

"Intimate and affecting... impressive... absorbing."

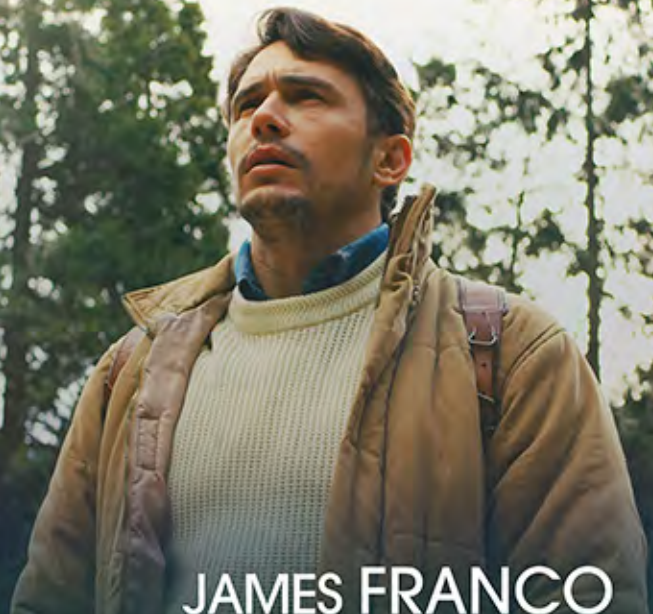
- The Hollywood Reporter

"A haunting metaphor for the looming shadow of adolescence..."

- TwitchFilm

"A kind of Stand By Me for a modern generation."

- Scene Creek



JAMES FRANCO

YOSEMITE

based on James Franco's *A California Childhood*
A film by Gabrielle Demeestere



GROWING UP IS AN ADVENTURE

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from monterey media

RABBIT BANDINI PRODUCTIONS in association with THE ART OF ELYSIUM presents a film by GABRIELLE DEMEESTERE
HENRY HOPPER, JAMES FRANCO, "YOSEMITE" RYDER MCNAIR, JASMINE HAMEO, JOE MURPHY, MAKI TAKENOUCHI
DIRECTED BY BRUCE THIERRY CHEUNG and CHANANUN CHOTRONGROJ
CASTING BY JAMES FRANCO, VINCE JOLIVETTE
PRODUCED BY CLARA ARANOVICH, NICOLAAS BERTELSEN, GABRIELLE DEMEESTERE, SHRUTI GANGULY, SEV OGHANIAN, PAUL BERNON, SAM SLATER
EDITED BY GABRIELLE DEMEESTERE



YOSEMITE

A FILM BY GABRIELLE DEMEESTERE

Starring: James Franco and Henry Hopper, introducing Calum John,
Alec Mansky and Everett Meckler

Written by: Gabrielle Demeestere

Directed by: Gabrielle Demeestere

Produced by: Clara Aranovich, Shruti Rya Ganguly, Nicolaas Bertelsen,
Sev Ohanian, Paul Bernon, Sam Slater

Executive Producers: Vince Jolivette and James Franco

Running Time: 82 min

MPAA: R

Genre: Drama

ABOUT YOSEMITE

“Yosemite” is monterey's second film in a lineup in conjunction with The Art of Elysium following the Beverly Hills theatrical premiere of “Forever”. 100% of the funds from these films go to The Art of Elysium, a charity that is committed to healing the world through art by recruiting, supporting and encouraging artists to give back to individuals and populations in need to bring the arts to hospitalized youth, elders and the homeless community by using their creativity and artistry. For more information please visit: <http://theartofelysium.org/>

LOGLINE

It's the fall of 1985. The intertwining tales of three 5th grade friends, Chris, Joe and Ted, unfold in the suburban paradise of Palo Alto, as the threat of a mountain lion looms over the community.

SYNOPSIS

It's the fall of 1985. The intertwining tales of three 5th grade friends, Chris, Joe and Ted, unfold in the suburban paradise of Palo Alto, as the threat of a mountain lion looms over the community.

Chris drives up to Yosemite for the weekend with his dad and discovers a corpse in the woods. Joe, left to his own devices by his babysitter, befriends a lonely drifter who shares his love of comic books. Meanwhile, a mountain lion is spotted in Palo Alto in broad daylight and Ted searches for his cat, who has gone missing...

