



LOVE AND COMMUNICATION

...a film about autism in real life

LAC Productions

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LOVE AND COMMUNICATION

...a film about autism in real life

Running Time:

78 minutes

Directed and directed by:

James Christy

Produced by:

Rob Margolies, Kevin Granahan, Zinarta Judea Cruse

Production Companies:

Different Duck, LAC Productions

Cinematographer:

Eddie Bernard

Composer:

Tom Devaney

LOGLINE

How far would you go to do what you think is best for your child? Love and Communication is about a couple so desperate to help their son they make decisions that threaten their family.

SYNOPSIS

Love and Communication is about the struggles of a young couple whose son has been diagnosed with autism. While they are immersed in a struggle with their school district over their son's education, the strain extends to their marriage. Megan pursues an untested online relationship-based therapy and Rob goes to increasingly desperate measures to get Sammy into a highly regarded school.



OUR STORY

While Love and Communication is fictional, this is a highly personal story for me. My son was diagnosed with autism when he was three. Our family had a near Kafka-esque experience struggling against our school district, which at times denied our son even had autism. We also found ourselves pursuing different types of therapies for our son. The gold standard for autism treatment is one-on-one behavioral therapy known as ABA. It's a science-based approach to treatment and we were trying to find the best one possible for our son. But at the same time, we paid to join an expensive online program that focused on a relationship-based approach to connecting with our child; an approach that is in many ways in contrast to ABA. This is common for parents of kids with autism, who are getting conflicting advice and are willing and even eager to try anything that might help.

In the film the tension about employing these different approaches begins to wear on the central couples' marriage. And many of the underlying problems in the relationship go beyond the diagnosis. Megan and Rob find themselves searching outside their relationship, ostensibly for the right treatment for their son, but in fact for some kind of deeper emotional connection than they're finding in their marriage. Rob in particular seems increasingly unwilling to connect emotionally with others. As the story progresses, we see hints of the emotional isolation of his son in his own interactions. And Megan, feeling increasingly alone, is more vulnerable to a promise of emotional connection that she finds online.

In this way the story of a couple who finds themselves unable and unwilling to connect with each other is universal.

James Christy Jr. (Writer/Director)

For more about our family's path
and why I made this film, see this
short video (3:30).





LEV GORN AS **SILVERMAN**

Lev's film and television career covers over 50 films and TV series. He has played a number of standout roles in some of the most highly-acclaimed television series, the Emmy-award winning "The Americans", "The Wire", NetFlix "Maniac", "Billions", "Jack Ryan", "Madam Secretary" and many others.

He worked with Woody Allen on "Cafe Society", opposite Susan Sarandon in "Ace The Case", "The Good Shepherd" starring Matt Damon, in David Rodriguez's feature, "Once Upon A Time in Queens" with Michael Rappaport, Paul Sorvino and Chazz Palminteri. Lev's other films include "Sangre De Mi Sangre" (Sundance Grand Jury Prize Winner), "This Teacher", directed by Independent Spirit Award-winning Mark Jackson, and most recently "Lingua Franca", directed by Isabel Sandoval, which premiered at the Venice Film Festival 2019.

His short film, "Ten: Thirty One", won the best short prize at the Oldenburg Film Festival and took home the best actress award at the Ourense Independent Film Festival. The success of "Ten: Thirty One", the story itself, and the profound connection that audiences had with the characters, inspired Lev to co-write the feature screenplay "Get Psycho." The film will serve as Lev's directorial feature film debut.



BRIANA EVIGAN AS **MEGAN HOLDEN**

Born and raised in Los Angeles, started off as a dancer, singer, and musician landing her first major feature debut as the star of the box office hit *Step Up 2: The Streets* in 2008, and reprised her role in a 2014 installment of the franchise, *Step Up: All In*. In. She also played starring roles in a number of films, including *Sorority Row*, *S. Darko*, and *Burning Bright*. On the television front, Briana starred in Season 2 of *From Dusk Till Dawn* for Robert Rodriguez, Jerry Bruckheimer's pilot, *Trooper*, TNT's acclaimed drama *LONGMIRE*, and in the indie world, starred in festival darling, *ToY*, and *Love Is All You Need?* For which she received Best Actor accolades.

When she's not working, Briana spends much of her time traveling, with the last 8 years being dedicated to non-profit efforts in Asia and Africa. She has fronted countless campaigns, fundraisers, speaking events, and mission trips, all of which have affirmed Briana's allegiance to animal advocacy, ultimately positioning her as a global voice of authority in this space. A gifted storyteller, and 15-year veteran of the entertainment business, Briana has founded MoveMe Studios with business partner Stuart Newton. Briana's move to South Africa has been 6-years in the making.



