

"EMOTIONALLY RAW. POWERFUL, HAUNTING... AND ILLUMINATING FILM."
- AIN'T IT COOL NEWS

ABIGAIL
SPENCER

CHEYENNE
JACKSON

PATRICK
HEUSINGER

SONJA
KINSKI

A FILM BY DANIELA AMAVIA
a beautiful now

IF YOUR LIFE FLASHED BEFORE YOUR EYES...
WOULD YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?



MONTEREY MEDIA • UNIFIED PICTURES PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH GRECA ENTERTAINMENT AND THE HANCOCK COMPANY "A BEAUTIFUL NOW" CASTING BY CHEYENNE JACKSON
COLLETTE WOLFE, ELENA SARTINI, PATRICK HEUSINGER, SONJA KINSKI, JOHN PATRICK AMEDIO, GUY BURNET, HANA HAYES, GUESTS BY LYNN KRESSEL, JUDITH KRESSEL, JEREMY KRESSEL, JESSICA KRESSEL, KATHY KRESSEL, KYLE KRESSEL, LUCY KRESSEL, MARISSA KRESSEL, NINA KRESSEL, ROBERTA AND ADAM HANCK
PRODUCTION DESIGNER CINDY CHAO AND MICHELE YU DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL SCOLA CO-PRODUCER JOHN SNYDER GARY MICHAEL SCHULTZ EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DANIELA AMAVIA, CHEYENNE JACKSON, MANDIE ERICSSON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AURELIA PAWANSKAT WALDIS OSWALDSCHOTT DEREK ANDERSON ABIGAIL SPENCER JULIA VALET NATIYON KELLY UVAH PRODUCED BY KEITH KJARVIG LYNN KRESSEL DANIELA AMAVIA
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY DANIELA AMAVIA
UNIFIED PICTURES R

a monterey media presentation

a beautiful now

Written & Directed by **DANIELA AMAVIA**

Starring

ABIGAIL SPENCER, CHEYENNE JACKSON, SONJA KINSKI, PATRICK HEUSINGER
COLLETTE WOLFE, ELENA SATINE, HANA HAYES

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: **PATRICK SCOLA**
EDITOR: **ADAM H MACK and VALDIS OSKARSDOTTIR**
PRODUCTION DESIGNERS: **CINDY CHAO and MICHELE YU**
SONGS BY: **JOHNNY JEWEL**
CASTING BY: **LYNN KRESSEL**
COSTUME DESIGN BY: **SLAVNA MARTINOVIC**

Drama

Run time: 99 minutes

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MPAA: R

Tag Line:

If your life flashed before your eyes- would you like what you see?

Synopsis

A group of five friends reunite for one night to save the woman, Romy (Abigail Spencer), at the center of their former circle. As the night progresses they struggle with their past relationships and finally truths are revealed as Romy, who has barricaded herself in the bathroom, tries to put the pieces of her life back together. This thrilling journey into the mind of a woman teetering on the edge of letting go ultimately asks "if your life flashed before your eyes- would you like what you see?" and reveals a gripping story of how the past shapes who we will become.

Quotes:

"Emotionally raw. Powerful, haunting, and deeply personal. Abigail Spencer... does revelatory work that makes Romy into a complicated, believable woman. Collette Wolfe and (particularly) Cheyenne Jackson shine. Director Daniela Amavia... shows a visual sense and a grip of performances that blow many other first-time filmmakers out of the water. Amavia and Spencer lead the way in creating a sad, human, and illuminating film."

– Ain't It Cool News

"*Black Swan* meets *The Big Chill*... regretful romantic overlapping, moments of pivotal maturation, and comic relief... Lyrical and moving, the evening's flashbacks build to a powerful conclusion."

– The Huffington Post

"7 out of 10. Compelling... the core emotions of "A Beautiful Now" come through with real power at times. The film vividly examines deteriorating relationships and bulging resentments, but also the singular strangeness of friendship's tested."

– Blu-ray.com

"Haunting psychological study... insightful."

– It's Just Movies

"Surreal, lyrical... a haunting film. Amavia makes a striking debut with a story that resonates far beyond its runtime. Replete with great performances from star Abigail Spencer and an ensemble cast with irresistible rapport. Not many films capture the messy, intricate dynamics of close friends the way Amavia does here. This is as impressive as a debut gets, featuring a strong cinematic voice that pierces deep with focus and urgency."

– Crome Yellow

"★★★ ½. Ethereal and sparkling... there is very much to recommend."

– Scene Creek

Festivals:



About the production

On our first day of shooting, we were asked to leave our second location.

