

MADISON DAVENPORT

TARYN MANNING



A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET

"A triumph of empathetic filmmaking"

Matt Fagerholm, RogerEbert.com

"A pair of break-out performances"

Thompson on Hollywood/Indiewire

"Uplifting and thought-provoking"

Project-Nerd



EMERGING PICTURES, MONTEREY MEDIA & PHO PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



"A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET" MADISON DAVENPORT MADIE HASSON KURT FULLER CARTER JENKINS KALI HANK BRIAN KING EVAN PACLERI with NORA DUNN and TARYN MANNING MUSIC BY JOHN SWHART MUSIC SUPERVISOR LIZ LAWSON EDITED BY AMANDA CUFFIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER MERLE VESKY CINEMATOGRAPHER JEFFREY WALLIRON CASTING BY AYPSSA WEISBERG, CSA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS YALLERE WEISS NOBIA MCMAHON LEEPER PRODUCED BY JEFFREY LOEB DOB JOHNSON WRITTEN BY NOBIA MCMAHON LEEPER DIRECTED BY YALLERE WEISS

a monterey media presentation

A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET

Directed by Valerie Weiss
Written by Moira McMahon Leeper
Produced by Jeffrey Loeb and Robert Johnson
Cinematography by Jeffrey Waldron
Edited by Amanda Griffin
Music by John Swihart
Run Time: 90 minutes
Drama
©2015 Overstuffed, LP.
MPAA: R

World Premiere at the 2015 Mill Valley Film Festival



Starring

Taryn Manning - Two times SAG Award Winner, co-star of "Orange is the New Black", Hustle and Flow, 8 Mile

Madison Davenport - Nominated for Young Artist Award, currently starring in From Dusk Till Dawn: The Series, Sisters, "Shameless", Noah, Kit Kittredge: An American Girl

Kurt Fuller - Well known character actor: Midnight in Paris, The Pursuit of Happyness, "Psych"

Maddie Hasson - Two times Teen Choice Award nominee, star of the TV series "Twisted", I Saw the Light

Synopsis

As a young mother with bipolar disorder struggles with the looming departure of her daughter (the one force of stability in her life), a daughter struggles with the decision whether to stay local for college where she can remain the stable rock in her mother's life, or to detach and go to her dream college across country.

Quotes:

"★★★★. Emotionally raw and uncommonly observant, this coming-of-age drama balances the pull of family obligation against personal aspirations. Rarely have the dynamics of a loving yet unhealthy relationship been explored with as much tenderness and insight as they are here. By turns endearing, unsettling, and ultimately moving, *A Light Beneath Their Feet* is a triumph of empathetic filmmaking. I didn't "get" this film so much as it "got" me."

– Matt Fagerholm, RogerEbert.com

"Sensitive and moving. Featuring standout performances by Taryn Manning... and Madison Davenport... superb performances."

– The Hollywood Reporter

"Features a pair of break-out performances: Madison Davenport and Taryn Manning. The hope here is that Manning's performance gets the attention it deserves".

– Thompson on Hollywood/Indiewire

"An adorable narrative, an excellent script, and excellent direction, but by far the star of the film was the incredible performances. If anything, *A Light Beneath Their Feet* is uplifting and thought-provoking; it's something any fan of cinema will thoroughly enjoy."

– project-nerd

"A genuinely terrific and earnest performance from 'Orange Is The New Black' regular Taryn Manning. She is electric in the role."

– Flickering Myth

"Thank goodness for Manning. She's exceptional, and her chemistry with Davenport always elevates the material."

– Toronto Film Scene

"Madison Davenport turns in a vividly nuanced performance."

– indie-outlook.com

"Honest and poignant."

– Slated.com

The film is an emotional rollercoaster due primarily to the excellent performances from Manning and Davenport. Manning's performance is intense, heartfelt, and touching."

– FILMbutton.com

"Manning's performance is calculated, fearless and moving."

– Next Projection

"*A Light Beneath Their Feet* is a well-told coming-of-age story that isn't afraid to explore the darker side of teenage angst."

– Way Too Indie

"A charming film with so much heart. The performances of both Taryn Manning and Madison Davenport are so strong... heartfelt and emotional... this beauty of a film."

– ferntv.ca

"Valerie Weiss's directorial skill is remarkable... the amazing performances of Taryn Manning and Madison Davenport."

– bio ethics screen reflections

"This is a film definitely worth watching."

