GONZO GIRL



DIRECTED BY:
PATRICIA ARQUETTE

WRITTEN BY:
Rebecca Thomas
Jessica Caldwell

PRODUCED BY:
Frank Hall Green, Tom Heller, Cameron O'Reilly, Patricia Arquette

STARRING:
Willem Dafoe
Camila Morrone
Patricia Arquette
Elizabeth Lail
Ray Nicholson
Leila George
James Urbaniak

107 minutes | English | USA

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SYNOPSIS



Set in 1992 in Aspen, Colorado, and inspired by a true story, GONZO GIRL follows Alley Russo (Camila Morrone), an aspiring writer who takes on an assistant job to the iconoclast and founder of gonzo journalism, Walker Reade (Willem Dafoe). Alley is thrown headfirst into his psychedelic, drug-fueled world that blurs the boundaries between co-dependence and addiction. Witnessing her literary hero's fading glory, she falls deeper into his chaotic world and tries to help him finish his long-awaited novel — by any means necessary."

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT FROM PATRICIA ARQUETTE:



GONZO GIRL is based on the book of the same name, inspired by the author Cheryl Della Pietra's time as an assistant to Hunter S. Thompson near the end of his life. It stars Willem Dafoe, Camila Morrone, myself and Ray Nicholson, among other actors. There is also a wonderful cameo by Sean Penn.

What originally drew me to the material was the complicated dynamics between the characters. I envisioned this film as an authentic human drama along the lines of movies like Fat City, Five Easy Pieces and 3 Women—films that don't really get made much anymore. It's all about the relationships. Complicated relationships. Acting was my priority.

I feel we accomplished making the space for a beautifully acted piece where powerful performances take center stage.Willem Defoe is incredible in the film. He is one of the greatest actors we have and I believe his work in this film is some of the best of his whole career. He takes the essence of this character without treating it as a caricature. His work is deep and moving and complicated. Camila Morrone, who plays the role of Alley, starts the film somewhat nebulous and partially formed (as we all are when we are young) and, by the end, she is a powerful force. I believed in Camila from the moment I first saw her audition and fought hard for her to be cast in the film. She reminded me of Katherine Ross when I first saw her in The Graduate.

She goes toe to toe opposite Willem Dafoe in every scene and I think she is a revelation. While Walker is inspired by Hunter, I had no interest in trapping him in the cliché version brought about by the phenomenon of his book Fear and Loathing In Las Vegas. Rather, I intended to dig down into parts of him that are less obvious. Walker is involved in love affairs with each of these women, and I wanted to explore the archetypes they each represent, how and why he triangulates relationships, how each of these women are competitive with each other and how they vie for space in his orbit. Who he is when he is "on" versus when he's in his private moments. I wanted to explore the beguiling fun and recklessness of addiction and the equally destructive aspects of codependency. And for his character, the trappings of success. A success he has long been bored with and yet brings him gain and esteem. What is it to wrestle with writer's block when your identity and livelihood depend on publishing? How complicated does life become when you begin to believe in your own mythology? Loving and hating the confines that your own earlier success can create. Walker is struggling through the death throes of a vanishing type of man—in a sense he's the last American Buffalo.

CAST & CREW BIOS

PATRICIA ARQUETTE

(DIRECTOR,PRODUCER,STAR)