It was a small apartment building in the arts district of downtown LA, and the neighbors hadn't been informed of our presence, so we had to leave before we got our first shot.

A low, low budget independent film with a first time screenwriter/director and a cast and crew, brought together by their dedication to an extraordinary project, on their very first day of figuring out how to work together.

This was the moment that would determine all that followed. A few minutes went by and Producer Keith Kjarval approached Daniela Amavia and explained the options:

1) go home or

2) move everybody and everything to a rickety, shabby space several blocks away. Not what we had in mind, but... "Let's go," Daniela said.

That is when we got our first sense of the mettle of this new director we were working with. Not only had she constructed this fascinating multi-layered world we were entering, but now we knew she was unstoppable. Whatever it took, she was going to do it. And so would we. When asked what attracted them to the film, the actors and creative team all first cited the very special script. It was all there on the page, but a bit of a puzzle, and everyone was intrigued and wanted to explore the material. What clinched the deal for all was meeting Daniela.

Our lead actress, Abigail Spencer, said:

"Daniela is a force of nature. I wasn't even half way through the script and I knew I would play Romy. I had all the tools available. I was a dancer. I knew Romy's loss. But I wasn't sure if I wanted to access them. I needed a fearless leader. It was a very quick turn around even though Daniela had been working to make the movie for years, I came in very last minute. We met for the first time at the Palihouse late one Saturday night days before shooting. I was terrified. She scooped me up and never let me go. It's a funny thing when someone believes in you. You rise to the occasion. She also is an incredible lie detector. It's a wonderful thing when your creator/director/audience gently lets you know when you are full of shit. Keeps you honest. I also love our wonderful ensemble cast. Cheyenne Jackson is just terrific in this. They are all so captivating and unique. Daniela put together a wonderful group of people.

Our choreographer Andie and all of her dancers are magical. Re-visiting a first love in dance. I love the real and the surreal we explored. And uncovering LA through a very European's point of view. Daniela IS this piece and I wanted to bring her story to life. She really opened me up.

Our costume designers Slavna and Romy. They basically raided Daniela's and all of her friends' closets. It was Chanel this and very high-waisted that. The whole experience was incredibly creative on every level. A labor of love and a beautiful now indeed."

Daniela about Abigail Spencer

"I remember getting to the Palihouse early to meet Abigail for the first time. All the way over there I had these strange feelings, my heart was racing and I felt hot and cold at the same time. I had no clue why this was happening. But then Abigail walked through the door and down those steps and before she even sat down I knew she was my Romy, this girl that had lived in my dreams for so long. THIS is why I had been so nervous. I was about to meet the girl that I had "made up." Abigail didn't say anything, instead we hugged and sat holding hands before either of us spoke. And then she said the most beautiful thing to me: "thank you for trusting me with this. With her. I will keep her safe." And she did. Abigail ripped her heart out and put it on the screen and I will forever love her for that. She's a radiant. I don't even know if that's a word, but she radiates talent and love."

Our male lead, Cheyenne Jackson

Immediately after she met with Cheyenne, Daniela wrote to the producers: "Just want to reiterate how floored I was by him. He's mesmerizing and very, very special—and when you talk about the "world" of this film, he's definitely in it. And he's truly dreamy no question why "Romy" is in love with him. So am I."

And a bit later: He actually IS "David." It's the craziest thing! You talk to him, and you hear "David" answering. Wild!"

Daniela further about Cheyenne: "Cheyenne is everything any director would ever hope for. Not only extremely talented and such a star on screen, he's also kind, a team player and I felt he always had my back. He's like a rock in the storm of craziness and whenever he showed up on the set I felt myself relaxing. And more than that, he inspires me. I can't wait to explore many different parts with him."

The feeling was mutual. After shooting had begun, Cheyenne wrote:

"I have to say, Daniela...my manager asked how you were as a director and I had to tell the truth. You are so incredibly sensitive and specific. I feel safe with you, and that is not always the case. I have done a couple of challenging movies recently, some low-budget...and sometimes you just feel hanging. I love your direction, I love your honesty. Keep pulling me back and make me find that inner monologue in my eyes. Cuz when it's there, you always pick up on it. With directors like you, the sky's the limit. Thank you."

Before starting work, here is how Cheyenne felt about the ensemble: "We are a family, and we have to take care of each other...and in the group scenes, that will be the most important. Excited to meet everyone tomorrow."