– Fr. Dennis at the Movies

Festivals:



Director's Statement

As a filmmaker, my style has been described as "daringly light." I am attracted to stories that focus on the weightier issues confronting modern society, but that also are open to a treatment of lightness, humor, and hope.

On the surface, A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET is about a family struggling to cope with the mother's bipolar disorder. However, I see it as a story more universally applicable to society at large: it is fundamentally a codependent love story that asks the question, "is it okay to leave someone you love?" I empathize equally with the story's mother (Gloria) and daughter (Beth), and want the audience to feel sandwiched between the push and pull of loving someone who both energizes and drains you.

So often in films the portrayal of mentally ill characters are overblown and played to be sensational. That is not what I wanted from our film; to me, it was imperative that Taryn Manning's performance as Gloria be subtle, nuanced, and most important authentic.

Taryn and I studied memoirs written by authors living with bipolar disorder to get a better understanding of how the condition not only affects a person's inner thoughts, but also how it manifests in her physicality. Linea and Cinda Johnson, authors of Perfect

Chaos, an extremely personal and detailed account of Linea's struggle to survive bipolar disorder and her mother's attempt to save her, were particularly gracious to speak with Taryn and me and provide additional insights into specific thoughts and behaviors Linea experiences living with bipolar disorder and those leading up to her suicide attempts.

Early in pre-production, I discovered the photographs of Uta Barth with their soft focus pastel backgrounds and a singular object in focus in the foreground. Like the pills falling through the frame during the opening credits, Gloria and Beth have been living their lives out of focus one caused by a pharmaceutically induced calmness, the other because she has been concentrating on her mother's needs rather than her own. The story begins with Beth snapping into focus.

We designed a visual plan to complement these initial ideas about focus. The camera would be handheld to represent the controlled chaos of a world held together by medications, therapy sessions, and repressed desires. As Beth becomes stronger and more assertive in telling Gloria her plans to go away to college, Gloria becomes shaky, anxious and manic. Beth too, the formerly stable rock, embarks on her own rough and rudderless journey to self-awareness. Together, my cinematographer (Jeffrey Waldron) and I made a series of "mania charts," that visually described the couple's manic journey from the start of the film through the end. As Beth and Gloria propel through a world rich with sensory fulfillment of which they have been depriving themselves, the camera moves and the color palette become more dynamic. Ultimately, as the couple returns to a new stasis, they are depicted with a more stable camera and neutral palette, warmly illuminated seemingly from within. Neither knows what the future holds, but they are a step closer to a healthier interdependence.

Valerie Weiss

Director's Biography:

Award-winning filmmaker and Harvard biophysicist, Valerie Weiss, has just completed her second feature film, A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET, starring Taryn Manning, Madison Davenport, Kurt Fuller, and Nora Dunn. A poignant and heartfelt coming of age story, Taryn Manning plays a single mother suffering from bipolar disorder whose stable rock of a daughter is about to leave for college. Glenn Close's organization, Bring Change 2 Mind, calls the film "heart wrenching and beautiful."

Valerie's first feature comes from more familiar turf and is loosely based on her time earning a Ph.D. at Harvard Medical School. LOSING CONTROL is a fresh and funny romantic comedy about a female scientist who wants proof that her boyfriend is "the one." Quirky and absurd, Variety labeled LOSING CONTROL "a thoroughly likable, playful comedy." The Philadelphia Inquirer said, "I laughed out loud...LOSING CONTROL nicely mixes comedic absurdity with weightier career vs. commitment themes." After premiering as the Closing Night Film of

the 2011 Vail Film Festival, LOSING CONTROL was picked up for distribution and released theatrically in the Spring of 2012. Starring Miranda Kent, Reid Scott, and Kathleen Robertson, LOSING CONTROL had a successful VOD run in over 100 million homes, and is now available to watch on iTunes, Amazon Instant Video, Google Play, and Hulu. Prior to directing features, Valerie participated in the AFI Directing Workshop for Women where her sci-fi short, TRANSGRESSIONS, won a student BAFTA Award and played in film festivals around the world.

Originally from Philadelphia, Valerie Weiss began her directing career at Princeton where she directed five plays by playwrights such as Christopher Durang, Paul Shaffer and Edward Albee. She split her time between majoring in Molecular Biology and earning a Certificate in Theater and Dance. After Princeton, she obtained her PhD in biophysics while also founding Harvard University's Dudley Film Program and serving as its Filmmaker-in-Residence.