Based on the short stories “Yosemite” and “Peter Parker” from James Franco’s collection *A California Childhood*.

Slamdance Film Festival 2015, Closing Film (Tangerine Entertainment Award for Best Female Director)

Sarasota Film Festival, Narrative Competition

River Run Film Festival, New Directions in American Cinema

Nashville Film Festival, Narrative Competition (Women in Film and Television Award)

Seattle Film Festival, New American Cinema

Provincetown Film Festival, Narrative Competition

Portland Film Festival – Official Selection

Mill Valley Film Festival – Official Selection

Denver Film Festival

Hawaii Film Festival



Yosemite is a naturalistic and intimate coming of age drama about three 10-year old boys, growing up in Silicon Valley in 1985, a place on the brink of technological and cultural change. Against this backdrop, the stories of Chris, Joe and Ted portray a specific time in childhood, from the end of innocence to awareness.

In the course of the film, each boy encounters death and, in his own way, confronts the fear it creates. Chris discovers a dead body in Yosemite and finds that his dad is unable to provide him with the comfort he is looking for. Joe, similarly left to his own devices to mourn his little brother's death, finds an unexpected confidante in Henry, an older boy in the neighborhood. Meanwhile, Ted grapples with his own power to harm and relationship to evil when his cat goes missing. In the process of grieving, each boy takes a decisive step towards growing up and solidifying his relationship to the outside world.

The film is set in the mid-1980s, a time that sees the rise of consumer media culture, along with the start of milk carton campaigns, symptomatic of the fear that kids are under attack in an increasingly menacing world. Chris, Joe and Ted enjoy a freedom that will soon be unheard of, walking home from school on their own, mostly unsupervised. At the same time, they begin to feel the effects of a dwindling sense of community, with Silicon Valley parents too consumed by their work and worries to offer guidance or support. For example, Ted's father, a computer engineer, spends his nights on The Well, an early Internet chat room, as Ted struggles to grow up on his own. By setting *Yosemite* in the pre-Internet era, I hope to show the ways in which technology has transformed the way we connect with each other.

Yosemite also explores the tensions between nature and technology, which have made us increasingly at odds with the natural world. Palo Alto, a continually expanding suburb, exists on the border of California wilderness. In the film, the characters view nature as both a path towards spiritual salvation and a source of fear. Chris's dad, a recovering alcoholic, takes his sons to Yosemite in the hopes that communing with nature will help begin a new chapter in his life as a father. Meanwhile, back in Palo Alto, the looming threat of a mountain lion attack causes the suburban community great anxiety. Nature has become something we both yearn for and fear because we cannot control it.

At its core however, *Yosemite* is a story about friendship and human connection. Chris's inability to earn his father's love partly causes him to be a bully at school, while Joe's friendship with Henry allows him to make peace with himself, and support Ted in his mourning. Together, through empathy, the boys are able to overcome their fear of the unknown. *Yosemite* hopes to create a powerful experience of childhood, while reminding us of the need to take care of our fragile ties to each other.

PHIL // JAMES FRANCO



JAMES FRANCO is an actor, director, screenwriter, producer, teacher and author. He began his career on FREAKS AND GEEKS and received a Golden Globe Award for his performance in the biographical film JAMES DEAN. Notable film credits include OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL, SPRING BREAKERS, “Harry Osborn” in the SPIDER-MAN trilogy, MILK and 127 HOURS for which he received Academy Award, SAG and Golden Globe nominations for Best Actor. He has directed, wrote and produced several features and has been published several times in magazines and through his own books. He is currently teaching college courses at UCLA, USC and CAL ARTS and acting classes at STUDIO 4 and recently made his Broadway debut in OF MICE & MEN to rave reviews.

HENRY // HENRY HOPPER



CHRIS // EVERETT MECKLER



JOE // ALEC MANSKY



TED // CALUM JOHN



GABRIELLE DEMEESTERE, WRITER/DIRECTOR

Born and raised in Paris, Gabrielle is a New York-based writer/director with more than five years of experience directing short films and commercials. Most recently, she wrote and directed a segment of the feature film *The Color of Time*, based on the poetry of C.K. Williams, starring James Franco, Jessica Chastain and Mila Kunis. Gabrielle's short film *The Last Cigarette* was broadcast on PBS. She has also directed and produced several branded films for Calvin Klein, Vita Coco and Moxie Pictures' "I Love New York" campaign. Gabrielle holds a BA in Literature from Yale and an MFA from NYU's graduate filmmaking program. *Yosemite* is her first feature film.