Patrick Heusinger, who plays the man in love with Romy, says:

I crave directors like Daniela: impassioned, intelligent, vulnerable, kind; and she's written a script that celebrates her unique soul. Every character is a little piece of her. As an actor, there's no greater joy than helping a writer realize a script years in the making; especially one as provocative and personal as Daniela's.

Collette Wolfe plays Romy's best female friend:

Question: What attracted you to the script?

Answer: "the themes in the movie speak to my experience of being a single person living in 'the big city', chasing dreams...how friend groups become family groups with their own idiosyncrasy's and how things can get dark and fucked up but that's part of being in a family...things are complicated...there's love and beauty even in darkness...appreciate your life and your tribe...find the beauty in life now."

Question: How was working with Daniela?

Answer: "SHE HAS VISION...TENACITY...EMPATHY FOR HER CHARACTERS AND HER ACTORS...SHE HAD UNWAVERING FAITH IN ALL OF HER ACTORS AND I think that's why she got so many beautiful performances."

Question: What do you remember about the production?

Answer: "the positivity of the set, the cast, the wardrobe department, and our director who brought out the best in all of us."

Producer Lynn Kressel, who worked with Daniela for eight years developing the project said:

"When I read this screenplay, I knew I had come across something unique and unlike anything I had seen or read before. Sure, with the dance sequences which foreshadow and illuminate, the film summons up "All That Jazz"; and if one considers the idea of six friends coming together who have been apart for several years, one might think of "The Big Chill"; and a struggling, tormented dancer brings to mind "The Black Swan."

But I have never seen a multi-layered story such as this told (spoiler alert) within the discipline of a few minutes on the clock. On this journey we experience the shared history of our lead, Romy, her family, her lovers, and most of all the friends she loves and who love her. It reminds me of Yevtushenko's line, "Not people die, but worlds die in them."

Our lead Romy opens her world to us and her friends and beckons us (and them) within. It is a thrilling, exhilarating, and sad journey. In this strange universe where we hopefully create a meaningful and important film within the structure and conventions of the entertainment industry, it was, as it is for all filmmakers, more often than not a struggle to get the artists and their representatives to make the effort to read something that requires more than a quick look at the first few pages and to consider that a first-time director might actually

have something to offer. In the midst of this, Daniela remained steadfast and determined. She marches to the tune of her own drummer and has the confidence to see her vision through as best it can be done. Daniela's mind is able to conjure up complex worlds, and she has a wonderful ear for dialogue and the English language. This is impressive on its own, but when you consider that English is not her native tongue, and she speaks five languages, well...it's something. Moreover, Daniela is an optimist. She believes that everything will work out as it should, which brings me to another point: the weather always came through for Daniela. It might be a rainy day in LA but the sun will for sure come out for the ninety minutes or so that we need it."

The visual style of the film

Cinematographer is Pat Scola. Daniela describes how she selected him for this passion project:

"As soon as I saw Pat's website I knew I had found the perfect DP for me and this film.

We met over food late one night at Swingers and immediately bonded. Pat picked up on my vision for the film and the fashion/photography influence that had been swishing around in my head, took it and ran with it. Over a month we met every day and broke down every single scene, knowing that on a schedule like ours and with the incredibly limited resources we would have no time once on the set. Pat then added drawings and diagrams to each scene breakdown and we handed our booklet to every department head. So by the time we actually got to the set, Pat and I almost didn't need to talk any more, and we were on the same page with each scene.

Pat's lighting and framing are right out of my dreams, and I will be forever grateful for his fantastic work and ability to create so much with really almost nothing- and make it look BEAUTIFUL."

Artwork in the film

Aaron, one of the characters in the film is an artist, so art is an important element in the film.

Keith Biele (@teachr1), a respected painter and a well-known LA street artist ("Teachr"), created Aaron's paintings:

"Creating the artwork for "a beautiful now" was a great opportunity to exercise my experience as both a traditional and a street artist.

After I had read the script I felt that an oil painting of a wild ocean- out of control but beautiful and powerful- was the perfect depiction of Aaron's relationship with Romy and would be best for the main piece of art in Romy's apartment.

After the breakdown of their relationship, this painting of an ocean is what Romy hangs on to, almost like a life-line to a better past. I chose to do an oil painting because Aaron is such a control freak and oil paints are one of the easiest mediums to control.

For the sketch Aaron does in the bathroom I took reference photos on the set. Besides being a control freak, Aaron is also obsessive, so the sketch had to be perfect and look just like Romy- it was done in pencil, which is much easier to control than pen and ink.

Aaron would never have used pen and ink.

There were a couple scenes shot in the streets of Los Angeles where street art was visible, so I made a couple stencils through a technique that I invented using fiberglass window screen. I sprayed them on a wall that already had a bunch of pieces, not thinking much of it.