Valerie has found numerous opportunities to combine her scientific training with her directorial career. She recently has been selected to join actress America Ferrara, television creator Roberto Orci, CEO of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media Madeline Di Nonno and others on the jury for "The Next MacGyver," a joint initiative by the National Academy of Engineering, USC, and Lee Zlotoff (creator of the original MacGyver), to crowd-source scripts for the pilot of a new series that will feature female engineers and excite young women to undertake careers in engineering. She also spoke alongside astronaut Sally Ride about the importance that film and television play in shaping our image of women scientists on the L'Oreal For Women in Science: Shaping A New Image panel, and participated alongside Laura Ziskin and Lauren Shuler Donner on the Newsweek Advisory Committee for its Women in Leadership issue.

Valerie lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two daughters who also show early passions for the sciences and the arts.

The Cast



Taryn Manning | Gloria Gerringson

Taryn Manning is a go-to favorite of the entertainment industry. Juggling a cohesive acting career, Manning is also a solo artist whose single 'Send Me Your Love' has topped Billboards Dance charts. Flying coast to coast smashing her DJ sets, Manning also adds accomplished designer to her long list of credits with her unique clothing line Born Unicorn, which was carried in Barneys, Kitson, Ron Herman and Fred Segal stores around the country. Manning has proven herself time and time again to be more than just a 'triple threat'. An original trendsetter, Manning continues to be recognized in her career whether it be for her music, her mixes, her fashion or the roles she chooses.

Manning is currently seen starring in the Netflix hit original series ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK as the controversial religious zealot Pennsatucky, which premiered its third season in June and will be returning for a fourth season in the next year. Manning was last recently seen starring as Michelle Knight, the young Cleveland woman who was kidnapped and held captive for 11 years, in the Sony and Lifetime TV movie CLEVELAND ABDUCTION. Manning will next be seen in the coming of age drama film A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET, which is currently in production. Manning also starred in the film which premiered last year at the Sundance Film Festival, LOW DOWN, which won a Cinematography Award.

Manning is also the cofounder of Search and Rescue Productions, her own production company with her long time business partner, which focuses on a wide variety of original content ranging from Comedy to Drama.

A classically trained dancer, at a young age Manning made the hard decision to pass on the opportunity to go to the prestigious Julliard School and to pursue her passion for acting. This passion has been the drive behind her being known for exploring a range of diverse roles in television, independent films and major studio productions. She has graced the screen in cinematic hits such as HUSTLE & FLOW, which was nominated for a SAG Award, 8 MILE, CROSSROADS, CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL, COLD MOUNTAIN, A LOT LIKE LOVE, DANDELION, WHITE OLEANDER, LOVE RANCH and THE PERFECT AGE OF ROCK N' ROLL. Not only a force in film, Manning has been

avored in roles on Television's major hitters, HAWAII 50, MELROSE PLACE, THE PRACTICE, BOSTON LEGAL, BURN NOTICE, CSI MIAMI, SONS OF ANARCHY and LAW & ORDER: SVU for which she garnered critical acclaim.

Manning is continuing to show her longevity within the industry as not only an actor and entertainer but as a true musical force. Performing live in between her DJ sets is not uncommon for this front woman. Manning is a true force with her unique sound as the front woman of Boomkat which parallels the eclectic electronic style in her solo tracks. She has a history of topping charts, between her 2012 solo release "Send Me Your Love" topping which went #1 on Billboard and Boomkat's chart topping hits "The Wreckoning" and "What U Do 2 Me" which were remixed and climbed to #1 on Billboard's Hot Dance Music/Club Play chart and closed out 2003 as Billboard Magazine's #5 Hot Dance Club Play Artist of the Year.

The demand for her musicianship to accompany her acting expertise, has proven relentless. Whether her tracks be requested for soundtracks, such as the soulful single "Wastin' My Time", which was personally licensed by Eminem and featured on the 8 MILE soundtrack or Boomkat's remake of the Blondie song "Rip Her to Shreds" that can be heard in the opening credits of the film MEAN GIRLS to "The Wreckoning" that was used in the opening scene of THE ITALIAN JOB, and a number of solo tracks landing on episodes of The CW's MELROSE PLACE and HAWAII 50, Manning strives to keep her music career hand-in-hand with her acting career.

Manning has been the face of many campaigns, modeling and with her music, such as GAP, Frankie B and Jansport.