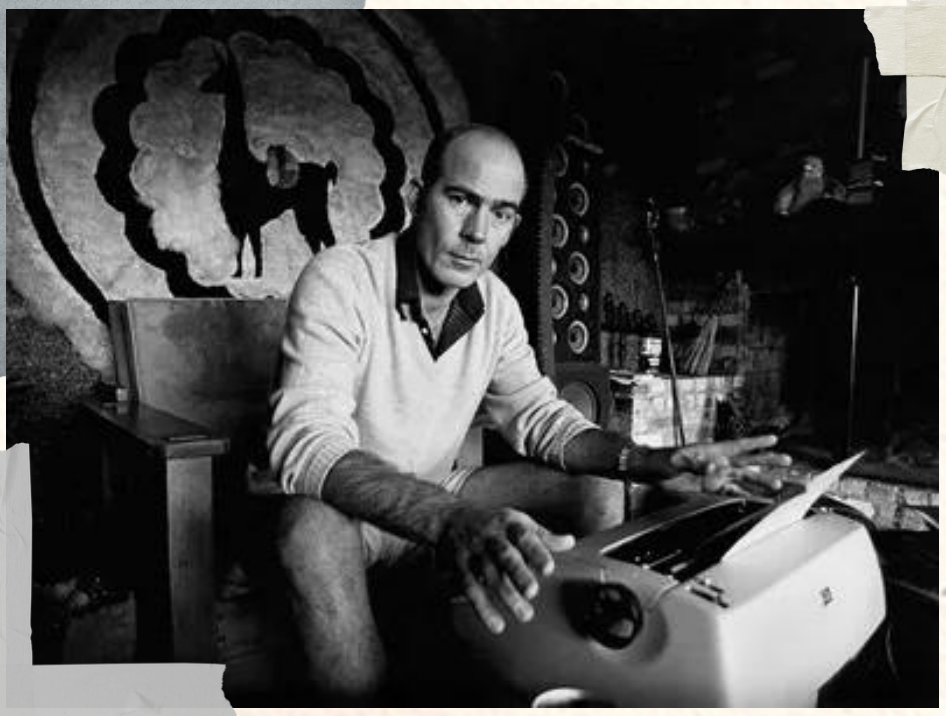
PATRICIA ARQUETTE is a 4th generation actor. She received the Academy Award for her work in “Boyhood,” the critically acclaimed 12-year project from Richard Linklater, for which she also won the Golden Globe, BAFTA, SAG, New York Film Critics Circle, Los Angeles Film Critics, and Independent Spirit Awards for Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture. Patricia will make her directing debut this summer with GONZO GIRL, a feature film based on the best-selling novel by Cheryl Della Pietra, which will star Willem Dafoe, Camila Morrone, Keke Palmer, Ray Nicholson and Patricia Arquette. Arquette recently starred in the half-hour dramedy, "High Desert" that she developed with showrunners, Nancy Fichman,Katie Ford, and Jennifer Hoppe, 3 Arts Entertainment, Ben Stiller and Red Hour. Arquette produced and starred in this series for Apple TV with all episodes being directed by Jay Roach.

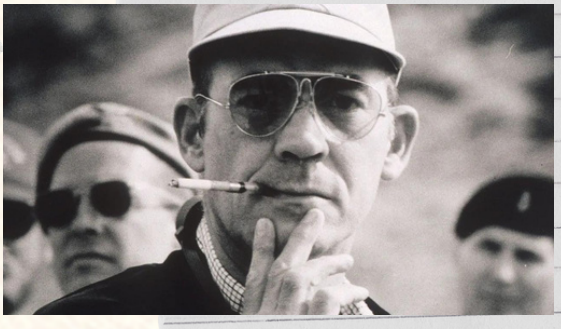
Recently, Patricia stars opposite Adam Scott, John Turturro and Christopher Walken in SEVERANCE, an Apple TV series directed and produced by Ben Stiller.

Patricia also starred in Showtime’s eight-hour miniseries, “Escape at Dannemora,” directed by Ben Stiller and opposite Benicio del Toro and Paul Dano. Her performance won the Golden Globe, SAG, and Critics’ Choice awards, for Best Actress in a Limited Television Series. Other recent works include the critically acclaimed series “The Act” for Hulu, for which she won an Emmy and Golden Globe and was nominated for a SAG, and Critics’ Choice award. She was nominated for the rare double Emmy awards for her performances in both “Escape at Dannemora” and “The Act”. She also starred as Allison Dubois in “Medium,” on CBS, for which she received numerous accolades, including an Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series, She also starred as Allison Dubois in “Medium,” on CBS, for which she received numerous accolades, including an Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series,

and subsequent Emmy, Golden Globe and SAG nominations. Arquette also had leading roles in numerous other television drama series including “CSI: Cyber” and Boardwalk Empire.” Arquette has worked with a stellar list of directors, acting in critically acclaimed films including Sean Penn’s “The Indian Runner,” Tony Scott’s “True Romance,” Martin Scorsese’s “Bringing Out the Dead”, David Lynch’s “Lost Highway,” Tim Burton’s “Ed Wood,” John Madden’s “Ethan Frome,” David O. Russell’s “Flirting With Disaster,” and Michael Gondry’s “Human Nature.” The granddaughter of comedian Cliff Arquette (best known for his television personality “Charlie Weaver”), Arquette comes from a family ensconced in the entertainment industry. Her father was actor Lewis Arquette and her siblings — Rosanna, Richmond, David and her late sister are all actors. Born in Chicago, Arquette currently resides in Los Angeles.

