AMARSHI DANIEL BEKERMAN MARK GINGRAS JOHN LAING produced by ALLISON BLACK written and directed by KEITH BEHRMAN

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