Madison Davenport | Beth Gerringson

At the young age of eighteen, Madison Davenport is already an industry veteran, having acted professionally since the age of seven. Madison can next be seen in a role opposite Tina Fey and Amy Poehler in the Universal comedy SISTERS, and in a leading role opposite Taryn Manning in the indie feature A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET. She also appears in the series regular role of Kate Fuller on Robert Rodriguez's El Rey series FROM DUSK TILL DAWN.

Madison most recently was seen in the strong supporting role of Na'el in Darren Aronofsky's biblical epic NOAH, where she shared the screen with Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, Emma Watson and Anthony Hopkins, playing the wife of Logan Lerman's character. Her other recent credits include, NBC's comedy SAVE ME in which she played Anne Heche's daughter, 'Emily.' She was most recently seen in features starring opposite Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Kyra Sedgewick in Lionsgate's supernatural horror flick, THE POSSESSION, which had a successful run achieving #1 at the box office two weekends in a row. On the small screen she is most known for her role on the hit Showtime series SHAMELESS in which she delivered a memorable performance for two seasons portraying the fan favorite character of 'Ethel,' a child bride in a religious cult that was rescued and put into the foster care system.

Additional TV credits have included NUMB3RS, BONES, ER, CSI, HOUSE, the pilot CLOSE TO HOME, and the TV movie AMISH GRACE. Her breakout performance as 'Ruthie' in the HBO films release KIT KITTREDGE, the first feature film in the "American Girl" franchise, garnered her the Young Artist Award for Best Performance in 2009.

An LA local and Texas Native, Madison is currently studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.



Maddie Hasson | Daschulla Rutter

Maddie Hasson's success came fast and at a young age. Leaving high school to check out the LA acting scene, Maddie immediately broke in as a lead in the Fox tv series THE FINDER. Now at the tender age of 20, Maddie has moved on to costarring in feature films.

Maddie Hasson will soon be seen costarring in two independent feature films. This fall Sony Classics will release I SAW THE LIGHT on November 27, 2015. The true tale of legendary country singer Hank Williams stars Tom Hiddleston and Elizabeth Olsen. Maddie plays Williams' second wife who was with him up to his early death.

Following is the indie drama A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET where Maddie stars as a troubled teen bent on causing trouble to a fellow high school girl. The film stars Taryn Manning and Madison Davenport.

Maddie Hasson achieved success and two Teen Choice Award nominations as Jo Masterson on the ABC Family hit mystery thriller series TWISTED, a show about a suspected sociopathic teen who reconnects with his childhood best friends on return from juvenile detention. The show ran 2013 and 2014.

In 2012 and during Maddie's first trip to Los Angeles to engage with the acting scene, Maddie hit gold as series regular Willa on FOX's THE FINDER opposite Michael Clarke Duncan and Geoff Stults.

In 2012 she also appeared as the lead in the independent feature film UNDERDOGS, the story of a hometown football rivalry, and GOD BLESS AMERICA directed by Bobcat Goldthwait. Maddie also made a guest appearance on the NBC hit series, GRIMM in 2014.

Since the age of seven, Hasson has danced, sung and acted her way to legendary status in her hometown of Wilmington, North Carolina. Having won numerous awards, including the prestigious choreographer Mia Michaels Scholarship at the Broadway Dance Center and the Triple Threat Winner at the Access Broadway Event in New York City, Hasson's focus moved to acting where she found her true passion. Performing back to back in diverse roles in Cape Fear Academy productions and her local professional theatre, The Opera House Theatre, she won praise for her performances in "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Anything Goes," "Antigone," "Vital Signs" and "Grey Gardens."

Maddie Hasson currently resides in Los Angeles, California.



Carter Jenkins | Jeremy Chadworthy

Chances are you've watched Carter Jenkins grow up on the small screen and don't even realize it. Since kicking off his career more than a decade ago, the 24 year old actor has amassed a slew of impressive TV and film credits, including NBC's cult-loved Sci-fi series SURFACE, a four episode stint opposite Kevin Bacon on THE FOLLOWING, big screen family adventure ALIENS IN THE ATTIC, and Garry Marshall's star studded rom com VALENTINE'S DAY. He recently went head to head with Jon Hamm in the penultimate episode of the critically beloved MAD MEN.



Kurt Fuller | Dr. Rutter

Kurt Fuller was recently seen in the ABC comedy series MANHATTAN LOVE STORY.

Fuller is best known for his work in the films WAYNE'S WORLD with Mike Myers, ANGER MANAGEMENT with Jack Nicholson and Adam Sandler, and most recently part of the all star cast of Woody Allen's MIDNIGHT IN PARIS. Although others may know him best as the wacky sheriff who likes to pose in his Speedos in SCARY MOVIE.