HUNTER S. THOMPSON





HUNTER S. THOMPSON is often credited as the creator of Gonzo journalism, a style of writing that blurs distinctions between fiction and nonfiction. His work and style are considered to be a major part of the New Journalism literary movement of the 1960s and 1970s, which attempted to break free from the purely objective style of mainstream reportage of the time.

Thompson has been featured in a number of popular and cult films. The film Where the Buffalo Roam (1980) depicts heavily fictionalized attempts by Thompson to cover the Super Bowl and the 1972 U.S. presidential election. It stars Bill Murray as Thompson and Peter Boyle as Thompson's attorney Oscar Zeta Acosta. he 1998 film adaptation of his novel Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas was directed by Monty Python veteran. Terry Gilliam and starred Johnny Depp (who moved into Thompson's basement to "study" Thompson's persona before assuming his role in the film) as Raoul Duke and Benicio del Toro as Oscar Zeta Acosta. In the 2001 film Ali, Thompson is briefly portrayed by actor Lee Cummings. The film adaptation of Thompson's novel The Rum Diary was released in October 2011, also starring Johnny Depp as the main character, Paul Kemp. The novel's premise was inspired by Thompson's own experiences in Puerto Rico. The film was written and directed by Bruce Robinson.

WILLEM DAFOE

(WALKER READE)







Having made over one hundred films in his legendary career, Willem Dafoe is internationally respected for bringing versatility, boldness, and dare to some of the most iconic films of our time. His artistic curiosity in exploring the human condition leads him to projects all over the world, large and small, Hollywood films as well as Independent cinema.
Upcoming projects include Yorgos Lanthimos' Poor Things as well as his second film with him, And, due for release next year; Saverio Costanzo's Finalmente L'alba; Isaiah Saxon's fantasy epic The Legend of Ochi; Olmo Schnabel's Pet Shop Days; Robert Eggers' Nosferatu, marking his third collaboration with the director; and Tim Burton's Beetlejuice 2.
Dafoe has been recognized with four Academy Award nominations: Best Actor in a Supporting Role for Platoon, Best Actor in a Supporting Role for Shadow Of The Vampire, for which he also received Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild nominations, Best Actor in a Supporting Role for The Florida Project, for which he also received Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild nominations, and most recently, Best Leading Actor for At Eternity's Gate, for which he also received a Golden Globe nomination. Among his other nominations and awards, he has received two Los Angeles Film Critics Awards, a New York Film Critics Circle Award, a National Board of Review Award, an Independent Spirit Award, Venice Film Festival Volpi Cup, as well as a Berlinale Honorary Golden Bear for Lifetime Achievement.
Throughout his career, Dafoe has collaborated with directors who represent a virtual encyclopedia of modern cinema, coinciding with his natural adventurousness which is evident in his diverse breadth of roles.
Dafoe is one of the founding members of The Wooster Group, the New York based experimental theatre collective. He created and performed in all of the group's work from 1977 thru 2005, both in the U.S. and internationally. Since then, he has performed and collaborated in the works of Richard Foreman, Robert Wilson and Romeo Castellucci.

CAMILA MORRONE

(ALLEY)



An affecting and charismatic actress, Camila Morrone is quickly making a name for herself as one of Hollywood's most talented performers.

Morrone recently received her first Emmy Award nomination for her performance in Amazon's hit limited series DAISY JONES & THE SIX, produced by Reese Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine and based on the popular book of the same name. She stars opposite Riley Keough and Sam Claflin in the musical drama which charts the spectacular rise and precipitous fall of a renowned rock band in the 1970s. Morrone's performance has been recognized as the "standout", "show-stealing" and "the beating heart of the series". The series received eight additional nominations including "Outstanding Limited Or Anthology Series".