Later I found out that it was a good thing the cops weren't rolling by or I would have gotten a free ride to the station that comes with a pair of stainless steel bracelets and a shared room for the night."

Costumes in the film

Because characters in this film exist in the word of present day, memory, and dreams, a wide range of costumes were required. Much was sourced from thrift shops and friends' closets. Fortunately we have some friends who wear Gucci, Lanvin, Chanel, and Hermes. (You may actually see a waitress in a green Lanvin dress!)

But the exquisitely sensual and otherworldly pieces come from our costume designer, Slavna Martinovic. Slavna is a Serb based in Frankfurt, Germany where she owns a boutique which features her extraordinary line of ethereal clothing and bold costume jewelry, made from whimsical elements and vintage crystals. Another thing, which made Slavna perfect for the film is that, she designs for dance companies across Europe.

Slavna explains how the screenplay affected her:

"When I recall the feeling of reading the script, the sense of tenderness comes to mind again and again, and as the story unfolds with its many loves, sleepless nights, humid sunny days under the generous LA skies, Daniela effortlessly strips the characters in a seductive dance, and leaves them floating for a moment in an "unbearable lightness of being". Needless to say, this is when the "beautiful now " happens. Daniela is conscious of this miniscule sharp thin dividing line and the endless time it possesses and lets us walk in her shoes to feel the lure and the hurt before the moment ends."

And finally the challenge of putting it all together

Assembling the elements of this film, which is unusual in its structure, style, and pace and illuminating its internal logic was the challenge taken on by our editors, Adam Mack and Valdis Oskarsdottir.

Adam Mack explains why he wanted to edit this film:

"I like stories about people. I particularly like stories about real people, with real feelings and real relationships and real struggles. I like stories that tell the truth. When I read this script, what fascinated me was the fact that every one of the characters felt real to me. They all had facets that reminded me of people I knew, and in some cases, of myself. I hope that I've been able to bring some of that truth to life.

This movie is not an easy journey, but I believe that anyone that watches it will come away with some questions and feelings about their own lives and their relationships. Hopefully it will help them to recognize that the most important things in life are the people you share it with.

And that, in my opinion, is what good movies should do.

Working with this cast was a rewarding and complex task. Each of these performers put so much into their characters that it was often difficult to separate the actor from the role. Some of the performances in this movie broke my heart, and really challenged my ability to remain objective.

The crew, especially the art department, crafted a truly believable world with limited resources and in very little time. The environment is truthful and immersive, and I was awed by just how much of it was made from nothing.

The cinematography by the incredible Pat Scola is breathtaking, evocative and honest, and I felt so fortunate to have such beautiful images to work with. The greatest challenge at times was that I had too many captivating shots to choose from and wasn't able to use them all.

I greatly appreciate Valdis' help in providing an extra pair of eyes and hands when we ran into trouble. As a young editor, working with a veteran with her credentials, experience and acuity was truly a godsend.

Johnny's music was the perfect bedrock for this film, and working in tandem with such a talented musician to rework existing pieces of music from his "sonic arsenal" (his words) and developing new compositions was probably the most fun I've ever had as an editor. I learned so much from him, and was consistently blown away by his perceptiveness, his instincts and his commitment to making everything he touches perfect.

The producers were consistently supportive and nurturing and were always there to help when we needed it. Their ability to provide us with the resources we needed to make and finish this film are the reason you're seeing it today, and their belief in this project from inception to completion has been unwavering.

And finally, Daniela. I am eternally grateful to her for giving birth to this truly special project, for giving me the opportunity to play a role in raising it, and for trusting in me without fail from beginning to end.

There are not enough real female-oriented movies in the world, and there are far too few female directors getting the recognition they deserve. Women have things to say, and they ought to be provided the opportunity to say them.

The trend in film has long been to treat women - over half the population of this country - as a niche audience.

This needs to change, and it's heartening to see festivals like this one putting more of a spotlight on gifted and talented women.

None are silent, though many are not heard. Let's give them a voice."

The Cast



ABIGAIL SPENCER | Romy

A talented actress, writer and producer on both the big and small screen, Abigail Spencer is quickly making a name for herself in Hollywood.

Abigail is currently in production on NBC's new action-adventure *Timeless* featuring a secret team that tries to hunt down a criminal with a stolen time machine whose goal is to change events critical in America's history. Written by critically acclaimed Erik Kripke and Shawn Ryan, the show is one of NBC's most anticipated Fall dramas premiering on October 3rd at 10:00 PM on Mondays following *The Voice*. Abigail stars opposite Matt Lanter, Malcom Barrett and Claudia Dumot.

