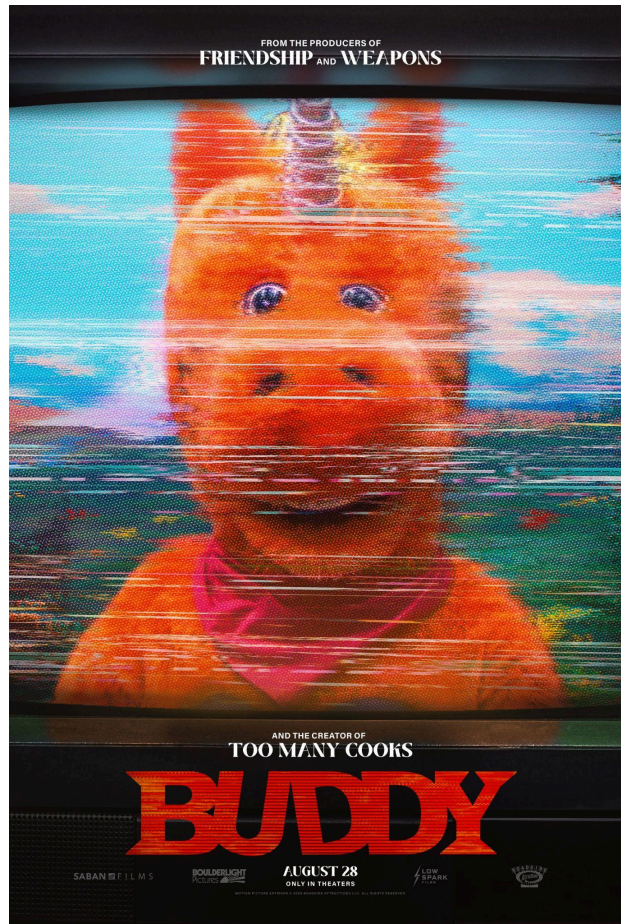




Directed and Written by: Casper Kelly

Produced by: Tyler Davidson, Drew Sykes, Raphael Margules, J.D. Lifshitz, Tracy Rosenblum

Cast: Cristin Milioti, Delaney Quinn, Patton Oswalt, Michael Shannon, with Topher Grace and Keegan-Michael Key

U.S. Release Date: August 28, 2026

Rating: R

Running Time: 95 mins.

Hashtag: #ItsBuddy

Genre: Horror

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For clips and stills, please click [HERE](#)

LOGLINE

Remember BUDDY—the bright orange unicorn and star of that classic children's television show who brought joy and life lessons into your living room?

Inside the colorful world of "It's Buddy!", a group of children spend their days singing, dancing, and helping Buddy spread happiness. But when one child refuses to play along, Buddy is not pleased and cracks begin to appear in this seemingly perfect world.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As a kid I remember watching children's shows and being jealous of the kids that "lived" in that world. It all seemed so happy and exciting. Never boring. A world where any problem was solved with the help of a loving mentor/mascot within a tidy 22 minutes.

But upon further reflection my (admittedly weird) kid self would sense something off. How did the kids know to follow the story? What if they didn't want to? Why don't they ever use bad words, or do certain things like normal kids? You would never hear a kid make a fart joke in one of these shows. Is this happy world actually a controlling one?

Going back to Grimm's Fairy Tales, there's an element of propaganda in children's entertainment and entertainment in general. Even well-meaning entertainment is telling us how we should think and feel, and setting the agenda of what we should think about. There's also a factor of things we loved as children, before we had critical faculties, being repurposed, rebooted, and re-released for our enjoyment. It's partly a way to help cut through the noisy media landscape but the effect in a way is also weaponizing our own nostalgia against us.

We went to these shows for entertainment, but also for comfort. This is even more relevant now as we live in a world of screens that we use to anesthetize us from the harshness of the real world. Parents worry about losing their kids to screens. Heck, I worry about losing myself to it. Being on your deathbed and realizing you lost a large chunk of your life to screens is its own horror movie.

I also thought about the purple dinosaur. Beloved, but also hated and mocked in our culture. My kids knew the mean parody songs from their school playground before they knew the show. Why was he hated so much, while Pee Wee Herman, another child show host, was so beloved? Is it because of his appearance - the pear-shaped body, the short arms, the high perky voice? Does he have that style bullies love to beat up in middle school? Is it because he's seemingly so perfect, so sincere, always knowing the right thing to say? Mr. Rogers is like that and yet he's enjoying a bit of a renaissance among Gen Z. What if this kid's show mascot felt this hatred from kids in the show? What if he internalized it? How would it make him feel and act? How would he cope with the pressure of having to seem perfect?

Many of us have been in situations where we realize the seemingly perfect caregiver/helper/authority figure we idolize may not have our best interests at heart, be it a parent, relative, health care system, boss, teacher, friend, or government. How hard it must be to slowly learn this thing you rely on to teach you and take care of you can't be trusted. It is as disorienting as a fish finding itself suddenly in poisoned water. Water is the only world it knows. How can it escape?

ABOUT THE CAST

CRISTIN MILIOTI | CAST

Emmy Award-winning actress and producer Cristin Milioti is one of the most versatile actors working today known for her dramatic, comedic, and musical work on stage, television, and in film. In Fall 2024, Milioti starred in Matt Reeves' HBO miniseries *The Penguin* opposite Colin Farrell. She received an Emmy Award and Critics Choice Awards for her performance as Sofia Falcone in addition to a Golden Globe, SAG, Gotham, and Independent Spirit Award nomination. Milioti received widespread critical acclaim for her role in the series, with her performance being called "the show's defining performance." The highly popular series is a spin-off from the popular DC film *The Batman* and explores the Penguin's rise to power in Gotham City's criminal underworld. *The Penguin* was released on September 19, 2024 on HBO with the season finale pulling 2.1 million viewers across all platforms. The series as a whole received 24 Primetime Emmy nominations including "Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series."

Milioti recently lent her voice to Netflix's animated film *In Your Dreams*, in which she starred opposite Simu Liu and Craig Robinson. The film was recently nominated for a 2026 Critics Choice Award and follows a girl and her brother as they magically travel into the world of dreams to find The Sandman. The film was first released in theatres on November 7, 2025, followed by its release on Netflix on November 14, 2025.