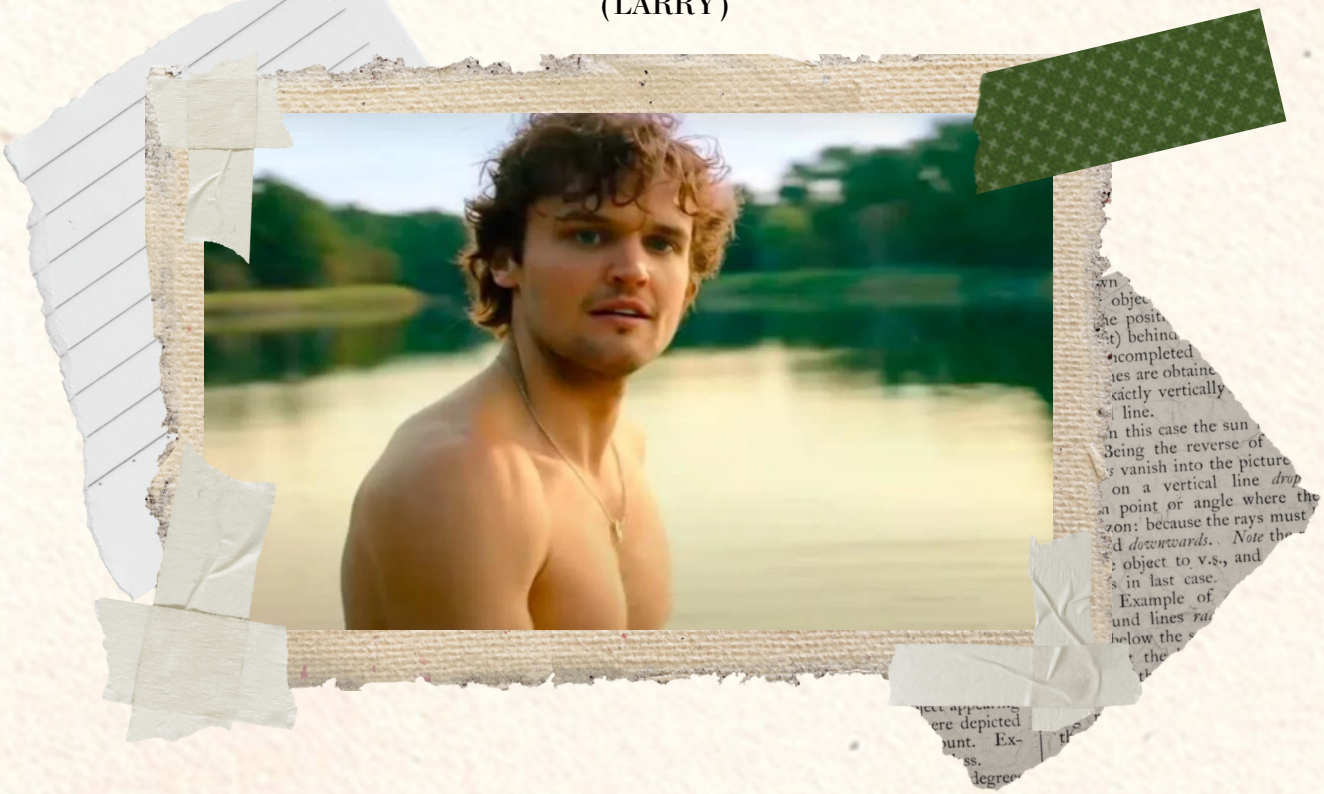
Morrone is upcoming in GONZO GIRL, Patricia Arquette's feature directorial debut, opposite Willem Dafoe and Patricia. The film is based on the acclaimed same-name novel by Cheryl Della Pietra and will make its World Premiere at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival.

She is also upcoming in MARMALADE, alongside Joe Keery and Aldis Hodge. The film follows a naive small-town man as he narrates the colorful tale of a romantic bank heist to his cunning cellmate. In 2019, Morrone starred as the titular 'Mickey' in Annabelle Attanasio's MICKEY AND THE BEAR. The film follows a determined Montana teenager (Morrone) as she maneuvers a turbulent relationship with her veteran father (James Badge Dale). The critically acclaimed drama made its world premiere at the 2019 SXSW Film Festival and later played to sold

out crowds at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival. Prior, Morrone starred in Augustine Frizell's comedy, NEVER GOIN BACK for A24. The film premiered to massive acclaim at both the 2018 Sundance Film Festival and SXSW Film Festival, where it was nominated for the SXSW Gamechanger Award. The film was later nominated for the John Cassavetes Award at the 2019 Film Independent Spirit Awards. A24 released the film in August 2018. Previously, Morrone starred opposite Bruce Willis in Eli Roth's remake of DEATH WISH for MGM, and made her acting debut in James Franco's biopic, BUKOWSKI.