Spencer just wrapped production on Sundance TV's *Rectify*. Now in its final and fourth season, the series will debut in October 2016. Spencer's portrayal of

'Amantha Holden' garnered rave reviews and a Critics Choice Television Award nomination in the category of "Best Supporting Actress in a Drama" in 2013. The show has also been nominated for a Television Critics Association Award in the category of "Outstanding Achievement in Movies, Mini-series and Specials." The series follows a man who must put his life back together after serving 19 years on Georgia's Death Row before DNA evidence calls his conviction into question. Spencer also appeared as a guest 'Gena Brune' in the second season of HBO's, *True Detective*.

Spencer can next be seen in *The Sweet Life* starting opposite Chris Messina, which premiered at the Los Angeles Film Festival on June 7, 2016. She also stars in the indie film, *A Beautiful Now*, which also premiered at the Los Angeles Film Festival in June 2015. The film tells the story of a passionate dancer who finds herself mulling over an extreme act when she reaches a crossroads in her life. Her other big screen credits include: *The Forger*; *Oz, the Great and Powerful*; *This Is Where I Leave You*; *Chasing Mavericks*; *Kilimanjaro*; *The Haunting in Connecticut 2: Ghosts of Georgia*; *This Means War* and *Cowboys and Aliens*.

Previous television credits include multi-episode arcs on the USA hit series "Suits," AMC's "Mad Men," Adult Swim's "Children's Hospital" and "NTSF:SVU;" as well as E!'s cult comedy "Burning Love," a scripted comedy-web spoof on the television shows, "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette," among others.

Following the success of her 2013 short film "Here and Now" (which was selected by Ron Howard as the winner of Canon's "Project Imagination" film contest), Spencer is reteaming with producers Josh Pence and Justin Allen for the short film, "Winter Light"; produced under her Innerlight Films umbrella. "Winter Light" is a modern-day revisionist Western set against the sweeping backdrop of the snow-covered Montana wilderness. Spencer has also co-written a TV pilot script, "Teach," that is on the coveted 2015 WriteHer list.

Spencer spent many summers studying under mentor, Ann Reinking, at the Broadway Theatre Project. She was later accepted into Carnegie Mellon University.

Spencer is from Gulf Breeze Florida, where she spent her youth surfing with her family.



CHEYENNE JACKSON | David

Starring as the love of Romy's life and the rock to all the friends is actor and Grammy-nominated singer Cheyenne Jackson. In 2015, Cheyenne starred across Lady Gaga, Sarah Paulson, Angela Bassett and Kathy Bates, in "American Horror Story: Hotel", the series' fifth season, and is currently in production on Ryan Murphy's award-winning FX horror anthology for its sixth season.

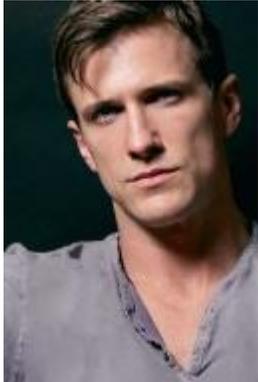
Previously, Cheyenne appeared in DIRECTV's *Full Circle*, a Neil LaBute's mini-series, Steven Soderbergh's critically-acclaimed HBO biopic *Behind the Candelabra*, which premiered at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival and NBC's critically-acclaimed comedy series, *30 Rock* for four seasons. Other television credits include *Glee*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Family Practice*, *Life on Mars*, *Local Talent*, *Ugly Betty*, *Law and Order*, *It Takes a Village*, and *Royal Pains*.

Additionally, Cheyenne can be seen in a series of films including Ira Sachs' drama *Love is Strange* alongside Marisa Tomei, John Lithgow and Alfred Molina, Arthur Allan Seidelman's film version of *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*, Christopher Ashley's *Lucky Stiff* with Nikki M. James and Jason

Alexander, Matthew Watts' *Mutual Friends*, and the comedy *Price Check* which had its debut at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. Cheyenne also appears in Jack Henry Robbins' *Opening Night* alongside Anthony Rapp, Zoe Cassavetes' new film *Day out of Days* with Eddie Izzard and Melanie Griffith and the Oscar nominated *United 93*

A veteran of the theatre, Jackson starred on Broadway in *THE PERFORMERS*, *FINIAN'S RAINBOW* (Drama Desk Award nomination), *XANADU* (Drama Desk & Drama League Award nominations), *ALL SHOOK UP* (Theatre World Award, Drama Desk & Outer Critics Circle Award nominations), *AIDA* and many others.