Milioti will next star opposite Topher Grace in director Casper Kelly's new horror film *Buddy*. The story follows a brave girl and her friends in their journey to escape a kids television show. The film is set to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival on January 22, 2026. She has also recently wrapped production on the pilot for FX's drama *Seven Sisters* opposite Elizabeth Olsen. The series follows a large, tight-knit family as they unravel as one sister begins to communicate with a mysterious voice, forcing the family to confront hidden secrets.

In Spring 2025, Milioti was seen in season 7 of Netflix's *Black Mirror*, appearing in the first ever sequel episode to her Emmy Award-winning episode from season 4, "USS Callister." Milioti reprised her role of Nanette Cole along with Jimmi Simpson and Billy Magnussen. The season was released on April 10, 2025 and received 10 Emmy nominations.

In Summer 2022, Milioti starred in Peacock's anthology series *The Resort*. She starred opposite William Jackson Harper as half of a married couple on vacation at a holiday resort for their 10th anniversary, where they are drawn into a mystery that took place fifteen years before. The series was released on Peacock on July 28, 2022.

From 2021-2022, Milioti starred as the lead in the HBO Max hit series, *Made for Love* based on the 2017 novel of the same name by Alissa Nutting. She starred opposite Billy Magnussen and Ray Romano. The series was first released on April 2, 2021 followed by season two's release on April 28, 2022.

In 2020, she starred in Max Barbakow's feature *Palm Springs* opposite Andy Samberg. The film broke the record for the biggest sale in the history of Sundance with its sale to Hulu and Neon. It won a Film Independent Spirit Award and was nominated for numerous other accolades, including two Golden Globes and a Sundance Grand Jury Prize.

In 2012, Milioti won a Grammy Award and was nominated for a Tony Award for her work on the smash hit musical *Once*. Additional credits include season two of FX's Golden Globe-winning drama "Fargo," the CBS All Access series *No Activity*, the Amazon series *Modern Love*, Martin Scorsese's *The Wolf of Wall Street*; and CBS's hit comedy *How I Met Your Mother*.

DELANEY QUINN | CAST

Delaney Quinn made waves with memorable performances in Jay Roach's *The Roses* alongside Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch and starred opposite Rose Byrne in Mary Bronstein's *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You* for A24, which made impressive rounds in the festival circuit. Next, she will further demonstrate her versatility in her leading role in Casper Kelly's horror film *Buddy*.

Other notable credits include Apple Original Films' *The Beanie Bubble*, *Law & Order*, Pete Davidson's *Bupkis*, as well as recurring roles on *Power Book III: Rising Kanan* and *New Amsterdam*. [@DelaneyQuinn](#)

TOPHER GRACE | CAST

Topher Grace can be most recently seen in Kevin Williamson's newly released show *THE WATERFRONT* for Netflix. He recently finished shooting on A24's Chris Rock directed feature *MISTY GREEN* opposite Chris Rock, Adam Driver, Daniel Kaluuya, Anna Kendrick, and Rosalind Wiseman.

Topher will soon be seen in a pivotal role in John Patton Ford's A24 film *How to Make a Killing* alongside Glen Powell. He can also be seen starring in the recently released *Flight Risk* for Lionsgate, opposite Mark Wahlberg and Michelle Dockery, directed by Mel Gibson.

Additionally, Topher can be recently seen in Scott Beck & Bryan Woods' *Heretic*, where he co-starred opposite Hugh Grant, for A24. Topher was last seen in ABC's *Home Economics*, which he executive produced. He has also starred in the Focus feature *Irresistible* opposite Steve Carrell for director by Jon Stewart. On the small screen, he starred in *Black Mirror: Smithereens* for Netflix, the first episode of season 5 of the series. Prior to that, Grace was seen opposite Brad Pitt in the Netflix feature, *War Machine* for director David Michod, and in the Spike Lee film, *Blackkklansmen*, where he played white supremacist David Duke. Other recent feature credits include *Under the Silver Lake* where he co-starred opposite Andrew Garfield, *Truth* in which he starred opposite Cate Blanchett and Robert Redford, and in the Lionsgate film *American Ultra* opposite Jesse Eisenberg and Kristen Stewart.

Other notable feature credits include Chris Nolan's *Interstellar*, *P.S.* opposite Laura Linney, and the Weitz Bros' *In Good Company*. He played the infamous 'Venom' in *Spider Man 3*. Grace also co-starred in both *Ocean's Eleven* and *Twelve* as well as *Traffic* for Steven Soderbergh. He made his debut in 8 seasons of *That '70s Show* for Fox.

KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY | CAST

Emmy, Peabody, and Webby Award-winning actor, writer, and producer Keegan-Michael Key is known for his extraordinarily diverse skill set and wide-ranging talent in both comedy and drama. Key redefines what it means to be a multi-hyphenate in the worlds of film, television, and theater.

Key is currently in production on 20th Century Studios' sequel to the cult classic *Romy & Michele's High School Reunion*, which is expected to premiere in 2027. He stars alongside returning cast members Lisa Kudrow, Mira Sorvino, Janeane Garofalo, Alan Cumming, Camryn Manheim, and Julia Campbell. Directed by Tim Federle, the film will stream as a Hulu Original in the U.S. and on Disney+ internationally.

Earlier this year, Key reprised his role as Toad in Illumination, Nintendo, and Universal's *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie*, the sequel to the global hit *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*. The sequel became the first movie of 2026 to cross \$1 billion at the global box office. In recent years, Key has starred in several high-profile projects including *Wonka* opposite Timothée Chalamet, *Dolemite Is My Name*, and Apple TV+'s award-winning musical comedy series *Schmigadoon!* Last year, Key could be seen in Amazon MGM Studios' crime thriller film *Play Dirty*, with Mark Wahlberg, and starring on the fifth season of *Only Murders in the Building*.