RAY NICHOLSON

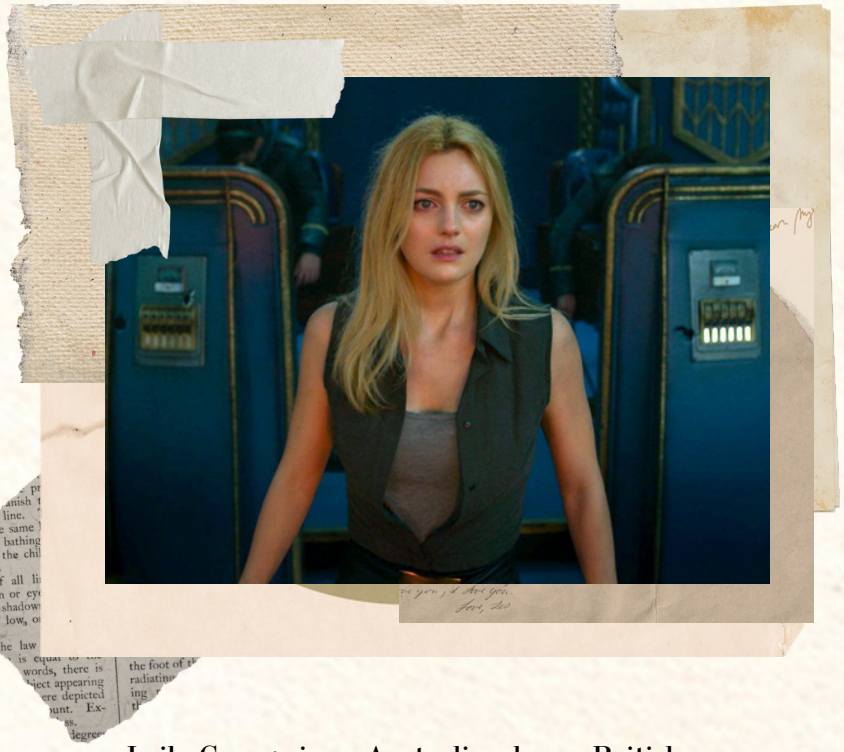
(LARRY)



RAY NICHOLSON will next be seen in a pivotal supporting role opposite Willem Dafoe, Sean Penn and Patricia Arquette in Patricia's directorial debut GONZO GIRL which will premiere at TIFF 2023. He will also be seen at TIFF as the lead of BORDERLINE written and directed by Jimmy Warden, opposite Eric Dane and Samara Weaving and produced by Lucky Chap. He can most recently be seen in SOMETHING FROM TIFFANY'S opposite Zoey Deutch and Kendrick Sampson, produced by Lauren Neustadter and Reese Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine for Amazon. Ray can be seen as the lead of Neil LaBute's OUT OF THE BLUE opposite Diane Kruger and can also be seen as "Ray", the male-lead of the series PANIC, based on Lauren Oliver's best-selling novel, produced by Joe Roth and Jeff Kirschenbaum for Amazon. Prior to Panic, Ray played small-supporting roles in Emerald Fennell's PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN opposite Carey Mulligan and Bo Burnham and in Paul Thomas Anderson's LICORICE PIZZA.

LAILA GEORGE

(SEPTEMBER)



Leila George is an Australian-born, British-raised actress with a lifetime steeped in the dramatic arts. As the daughter of Greta Scacchi and Vincent D'Onofrio, she was introduced to acting and performance from an early age.

Leila enrolled and completed a two-year conservatory at New York's famed Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute where she studied method acting. Her debut role following Strasberg was in an Australian production of Anton Chekhov's The Seagull, where she played the ingenue Nina opposite her mother as Arkadina. Later came the Peter Jackson-produced Mortal Engines, which gave George valuable experience working on a big-budget sci-fi release, and The Kid (directed by D'Onofrio) which co-starred Chris Pratt, Ethan Hawke and Dane DeHaan. The biggest step in her career came when she was cast in TNT's Animal Kingdom. Next up, Leila will be seen as a regular in Alfonso Cuarón's psychological thriller series Disclaimer for Apple TV+ with Cate Blanchett, Kevin Kline and Kodi Smit-McPhee.