As a performer Cheyenne had his solo debut at Carnegie Hall and has had sold out one-man shows at The Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles and venues across the US.



PATRICK HEUSINGER | Aaron

Patrick Heusinger next stars in Paramount's *JACK REACHER 2: NEVER GO BACK*, opposite Tom Cruise, set for an October 21st release. He stars as "The Hunter," a villain and nemesis to Reacher.

Heusinger is also known in film for his roles in *Frances Ha* and *Sweet Land*, winner of the Audience Award at the Hamptons International Film Festival and Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature. Other feature credits include *Tie a Yellow Ribbon*, *The Nanny Diaries* and the award winning short *Willowbrook*.

In television, Heusinger last costarred on Jason Reitman's *Casual* for Hulu and on Marti Noxon's series *Girlfriend's Guide to Divorce*, Bravo's first scripted series. Other past television credits include recurring roles on *Revolution*, *Royal Pains*, *Friends with Benefits* and *Gossip Girl*, as well as appearances on *The Good Wife*, *30 Rock*, *Necessary*

Roughness, *Rescue Me* and *Law & Order: SVU*.

Heusinger recently starred in director Moises Kaufman's critically-acclaimed production of *BENT* at the Center Theater Group in Los Angeles. On Broadway, Patrick starred in the Tony Nominated play *Next Fall*, and the Tony Nominated revival of *Fiddler on the Roof* as well as the Mike Nichols directed National Tour of Monty Python's *Spamalot*.

Heusinger is a graduate of Juilliard from Jacksonville, FL.



SONJA KINSKI | Jessica Hudson

Sonja, daughter of Nastassja Kinski, stars as the lost little rich girl. Other feature credits include leads in the indies *Dark Hearts* opposite Lucas Till and Goran Visnjic; *The Wicked Within* opposite Sienna Guillory; and *Diamond on Vinyl* which premiered in Park City to rave reviews. TV credits include a Guest Lead in the "Untitled Bounty Hunter" pilot opposite Geena Davis and a Guest Star on "Longmire". Sonja has held various modeling campaigns including LEVI'S, French beauty line NUXE, the POM drink, DIOR and ALL SAINTS.



COLLETTE WOLFE | Ella

Starring as the estranged closest female friend is Collette Wolfe. Collette has won acclaim in a wide variety of roles in films like *Young Adult*, *Hot Tub Time Machine*, *Observe and Report* and Chris Nolan's *Interstellar*.



ELENA SATINE | Jaki

Starring as the girl escaping the upheaval in her home country and turning herself into self-made fashion entrepreneur is Elena Satine. Elena grew up in the former USSR and studied drama at the acclaimed Moscow Art Theater. In the US she was a regular on the TV shows "Magic City" and "Revenge".



HANA HAYES | Young Romy

Actress Hana Hayes landed her breakout role as series regular 'Lizzie' in Fox's series "The Grinder" alongside acting veterans Robe Lowe, Fred Savage and Mary Elizabeth Ellis. On the show, 'Lizzie' looks up to actor uncle 'Dean Sanderson' (played by Lowe) who has decided to move back to his small hometown after his long-running hit TV series comes to an end. Hana's portrayal of the sixteen-year-old daughter of Mary Elizabeth Ellis and Fred Savage's characters is sure to have fans loving her troublesome and boy-crazy teenage character.

Hayes developed her love of acting at the age of eight when she began acting in theatrical performances. She went on to train and compete at IMTA in Los Angeles before making her official move to Los Angeles from Tuscon, Arizona, upon landing her first recurring role on Nickelodeon's "Bucket and Skinner's Epic Adventures." Hayes has guest starred on popular television shows including "Grey's Anatomy," "Criminal Minds" and "Law and Order" and can be seen in the films "Thunderstuck," "Mercy," "Stockholm PA" and "Beautiful Now."

Hana's training extends beyond acting with talent in dance, voice and voice-over. The young actress has gained worldwide notice from being the voice and image of 'Sarah' in Sony/Playstation's "The Last of Us" hit video game. She won Behind the Voice Awards for Best Female Vocal Performance by a Child and Best Vocal Ensemble in a Video Game for her impressive work.

When not acting Hana loves dancing, singing, baking, reading and drawing. She can also be seen tutoring Math at Mathnasium or volunteering with a senior singing group. She also loves fashion and designing clothes with her mom—with hopes to launch a fashion line together in the future. Her acting inspirations include Amanda Seyfried, Hayden Panettiere, Robert Deniro and her series co-star Rob Lowe.