CLARA ARANOVICH, PRODUCER

Clara Aranovich is a Palo Alto native and an award-winning Los Angeles-based writer/director and producer. She's the daughter of an Argentine physicist and a Chilean market researcher and an alumna of Dartmouth College and USC's School of Cinematic Arts. Having known she wanted to be a filmmaker from a very young age, her professional work has taken many forms from producing to photography and acting.

Clara is a three-time finalist for the Sundance Screenwriter's Lab, a Nicholl Fellowship Quarter Finalist, and co-wrote a short in a campaign that went on to win the Silver Lion at the Cannes Lion Advertising Festival. Her first short, *THE ARGUMENT*, can be found on iTunes, and her new short, *PRIMROSE*, will premiere in 2015. She is represented by 3 Arts Entertainment.

SHRUTI GANGULY, PRODUCER

Shruti is a producer and digital video strategist based in New York City. She is currently the VP of TV and Video at NYLON. Previously, she was a producer at Conde Nast Entertainment focusing on the Vogue brand and produced the company's highest performing series, *73 Questions*. She has produced several feature-length movies, numerous short films and video content, which have premiered at Sundance, SXSW, Venice, Telluride, and so on, and is in development on more. Some of the feature films include *The Color of Time*, *Black Dog*, *Red Dog*, and *Yosemite*, produced together with Rabbit Bandini. Another feature, *H.*, by Rania Attieh and Daniel Garcia recently screened at the Venice Film Festival and will go on to screen at the Sundance Film Festival.

Shruti has been an INK Fellow: she spoke at the INK Conference in the fall of 2013, and won a Global Economic Symposium Young Fellows award this year. She got her MBA and MFA from NYU, where she co-taught a Grad Film class with Dean's Council member, Robert Warren. In 2014, she started a filmmaking collective with Gabrielle Demeestere and three other female classmates from Tisch to develop and craft inventive short and long-form content, with strong female voices, attempting to bridge the gender gap in Hollywood. She is a partner at two production companies, Fictionless, which focuses on branded content and docu-series, and WEG, which crafts inventive films for the financial sector. Shruti is currently on the jury for the CLIO Awards, focusing on the Film and Digital Video category. She holds a B.A. from Northwestern University, and hails from India by way of Oman.

VINCE JOLIVETTE, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

In 2003, Vince teamed with actor James Franco to form Rabbit Bandini, a production company focused on creating groundbreaking narrative, documentary and multimedia content. Recent projects include Harmony Korine's *Spring Breakers*, *Lovelace*, starring Amanda Seyfried, *The Iceman*, starring Michael Shannon, the SNL behind the scenes documentary *Saturday Night*, and *As I Lay Dying*, directed by and starring James Franco, which premiered at the 2013 Cannes International Film Festival. Vince was also a producer on *Child of God*, which had its International premiere at the 2013 Venice Film Festival and North American premiere at the 2013 Toronto Film Festival. Some other projects in post-production include *Adderall Diaries* directed by Pamela Romanowsky, starring Franco, Ed Harris, Amber Heard and Christian Slater; Justin Kelly's directorial debut *I Am Michael*, with Franco, Zachary Quinto and Emma Roberts and *Zeroville*, directed by Franco, and starring Seth Rogen, Megan Fox, Joey King, Jacki Weaver, Dave Franco and Danny McBride.

BRUCE THIERRY CHEUNG, CINEMATOGRAPHER

Bruce Cheung is a cinematographer raised in both Hong Kong and California. As a former architect, he has sharpened a passionate eye for space, composition, and movement. He has shot several feature films, including the upcoming films *The Adderall Diaries* and *Zeroville*. He has shot commercials for Gucci, Target, Kenzo, Opening Ceremony, and 7 For All Mankind. He is completing his MFA in Film at New York University, where he served as a teaching assistant for Professor Spike Lee.