He was born in San Francisco and raised in the agricultural heartland of California's San Joaquin Valley. Fuller became passionate about acting while attending UC Berkeley, where he received a degree in English literature. After graduating, he made the move to Los Angeles with everything he owned stuffed into the back of a Dodge Dart (including a king size foam rubber mattress). For the next 10 years he was a realtor by day, and a stage actor by night. Then, in 1986, he created the leading role of "Frank" in Steven Berkoff's explosively successful "Kvetch," earning rave reviews on both coasts.

Fuller has worked with Hollywood's best directors including, David O. Russell, Shawn Levy, Paul Schrader, Ridley Scott, Wim Wenders, Taylor Hackford, Mike Newell, Harold Ramis, Brian DePalma and Ivan Reitman. His numerous film credits include AUTO FOCUS, RAY, PUSHING TIN, THE JACK BULL, GHOSTBUSTERS 2, MR. WOODCOCK, NAILED and THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS.

Fuller's last series was the ABC comedy, BETTER WITH YOU. He also had series regular roles ABC's THE BIG DAY, in which he starred with Wendie Malick, and THAT'S MY BUSH, the television series from SOUTH PARK and THE BOOK OF MORMON creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone. He has recurred and guest starred on over a hundred tv shows and telefilms over the years. Over the last year, he has had recurring characters on many hit series including PARENTHOOD, THE GOOD WIFE, SCANDAL and PSYCH (playing the lovable coroner Woody). In the past, Fuller has had arcs on SUPERNATURAL, DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES, BOSTON LEGAL and ALIAS.

His other television appearances include HBO's LIVE FROM BAGHDAD with Michael Keaton, as well as such hit shows as GLEE, UGLY BETTY, CSI, MEN OF A CERTAIN AGE, GREY'S ANATOMY, HOUSE, MY NAME IS EARL, MONK and DROP DEAD DIVA.

He continues to return to the stage on occasion. His most recent theater work was "The Cosmonauts Last Message" at the La Jolla Playhouse and the highly acclaimed "The Waiting Room" at the The Mark Taper Forum.

Fuller has been married to wife Jessica Hendra, a recently published author, since 1994. They have two children; Julia and Charlotte.



Nora Dunn | Dr. Krolly

Nora Dunn has worked seamlessly well in both comedy and drama.

She was seen in 3..2..1..FRANKIE GO BOOM opposite Charlie Hunnam, Chris Noth and Lizzy Caplan. Nora is playing, "Karen," Hunnam's character's high strung mother.

Currently, Nora can be seen reprising her role-playing Dr. Marcus, the Gold's couple's counselor in the ENTOURAGE movie.

She has recently guest starred on NEW GIRL as Schmidt's annoying mother and as a tough as nails editor on Bravo's hit GIRLFRIEND'S GUIDE TO DIVORCE. She was seen in another memorable turn in director Anne Fletcher's THE GUILT TRIP, starring Seth Rogen

and Barbara Streisand. Nora worked on LOL: LAUGHING OUT LOUD, for Lionsgate alongside Ashley Greene, Miley Cyrus, Demi Moore and Thomas Jane.

Nora Dunn was a series regular for five seasons on SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, where she created and wrote The Pat Steven's Show, whose famous guest stars included Oprah Winfrey, Jimmy Breslin, and John Lithgow as Margaret Thatcher. Her send up of soap opera diva Linda Dano made the popular sketch "Attitudes" a hilarious SNL staple, featuring such stars as John Malkovich and Christopher Walken. Her portrayal of lounge lizardess Liz Sweeney of the singing Sweeney Sisters has been mimicked by fans for years. After five years of late night pandemonium, Nora played lesbian television producer Norma Lear in NBC's prime time drama Sisters for three seasons. She has weaved effortlessly between comedy and drama in memorable supporting roles such as the flamboyant, blasphemous Adriana Cruz in David Russell's chic antiwar epic THREE KINGS. That performance garnered her praise and attention, prompting Peter Travers to write that she was "finally given the chance to show her chops as an actress."

She continued to show her chops in films such as Gary Fleder's drama RUNAWAY JURY with John Cusack and Gene Hackman, as the straightlaced boozier/juror Stella Hulic; New Line's LAWS OF ATTRACTION, opposite Pierce Brosnan and Julianne Moore as a glitzy judge from Scarsdale whose Judge Judy tactics cause a split in the stars' already stressed marriage.

