



SUMMER OF 84

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GUNPOWDER & SKY PRESENTS

SUMMER OF 84

DIRECTED BY

RKSS (Roadkill Superstar) -

François Simard, Anouk Whissell and Yoann-Karl Whissell

WRITTEN BY

Matt Leslie / Stephen J. Smith



SUMMER OF '84

105 min | English | Color | USA, Canada

DISTRIBUTION

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LOGLINE

After suspecting that their police officer neighbor is a serial killer, a group of teenage friends spend their summer spying on him and gathering evidence.

SYNOPSIS

Summer, 1984: The perfect time to be 15 years old and care free. But when neighborhood conspiracy theorist Davey Armstrong begins to suspect his police officer neighbor might be the serial killer all over the local news, he and his three best friends begin an investigation that soon turns dangerous.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

HOW IT STARTED

When we read *SUMMER OF '84* back in 2015, it resonated with us on such a deep emotional and nostalgic level, it felt like it was written just for us—this was our childhood, we were these kids and their friends.

The three of us grew up in the suburbs in the '80s, before cell phones, Internet or tablets, when information traveled more slowly than gossip. Our world was filled with adventures and mysteries, feeding our obsession with ghosts, aliens, and murder stories. The '80s were an exciting time to be kids, but also, we believe that was the best time for cinema.

This project is one of those rare gems that captures what was so good about these movies, it ignites passion and this is why we jumped on board. Shortly after, we've experienced a craze for '80s kids movies and series. These projects have proven that there is an audience and ever-growing love for nostalgic era pieces, making it the perfect time for us to show our take with *SUMMER OF '84*.

While based on the childhood and reality of all the kids who grew up in that time—this movie has potential for reaching everyone's heart, and fear, also striking deep with a high dose of nostalgia. For *SUMMER OF '84*, the era it is set in is not just an accessory, it's the very base and inspiration of the story. The '80s was the beginning of the end of the feeling of security and community of suburbia. Urban crime started to infiltrate the streets, kids went missing—people started locking their doors.



DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

TALENT

Fifteen is such an awkward age, stuck in between childhood and adulthood. Aching for adventure, naïve and blissfully unaware of the consequences. The casting was a key process and took some time, as we really wanted to find the perfect young talent to bring Davey to life, a boy who would be able to hold the whole adventure on his shoulders, and then surround him with his best friends.

We needed the chemistry to work between the four kids for the audience to believe they were buddies and care for them. It was amazing to see Graham Verchere, Judah Lewis, Cory Grüter-Andrew and Caleb Emery on set, becoming our four kids—they would hang out together, they quickly bonded and became good friends.

We were extremely lucky to have Rich Sommers and Tiera Skovbye join in as Wayne Mackey and Nikki Kaszuba. It was a real pleasure and honor to work with such passionate talents, young and seasoned, who dived in and completely trusted our vision. We can safely say that we got a dream cast!

LOOK AND TONE

We like to play with genres and it's no different with *SUMMER OF '84*. This film is definitely an adult piece, a hybrid starting as a light-hearted summer adventure set within a paranoid neighborhood, slowly shifting into the much darker atmosphere of a thriller, while also flirting with horror.

We established the look and feel of the movie by tapping into the genuine aesthetic and feel of the '80s. Pulling our inspirations from the narrative

rhythm, visuals and music of our childhood classics—while keeping a modern touch and taste, we appealed to the younger generation's sensibilities while not denaturing the film. Having friendship as the core of the movie, it was no surprise that we called in our dearest friend, cinematographer and composer (Le Matos) Jean-Philippe Bernier to join in the adventure.

The project was driven by nostalgia, igniting passion within all key departments and resulting in a detailed production design, artistic direction and costume design and reflecting on every cinematic aspect from the use of anamorphic lenses and its pretty chromatic aberrations, to frame composition and, of course, the music.

Having a strong relationship and trust in Le Matos, the nostalgia-driven synth-wave artists who composed the award-winning soundtrack from *TURBO KID*, we knew they would be thrilled to join the project and ready to go beyond the call of duty to create the perfect score.

Those familiar with our work may be surprised, *SUMMER OF '84* is really different from anything we've done before. It's more serious and grounded in reality, there's no over the top blood and gore nor supernatural activity—which makes this story all the more terrifying and gritty. That being said, the audience will be sure to recognize our vision, style and signature, our love and respect for the cinema we were raised on, and last but not least, our passion and heart. We couldn't be more grateful and proud to have the honor to unleash our movie to the world starting with Sundance—we couldn't have dreamt of a better place to celebrate its World Premiere!