Additional television credits include a guest role in the hit sitcom *Abbott Elementary*, the Netflix comedy series *The Pentaverse*, Netflix's *Friends From College*, Judd Apatow's *The Bubble*, and Steve Levitan/Hulu's

Critics Choice-nominated series *Reboot*, for which he also received an individual “Best Actor in a Comedy Series” nomination. He also lent his voice to a number of animated projects including *Transformers One*, *Migration*, *Toy Story 4*, *The Lion King*, Henry Selick’s Critics Choice-nominated film *Wendell & Wild*, Disney+’s *Chip ‘N Dale: Rescue Rangers*, Disney+’s *Pinocchio*, and Amazon Prime’s *Hotel Transylvania 4: Transformania*.

Beyond film and television roles, Key hosted the *NFL Honors* in 2022 and 2024 to much acclaim. He also hosted and executive produced both CBS’ *Game On!* and National Geographic’s *Brain Games*. Additionally, he narrated the award winning Audible podcast *The History of Sketch Comedy*.

Key came to worldwide attention as co-creator and co-star, alongside Jordan Peele, of Comedy Central’s groundbreaking sketch series *Key & Peele*, which won the 2016 Emmy Award for Outstanding Variety Sketch Series. Key also earned nine Emmy nominations for acting and writing on the series.

MICHAEL SHANNON | CAST

Academy Award®, Golden Globe®, Emmy®, and Tony Award® nominated actor Michael Shannon continues to make his mark in entertainment, working with the industry’s most respected talent and treading the boards in notable theaters around the world.

Shannon was most recently seen in James Vanderbilt’s *Nuremberg* opposite Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. The historical drama tells the story of American psychiatrist Douglas Kelley (Malek), who is tasked with determining whether Nazi prisoners are fit to stand trial for their war crimes and finds himself in a complex battle of wits with Hermann Göring (Crowe), Hitler’s right-hand man. Shannon plays Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson, the chief prosecutor and leader of the Nuremberg trials. Shannon also starred opposite Matthew Macfadyen in Netflix’s *Death by Lighting* series. The drama tells the true history of President James Garfield (Shannon) and his greatest admirer Charles Guiteau (Macfadyen), the man who would come to kill him. For this performance, Shannon received a Critics Choice Award nomination in the category of Best Actor in a Limited Series or Movie Made for Television, while the series itself was honored with a 2026 AFI Award for TV Program of the Year.

Shannon has wrapped lensing Jonathan Levine’s *Mr. Irrelevant* alongside David Corenswet. The film is based on a true story following former player John Tuggle (Corenswet) who was given the title “Mr. Irrelevant” after being the last pick of the last round of the 1983 NFL Draft for the New York Giants. Bill Parcells (Shannon) was the Hall of Fame coach for the Giants at this time and is considered one of the greatest coaches of his era, winning two Super Bowls with the Giants, but also played a large part in the team taking a chance on Tuggle.

Shannon will next begin lensing Jeff Nichols’ *King Snake* opposite Margaret Qualley and Drew Starkey. This serves as Shannon’s eighth collaborative re-team with Nichols. Their previous work together *The Bikeriders*; *Hank the Cowdog*; *Loving*; *Midnight Special*; *Take Shelter*, for which Shannon received a 2011 Film Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Actor; as well as the films *Mud* and *Shotgun Stories*. Shannon will also be seen in Abe Sylvia’s *Dinner with Audrey* opposite Ansel Elgort and Thomasin McKenzie. The film highlights the true story of the 40-year friendship between Audrey Hepburn (McKenzie) and designer Count Hubert de Givenchy (Elgort). Shannon is also attached to star in Václav Marhoul’s *McCarthy*, opposite Emilia Clarke, Dane DeHaan and Scoot McNairy. The biopic is centered around the life of controversial U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy (Shannon), portrayed as the man behind anti-communist doctrine McCarthyism, depicting what drove a lawyer and decorated former U.S. Marine down an unprecedented path of demagoguery, show-trials and venomous populism.

Last year, Shannon’s *Eric LaRue* marked his directorial debut which was released with Magnolia Pictures. The film, which received rave reviews during its premiere at the 2023 Tribeca Film Festival, stars Judy Greer, Paul Sparks, Alison Pill, Tracy Letts, Annie Parisse, Kate Arrington and Alexander Skarsgård. It is based on the Brett Neveu play of the same name that debuted at A Red Orchid Theatre in Chicago in

2002; Neveu also adapted the script. The film follows 'Janice,' (Greer) the mother of a 17-year-old boy, 'Eric,' who shot and killed three of his classmates. As the days move toward a meeting of the mothers affected by her son's violence, Janice struggles for insight through exchanges with her husband (Skarsgård), pastor (Sparks) and coworkers. Deadline Critic Pete Hammond hailed the film as "a very promising directorial debut by Shannon whose own stellar acting chops seems to have helped him bring out sensational

performances all around..." Shannon was awarded the Breakthrough Director Award at the 2023 Denver International Film Festival for his work on the film.

Most notably, Shannon garnered critical acclaim for his Academy Award® nominated supporting role in Sam Mendes' *Revolutionary Road*, playing 'John Givings,' the psychologically troubled neighbor's son opposite Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet and Kathy Bates. He went on to be nominated for a Golden Globe®, Screen Actors Guild®, Critics Choice®, Gotham Award® and Film Independent Spirit Award for his role in Ramin Bahrani's timely drama *99 Homes*, co-starring opposite Andrew Garfield. Set against the backdrop of the economic crisis, Shannon portrayed 'Rick Carver,' a charismatic and ruthless real estate tycoon gaming the market and home banking system. Additional accolades include an Academy Award® and Critics Choice® nomination in Tom Ford's *Nocturnal Animals*, opposite Jake Gyllenhaal, Amy Adams and Aaron Taylor Johnson; as well as Guillermo del Toro's critically acclaimed drama, *The Shape of Water*, alongside Sally Hawkins, Richard Jenkins, Michael Stuhlbarg and Octavia Spencer which won the 2018 Academy Award® for Best Picture.