Dunn has carved a presence in independent features as well, appearing in Finn Taylor's CHERISH and THE DARWIN AWARD. She also played a sympathetic therapist in newcomer Greg Harrison's feature NOVEMBER (Sony Classics) starring Courtney Cox and a cameo as a bitchy publicist in past Sundance Film Festival's crowd pleaser DIE MOMMY DIE and in Richard Kelly's (DONNIE DARKO) SOUTHLAND TALES as a crazed right winged fanatic.

Nora was seen in the films, IT'S COMPLICATED, for director Nancy Meyers, playing Meryl Streep's best friend and confidant, THE ANSWER MAN (aka Arlen Faber) opposite Jeff Daniels, Lauren Graham and Olivia Thirlby as Daniels' stern book editor and David Gordon Green's PINEAPPLE EXPRESS opposite Seth Rogen, James Franco and Amber Heard.

For television, Dunn was recently seen in such hit shows as, BONES, FRANKLIN & BASH, THE NEIGHBORS, APARTMENT 23, the pilot TAGGED for Fox, HARRY'S LAW, THE DEFENDERS, PSYCH, PRIVATE PRACTICE, IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA, PUSHING DAISIES, SHARK, CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM as the head of a TV network, ENTOURAGE as a marriage counselor, a role she is reprising this season, LAW & ORDER and BOSTON LEGAL. In her first film role Nora played opposite Sigourney Weaver and Melanie Griffith in Mike Nichol's hit comedy WORKING GIRL. Though the role had just three scenes, the New York Times still praised her performance, saying she turned her uptight Wall Street executive "into a wicked Witch of the Westside." She was next cast by Jonathan Demme in the cult classic MIAMI BLUES as a Cuban born homicide detective. Dunn worked again with Mike Nichols in WHAT PLANET ARE YOU FROM?, and subsequently appeared in the comedies BRUCE ALMIGHTY, HEARTBREAKERS, DROP DEAD GORGEOUS, and WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?, in which she played Danny Devito's Bostonian society wife, and worked with English director Lewis Gilbert in his musical STEPPING OUT, and for Warren Beatty in his political satire BULLWORTH.

Theater credits include the emotionally anguished housewife Bea Small in George Firth's drama, Precious Sons at The Blank Theater Co., The Vagina Monologues in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Santa Fe and Gary Lennon's Blackout. She wrote and starred in a onewoman show, Small Prey in 1997, which played to soldout houses for sixteen weeks in Los Angeles. Harper/Collins published her book, Nobody's Rib in 1991.

Currently, she is working on her one-woman show Mythical Proportions set to open in August 15, 2013 at Theatre Wit in Chicago.

Dunn was administered twelve years of Catholic tutelage and upon graduating from St. Mary's Academy pursued a career in painting at The Art Institute of Chicago. She studied at the Institute for three years, then moved to San Francisco where she began to study acting with Anne Macey at The Jean Sheldon Acting Workshop. She continued theater productions before turning her attention to comedic monologues and character studies. She returned to her native Chicago in 1982 and in 1983 was spotted by a team of Saturday Night Live talent scouts. Soon after she was whisked from her deli waitress position to New York City where she resided until 1992. She now lives in Los Angeles.



Kali Hawk | Julie Hutchins

One of Glamour Magazine's "12 Funny Women to Watch," Kali Hawk has appeared in a string of hit films including BRIDESMAIDS, PEEPLES, COUPLES RETREAT, GET HIM TO THE GREEK, and the wildly successful Fox comedy NEW GIRL. Hawk, who currently costars on Cartoon Network's hit series BLACK JESUS as Mary Magdalene (aka Maggie), can next be seen in the Queen Latifah romantic comedy THE PERFECT MATCH starring Paula Patton (MISSION IMPOSSIBLE) and Joe Pantoliano (THE MATRIX).



Brian King | Paul Gerringson

Brian King was born and raised on the Southside of Chicago. He worked as a writer for five years before landing a Budweiser commercial in 2005 that led to roles on TV shows such as PRISON BREAK, LEVERAGE, DETROIT 187, MOB DOCTOR, CRISIS and CHICAGO FIRE. He also played the recurring role of "Chuck" on the STARZ series BOSS starring Kelsey Grammar. Most recently he's been seen in MAN OF STEEL and A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET while continuing to perform in smaller independent movies. He has starred in three shows at Chicago's acclaimed STEPPENWOLF THEATRE and is currently getting set to star in a comedy pilot that he wrote and will direct.