DANIELA AMAVIA | Writer / Director

Daniela is Greek, but holds a secondary citizenship in Germany. She started her creative life as a model for Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel at a very young age and commuted between Berlin, Frankfurt and Paris in her school holidays.

After growing too tall for the dance career she had been dreaming off, Daniela started performing as an actress on stage in parts like the daughter in Ibsen's Hedda Gabler and later on Irina in Three Sisters.

After finishing high-school Daniela studied American literature and Drama and worked as a film actress in projects as varied as the art house success *Abgeschminkt* and the TV mini-series "Children of Dune" with Susan Sarandon and James McAvoy. In 1995 Daniela won the "Best New Actress" Award in Germany and in 2001 she won "Best Actress" at the New York Independent Film Festival for the movie *The Woman Every Man Wants*.

Daniela produced and starred in the feature film *Affairs* for Columbia TriStar Germany and produced and starred in the feature film *Venus & Mars* with Lynn Redgrave and Julie Bowen for Buena Vista Germany. She wrote and directed the short *Rockin' Good Times* starring Danny Huston and has written and developed a slate of TV series including "Rainbow House" for an international TV market.

Currently Daniela is in prepping for a feature film shooting in Berlin, Germany as well as two US based features shooting in Humboldt County and Minnesota respectively.

Director's Statement

I've always been drawn to stories that are windows into people's desire to be genuine and loved, but plagued by desperation and their willingness to compromise their integrity- and what that does to the people around them.

Beautiful people can lead messy lives.

In *a beautiful now*, a group of once close-knit friends are forced to reunite for one evening outside the bathroom door of one of their own, a beautiful dancer called Romy. It's her birthday and she has locked herself inside with a bottle of champagne and a loaded gun, threatening to kill herself.

During an all-night vigil, rattled friends and past lovers convene outside the bathroom door and we learn through flashbacks how Romy has reached this place of total despair and detachment from reality.

The characters are people we know: people who love you even as they tell you the reasons why they hate you. Stubborn people who can't give in, even when they have given up. Recollections and brutal honesty become weapons more powerful than any gun.

I have been influenced by movies as diverse as *All that Jazz* and *Lost in Translation*, movies that take us on intense and fearless journeys into the minds and lives of people on an edge of change while marrying music, artistic visuals and even dance into a layered tapestry.

I have also been very influenced by the photography of Jürgen Teller and Corinne Day and their unflinching look at our everyday existence.

It's a truism that I have been told a million times: making movies is a team effort. I'm convinced that's definitely true for this film. From our actors to our passionate producers (Keith Kjarval and Lynn Kressel), the miraculous director of photography (Pat Scola), composer (Johnny Jewel) and editors (Valdis Oskarsdottir and Adam H Mack) - everyone, everyone has been an inspiration and revelation to work with.

So thank for letting us take you on this wild journey. I truly hope you enjoy watching and that the film makes you smile and think about those you love.

Daniela Amavia

KEITH KJARVAL | Producer

Keith founded Unified Pictures in 2005 as a studio to develop, produce and finance independent features. In their inaugural year the company acquired and distributed the award winning Italian Film "Don't Move" starring Penelope Cruz.

Since then the company has worked with filmmakers as varied as David Lynch, Werner Herzog and William H.Macy. In 2009 Keith produced David Rosenthal's Janie Jones which had the honor of being selected as a Gala Presentation at the 2010 Toronto Film Festival. He also produced A Single Shot starring Sam Rockwell and Decoding Annie Parker starring Samantha Morton, Rashida Jones and Helen Hunt.

Keith also produced The Inevitable Defeat of Mister and Peter by acclaimed filmmaker George Tillman Jr. starring Jennifer Hudson and Jeffrey Wright as well as Clark Gregg's Trust me starring Sam Rockwell and Amanda Peet.

In 2014 Keith premiered William H.Macy's directorial debut Rudderless starring Billy Crudup and Laurence Fishburne.

He's currently in production on William H.Macy's next film as well as a number of other feature films.

LYNN KRESSEL | Producer

Lynn Kressel is an Emmy Award winning Casting Director and Producer who divides her time between New York and Los Angeles.

In 1989 Lynn won the first Emmy ever awarded to a Casting Director – Outstanding Achievement in Casting for a Mini-Series or a Special – for "Lonesome Dove", a Mini-Series based on the Larry McMurtry novel. She received Emmy nominations also for "Warm Springs" (HBO), "Something the Lord Made" (HBO), and Stephen King's "The Stand".