-Anouk, François, Yoann-Karl (RKSS)

ABOUT THE CAST



GRAHAM VERCHERE as *Davey Armstrong*

Graham Verchere is quickly climbing the ranks of ones-to-watch among young Hollywood with multiple standout performances in 2017. This year he brings one of his favorite roles to life in the 2018 Sundance Film Festival selection *SUMMER OF '84* in which he stars as 15-year-old skeptic 'Davey.' The entry in the film festival's Midnight category is the second visit for the filmmakers and the first for Graham.

In 2017, Graham had a recurring role in FX's award-nominated and highly acclaimed limited series *FARGO* opposite Ewan McGregor and Carrie Coon as the son of Coon's character. With that incredible experience under his belt, Graham then booked the role of young 'Shaun Murphy' in ABC's *THE GOOD DOCTOR* and had the challenging and rewarding experience of playing a character with autism.

Graham, who was born and raised in Vancouver, began taking acting classes with his twin brother as a hobby. Graham's first jobs were two Ragu commercials. He went on to book guest star roles in television shows such as *PSYCH* (USA), *SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED* (The Hallmark Channel) and *ONCE UPON A TIME* (ABC) as well as TV movies for The Hallmark Channel including *PERFECT MATCH* opposite Danica McKellar.

ABOUT THE CAST



JUDAH LEWIS as *Tommy “Eats” Eaton*

Judah Lewis can currently be seen starring in the popular Netflix feature *THE BABYSITTER*, which was directed by McG and has become an instant cult classic. Prior to this, Judah was seen co-starring opposite Jake Gyllenhaal and Naomi Watts in Fox Searchlight’s *DEMOLITION*, which was directed by Jean-Marc Vallée. The film was chosen to open the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival where Judah received rave reviews, as well as was honored by Variety in their annual “Young Hollywood Impact Report.” Judah also gained notoriety by being one of the six finalists to test for the role of ‘Peter Parker’ in the new Marvel *SPIDER-MAN* reboot.

ABOUT THE CAST



CALEB EMERY as *Dale “Woody” Woodworth*

Caleb Emery is a prolific and versatile actor who has over 19 feature films under his belt in a few short years. He is currently filming a lead role in the mystery thriller *SUMMER OF '84* directed by Yoann-Karl Whissell, Anouk Whissell, & François Simard on location in Canada. Other film work includes Steven Soderbergh's *LUCKY LOGAN*, the critically acclaimed *COMING THRU THE RYE* starring Chris Cooper, a supporting role opposite star Dylan Minnette in Columbia Pictures' hit feature film *GOOSEBUMPS* directed by Rob Letterman, starring Jack Black and Oscar winner Amy Ryan; as well as New Line Cinema's *FIST FIGHT* playing amongst comedy legends Charlie Day, Ice Cube & Tracy Morgan.

Caleb's recent television credits include recurring roles on TBS/Broadway Video's *MIRACLE WORKERS*, NBC'S *GOOD GIRLS*, Netflix/Warner Bro's comedy *DISJOINTED* starring Kathy Bates, as well as a recurring on Barry Jenkin's directed *DEAR WHITE PEOPLE* for Netflix/Lionsgate, and CBS/Netflix's *AMERICAN VANDAL*; He has also appeared on recent episodes of CBS' *THE INSPECTORS*, Fox's *SCREAM QUEENS*, as well as HBO's *VICE PRINCIPALS* opposite Danny McBride.

ABOUT THE CAST



CORY GRÜTER-ANDREW *as Curtis Farraday*

In only two years as a professional actor, Cory has already landed roles in critically acclaimed shows like FX's *FARGO*, films like the movie adaptation of *MY SWEET AUDRINA* from the famed novelist V.C. Andrews, *LEGENDS OF TOMORROW*, and the enormously popular TV series *THE 100*.