The Crew

Moira McMahon Leeper | **Writer**

A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET is Moira McMahon Leeper's first produced feature film.

Trained at USC's School for Cinematic Arts, Moira McMahon Leeper received her MFA in Writing for Screen and Television in 2002. The first draft of A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET was penned in her final class with Professor Mary Sweeney (THE STRAIGHT STORY) who fostered just the kind of supportive workshop this script needed to grow. The first treatment had an ensemble of teenagers and parents, but the class responded most to Gloria and Beth, a mother with bipolar disorder having a hard time letting her daughter grow up. The emotional resonance of their connection was so powerful, it was clear that the story that had to be theirs alone. Gloria and Beth's push/pull love story stemmed from Leeper's own experience with a college boyfriend who developed mental illness and the codependence that resulted. The experience was too fresh to write about directly at the time, but by transposing the issues into a mother-daughter love story, the true complexities of mental illness and its affects could come to light. Leeper finished the script...and put it in a drawer.

Leeper's experience writing about how medical conditions affect relationships parlayed well into her first job in the industry on ABC's GREY'S ANATOMY as an assistant medical researcher and then to her position as Director of Medical Research for PRIVATE PRACTICE. Moira McMahon Leeper has been a part of producing over 100 episodes of television between the two shows. Her PRIVATE PRACTICE spec script, "Love and Lies," directed by Ann Kindberg, was an Entertainment Weekly "recommend."

Soon after, her spec pilot, MADDOX, in which a family moves to a pharmaceutical utopia, sold to NBC with producers Peter Traugott and Rachel Kaplan. Lisa Zwerling (ER) supervised the development process.

Leeper's next foray into TV centered on how relationships were affected by illness of a supernatural kind when she joined the writing staff of MTV's TEEN WOLF. Her episode, "Silverfinger," was directed by Jen Lynch and well reviewed, maintaining a 9 out of 10 on IMDb.com. After a "blind coffee date" with director Valerie Weiss, who was looking for micro budget scripts, Leeper pulled A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET out of that drawer. Leeper had always thought a female director would see it with the right eyes. Her hunch turned out to be right, as Weiss saw through to the very heart of the story; you can love someone and you can still leave them. When Leeper penned the script, she set it in her hometown of Evanston, Illinois but never dreamed the movie would actually be shot there. However, after attempts to keep the movie in California, it became clear that Illinois was the best fit. Moira McMahon Leeper's alma mater, Evanston Township High School, and the iconic Hartigan's icecream store on Central Street naturally provided the perfect backdrop – since they were already in the script. Being on set to see the story come to life under the perfect direction of Valerie Weiss remains a highlight of Leeper's career.

A LIGHT BENEATH THEIR FEET is also her third produced script directed by a female director. Currently Moira McMahon Leeper has two features in development. Leeper is repped by UTA and Amy Schiffman at IPG.

Jeffrey Waldron | Cinematographer

Born in the United States, Jeffrey spent his formative years around the world, living in seven cities in four countries on three continents before graduating high school. Moving to Los Angeles, he graduated from the University of Southern California's Cinema Television Production program and received an MFA in Cinematography from the American Film Institute Conservatory.

Narrative feature films Jeff has photographed have premiered at the Berlin Film Festival, the Tribeca Film Festival, the Los Angeles Film Festival, and South by Southwest. In 2012 he was nominated for the Independent Spirit Award for Best Cinematography for his work on THE DYNAMITER. His most recent collaboration, FRESNO, stars Natasha Lyonne, Fred Armisen, and Aubrey Plaza.

Jeff has photographed documentary films in Brazil, Rwanda, Thailand, Cambodia, India, and New Zealand. In 2013, he was awarded a Dailymotion Motionmaker Fund grant to direct / DP three international short documentaries.

He has photographed national commercials, branded content and promos with Keith Richards, Shirley Maclaine, Jeff Bridges, Jodie Foster and William Shatner. He has been honored with multiple Best Cinematography honors for his short form work in both narrative and documentary, and has been featured in Filmmaker, and PopularPhotography magazines.

Jeffrey is also a multi-instrumental musician and lives in Los Angeles with his wife, a composer.

John Swihart | Composer

John Swihart was raised in Bloomington, Indiana, the son of a physicist based at Indiana University. He spent a portion of his formative years in Europe and Asia, where his father would sabbatical. John studied Classical Piano under Nola Heiden (wife of Bernhard Heiden) at age 5 at Indiana University. He then played Sax from 812 and then guitar.