RYAN KENNEDY AS **ROB HOLDEN**

Ryan Kennedy was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and is the oldest of three brothers. His career aspirations leaned towards investigation and working for the FBI, but he began pursuing acting in 2004 after auditioning for a small role in a locally filmed movie.

A lucrative career followed: Kennedy was awarded Best Supporting Actor at the Oklahoma Trail Dance Film Festival, and won Best Ensemble Cast at the Hollywood First Glance Film Festival for his dark and chilling performance in the gritty and disturbing movie "Chasing The White Dragon." Kennedy's most recent work includes a series regular role in the CW's "Hellcats," a series recurring guest role on SyFy's "Caprica," a guest spot on ABC's hit series "V," a recurring portrayal of DC comics's leader of The Legion Of Superheroes Cosmic Boy on "Smallville," as well as guest star performances on CBS's "Flashpoint," NBC's "Psych," SyFy's "Sanctuary" and the highly anticipated first season of "Stargate: Universe." Kennedy can also be seen in the feature thriller "Hybrid."



ELLEN ADAIR AS **JULIA**

Ellen Adair is an actor, probably best known as Janet Bayne in "Homeland," Bess McTeer in "The Sinner," and Bridget Saltire in "The Slap," but has been in a lot of other TV shows, films, and theater. As a human being, she is best known for her unhealthy love of baseball. It says so on her business cards.

She loves baseball in general, but the Phillies are her life partner. She is the author of "Curtain Speech," from Pen & Anvil Press, and is working on bringing to life a TV series about baseball writers.



NIKKOLE SALTER AS **REGINA**

Los Angeles-born, OBIE Award-winning actress and writer Nikkole Salter arrived onto the professional scene with her co-authorship and co-performance (with Danai Gurira) of the Pulitzer Prize nominated play, *IN THE CONTINUUM* (ITC). For its Off-Broadway run at Primary Stages and the Perry Street Theatre and for its US State Department and Bloomberg sponsored inter-national tour, Ms. Salter received an OBIE Award, and the NY Outer Critics Circle's John Gassner Award for Best New American Play, the Seldes-Kanin fellowship from the Theatre Hall of Fame to date.

As an actress, Ms. Salter can be seen in Gavin O'Connors feature film "Pride & Glory" starring Ed Norton, Colin Farrell and Jon Voight, and heard as the voice of 'LATICIA' in Rockstar Games' video game release, *Midnight Club: Los Angeles*. Ms. Salter has received an Independent Reviewers of New England (IRNE) award nomination for Best Actress for her performance in TONY winner Kenny Leon's production of *STICK FLY*.



ARIEL SHAFIR AS **EPHRAIM**

Ariel Shafir can be seen performing in a variety of critically acclaimed Television series including: When They See Us, The Sinner, Orange Is The New Black, 30 Rock and in the highly anticipated second season of Only Murders In the Building. Catch Ariel this Summer in Richard III at NYC's Delacorte Theater as part of The Public's renowned "Shakespeare In The Park."

JAMES CHRISTY

DIRECTOR

James Christy Jr. (Writer/Director/Producer) is an award-winning playwright and filmmaker.

Recent plays include **NOT RIGHT NOW**, a solo show produced by The Tank in New York City in April 2022; **THE FOREVER QUESTION**, which won the B Street Comedy Festival in 2018; **A GREAT WAR**, which was nominated for a Barrymore Award for Best New Play in 2016; **LOVE AND COMMUNICATION**, which won the Brown Martin Award in 2012.

He was a featured dayplayer in **DEAD POETS SOCIETY**. (yes, he stood on his desk).



MATT LUBER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Matt Luber (Executive Producer) serves as a manager with Luber Roklin Entertainment, a company he founded in 2001. In addition to representing several actors, including Paul Walker of the Fast and Furious franchise and Stephen Moyer of True Blood, Luber Roklin Entertainment has produced a number of films, including EVAN ALMIGHTY and BRIDE WARS.

ROB MARGOLIES

PRODUCER

Rob Margolies (Producer) Rob is a director and producer, known for SHE WANTS ME (2012), ALL YOU CAN EAT (2018) and ROOMMATE WANTED (2015).