With a growing fandom for his *THE 100* character, Cory took on a decidedly more somber role in Giancarlo Esposito's (*BREAKING BAD*) drama *THIS IS YOUR DEATH* where he plays a cancer patient. He then landed his first starring role in the feature film *BEYOND THE SUN*, commissioned by Pope Francis and shot in Argentina. In 2017, Cory landed another lead role, his favorite to-date: The feature, *SUMMER OF '84* is set in the early 1980s when times started to change and the death of the suburban dream began. In the film, Cory plays the nerdy smart teen in a group of four boys convinced that the neighboring policeman is the town serial killer. The film is directed by the renowned RKSS trio (*TURBO KID*) and stars Rich Sommer (*MAD MEN*) and Tiera Skovbye (*RIVERDALE*) along with Graham Verchere (*FARGO*), Judah Lewis (*DEMOLITION*) and Caleb Emery (*FIST FIGHT*, *GOOSEBUMPS*) as the other three teenagers.

ABOUT THE CAST



TIERA SKOVBYE *as Nikki Kaszuba*

Nurturing an impressive body of work encompassing film and television, Tiera Skovbye's career continues to evolve with diverse and challenging projects.

Tiera is currently recurring on two of primetime's most talked about series. She stars on the hit CW Series *RIVERDALE* as Betty Cooper's older sister Polly, who comes back into Riverdale after her mysterious disappearance and must help solve the murder of Jason Blossom. Additionally, she has a recurring role on the ABC series *ONCE UPON A TIME* playing Robin, the grown-up daughter of Zelena and Robin Hood. Her other television credits include appearances on *ARROW*, *SUPERNATURAL*, and *DEAD OF SUMMER*.

Segueing effortlessly between television and film, Tiera next stars in the indie film *SUMMER OF '84*, about a group of teenage friends who spend their summer spying on their police office neighbor, who they believe is a serial killer. The film will make its world premiere at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. She also stars alongside Bella Thorne and Patrick Schwarzenegger in the Open Road feature film *MIDNIGHT SUN* being released in March 2018 and Helen Hunt in the *THE MIRACLE SEASON* releasing in April 2018.

A native of Vancouver Canada, Tiera began her acting career at the age of seven after being discovered at the Children's Festival in Vancouver. At 13 she began modeling for various designers and campaigns which took her to Asia and Europe.

Tiera currently resides in Vancouver.

ABOUT THE CAST



RICH SOMMER as *Wayne Mackey*

Rich Sommer is currently filming season two of the Netflix hit series, *GLOW*, in which he is nominated for a SAG Award for Best Ensemble. Best known for his portrayal of Harry Crane on AMC's *MAD MEN*. Other notable TV appearances include recurring roles on *LOVE*, *WET HOT AMERICAN SUMMER*, *MASTERS OF SEX*, *ELEMENTARY* and *THE OFFICE*. Film work includes the Sundance 2018 entry *SUMMER OF '84*, *A CROOKED SOMEBODY* which Rich co-wrote the story, *LBJ*, *GIRLFRIEND'S DAY*, *THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA*, *CELESTE AND JESSE FOREVER*, *THE GIANT MECHANICAL MAN*, and *MY NAME IS DORIS*. Rich's voice can be heard everywhere from your radio to television set. He made his Broadway debut in *HARVEY* with Jim Parsons at Studio 54 and also starred Off Broadway with David Morse in Roundabout's *THE UNAVOIDABLE DISAPPEARANCE OF TOM DURNIN* and with Ed Harris in *THE NEW GROUP'S BURIED CHILD*.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



FRANÇOIS SIMARD / ANOUK WHISSELL / YOANN-KARL WHISSELL (RKSS), Directors

François Simard, Anouk Whissell, and Yoann-Karl Whissell are Montreal-based filmmakers and co-founders of the writer/director triforce RKSS. François Simard and Anouk Whissell studied traditional animation in school, and Yoann-Karl Whissell has a background in theatre arts. Their debut feature—the critically acclaimed *TURBO KID*, premiered at Sundance in 2015, launching a very successful festival run and winning 24 awards worldwide (including the SXSW's Audience Midnighters Award, BiFan's Best Directors, Sitges' Carnet Jove for Best Feature and Best Original Soundtrack, as well as a Saturn Award for Best International Film.) Through *TURBO KID*, the trio thriving on passion, has successfully touched the hearts of all generations far beyond the genre and cult fans. This year, they have the great honor to be returning to Sundance, where it all started, for the World Premiere of their second feature entitled *SUMMER OF '84*.



ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



MATT LESLIE, Writer, Producer
STEPHEN J. SMITH, Writer

Matt Leslie previously worked as a development executive for Producers Matt Alvarez and Scott Bernstein where he helped develop the script for the 2015 box office hit *STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON*, while Stephen J. Smith previously worked in the marketing departments of MGM and New Line, writing copy for DVD/Bluray packaging and marketing materials. As a writing team, Matt and Stephen were named to the 2016 Young & Hungry List, which highlights “the top 100 writers on the verge” in Hollywood. Production recently wrapped on their 2016 BloodList feature script, *SUMMER OF '84*, which was financed by Gunpowder & Sky and produced by Leslie and Brightlight Pictures. The film is set to premiere in the Midnight Lineup at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. Together Leslie and Smith have co-written 8 spec scripts, including their 2017 BloodList thriller, *THE HARROWING*, which is in development at Cinelou Films. The pair are also currently developing a mystery-suspense series and a graphic novel with Skybound Entertainment.



ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



SHAWN WILLIAMSON, Producer

With over 25 years of experience, Shawn Williamson has risen to the forefront of the Canadian film and television industry as a leading independent film and television producer. A native to Vancouver, Shawn began his career as a stage manager at The Arts Club Theatre in 1983 and has since produced live events, live television and television series, as well as feature films.

In 2001, Shawn started Brightlight Pictures and has since been developing, financing, and producing feature films and television series. He has filmed in a variety of international locations, including: Singapore, Croatia, Romania, France, England, Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Australia. *FIFTY DEAD MEN WALKING* (Ben Kingsley, Jim Sturgess) was produced as a Canada/UK co-production, filmed in Belfast, and opened with a Gala Premier spot at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Shawn executive produced the feature film *THE INTERVIEW* (Seth Rogen, James Franco) for Columbia Pictures, and *HORNS* (Daniel Radcliffe), produced in conjunction with Mandalay Pictures and Red Granite Pictures. He also served as a producer on *THE COMPANY YOU KEEP* (Robert Redford, Shia LaBeouf) with Voltage pictures, *50/50* (Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen), *THE POSSESSION* (Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Kyra Sedgwick), *WHITE NOISE* (Michael Keaton), *PASSENGERS* (Anne Hathaway, Patrick Wilson), and *WICKER MAN* (Nicholas Cage).

Shawn is currently producing the first season of the television series *LOOKINGGLASS* (Robert Kazinsky, Tim DeKay) for 20th Century Fox. Recently, he produced the feature film *THE 9TH LIFE OF LOUIS DRAX* (Jamie Dornan, Aaron Paul) and a remake of *ADVENTURES IN BABYSITTING* for Disney.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



JAMESON PARKER, Producer

Jameson Parker is a producer, director, and award-winning actor who started Whiskaye Films with David Kaye while attending The University of British Columbia's BFA in Acting Program.