ELIZABETH LAIL

(DEVANEY)

Elizabeth Lail stars in Blumhouse's upcoming feature film, "Five Nights At Freddys," based on the wildly popular video game series. She can also be seen in the upcoming indie film "Gonzo Girl," directed by Patricia Arquette and starring Willem Dafoe. The film is premiering at the Toronto Film Festival and is based on the critically acclaimed novel by Cheryl Della Pietra. Lail recently appeared in the comedy film "Mack & Rita" opposite Diane Keaton. Elizabeth is best known for her lead role of 'Beck' in Netflix's smash hit "You" and recently starred as 'Jenny' in NBC's drama series "Ordinary Joe."



Elizabeth got her big break when she recreated the role of 'Anna' from Frozen on ABC's "Once Upon A Time." She also starred in STX Entertainment's terrifying horror film, COUNTDOWN, the independent film UNINTENDED, and in a recurring role in the HBO Max reboot of "Gossip Girl."

JAMES URBANIAK

(LIONEL)



James Urbaniak: Film credits include work with directors Hal Hartley, Todd Haynes, Julie Taymor, Richard Linklater, Jennifer Phang, Robert Pulcini & Shari Springer-Berman, Michael Almeryeda, Andrew Dosunmu, Steven Spielberg (“The Fabelmans”) and Christopher Nolan ("Oppenheimer"). TV credits include regular roles on Adult Swim's "The Venture Brothers," Hulu's "Difficult People" and Comedy Central's "Review." Guest appearances on "Better Call Saul," "Made for Love," "The Morning Show," "Dickinson," "Chilling Adventures of Sabrina," "For All Mankind," "Too Old to Die Young." With Brie Williams he co-wrote the scripted podcasts "Getting on with James Urbaniak," "A Night Called Tomorrow" and "I Will Never Lie to You." Extensive New York theatre credits including an Obie Award for Richard Foreman's "The Universe" and a Drama Desk Nomination for Will Eno's "Thom Pain (Based on Nothing)." Represented by an Endorse Management Group and Buchwald Agency.

ZOË BLEU

(ROSE)

Zoe Bleu is an actress and fashion designer. Zoe can next be seen starring in Patricia Arquette's upcoming film, GONZO GIRL – opposite Willem Dafoe and Camila Morrone. Zoe also designed the costumes for GONZO GIRL. She won 'Best Actress' at the Brooklyn Film Festival and Rome Film Festival, for her lead role in the 2022 indie feature, SIGNS OF LOVE. Past credits include BATTLE FOR TERRA (Lionsgate), THE BLING RING (A24) and THE INSTITUTE (Momentum Pictures). She attended Sarah Lawrence College and has trained with John Ruskin at the Sandy Meisner Theater as well as with Sheila Gray.



REBECCA THOMAS

(Writer)

Writer/Director Rebecca Thomas' first short film premiered at Sundance in 2009. She went on to debut her first feature, ELECTRICK CHILDREN at the Berlinale and South by Southwest Film Festival and then earned a spot on Variety's "Top Ten New Directors to Watch in Hollywood" as well as an Independent Spirit Award nomination. A graduate of Columbia University's renowned School of the Arts Film Masters Program, Rebecca has directed television for last decade, including STRANGER THINGS, WHEN THE STREETLIGHTS GO ON, ARCHIVE 81, and LIMETOWN starring Jessica Biel and Stanley Tucci. Rebecca co-wrote GONZO GIRL with Jessica Caldwell.She is currently developing her own musical TV show with Aggregate, as well as a movie called A MISSION, a roman à clef based on her experience as a Mormon missionary in Japan. She is managed by Susan Solomon at Circle of Confusion and represented by CAA.

JESSICA CALDWELL

(Writer)

Jessica Caldwell hails from a lobstering island of 500 people off the coast of Maine and attended college at just 16 years old. A graduate of Columbia University's MFA Film program, she produced the independent feature films ELECTRICK CHILDREN, HAPPY BABY, AWOL and WHEN I'M DONE DYING. Her feature film productions have premiered at Berlinale, SXSW, Tribeca, and have had theatrical and digital distribution. Her short film work has premiered at Sundance, Telluride and Tribeca. Jessica was the writers room assistant and showrunners assistant on the Showtime series BILLIONS. Jessica's short story "Fractured: A First Date" was published in the New York Times. She wrote EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS for Andrew Lazar (Mad Chance) and co-wrote the upcoming feature film GONZO GIRL with Rebecca Thomas — starring and directed by Patricia Arquette, co-starring Willem Dafoe and Camila Morrone. Jessica is managed by Susan Solomon at Circle of Confusion.

