



FINN'S GIRL



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Presents

FINN'S GIRL

A FILM BY DOMINIQUE CARDONA / LAURIE COLBERT

(88 mins, Canada, 2007)

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SYNOPSIS

Dr. Finn Jefferies is a thoroughly modern lesbian—far too feisty and happy to ever bother hiding her sexuality. Her family is pure 21st century: two mothers, two careers and a kid. Nothing had ever rocked Finn's passionate, committed life until the untimely death of her beloved long-term partner, Nancy. In shock, Finn can barely cope. As she flounders in her grief, she takes risks that jeopardize her relationship with the only person she really loves—their daughter, eleven-year-old Zelly Bean.

Finn is clearly not comfortable in her new role on the domestic front. She loves Zelly deeply, but her demanding career has put her wildly out of touch with her maternal instincts. Consumed by her work and by a rebound fling with a much younger woman, Finn is oblivious to Zelly's latest attention-seeking antics—shoplifting, smoking dope and skipping school.

As Zelly acts out, Finn also faces losing her medical career. A brilliant gynecologist, she heads up a research laboratory that develops new fertility drugs for major pharmaceutical companies. When her most recent clinical trial reveals troubling health risks for female participants, Finn chooses to walk away from the trials, rather than endangering lives. Paul Jimenez, one of Finn's colleagues and also Zelly's father, takes over Finn's lab and continues the testing. Paul not only dismisses Finn's complaints as overly cautious, he criticizes how Finn is handling Zelly and threatens to take custody of his daughter. In retaliation, Finn brings their personal and professional relationship to a showdown, with the stunning revelation that Paul is not really Zelly's biological father. After walking away from her lab, Finn takes over Nancy's medical practice at a downtown abortion clinic. When constant threats from anti-abortionists escalate to a sniper attack on Finn, uncompromising police officer Diana Peris is assigned to protect Finn and the clinic. Intrigued by Finn and protective of Zelly, Diana devotes overtime to her task. For the first time since Nancy's death, Finn feels drawn to someone she might be able to lean on and maybe even love. Yet, Finn's kamikaze lifestyle and careless parenting too often put her and Diana at odds. Luckily for Finn, Zelly—in need of protection—and Diana—ever protective—forge an instant connection.

Finn's emotional and professional struggles are continually underscored by the amusing misadventures of Zelly and her best friends Eve and Max. As the trio of kids grapple with their emerging sexualities, Zelly finally discovers the astonishing identity of her true biological parents.

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CO-DIRECTOR & PRODUCER, DOMINIQUE CARDONA

Dominique Cardona was born in Algeria and raised in France. She immigrated to Canada in 1990. She has collaborated on four films with Laurie Colbert: **Below the Belt** (99), a 35mm short drama, premiered at Berlin International Film Festival (Panorama) and went on to screen at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film was nominated for a Genie Award and won Audience Awards for Best Short at Inside/Out Lesbian & Gay Film and Video Festival in Toronto and the Seattle Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. **My Feminism** (97), a one hour, 16mm documentary, premiered at Montreal World Film Festival and won awards for Best Female Canadian Directors at Images Festival in Toronto; and Best Feature Documentary, Reel Affirmations, Washington DC's International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. **Thank God I'm a Lesbian** (92), a one hour, 16mm documentary, premiered at Toronto International Film Festival and won Audience Awards at Créteil International Women's Film Festival, France, and the Torino Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, Italy. Both documentaries are used in Women's Studies curriculum in hundreds of universities and colleges around the world. Dominique has also directed many documentaries for television, including **La Charia au Canada** which was nominated for a Gemeaux for Best Documentary series, as well as the one hour drama, **Les Champs de Boue**, for SRC starring Tony Nardi. **Finn's Girl** is her first feature.