With nearly one hundred roles in film, Shannon's credits include Joshua Oppenheimer's *The End*; Andrés Muschietti's *The Flash*; Michael Maren's *A Little White Lie*; David O. Russell's *Amsterdam*; David Leitch's action thriller *Bullet Train*; Spencer Squire's thriller, *Abandoned*; Jennifer Reeder's *Night's Out*; Michael Mailer's *Heart of a Champion*; Seth Savoy's *Echo Boomers*; Scott Teems' *The Quarry*; Rian Johnson's *Knives Out*; Alfonso Gomez-Rejon's *The Current War*; Meredith Danluck's *State Like Sleep*; Elizabeth Chomko's, *What They Had*; Nicolai Fuglsig's *12 Strong*; Werner Herzog's *Salt and Fire*; Bart Freundlich's *Wolves*; Matthew M. Ross' *Frank & Lola*; Joshua Marston's *Complete Unknown*; Liza Johnson's *Elvis & Nixon*; Jonathan Levine's *The Night Before*; Peter Sollett's *Freeheld*; John McNaughton's *The Harvest*; Jake Paltrow's *The Young Ones*; Zack Snyder's *Man of Steel*; Ariel Vromen's *The Iceman*; David Koepp's *Premium Rush*; Liza Johnson's *Return*; Marc Forster's *Machine Gun Preacher*; Floria Sigismondi's *The Runaways*; Werner Herzog's *My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done* and *Bad Lieutenant*; Sydney Lumet's *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead*; Oliver Stone's *World Trade Center*; William Friedkin's *Bug*; Curtis Hanson's *Lucky You*; Michael Bay's *Bad Boys II*; Curtis Hanson's *8 Mile*; David McNally's *Kangaroo Jack*; Cameron Crowe's *Vanilla Sky*; Michael Bay's *Pearl Harbor*; John Waters' *Cecil B. DeMented*; Noah Buschel's *The Missing Person* and Shana Feste's *The Greatest*.

His television credits include Showtime's limited series, *George & Tammy* for which he was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award in the category of Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie; John Erick Dowdle's Showtime series *Waco: The Aftermath*; Hulu's drama series, *Nine Perfect Strangers*; Chan-wook Park's AMC mini-series, *The Little Drummer Girl*; Jay and Mark Duplass' HBO anthology series *Room 104*; Ramin Bahrani's HBO film *Fahrenheit 451*; as well as Martin Scorsese's HBO series, *Boardwalk Empire*.

Outside of his roles on screen, Shannon maintains a strong connection to theater. This past summer, he starred in Eugene O'Neill's *A Moon for the Misbegotten* opposite Ruth Wilson at the Almeida Theater in London. In 2018, he directed the world premiere of *Traitor*, Brett Neveu's adaption of Henrik Ibsen's *Enemy of the People*, for which he won a Jeff Award in the category of Best Director in a Midsize Play. He was also seen on stage starring in Terrence McNally's final production, the Broadway revival of *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, which was nominated for a Tony® nomination in the category for Best Revival of a Play. Also on Broadway, Shannon co-starred alongside Jessica Lange, Gabriel Byrne, and John Gallagher Jr. in Jonathan Kent's *Long Day's Journey into Night* for the Roundabout Theater Company. The revival of Eugene O'Neill's drama led Shannon to a 2016 Tony® nomination for 'Supporting Actor' as well

as 2016 Drama Desk Award for 'Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play.' Additional Broadway credits include *Grace* (Cort Theatre) for which he was nominated for a 2013 Distinguished Performance Drama League Award.

Additional theater credits include *Waiting for Godot* (Theatre for a New Audience); *Des Moines* (Theatre for a New Audience); *Turret* (A Red Orchid Theatre); *Simpatico* (McCarter Theatre Center); *Uncle Vanya* (Soho Rep Theatre); *Mistakes Were Made* (Barrow Street Theater and A Red Orchid Theatre) for which he earned an Outstanding Lead Actor Lortel Award nomination, Outstanding Actor in a Play Drama Desk Award nomination, Outstanding Solo Performance Outer Critics Award nomination, and a Distinguished Performance Drama League Award nomination; *Our Town* (Barrow Street Theater); *Lady* (Rattlestick Theatre); *The Metal Children* (Vineyard Theatre); *The Little Flower of East Orange* (Public Theatre); *The Pillowman* (Steppenwolf Theatre); *Bug* (Barrow Street Theatre, Red Orchid Theatre and Gate Theatre); *Man From Nebraska* (Steppenwolf Theatre); *Killer Joe* (SoHo Playhouse, Next Lab Theatre and Vaudeville Theatre); *The Idiot* (Lookingglass Theatre); and *Woyzeck* (Gate Theatre). Shannon is a founder of A Red Orchid Theater in Chicago and was also seen in productions on that stage inclusive of *Victims of Duty*; *Pilgrim's Progress*; *Mr. Kolpert*; and *The Killer*. He also was a Co Producer on Brett Neveu's *Revolution* at The Flea Theatre.

Michael Shannon grew up in Lexington, Kentucky and began his professional stage career in Chicago, Illinois.

PATTON OSWALT | CAST

Patton Oswalt continues to leave his distinctive imprint across all areas of entertainment, from his award-winning comedy specials to his many roles in film and television. Recently, he co-starred in *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* and in the Apple TV+ series *Manhunt*, about the search for John Wilkes Booth in the aftermath of Abraham Lincoln's assassination.

In 2022, Oswalt starred in the Magnolia Pictures comedy *I Love My Dad*, winner of the Grand Jury and Audience awards at SXSW Film Festival. He's received acclaim for several of his film roles including a Critics Choice Award nomination for his performance in Jason Reitman's film *Young Adult*, starring opposite Charlize Theron. "In a poignant, career-redefining performance by comedian Patton Oswalt..." noted *Variety's* Peter Debruge. In 2009, he received attention for Robert Siegel's *Big Fan*; the film was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award and Oswalt earned a Gotham Award nomination for his performance. According to *Rolling Stone's* Peter Travers "Patton Oswalt triumphantly nails every comic and dramatic nuance as Paul Aufiero."

Oswalt has appeared in many films, including *The Circle*, alongside Tom Hanks, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* and *Zoolander*, both directed by Ben Stiller, Steven Soderbergh's *The Informant* with Matt Damon, and alongside Seth Rogen in Jody Hill's *Observe and Report*, as well as Paul Thomas Anderson's *Magnolia*, and Todd Phillips' *Starsky and Hutch*.