TOM HELLER

(PRODUCER)

Tom Heller is President of Rh Negative, a film and television production company he runs with actress Regina Hall, and a partner at Catch and Release Films alongside Frank Hall Green. Heller has produced and executive produced a string of critically acclaimed and financially successful independent films over the last ten years including Academy Award-winning "Precious," directed by Lee Daniels; Danny Boyle's "127 Hours," which was nominated for six Oscars; Humanitas Award-winning "Win-Win," starring Paul Giamatti and directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Tom McCarthy; and Indie Spirit Award-winning "Mud," starring Matthew McConaughey and Reese Witherspoon and directed by Jeff Nichols.

Heller also executive produced Sony Pictures Classics' "Foxcatcher," starring Steve Carell, Channing Tatum and Mark Ruffalo, after first discovering the source material for the story in 2004 and acquiring life rights to Olympic wrestler Mark Schultz. He brought the materials to director Bennett Miller, recognizing the filmmaker's affinity for true crime dramas and eccentric characters through his work on "Capote." The film was nominated for five Oscars.

Prior to joining Catch and Release and Rh Negative, Heller ran Everest Entertainment, a financing and production company, for seven years, and began his entertainment industry career at ICM.

FRANK HALL GREEN

(PRODUCER)

Frank Hall Green is an award-winning producer and writer/director. Frank is a partner in Catch & Release Films with producer Tom Heller (FOXCATCHER, 127 HOURS, PRECIOUS). Most recently, Frank has developed and produced GONZO GIRL, directed by Patricia Arquette and starring Willem Defoe and Camila Morrone, based on a novel about Hunter S. Thompson. As a writer/director, his debut WILDLIKE starred Ella Purnell and Bruce Greenwood, was released theatrically with a rating of 100% Rotten Tomatoes and won dozens of awards while playing over 200 film festivals. Frank is also developing the book DESCENT with Robert Redford to be directed by Florian Von Donnersmarck with a script by Mark L Smith; the notable memoir KAFFIR BOY; BOY 21 with Picture Start and basketball legend Steph Curry; and the second feature by Cas Nozkowski, METAL MOTHER. Frank produced the feature films THE OUTSIDE STORY starring Bryan Tyree Henry, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, UNCONFORMITY, and the documentary GETTING NAKED, among other independent films. Frank holds an MFA from NYU Graduate film school and is also an alumnus of NYU Gallatin School. He has played all the roles a budding filmmaker should, including shooter, editor, AD and boom operator. Before risking a career in film, Frank worked in the world of start-ups and Venture Capital in his hometown of Atlanta. Frank is an avid backpacker, a member of MENSA and lives on an island off the coast of Georgia.

BOBBY BUKOWSKI

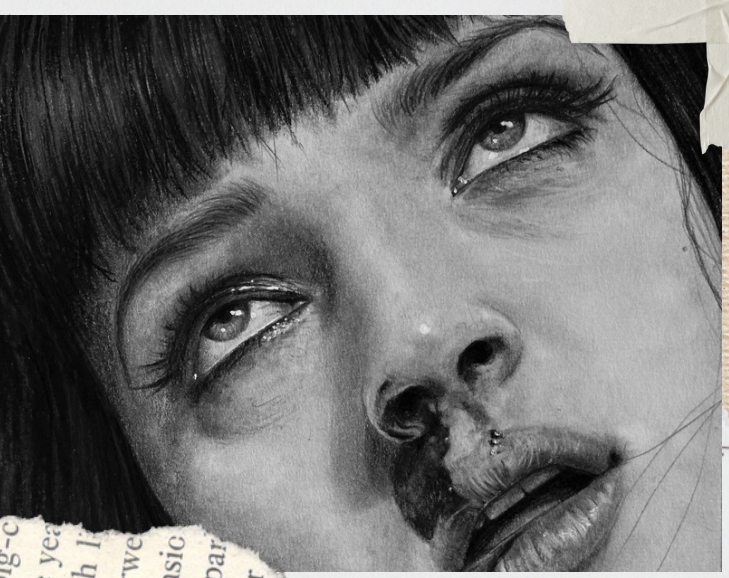
(DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)



Born in New York City is a Cinematographer. Bobby studied Biochemistry at the State University of New York, Stony Brook. En route to medical school Bobby discovered an artistic vocation during his travels to Europe and India.He became a fashion photographers assistant in Paris and found honed his skills around still cameras.