Swihart would leave Indiana to attend the renowned Berklee College of Music, in Boston, where he majored in composition and production and engineering.

After years of performing in numerous bands, experimental performances, studio session work as a guitar player, and remixer with local DJs. John put his own studio together and moved into writing and producing music for picture.

When Swihart got to Los Angeles, he scored a few Independent films before his breakout project NAPOLEON DYNAMITE premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2004. John has been busy ever since scoring almost 50 films and half as many TV shows.

Amanda Griffin | Editor

Amanda Griffin is a narrative and documentary film editor. Her credits include THE JEFFREY DAHMER FILES (SXSW Film Festival 2012), ANIMALS (Special Jury Award Winner SXSW Film Festival 2014), THE 414'S: THE ORIGINAL TEENAGE HACKERS (Sundance Film Festival 2015), and ONE NIGHT (2016).

Production Stills:

Right click on image to save a low resolution to desktop or go to our Flickr page to get high resolution at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/montereymedia/albums/72157666866687930>

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Madison Davenport in the role of "Beth Gerringson" and Taryn Manning in the role of "Gloria Gerringson"



Taryn Manning in the role of "Gloria Gerringson" and Madison Davenport in the role of "Beth Gerringson"

Production Stills:

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Madison Davenport in the role of "Beth Gerringson"



Madison Davenport in the role of "Beth Gerringson"

Production Stills:

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Taryn Manning in the role of "Gloria Gerringson"



Taryn Manning in the role of "Gloria Gerringson"

Production Stills:

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Carter Jenkins in the role of "Jeremy Chadworthy" and Madison Davenport in the role of "Beth Gerringson"



Madison Davenport in the role of "Beth Gerringson" and Maddie Hasson in the role of "Daschulla Rutter"

About the company:**monterey media inc., a uniquely independent studio**

monterey media inc. is proud to feature a diverse film library which transcends genre typecasting and creates instead a palette of film experiences destined to be remembered. Incorporated in 1979, monterey is a privately owned entertainment company actively engaged in all areas of domestic media, including theatrical distribution, film festivals, and other distinctive venues, television, digital delivery and entertainment markets. The Company is known for creating unique and distinctive release strategies tailored to each project.

In the earliest days of online marketing, mmi established a joint venture for the creation of a special theatrical event in conjunction with AMC Theatres to launch the independent motion picture Indigo: A one day event, which Variety touted as a "603 North America only venue showing grossed over \$1,190,000 at the box office." In recent years, monterey media films have been nominated for the Golden Globe Award, Independent Spirit Award (two nominations in the last three years with one win), and NAACP Image Award. Many of our award-winning films have premiered at Sundance, TIFF, Tribeca, and SXSW Film Festivals, as well as on many year-end's 10 Best Independent Film lists.

The philosophy of doing good while doing well alive and well at monterey. mmi was awarded a 2013 California Excellence Award Recipient from the United States Trade and Commerce Institute. monterey is known for its creatively coordinated marketing strategies incorporating promotional alliances with such strategic partners as Wal-Mart, Fisher Price, Pepsi Cola, American Express, Amnesty International USA, Make-A-Wish Foundation of America, Children's Cancer Research Fund, Patagonia, Body Glove, The Creative Coalition for the Arts, KIDS FIRST!, Days Inns, Habitat for Humanity, Greenpeace, the International Motorcycle Shows, Healthy World Healthy Child, Air Pacific and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

monterey video & Emerging Technologies

The monterey home entertainment division is the 2nd oldest independent video manufacturer and distributor in the United States and incorporates distribution to all digital markets. monterey is well known for its broad marketing and its direct relationships with key retail, internet sites, educational and specialty markets. The versatile monterey library encompasses unique feature films and documentaries having been awarded numerous awards; prestigious Independent films starring such distinguished actors as James Franco, Kaley Cuoco, Susan Sarandon, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Dennis Hopper, Shirley Knight, Tom Skerritt, Thandie Newton, John Ritter, Tommy Lee Jones, William Hurt, Forest Whitaker, David Strathairn, Brian Dennehy, Robin Williams, Danny Glover, Nathan Lane, Jacqueline Bisset, among many others; celebrated sports programming including Bruce Brown Films' On Any Sunday and The Endless Summer; and the most prestigious educational, yet entertaining, library of films adapted from literature's renowned authors combined with acclaimed performances from many of Hollywood's greatest actors. In addition, monterey has the honor of being the first video market licensee of the American Film Institute.

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