Oswalt's past television work includes memorable roles on *Parks and Recreation*, which brought him a TV Critics Choice Award, *A.P. Bio*, *Veep*, *United States of Tara*, *Seinfeld* (his TV acting debut), and many more. He is also very well known for playing 'Spence' on *The King of Queens* for nine seasons.

Oswalt's most recent comedy special *We All Scream* (which also marked his directorial debut) launched on Netflix in 2022 and he was nominated for a Grammy for his comedy album of the same name. In 2020, Oswalt's Emmy nominated Netflix special *I Love Everything* was widely applauded upon release, and he received a Grammy nomination for his comedy album. In 2017, he received Grammy and Emmy nominations for his album and Netflix special *Annihilation*, which addresses his own devastating loss and dealing with the unexplainable, while making it all painfully funny. In 2016, he won the Emmy for 'Outstanding Writing for a Variety Special' for his sixth comedy special *Talking for Clapping* and a Grammy Award in 2017 for his comedy album. He has been nominated for a total of six Grammys and four Emmys. Oswalt has shot eight TV specials and released seven critically acclaimed albums -- in 2009,

Patton received his first Grammy nomination for his album *My Weakness Is Strong*.

Oswalt was also the narrator on ABC's hit comedy *The Goldbergs*. He provided the voice for 'Remy' the rat in Pixar's Oscar® winner *Ratatouille*, and his other voice credits include 'Max' in *The Secret Life of Pets 2*, *Sorry To Bother You*, the SYFY series *Happy!*, *Rick and Morty*, *Archer*, and *BoJack Horseman*.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

CASPER KELLY | DIRECTOR & WRITER

Casper Kelly is a writer/director best known for the viral short *Too Many Cooks*, the Emmy-nominated tv show *Your Pretty Face is Going to Hell*, *V/H/S Halloween*, the horror movie *Adult Swim Yule Log* (which the NY Times called "outrageous in all the best ways") and the sequel *Adult Swim Yule Log 2: Branchin' Out*, the Cheddar Goblin sequence from the Nick Cage movie *Mandy*, *Archer*, *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*, his collection of short stories *More Stories about Spaceships and Cancer*, and his most recent film, *Buddy*.

JAMIE KING | CO-WRITER

Jamie King is an Emmy-nominated writer of film and television. His feature credits include *WORLD'S BEST* with Utkarsh Ambudkar, an original hip-hop musical for Disney, which was nominated for Best Fiction Special at the 2024 Children's and Family Emmy Awards. On the TV side, Jamie contributed to all three seasons of *MARVEL'S JESSICA JONES*, including the Peabody-winning episode "Smile," as well as the sci-fi drama *IMPULSE* for YouTube Premium. His coming-of-age horror pilot *CASTLE ROCK* won Best Teleplay at the 2016 Slamdance Film Festival. He has also written for video games, including *MARVEL'S AVENGERS* by Square Enix. He is represented by Jonathan Martin of Gersh, and attorney Ryan Nord.

TYLER DAVIDSON | PRODUCER

Tyler Davidson is an award-winning independent film producer and the president of Low Spark Films, a Cleveland, Ohio and Los Angeles based production and finance company. Davidson has produced eight Sundance Film Festival hits, including Independent Spirit-winning and Gotham Award-nominated *Emily the Criminal*, written and directed by John Patton Ford, and starring Aubrey Plaza; and *Take Shelter*, winner of the Cannes Film Festival Critics' Week Grand Prix, written and directed by Jeff Nichols, and starring Michael Shannon and Jessica Chastain. Other producing credits include: *Galveston*, *The Kings of Summer*, *Cryptozoo*, *The Land*, *The Signal*, *Compliance*, *My Blind Brother*, and *Citizen Sleuth*. Davidson is a founding board member of the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival, and a longstanding member of the Producers Guild.

RAPHAEL MARGULES | PRODUCER

Raphael Margules, alongside his partner J.D. Lifshitz, is one of the cofounders of BoulderLight Pictures whose films include *Barbarian*, *The Vigil*, *Becky*, Anna Kendrick's Netflix thriller *Woman of the Hour* and Andrew DeYoung's A24 comedy *Friendship*. As of 2023, BoulderLight Pictures entered a first-look deal with New Line Cinema where they produced Drew Hancock's sci-fi thriller *Companion* and Zach Cregger's horror epic, *Weapons*. Beginning 2026, J.D. and Raphael will spearhead a new label for Paramount Pictures specializing in 'premium pulp' genre movies. They are represented by Range Media Partners.

ZACH KUPERSTEIN | DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Zach Kuperstein is a New York-based cinematographer known for his work on “Barbarian,” topping the American box office for several weeks and leaving an indelible mark on the horror genre. He was listed among Variety’s Artisan Elites, when he burst onto the field with the southern gothic film, “The Eyes of My Mother,” premiering at the Sundance Film Festival in 2016. His work earned him nominations at the Independent Spirit Awards and the Camerimage International Film Festival. Since then he’s lensed many more features including “The Climb,” winning the jury’s heart award at 2019’s Cannes Film Festival followed by screenings at Telluride and Sundance, then together with “The Vigil,” at the Toronto International Film Festival and the would-be 2020 SXSW Film Festival. His collaboration with Anna Kendrick on her critically acclaimed directorial debut, “Woman of the Hour,” premiered at TIFF with rave reviews in 2023 and was released by Netflix, alongside another of Kuperstein’s recent works, the Sam Raimi-produced action thriller “Don’t Move.” Both films, taking the top spots on Netflix for a number of weeks. Adding several other features and a slew of short films getting festival play around the world, including the 2021 Academy Award Shortlisted “No Longer Suitable for Use,” Kuperstein has earned global recognition for creating compelling narratives and is always ready to lift a good story off the page and onto the screen.

JOSH ETHIER | EDITOR

Originally from Rhode Island, Josh Ethier, ACE is a renowned Los Angeles-based film editor who has left a lasting mark on the horror, thriller, and action genres; he literally wears his passion for the genres on his sleeve. His works have premiered at esteemed film festivals such as the Toronto International Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival, SXSW, Tribeca Film Festival, Beyond Fest and Fantastic Fest. Most recently, Ethier edited the hit Warner Bros. film ‘Companion’ – starring Sophie Thatcher, Jack Quaid, and Harvey Guillén – as well as Netflix’s horror feature ‘Don’t Move’ – produced by Sam Raimi and starring Kelsey Asbille and Finn Wittrock.