KEVIN GRANAHAN

PRODUCER

Kevin Granahan (Producer) An entertainment professional since the late 1980s, Kevin has worked extensively across the spectrum of production, features, docs, as well as work as a consultant and EP. Kevin Granahan Television Production is a boutique production company working for Fortune 50 corporations as well web and television outlets.

ZINARTA JUDEA CRUSE

PRODUCER

Zinarta Judea Cruse (Producer) is an actress, writer, director and producer, known for JENNY (2017), A YEAR AND A DAY (2017) and performing in and producing LOVE AND COMMUNICATION.

FROM THE **AWARD WINNING** PLAY

Love and Communication was developed from a play that won the prestigious Barrymore Award from the Philadelphia Theatre Alliance in 2011.

Press: Even before the play opened the project garnered a significant amount of publicity despite a limited PR budget. **The NJ Star Ledger ran a front page column** about the play and there were numerous features by smaller publications. While the topic of autism increasingly attracts media coverage, Love and Communication's unique approach to the material drew particular interest -- and rave reviews:

"To pull out the rug from an audience and make it gasp even once is an achievement; to do it twice is close to miraculous."

—Peter Filichia, NJ Star Ledger, October 2010

([CLICK HERE FOR FULL REVIEW](#))

Audience: The run of Love and Communication as a play proved the piece to be a tremendous draw. Word of mouth within the tight-knit autism community spread quickly and carried over to mainstream audiences, leading to sold out shows in the final week. With the help of major autism organizations with large mailing lists of those affected by autism, the film project has the potential to gain a large following over a short period of time.

While the world of Love and Communication involves a mysterious condition, and an almost Kafkaesque quest for the right treatment, at its core the film is a universal story about a couple struggling to find common ground.



FILM SPECS

Shot on Red camera
16x9 aspect ratio (16x9, 4x3),
5.1 audio format
78 minutes, 10 seconds

WATCH THE TRAILER



CREDITS

Written/Directed by
James Christy Jr.

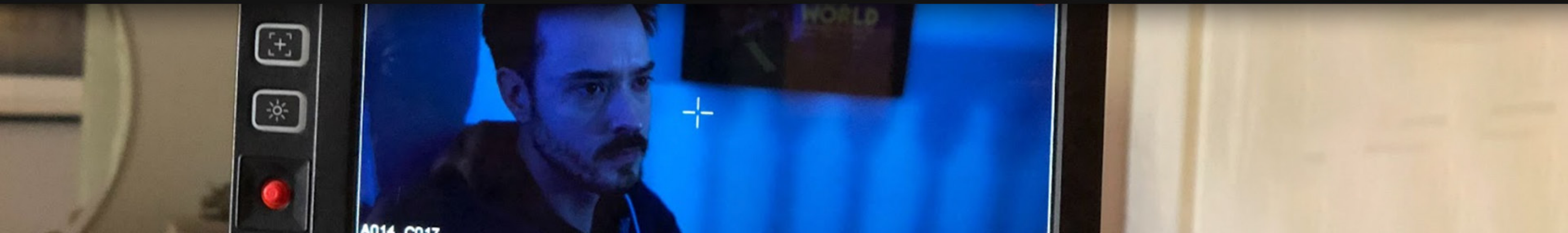
Director of Photography
Eddie Bernard

Produced by
Rob Margolies, Kevin Granahan,
Zinarta Judea Cruse

Production Design
Carla Sadornil, Carey Rothman

Executive Producer
Matt Luber

Music by
Tom Devaney



CREDITS

1st Assistant Director

Jacqueline Christy

1st Assistant Director

Natalia Shaufert

2nd Assistant Director

Gretel Snyder

Make-up and Hair Artist

Meeza Gee

Script Supervisor

Cindy Lyarerer

Sound

Justine Plouzennec

1st Assistant Camera

Miguel Zamora

2nd Assistant Camera

Marco Andre,
JD Fernando Acha Jr.

DIT

Josh Catubig

Costume/Script Supervisor

Rachel Hunt

Production Assistants

Kimberly Adragna,
Joseph Lacerda, Bryn Berg,
Siho Ellsmore, Cameron Spector

Graphics

Joey Gelfand

Digital Artist

Mary Phillipuk

VFX Artist

Eugene Vernikov

Re-Recording Mixer

Jose "Chipi" Estrada

Sound Effects Editor

Jose "Chipi" Estrada

Sound Mix

John Nathans

Assistant Editor

Clarissa Marquez

Sound Mix

Sanjit Majumdar