Soon after, he was enlisted as a photographer and videographer to document a Tibetan Buddhist pilgrimage along the Ganges River to all the sacred

Buddhist sites, lead by the Dalai Lama. Armed with this material, he applied to the Graduate Film School at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Since the mid-80s he has been employed as the cinematographer of close to 100 narrative and documentary films. He has also served as an adjunct Professor of Cinematography , on the graduate level, at the Tisch School of the Arts, Asia, in Singapore. His credits include Till, 99 Homes, The Messenger, Rampart, Arlington Road and Ethan Frome.



PIERRE CHARLES

(COMPOSER)

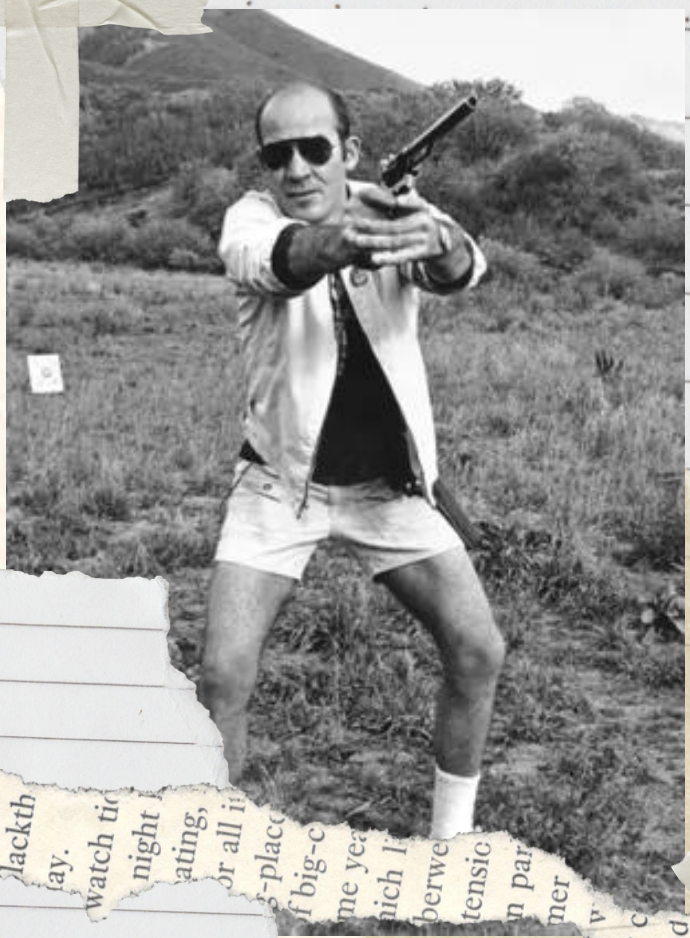
As a versatile composer with a background in jazz and classical studies, Pierre Charles thrives in sonic environments that blend the sound of traditional scores with contemporary, often electronic and synth-based, elements. In 2019, he was awarded the SABAM Award for Best Young International Composer at the internationally esteemed World Soundtrack Awards in Ghent, Belgium.

The East New York composer has recently completed the score for Gonzo Girl, a feature novel adaptation by Jessica Caldwell directed by Patricia Arquette premiering at TIFF 2023. In 2022, Charles co-composed the score for the new Shondaland limited Netflix series, Inventing Anna, with Kris Bowers, as well as co-composed the

score for the new Shondaland limited Netflix series, Inventing Anna, with Kris Bowers, as well as co-composed the score for Netflix's They Cloned Tyrone starring Jamie Foxx. In addition to his own projects, Charles has contributed music to several television series and films including Euphoria, Space Jam: A New Legacy, When They See Us,DMZ, Bridgerton, Dear White People, Mrs. America, Bad Hair, and United States vs. Billie Holiday.

Charles prides himself on his New Orleans heritage, from which he draws much of his early musical influence. He received training at Michigan State University, where he majored in jazz studies, and received a Master of Music degree from the University of Southern California.





TODD DOWNING

(EDITOR)

Todd Downing, ACE edits across a wide range of genres, from arthouse animation to slapstick comedy to documentaries about the Syrian civil war. His credits include HULU's Difficult People, PBS's Frontline, Netflix's Russian Doll created by Natasha Lynonne, and FX's Mrs. America with Cate Blanchett. A former Londoner, he's won two Royal Television Society awards and been nominated for three BAFTAS and an ACE Eddie Award.


GONZO
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