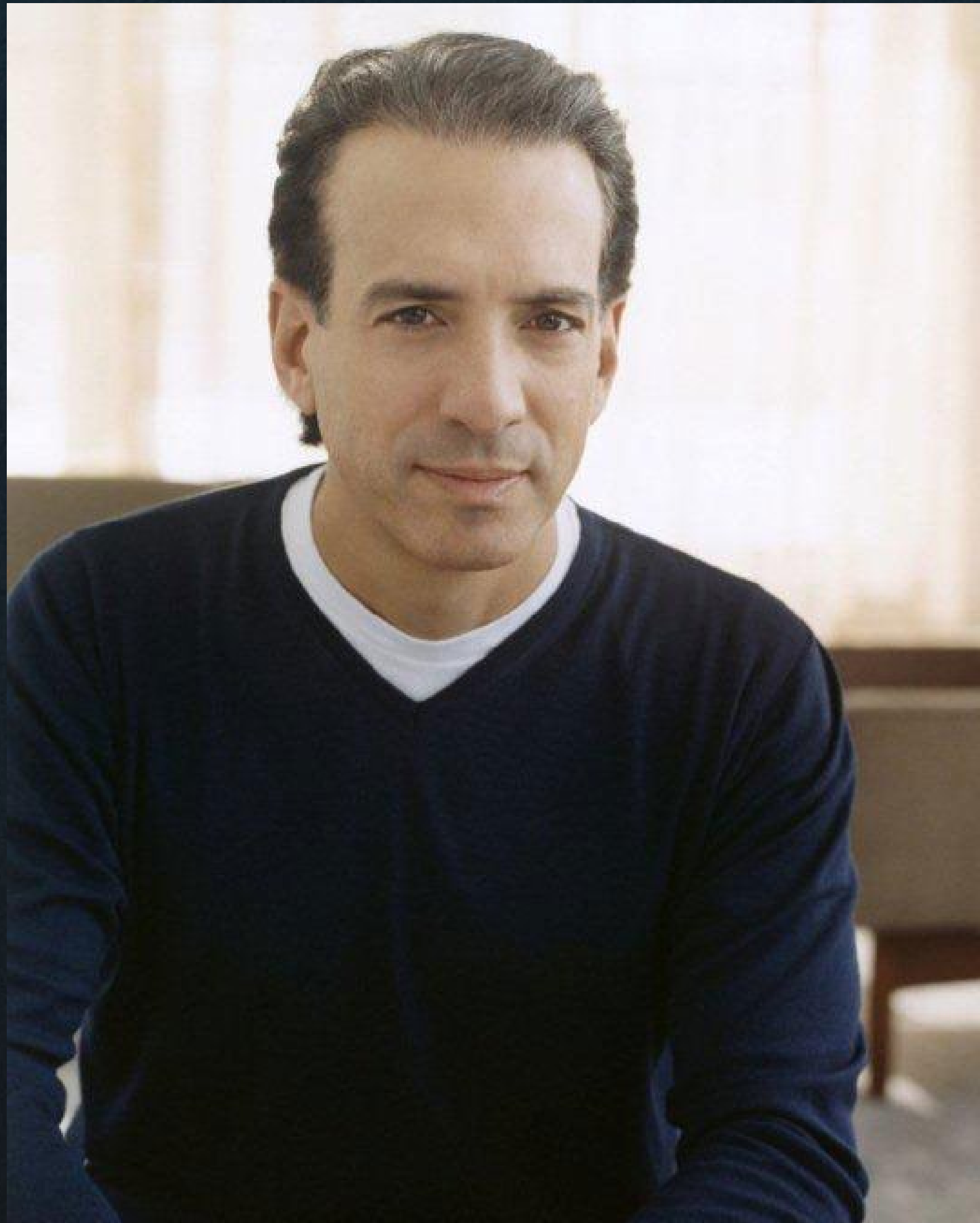
He has directed music videos for local and international artists and his video for Fake Shark Real Zombie's single 'Girls' can be seen on Much Music. In 2014 he directed *THE PRICE IS PRECISE*, a sketch written by 3 time Canadian Comedy Award Winning sketch duo Peter N' Chris for internet comedy giant CollegeHumor.

On film he can be seen in *THE PARTY NEVER STOPS* (Lifetime Television), and as a lead in Terry Miles' upcoming film *EVEN LAMBS HAVE TEETH*.

In 2015, he served as an Associate Producer on the made-for-TV-movie *THE MECHANICS OF LOVE* for Pixl starring Shanae Grimes and Tyler Hynes.

Currently Jameson is an Executive Producer on *WHITE NINJA*, the first narrative series developed for Vine, starring Paul Scheer, as well as directing 5 episodes for the series. He is also producing and story editing the half hour sketch comedy pilot *THE PETER N' CHRIS SHOW* with Don Ferguson Productions that is currently in network development with Paul F. Tompkins attached as a Creative Consultant. Most recently he completed photography on Whiskaye Films' first feature film: *PRODIGALS*, on which he produces and stars alongside David Alpay, Sara Canning, Tiio Horn, and Brian Markinson.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



VAN TOFFLER, Producer

Van Toffler is the CEO and Co-Founder of Gunpowder & Sky , an award-winning independent global studio, dedicated to creating, marketing and distributing video content unrestricted by form, genre or platform. Toffler is the former CEO of Viacom Media Networks Music & Logo Group. During his 28 year tenure at MTV/ Viacom, Toffler instigated and oversaw some of the most vibrant cultural moments and creative brands in history. Under his leadership, he helped take MTV around the world to be the most valuable youth media brand, launched MTV Films, MTV Digital, MTV2, MTVU, MTV Hits & Jams, Palladia, VH1 Classic, VBS and Logo.