Undoubtedly Lynn's casting of "Law & Order" remains a highlight of her career. She cast the pilot episodes for "Law & Order, Law & Order: SVU, Law & Order: Criminal Intent and Law & Order: Los Angeles". She received the Artios Award for her work on these shows and stayed on as a consultant for all of the shows. Lynn has cast numerous feature films, among them *Spider-Man*, *Nights in Rodanthe*, *The Invention of Lying*, *Don Juan De Marco*, *Blue Streak*, and *The Rundown*.

In 2008 Lynn decided to segue into producing and has since worked on a number of independent films about to be released.

She served as the Executive Producer of the feature film *All Relative* directed by J.C.Khoury and starring Connie Nielsen and Sara Paxton. The film premiered at the Woodstock and Austin Film Festivals in October 2014 with its theatrical release in the US on November 21, 2014.

PAT SCOLA | Director of Photography

Patrick Scola graduated from the film school at Emerson College in Boston, and subsequently began his career in New York before moving to Los Angeles. His consistent collaborators include Paul Hunter, Sam Pilling, Hiro Murai, Ian & Cooper, and Brewer. Scola's work with cinematographers on Joel Compass's "Back to Me" garnered countless awards including Best Cinematography at the prestigious Camerimage Cinematography Festival and Best Music Video at SXSW. His feature credits include Cameron Beryl's *Here Build Your Home* and Daniela Amavia's *A Beautiful Now*. Scola served as the DP on Richard Tanne's *Southside With You* which premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival.

ADAM H MACK | Editor

Adam H Mack is the editor of five feature films, including the documentaries *Libertopia* and *Reversing the Mississippi* and the scripted *Trophy Kids*. In addition to his feature film work, he has edited numerous music videos, commercials and short films.

He most recently edited the upcoming ensemble feature *Outliving Emily: A Marriage in Six Acts* starring Olympia Dukakis, Andre Braugher, Kal Penn, Alexis Bledel and Zosia Mamet, directed by Eric Weber. It is scheduled for release in 2015.

A native of New Jersey, London and Boston, he currently lives in Portland, Oregon and splits his time between there, New York and Los Angeles. In addition to his work as an editor, he is a director, writer and artist.

VALDIS OSKARSDOTTIR | Editor

Valdis Óskarsdóttir is a BAFTA Award winning editor for her work on Michel Gondry's *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. She most recently edited Ryan Gosling's directorial debut, *Lost River*, which premiered at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival.

Other feature credits include Thomas Vinterberg's *The Celebration*, Baltasar Kormákur's *The Sea*, Gus Van Sant's *Finding Forrester*, and Harmony Korine's *Julien Donkey-Boy*.

In addition to her work as an editor, Óskarsdóttir has directed features *King's Road* and *Country Wedding*. Óskarsdóttir began her career as a still photographer and a writer in her native Iceland.

SLAVNA MARTINOVIC | Costume Designer

Slavna Martinovic was born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia but grew up and completed High School in Hong Kong. She graduated from the London College of Fashion and returned to Hong Kong where she started her freelance career as a stylist and make up artist.

In 1999 Slavna moved to Los Angeles where she worked as a stylist, make up artist and costume designer in entertainment industry. Her clients include Chloe Sevigny, Famke Janssen, Dougray Scott, Pink, Usher, Aerosmith and others. She also created features for *W Magazine*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Flaunt*, *Cosmopolitan*, *US Weekly*, *Marie Claire* and others.

She designed costumes for feature films like *Baby Doll Forever*, *The Woman every man wants*, *Big Top Winkle* and *Awakening from Dead* as well as theatre plays like *The Graduate* and *God of Carnage*.

In 2007 Slavna started her own fashion line and was featured in *L'Officiel*, *Elle*, *Gala*, *Joy* and other magazines.

Slavna continues to design costumes for film and theatre. She collaborates with the Contemporary dance Troop "Club Guy and Ronni," which has taken her to places like the Schauspiel House in Cologne, Germany, the Moscow Theatre and the Gothenburg Opera House.

Production Stills:

Right click on image to save a low resolution to desktop or go to our Flickr page to get high resolution at:
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Abigail Spencer



Abigail Spencer_Guy Burnet



Abigail Spencer



John Patrick Amedori_Abigail Spencer



Abigail Spencer



Elena Satine_Patrick Heusinger_Abigail Spencer_Cheyenne Jackson_Collette Wolfe_Sonja Kinski



Cheyenne Jackson_Abigail Spencer



Cheyenne Jackson_Abigail Spencer

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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