

EMIRATE STARRING
ANNIE HEISE
AARON COSTA GANIS

A FILM BY
MICHAEL MASAROF

FIRST LOVE

PRODUCED BY
ROMELL FOSTER-OWENS



FIRST LOVE

DIRECTOR
MICHAEL MASAROF

PRODUCED BY
ROMELL FOSTER-OWENS AND
MICHAEL MASAROF

WRITER
MICHAEL MASAROF

CINEMATOGRAPHER
DAGMARA MALINSKA

RUNTIME: 81 MIN



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LOGLINE

When a notorious Hollywood actress suffers a nervous breakdown and hides in a seaside hotel, her slacker twin brother must make a choice: save his troubled sister from herself, or sell his explosive tell-all book and sacrifice their twin bond for good.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Rebecca is a notorious Hollywood actress, holed up in a seaside hotel, in the midst of a nervous breakdown. Her twin brother Matthew is a lapsed lawyer and failed family man, whose new career as a writer is on the verge of a major breakthrough. They haven't seen each other in fifteen years. Matthew travels to Los Angeles, with his tell-all memoir in hand, and a plan to make it big. All he needs is his reclusive twin's blessing. As the California sun gets ever hazier, can Rebecca and Matthew grow a new bond if the old one is severed?

LONG SYNOPSIS

Rebecca (Annie Heise) is a notorious Hollywood actress, holed up in a seaside hotel, in the midst of a nervous breakdown. Her twin brother Matthew (Aaron Costa Ganis) is a lapsed lawyer and failed family man, whose new career as a writer is on the verge of a major breakthrough. They haven't seen each other in fifteen years. Matthew travels to the City of Angels, with his tell-all memoir in hand, and a plan to make it big. All he needs is his reclusive twin's blessing. He was the only one she ever trusted, but has their mysterious twin bond stood the test of time? As Rebecca slinks further into an abyss, and Matthew wanders the city looking for a connection, they both find distractions. A naïve Jordanian hotel worker (Amin El Gamal) and a young Swedish woman (Malin Barr) seem like the perfect fix, but these newfound romances only bring Matthew and Rebecca closer to one another. As the Pacific breaks in front of them and the California sun gets ever hazier, can Rebecca and Matthew grow a new bond if the old one is severed?

WEBSITE: WWW.FIRSTLOVEFEATURE.COM

IMDB: [HTTPS://PRO.IMDB.COM/TITLE/TT5155360](https://pro.imdb.com/title/tt5155360)

FACEBOOK: [@FIRSTLOVEFEATURE](https://www.facebook.com/FIRSTLOVEFEATURE)

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INSTAGRAM: [@FIRSTLOVEFEATURE](https://www.instagram.com/FIRSTLOVEFEATURE)

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: USA

GENRE: DRAMA

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

YEAR: 2019

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Venice Beach, California, 2010: A young filmmaker fresh out of NYU Grad Film sits in a hotel room overlooking the Pacific ocean pondering his limited existence and thinks to himself: it is time. The filmmaker, Writer/Director Michael Masarof surmises the best way to make his debut feature film is to limit the locations – and what better location than a hotel room on the ocean, with a famous actress trapped inside! All we need is financing he thinks to himself over copious amounts of espresso.

Cut to five years later aka one year in the movie business, and a successful Kickstarter campaign greenlights the film “First Love” into production. The 100-page script is shot in 12 days entirely on location in Seal Beach, Venice Beach, and Echo Park, a truly miraculous feat that requires a real collaborative effort all the way down the line.

Michael and Cinematographer Daga Malinska work fast and furiously to craft the unique look of the film, and lead actors Annie Heise and Aaron Costa Ganis with limited time for rehearsal, step up immediately to the challenges of two demanding characters and play them with aplomb.

The film moves into Post Production, where Editor Barnaby Levy, Composer Marcello De Francisci and Sound Designer Anne Toklkinen beautifully reshape the film into a gorgeous tapestry of story, sound, and music. In September of this year First Love makes its international festival debut at the Oscar Qualifying Edmonton International Film Festival. Now with theatrical and VOD set to launch in December, the film is poised to bring in a wide audience, to view a truly artistic, unique film that tells the story of twin siblings and (as Michael calls it) the act of not finding yourself.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

On the surface, the story of *First Love* is a story of twins. More specifically, the tale of a famous actress and her twin brother, who tries to exploit his sister's fame for his own fortune. As we dig deeper we come to learn the story of *First Love* is a story of connection, of two people who are lost. It so happens: being lost is what connects them. What makes them found, so to speak is that they have a twin; an equal. Therefore, they are never really lost. They are united through life whether they like it or not. Family is the ultimate human connection. A connection we can't shake even if we try to.