Ethier is most well known for his frequent collaborations with director Joe Begos, with whom he has crafted a unique, LOUD, and impactful cinematic style. Their partnership has resulted in several acclaimed films, including ‘Bliss’ – a psychedelic horror film that explores the descent of an artist into madness; ‘VFW’ – a gritty, action-packed thriller about war veterans defending their local VFW post from a drug-addled gang; ‘Christmas Bloody Christmas’ – a festive yet terrifying holiday horror film that’s streaming on Shudder, and most recently ‘Jimmy & Stiggs’ – a neon-drenched alien invasion film presented by horror legend Eli Roth. These collaborations have resonated with audiences and critics alike, showcasing Ethier’s ability to enhance Begos’ visionary storytelling through his editing.

Ethier’s impressive filmography includes notable titles such as Oz Perkins’ ‘Gretel & Hansel’ for Orion Pictures and MGM, a dark reimagining of the classic fairy tale; William Brent Bell’s ‘Orphan: First Kill,’ the prequel to the cult horror favorite for Paramount Pictures; Henry Dunham’s ‘The Standoff at Sparrow Creek,’ a tense, dialogue-driven thriller about a mass shooting at a police funeral; and ‘Mayhem,’ a high-octane action horror film starring Steven Yeun that highlights his versatility as an editor of action and comedy.

In 2021, Ethier’s contributions to film editing were formally recognized when he was invited to join American Cinema Editors (ACE), an honor that signifies his standing in the industry amongst his peers. His career is marked by a commitment to excellence and a passion for storytelling, making

him one of the most respected and sought-after editors in independent genre cinema.

SHAWNA-NOVA FOLEY | COSTUME DESIGNER

Shawna-Nova Foley is a costume designer and visual artist whose work explores the intersection of fine art practice and cinematic storytelling. With over two decades of experience, she designs costumes as living elements of the story—where color, texture, and material quietly shape character and mood.

Trained as an internationally exhibited visual artist, Foley holds a BFA cum laude in Photography and a BA in Art History. Her design process draws from painting, sculpture, historical textiles, and the emotional language of materials. For her, costumes do not simply clothe a character; they communicate who someone is before a word is spoken. Her feature film work spans psychological thriller (*Hostage*), horror (*Shelby Oaks*), and character-driven drama, including the critically acclaimed *Swan Song* starring Udo Kier and Jennifer Coolidge. Her latest project, *Buddy*, a nostalgic fever dream starring Cristin Milioti, premieres at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival. Across genres, she treats color and texture as narrative tools, believing they function as characters in their own right.

Whether aging garments for lived-in authenticity, dyeing fabric to capture the precise emotional note, or building custom pieces from scratch, Foley designs with clear intention: to help actors fully inhabit their roles while inviting audiences into worlds that feel textured, believable, and authentic. Her work is grounded in the belief that costumes are essential collaborators—not decoration, but active participants in the construction of character and emotional truth.

SHAWN COLEMAN | ORIGINAL SONGS

Shawn Coleman is a composer and producer who has contributed music to the Adult Swim series *Squidbillies*, *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*, and *Your Pretty Face Is Going To Hell*. He produced and performed the soundtrack to Casper Kelly's viral earworm *Too Many Cooks*.

ANNA KATHLEEN | PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Anna Kathleen is a Production Designer based in New York with over ten years' experience working across commercials, music videos, art, theatre, and narrative film. Her commercial clients include such brands as MAC, Chase Bank, Lincoln, Longines, Facebook, Audible, and Kate Spade. Her work designing immersive, bespoke sets for MasterClass has seen collaborations with Gloria Steinem, Madeleine Albright, Salmon Rushdie, Futura 2000, and NK Jemison, among others.

Anna's breakout feature was *Resurrection*, a psychological horror written and directed by Andrew Semans, starring Rebecca Hall and Tim Roth which premiered at Sundance in 2022, distributed by IFC. Aaron Shimberg's stylish and absurd *A Different Man* (A24 and Killer Films) premiered at Sundance in 2024 and would go on to garner the Silver Bear for Sebastian Stan's performance at the Berlin International Film Festival as well as winning a Golden Globe for Best Actor. *A Different Man* won the Gotham Award for Best Picture in 2024 and was nominated for an Academy Award for best Makeup effects for Mike Marino's work in Stan's transformation. In *On The End* (2025, directed by Ari Selinger), Anna's realist production design brought to life the home of a Montauk hoarder, played by Tim Blake Nelson opposite Mireille Enos and premiered at the Hamptons Film Festival in 2025. Her latest feature, the upcoming *Buddy*, will premiere at Sundance 2026 and features tactile fantasy world building inspired by the mind of Writer/Director Casper Kelly and produced by BoulderLight and LowSpark Films.

DEVON HAWKES LUDLOW | PUPPET DESIGNER, PUPPETEER

Devon Hawkes Ludlow is an Emmy-winning puppeteer and designer, and an award-winning director, writer, editor and composer. Working independently across film, television and live performance, he recently served as the lead builder, puppet designer, puppeteer, and a voice actor for the upcoming feature film *Buddy*. He is the driving force behind the independent film and theatre company the Human Beast Box.

Originally a dancer, Ludlow began studying puppetry in 2000, working with various troupes in the US, later studying with ensembles in Eastern Europe and Brazil. He was deeply involved in the early 2000s downtown NYC theatre scene, performing with 00's indie darling, the pirate puppet rock band Jollyship the Whizbang, and was co-organizer and founder of the New York City International Clown Theatre Festival, along the way working with amazing talents such as Julie Taymor (*Lion King, Across The Universe*) and John Cameron Mitchell (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*).