CO-DIRECTOR, WRITER & PRODUCER, LAURIE COLBERT

Laurie Colbert, born and raised in Toronto, was one of ten filmmakers from across Canada selected to be a resident at the Canadian Film Centre in 1996. She and Dominique Cardona have collaborated on four films together: **Below the Belt** (99), a 35mm short drama, premiered at Berlin International Film Festival (Panorama) and went on to screen at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film was nominated for a Genie Award and won Audience Awards for Best Short at Inside/Out Lesbian & Gay Film and Video Festival in Toronto and the Seattle Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. **My Feminism** (97), a one hour, 16mm documentary, premiered at Montreal World Film Festival and won awards for Best Female Canadian Directors at Images Festival in Toronto; and Best Feature Documentary, Reel Affirmations, Washington DC's International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. **Thank God I'm a Lesbian** (92), a one hour, 16mm documentary, premiered at Toronto International Film Festival and won Audience Awards at Créteil International Women's Film Festival, France, and the Torino Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, Italy. Both documentaries are used in Women's Studies curriculum in hundreds of universities and colleges around the world. **Finn's Girl** is her first feature.

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PRODUCER, CAROLYNNE BELL

Carolynne was born and raised in Toronto. She has 15 years of Production experience in Feature Film, MOW, documentary and TV series work. She produced the feature film **Citizen Duane** which opened at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2006, **Waking Up Wally: The Walter Gretzky Story** for CBC, **Deeply** which opened at The Toronto International Film Festival, **A Spy's Life: Kitty Harris**, **Drop Dead Roses**, **America Whiskey Bar** and **Curtis's Charm**.

CO-PRODUCER, PAUL LEE

Paul Lee was born in Hong Kong in 1963, and moved to Toronto with his family in 1976. In 1994 he made his first short film **Thick Lips Thin Lips**, which has won 9 awards, and was screened at over 100 film festivals world-wide after its premiere at the Berlin Film Festival. In 1995 he made his second film **These Shoes Weren't Made For Walking**, which has won 6 awards, and was screened at over 50 film festivals after its premiere at the Sydney Film Festival (and the film is used in the Women's Studies curriculum in more than 30 universities and colleges across Canada, the U.S., Polynesia and the Caribbean). In 1999 he made his third film **The Offering**, which has won 58 awards to date, and was screened at over 430 film festivals world-wide after its premiere at the Berlin Film Festival.

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY, PATRICK MCGOWAN

In 2004, Patrick shot his first low-budget feature, Cassandra Nicolaou's **Show Me**, followed in 2005 by Adam Massey's **A Lobster Tale**. **Finn's Girl** is Patrick's third feature. Patrick is based in both Los Angeles and Toronto.

EDITOR, GINO ZOLEZZI

Gino was born and raised in Lima, Peru. After receiving his a B.A. in Radio and Media from the Northridge, California State University, Gino edited 120 episodes of daily telenovela in Peru (6 months of one-hour prime-time). He immigrated to Canada in 1994, and has edited many hours of television in English, French and Spanish. **Finn's Girl** is Gino's second feature.

MUSIC, TOM THIRD

Tom has worked as a professional composer for over 15 years. He studied film and new media at the Ontario College of Art and Design. He co-wrote songs sung by Garry Busey and rapper Ice -T for the feature **Jacob Two Two and the Hooded Fang** in 1999, and then in the same year scored the feature film **5 Days**, starring Colm Meane. In 2000, he scored 22 episodes of the American television series **Queer As Folk**, based on the popular UK series of the same name. In 2004, Tom was the winner of the Volkswagen Score Competition, which was sponsored by the Berlin International Film Festival, and juried by Walter Murch, David Holmes and Martin Steyer. Tom has just recently been nominated for a Gemini Award for Best Original Music Score for a Dramatic Series for his work in **ReGenesis**.

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FINN – BROOKE JOHNSON

Brooke is a graduate from the National Theatre School of Canada's Acting Program. She has performed in theatres from the Bay of Fundy to the Foothills of the Rockies. She has four Dora Mavor Moore Best Actress nominations, most recently for playing the title role in **Wish**; for her portrayal of Gwendolyn MacEwan in Claudia Dey's **The Gwendolyn Poems**; one for the role of Maria Streuber in Theatre Smith-Gilmour **The Time and Place**; the other for Jhana-Gladys Kelly in a Tarragon original production of **Toronto, Mississippi** by Joan MacLeod. Brooke has a Gemini Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role for her portrayal of Marlene Moore in Holly Dale's **Dangerous Offender**, having previously garnered one for her supporting role of Angie in Francis Mankiewicz's 1993 mini-series, **Conspiracy of Silence**. With the rest of the cast of Atom Egoyan's **The Sweet Hereafter**, Brooke received an ensemble acting award handed out by Francis Ford Coppola at the prestigious National Board of Review Awards.