Additionally Toffler oversaw the creation & production of a diverse slate of content from *BEAVIS AND BUTTHEAD* to *THE REAL WORLD*, the VMAs & Movie Awards, VH1's Hip Hop Honors, the CMT AWARDS, *THE OSBOURNES*, *PUNK'D*, *JACKASS*, *UNPLUGGED*, *CROSSROADS* and *CATFISH*, as well as social campaigns like Choose or Lose, Hope for Haiti and VH1's Save the Music. He also produced/executive produced a slate of novel, irreverent and sometimes even Oscar nominated films such as *ELECTION*, *NAPOLEON DYNAMITE*, *HUSTLE AND FLOW*, *BAD GRANDPA* and *BLADES OF GLORY*. He supervised the creation of a slew of digital content from \$5 *COVER* directed by Craig Brewer, *INSIDE JOKE* by Michael Che, *ROCK BAND*, *URGE* and VBS - a partnership with Vice.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



CODY ZWIEG, Producer

Cody Zweg has produced several films which have grossed a total of a quarter billion dollars in worldwide box office. He is currently SVP, Production & Development at Gunpowder & Sky.

In 2015, he collaborated with Jason Blum and Blumhouse Productions on the horrorthriller *THE LAZARUS EFFECT*. Directed by David Gelb (*JIRO DREAMS OF SUSHI*) and starring Olivia Wilde, Mark Duplass, Evan Peters and Donald Glover.

Zweg worked alongside writer-director Wes Craven on several films: he was a CoProducer on the remake of Craven's *THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT*, an associate producer of *THE HILLS HAVE EYES* and a Co-Producer on its sequel *THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2*. Zweg also served as the VP of Production and Development at Craven's company, Midnight Entertainment.

Following his long tenure with Craven, Zweg was an executive producer on *APOLLO 18* for Dimension Films. Zweg is a graduate of the USC School of Cinematic Arts. He was born and raised in Watertown, SD.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



FLORIS BAUER, Executive Producer

Floris Bauer is Co-Founder and President of Gunpowder & Sky, an award-winning independent global studio, dedicated to creating, marketing and distributing video content unrestricted by form, genre or platform. Gunpowder & Sky collaborates with both emerging and established talent to generate premium video content ranging from 90-second to 90-minute stories on all platforms. With in-house development, production, marketing and distribution capabilities, the company operates as a full 360-studio and oversees a library of over 1500 titles.

Prior to founding Gunpowder & Sky, Bauer spent more than nine years at Endemol Group, a global leader in entertainment (*BIG BROTHER*, *DEAL OR NO DEAL*, *FEAR FACTOR*, *WIPEOUT*, *EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION*, *PEAKY BINDERS*, *BLACK MIRROR*, *MR. BEAN*). Part of Endemol Group's management team and international board, he was ultimately responsible for global strategy and M&A across divisions, including TV/film production, distribution, FTA/Pay TV channels, digital video and gaming. During his time at Endemol, he grew its global presence, instigating and overseeing numerous new territory and business launches, as well as completing over 40 acquisitions, investments and exits in 15+ countries. Prior to that, Bauer served as a lawyer and worked in private equity.

Bauer currently sits on the Board of Cut and Shareability, as well as on the Advisory Board of White Rabbit Films. Bauer received his Masters degree in Law from Erasmus University Rotterdam, and lived in the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom before moving to the United States.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANIES



GUNPOWDER & SKY

Gunpowder & Sky is an award-winning independent global studio, dedicated to creating, marketing and distributing video content unrestricted by form, genre or platform. Gunpowder & Sky collaborates with both emerging and established talent to generate premium video content ranging from 90-second to 90-minute stories on all platforms. With in-house development, production, marketing and distribution capabilities, the company operates as a full 360-studio and oversees a library of over 1500 titles.

Gunpowder & Sky has recently released or launched projects including Spotify's most viewed series *DRAWN & RECORDED*, the Herbalife exposé documentary, *BETTING ON ZERO*, which debuted as the number one Documentary in the iTunes store, multi-platform sci-fi destination, *DUST*, Ben Young's *HOUNDS OF LOVE* which just won the Overlook Film Festival's Jury and Audience Awards for Best Feature with Emma Booth winning Best Actress Award at the Venice Film Festival, and the Summer hit *THE LITTLE HOURS*.



BRIGHTLIGHT PICTURES

Brightlight Pictures develops, packages and produces independent feature films and television projects. Brightlight's President, Shawn Williamson, has produced more than 100 productions in the last 15 years and over 60 productions since launching Brightlight in 2001 including *WHITE NOISE* (Michael Keaton), *50/50* (Seth Rogen, Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and *THE COMPANY YOU KEEP* (Robert Redford).