His first feature, the cult punk puppet musical 'The Love That Would Not Die' won multiple awards, and continues to tour in independent and outsider venues across the US. He has worked as production designer and puppeteer for a series of upcoming George R.R. Martin films as well as over 20 music videos and short films, most notably with folk/punk icon Carsie Blanton. Since 2009 Ludlow has been a guest artist, puppeteer, writer and performer with artistic sensation Meow Wolf. He is also an irregular guest on the *Tomorrow! Show* with Ron Lynch in LA. Ludlow won an Emmy in 2024 for his performance as the blue alien Alax on *The Early Show With Alax*.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANIES

BOULDERLIGHT PICTURES

JD Lifshitz and Raphael Margules are the cofounders of BoulderLight Pictures whose films include *Barbarian*, *The Vigil*, *Becky*, Anna Kendrick's Netflix thriller *Woman of the Hour* and Andrew DeYoung's A24 comedy *Friendship*. In 2023, BoulderLight Pictures entered a first-look deal with New Line Cinema where they produced Drew Hancock's sci-fi thriller *Companion* and Zach Cregger's horror epic, *Weapons*. Beginning 2026, JD and Raphael will spearhead a new label for Paramount Pictures specializing in 'premium pulp' genre movies. They are represented by Range Media Partners.

LOW SPARK FILMS

Tyler Davidson and Drew Sykes are the co-founder/president and senior vice president, respectively, of Low Spark Films, a Los Angeles and Cleveland, Ohio based company specializing in the development, production, and financing of feature films for the worldwide market. Credits include independent hits *Emily The Criminal*, *Take Shelter*, *The Kings of Summer*, *The Land*, *Galveston* and *Compliance*. Recognized for producing creator-driven, prestige films that resonate with mainstream audiences, Low Spark has premiered eight films at the Sundance Film Festival, launching some of the most vaunted emerging filmmakers working today.

SIPUR STUDIOS

SIPUR Studios is a global entertainment company focused on elevating premium film and television projects through strategic international partnerships. Its recent and upcoming slate includes Netflix drama sensation *Bad Boy*; the medical thriller series *Heart of a Killer*, featuring Niv Sultan; the global co production of the music-filled romantic comedy *Mírame Así – El Camino de Noa*, starring Noa Kirel and Agustín Bernasconi; and the Emmy Award-winning October 7 documentary feature *We Will Dance*

Again, directed by Yariv Mozer.

The slate also includes the Hagai Levi World War II series *Etty*, which premiered at the 2025 Venice Film and Television Festival, from executive producer Isabelle Adjani and producer Yael Fogiel, and sold by Studio TF1; the Cristin Milioti-starrer horror film *Buddy*; *Chasing Summer*, written by Iliza Shlesinger; Gus Van Sant's *Dead Man's Wire*, starring Al Pacino and Bill Skarsgård; and *Our Loves*, the latest feature from acclaimed filmmaker Avi Nesher.

CREDITS

Directed by
Casper Kelly

Written by
Casper Kelly
Jamie King

Produced by
Tyler Davidson
Drew Sykes

Produced by
Raphael Margules
JD Lifshitz
Tracy Rosenblum

Executive
Producers Kevin
Flanigan
Dexter Braff
Roberto Linck

Executive
Producers Emilio
Schenker
Gideon Tadmor
Nathan McCauley

Executive
Producers Adam J.
Wilde
Geoff Yaw
Ryan J. Kelly

Executive
Producers Casper
Kelly
Jamie King

Co-Producers
Katie Sanders
Kira Weiss

Director of Photography
Zach Kuperstein

Production
Designer Anna
Kathleen

Editor
Josh Ethier, ACE

Costume Designer
Shawna-Nova Foley

Puppet Design by
Devon Hawkes Ludlow

Music by
Michael Yezerski

Original Songs by
Shawn Coleman

Casting by
Chelsea Ellis Bloch, CSA
Marisol Roncali, CSA

Cristin Milioti

Delaney Quinn

Tristan Borders

Madison Skyy Polan

Caleb "CJ" Williams
Luke Speakman

Patton Oswalt as "Strappy"

featuring
Clint Howard as "George"
&
Michael Shannon as "Willie"

with
Topher Grace

and
Keegan-Michael Key as "Buddy"

a BoulderLight Pictures / Low Spark Films production

in association with

Sipur Studios and Substance
a film by Casper Kelly

LINE PRODUCER TYLER SMITH

CO-PRODUCER / UNIT PRODUCTION MANAGER GARY MARTYN

CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMIE BUCKNER
ALYSON WINICK

POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR ALEXEI KRASSOVSKY

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TRAVIS LASALLE

SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HENRY BROWER

CAST
(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

FREDDY DELANEY QUINN

WADE CALEB "C.J." WILLIAMS

MAILMAN MILES BENNIE TAYLOR

MR. MAILBOX ERIC BAUZA

STRAPPY PATTON OSWALT

BUDDY (SUIT) SERGEY ZHURAVSKY

BUDDY KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY

JOSH LUKE SPEAKMAN

BETTY BUNNY (SUIT) CEDWAN HOOKS

BETTY BUNNY JIMMICA COLLINS

OLIVER TRISTAN BORDERS

WORRY WELL ERIC BAUZA

NURSE NANCY PHUONG KUBACKI

COUCHY ERIC BAUZA

TRASHY ERIC BAUZA

HANNAH MADISON SKYY POLAN

CHARLIE THE TRAIN DEVON HAWKES LUDLOW
GRACE CRISTIN MILIOTI

TIMOTHY SEAMUS FLYNN

DEREK BRYSON JONSTEELE

BEN TOPHER GRACE

THERAPIST MARK AARON BUERKLE

DR. DEBORAH BURR BROOKE BLOOM

PEE FLOWER ERIC BAUZA

SCARED FLOWER JIMMICA COLLINS

WILLIE MICHAEL SHANNON

GEORGE CLINT HOWARD

TYLER TORY JACQUI MALONE

MAILMAN JUSTIN CONNER STUMM

DARK BUDDY (SUIT) JONATHAN YURCO

DARK BUDDY KEEGAN-MICHAEL KEY

BENNY (SUIT) LYNETTE EKLUND

GRILLING MAN ERIC SALAZAR

LEAD PUPPETEER DEVON HAWKES LUDLOW

PUPPETEERS CEDWAN HOOKS

JIMMICA COLLINS

RACHEL APPELBAUM

LYNETTE EKLUND

MICHAEL SERWICH

STUNT COORDINATOR SCHUYLER WHITE

STUNT PERFORMERS KURT HARRIS

MOLLY MILLER

JONATHAN YURCO

JASON CEKANSKI

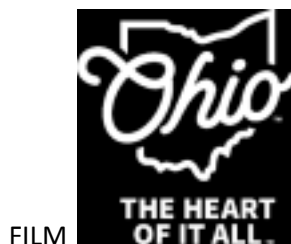
BRIAN SEARLE

CORRINA ROSHEA

NATASSIA WAKEY

CHOREOGRAPHER KELLEIGH MILLER

FILMED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF OHIO AND OHIO



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THOMAS
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ASSISTANT TO MR. KUPERSTEIN OLIVER SHEEHAN

STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS BASIL PINZONE
MEGAN HUTSON

VIDEO ASSIST EVAN PRUNTY

24-FRAME PLAYBACK HUNTER PRUNTY

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BOOM OPERATOR SCOTT OSOWSKI
2ND UNIT SOUND MIXER RASHAWN BARROW

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR MIRANDA POSEY

LEAD SUIT FABRICATOR LYNETTE EKLUND

SUIT FABRICATORS CEDWANHOOKS
TERRI HARDIN

LEAD PUPPET BUILDER CHRIS BROWN

PUPPET ASSISTANTS SUSIE UNDERWOOD
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SET DRESSER TOM LUHTALA

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TYLER GRANO

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SCENICS JACK GARDNER
VICTORIA S. PETROVIC

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SALLIE SCHNELLINGER

LEAD FABRICATOR THU TRAN

FABRICATORS ELIZA KARP
NOAH M. HRBEK

GREENS ALEX MOONEY
ZACK MOONEY

PROPERTY SUPERVISOR KELLEIGH MILLER
ASSISTANT PROPERTY SUPERVISOR LESLIE McGUIER

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SPECIAL EFFECTS TECHNICIAN JUSTIN SIMPSON

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COSTUMER CANDRA SQUIRE

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RANA MANCINI

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TAILOR CHEYENNE SMITH

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	ADDITIONAL MAKEUP ARTIST AMBER JOHNSON
	DEPARTMENT HEAD MAKEUP
	EFFECTS
	COREY CASTELLANO
MAKEUP EFFECTS DESIGNER /	

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STAND-INS ALYSSA HENDERSON

ZIONNA REDMAN

DOLLY RATCLIFF

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MATTHEW ENGLE

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GRAYCE SHUKER

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SLOANE BURKETT

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KYLE DEAN

GARY HILEMAN

CONOR BOUFFIOUX

MICAIAH SOPKOVICH

DANIEL SEMANIK

LOGAN JONES

TONY VORELL

JEFF GONZALES

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JERRY GONZALES

SCOTT MEURER

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DOLLY GRIP TIM FIGUEIRA

ADDITIONAL GRIP PHIL PALUMBO

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ADDITIONAL SET PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS GRACE FAVARRO
EVELYN ENGLE
GENO ORADINI

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GENERAL MANAGER JOSH LOWDEN

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ENGINEERED BY PAUL GHICA AND MICHAEL YEZERSKI

VIOLIN KATHERINE LUKEY

CELLO PAUL GHICA

HORN BEN JACKS

GUITAR OREN YAACOBY

CLARINETS MICHAEL YEZERSKI

ORIGINAL SONG LYRICS WRITTEN BY CASPER KELLY
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SUPERVISING MUSIC EDITOR BEN ZALES

MUSIC EDITOR NATE HILL

MUSIC SUPERVISOR ROB LOWRY

MUSIC COORDINATOR MIA RIGGINS

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JEEVANDHAMANGE

VFX PRODUCER SAI SAMPATH

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CLEANUP ARTISTS ASHA DEVI
DIPAK KUMBHAR
YOGESH TERADALE
SANKET GAT
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AKSHATA SUTAR
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VRUSHABH PATIL
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AVADHUT JADHAV
AKSHAY VIDHATE

ROTOARTISTS PRASAD POWAR
HEMANT RUGGE
ADITYA INGALE
PRUTHVIRAJ BEDAGE
SAHIL DHANAWADE
OMKAR POTDAR
PANKAJ POTALE
SAKSHI BHOSLE

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LINE PRODUCERS RAJASEKAR SAMUTHIRVEL
DEEPIKA RAJENDRAN

PAINT AND COMP ARTISTS AJITH KUMAR PERUMAL
KASI RAMALINGAM
MARIKANI
OORTHEVAN
VINOOTH KUMAR

ROTOARTISTS BHUVANESHWARI
MUTHURAM
MAHESWARAN
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BHUVANESH
KOWSIK
SELVA SARAVANAN

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MANSI JAGDALE

FIRE VFX BY KILL JOSH PETRINO

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SCOTT MASSEY
ROB ROSS
MILO GARON

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ADR MIXER JARED SEIDMAN

ADR FACILITY PRODUCER EMILY GILMER

ADR RECORDED AT IGLOO MUSIC

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STUDIO AWESOME, ABQ POST

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JOSH REINHARDT, MICHAEL McDADE

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HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT LOUIS WINTERS

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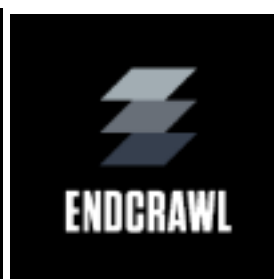
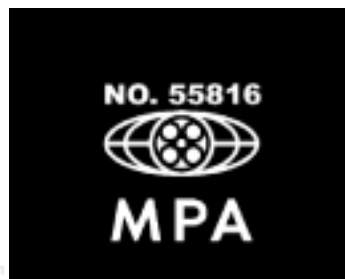
"THE WRONG PLACE IN TOWN"
WRITTENBY LEHMANLYNNNDENISON

PERFORMED BY TINY LYNN
COURTESY OF NORMAN PETTY STUDIOS
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MUTINY RECORDINGS

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FABIO SIMPLICIO ■ ALLAN MARKS ■ DREW STELZER ■ BRENNAN IGOE ■ PATRICK AND WYATT DAVIDSON ■ OLIVIA MITNICK
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Country of Origin:

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