DIANA – YANNA McINTOSH

Yanna McIntosh is a professional theatre artist with a wealth of experience. Born in Jamaica and raised in Toronto, she began her theatre training at the University of Toronto, before graduating from the American Repertory Theatre Institute at Harvard University. Yanna has been nominated for six Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Best Actress, and has won twice for Florence Gibson's **Belle**, and for Athol Fugard's **Valley Song**. Yanna has taught at the National Theatre School and Humber College, directing students in productions of **Macbeth**, **Julius Caesar**, and **Richard III**. Film and television credits include **This is Wonderland**, **The Sentinel**, **Doomstown**, **Riverdale**, **The Eleventh Hour**, **Blue Murder**, **Train 48**, **Due South**, **Bob and Margaret**, and **John Q**.

ZELLY – MAYA RITTER

Finn's Girl is Maya's first screen appearance. After **Finn's Girl**, she went on to play the lead in **Molly - An American Girl**, a Disney Channel TV movie directed by Joice Chopra, and produced by Julia Robert.

XAVIER – GILLES LEMAIRE

Finn's Girl is Gilles' first screen appearance. He lives in Paris and will soon appear in the new feature film from celebrated filmmaker Claude Lelouch.

MAX – ANDREW CHALMERS

Born and raised in Toronto, Andrew is already a seasoned actor. He is one of the leads in **Darcy's Wild Life**, a Canadian television show for teenagers. His film credit includes, **A Home at the End of the World**, **Siblings**, **Chicks with sticks** and **Molly - An American Girl**.

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NANCY – GAIL MAURICE

Gail Maurice, Metis actor and writer, was born in Saskatchewan and is based in Toronto. She starred and co-wrote Jorge Manzano's award winning **Johnny Greyeyes** which screened at Sundance and brought her a nomination for Best Actress at the San Francisco American Indian Film Festival. She was also the Lead actor in Gemini nominated **Big Bear**. Gail's documentary film **Smudge** screened at the 2006 Sundance Festival.

PAUL – RICHARD CLARKIN

Born and raised in Toronto, Richard enjoys a busy career in film, television and on the stage. As well as being featured as Paul in **Finn's Girl** he appears in the upcoming Canadian feature film **The Third Eye** and is the lead in the recently completed television pilot **Crangles Collision**. He is currently completing his third season as a series regular in **Naturally Sadie** and begins the new series **The Altar Boy Gang**. Richard's extensive film and TV credits also include the critically acclaimed, multi-award-winning **The Five Senses** directed by Jeremy Podeswa, George Romero's **Land Of The Dead**, **The Thin Blue Line**, **Monet-Shadows and Light**, **Sisters In The Wilderness**, **Earth-Final Conflict**, and **Psi-Factor**. On stage Richard starred as Biff in **Death Of A Salesman** with Judd Hirsch at the Royal Alex in Toronto. He also starred as Scar in **The Lion King** at The Princess of Wales Theatre. Richard is a graduate of The National Theatre School Of Canada and lives in Toronto with his wife and two children.

JAMIE – NATHALIE TORIEL

Nathalie Toriel's selected film and television credits include **Ambulance Girl**, directed by and starring Kathy Bates, a recurring role on **Naturally Sadie** and **Our Hero**, guest appearances on **The Associates**, **Peter Benchley's Amazon**, **The Highwayman**, **The Hooplife**, and the short film **Below the Belt** (Genie nomination for Best Short; Berlin Film Festival; Audience Choice, Inside Out Festival and the Seattle Lesbian and Gay Festival).

EVE – CHANTEL COLE

Chantel is the provincial Twirling Champion of Ontario. **Finn's Girl** is her first screen appearance.