CHANANUN CHOTRUNGROJ, CINEMATOGRAPHER

Chananun Chotrungrroj is an award-winning cinematographer and artist based in New York City and Bangkok. She recently shot the feature film *Karaoke Girl* as co-director of photography with Sandi Sissel, which premiered at the 2012 Rotterdam Film Festival. She was an Artist-in-Residence at the Korean National Contemporary Art Museum in Seoul and her photography and installations have been exhibited in Bangkok, Seoul, and Beijing. She received "Best Cinematography" for *Karaoke Girl* at the Bangkok Critics Assembly Awards and at the Starpics Thai Film Awards in 2014. She is currently pursuing an MFA in Film at NYU, where she was awarded the Ang Lee Fellowship, and received the Nestor Almendros Award for Outstanding Cinematography by a woman in 2013.

MAKI TAKENOUCI, PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Born in Tokyo, Maki Takenouchi is a New York-based Production Designer. Maki was the 2010 recipient of the Made-in-NY Mentorship Program in film, and is mentored by award winning production designer Mark Friedberg. She was Graphic Artist and Assistant Art Director on his team for the latest *Amazing Spider-Man* film. She just finished production designing the film *No Pay, Nudity*, starring Gabriel Byrne and Nathan Lane.

JOE MURPHY, EDITOR

Joe Murphy's narrative feature editing credits include *Bare*, *Yosemite*, *The Sound and the Fury* (Venice 2014) and *Punching at the Sun* (Humanitas Prize finalist at Sundance in 2006). He was also Additional Editor for *Gayby* (SXSW 2012), and Consulting Editor for *As I Lay Dying* (Cannes 2013). His documentary feature credits include Co-Editor of *16 Acres*, and Additional Editor for *Dior and I* (Tribeca 2014). He edited the web series *Be Here Now-ish*, and has edited television programs for MTV, VH1, and Lifetime.



Troy Tinnirello, Everett Meckler and James Franco



Troy Tinnirello, James Franco and Everett Meckler



Troy Tinnirello, Everett Meckler and James Franco



Everett Meckler, James Franco and Troy Tinnirello



James Franco and Troy Tinnirello



Alec Mansky , Calum John and Everett Meckler

monterey media inc., a uniquely independent studio

monterey media inc., incorporated in 1979, is a privately owned entertainment company. monterey media is 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. By way of example, in 2005, the Company established a joint venture for the creation of a special theatrical event in conjunction with AMC Theatres to launch the motion picture *Indigo: A one day, 603 North America* venue showing grossed over \$1,190,000 box office. Recently, monterey media films have been nominated for the Golden Globe Award, Independent Spirit Award (two nominations in the last three years – one win this year), and NAACP Image Award. Many of our award-winning films have premiered at Sundance, TIFF, Tribeca, and SXSW Film Festivals, as well as on Roger Ebert's 10 Best Independent Films list.

2015-16 contains a wonderful new film line-up featuring 2 new TIFF Premieres, multiple Academy Award, Golden Globe and EMMY winning and nominated actors including James Franco, Adrian Grenier, Joaquim de Almeida, Barbara Hershey, Joe Mantegna, Amber Tamblyn, and Debra Messing (in *Like Sunday, Like Rain* starring with "Gossip Girl's" Leighton Meester and Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong). 2014 found monterey media films on nationwide screens and included films starring 9 Academy Award nominated actors and 4 TIFF Premier films.

The philosophy of doing good while doing well is practically a mantra at monterey media, and in addition to its ritual support of charitable organizations the company has developed a program entitled *A Weekend of Unity & Peace*. 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, KIDS FIRST!, Days Inns, Habitat for Humanity, Greenpeace, the International Motorcycle Shows and Healthy World Healthy Child and Air Pacific.

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, mail-order and internet sites, schools and libraries, and specialty markets. The versatile monterey video library encompasses unique feature films and documentaries with the Company having been awarded numerous Multi-Platinum RIAA and ITA sales Awards; prestigious Independent films starring such distinguished actors as Susan Sarandon, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Shirley Knight, Tom Skerritt, Thandie Newton, John Ritter, Tommy Lee Jones, William Hurt, Forest Whitaker, David Strathairn, Brian Dennehy, Robin Williams, Danny Glover, among many others; celebrated sports programming including Bruce Brown Films' *On Any Sunday* and *The Endless Summer*; 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; and note-worthy children's programming. In addition, monterey has the honor of being the first video market licensee of the American Film Institute.

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