I set out to make a movie about disparate people connecting. Of people seeking meaning and coming up short. I like to joke that instead of making a coming of age film or a finding yourself film. I made a not finding yourself movie. The not coming of age story.

Why this movie, why now? Because there is a dearth of them. In the age of super hero laden tent poles we so rarely get a chance to see people be human and go through it on the big screen, like we do in our own lives. What if we just can watch someone as they really are with no judgement. An honest portrayal of humans, so that every line of dialog, every moment feels truthful and fully realized. Annie Heise as Rebecca and Aaron Costa Ganis as Matthew were able to create two broken characters that are genuinely hurting.

In the making of this film, I cultivated my own voice and style. Intimate and thoughtful, mysterious and poetic. To continue a tradition of a long line of filmmakers who have come before me as keen observers of life: Antonioni, Akerman, Linklater, Reichardt, to name a few. That have set me on this great road of telling my story the way I want to tell it not how other's expect it to be told. My mantra as a filmmaker can be best summed up by this Bob Dylan lyric: And I'll tell it, and speak it, and think it, and breathe it. But I'll know my song well before I start singing. I am being given the opportunity to show my film to millions of people, and I hope to reflect the private moments of their lives in the public space, so to give those who are lost a picture, to let them know they are not alone.

Michael Masarof
Writer-Director
FIRST LOVE

MAIN CREDITS

WRITTEN, AND DIRECTED BY MICHAEL MASAROF

PRODUCED BY
ROMELL FOSTER-OWENS
MICHAEL MASAROF

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
TOM COLEMAN
BERNIE KATTLER
NATHAN DUNN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
DAGMARA MALINSKA

EDITING BY
BARNABY LEVY

ORIGINAL SCORE BY
MARCELLO DE FRANCISCI

SOUND DESIGN BY
ANNE TOLKKINEN



FILMMAKER BIOS



Michael Masarof
DIRECTOR • PRODUCER • WRITER

Michael Masarof is a writer and director born in New York and residing in Los Angeles. Michael received his MFA in Film Directing from New York University's Maurice Kanbar Institute of Film & Television's Graduate film program at the Tisch School of The Arts, where he was the recipient of the Jane Rosenthal Scholarship and the Warner Bros. Production Grant. Michael's short film **YOU SHOULD HAVE THE BODY** won the first place prize at the International Munich Festival of Film Schools. It also screened as a special presentation at the Berlinale, as well as on Channel 3SAT in Germany. **FIRST LOVE** is Michael's debut feature.



Romell Foster-Owens
PRODUCER

Foster-Owens is a graduate of the prestigious American Film Institute, an Alumnus of the Producers Guild of America's Diversity Workshop and Robert De Niro's Tribeca All Access Program. Foster-Owens' feature film producing credits include, *IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME*, *THE LONESOME TRAIL*, *PRETTY HATTIE'S BABY*, and the critically acclaimed PBS documentary, *WATCH ME MOVE* and *HOLLYWOOD AT IT'S BEST*.



Daga Malinska
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Daga Malinska is a Polish born cinematographer based in Los Angeles. Having grown up in the gritty but beautiful post-communistic Poland, her eyes opened as an adult, living in places such as Oslo, London and now Los Angeles. In 2008 she was awarded a filmmaking scholarship at London Film Academy. It was in LFA that she first connected with her on going passion and profession - cinematography. Her work at Academy gained her a selection for New British Cinematographers Night. Later on she was successfully accepted to American Film Institute MFA Cinematography Program, from where she graduated in 2014.



Barnaby Levy
EDITOR

Barnaby Levy has been making art in one form or another since receiving his MFA in Painting from UCSD in 1987. Since 2000 he has collaborated with choreographer Rosanna Gamson, making videos for live performance; and with photographer Sallie DeEtte Mackie in making video-tapes for installation and single channel videos. In 2009 he presented *Accident*, a four wall video installation that displays four major streets in Los Angeles: Beverly Blvd., Sepulveda Blvd., Washington Blvd., and Western Ave. In 2014 he edited his first feature, *MOON DUST*, for artist Scott Reeder. His collaboration with Michael Masarof marks the completion of his second feature as an editor.



Marcello De Francisci **COMPOSER**

Marcello De Francisci is an American composer with an Italian-Argentinean background based in Los Angeles, California. His career began as a visual artist while attending fine art school in the city of Seville (an institution founded by famed Baroque painter Bartolome Esteban Murillo) later furthering his education at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, in Spain. During the course of his studies he taught himself music in addition would soon discover his true passion was to score soundtracks to films. He is a recipient of two Australian Film Critic's Circle Awards for his work on **BALIBO** and **ORANGES & SUNSHINE**.



Anne Tolkkinen **SOUND DESIGN**

Anne Tolkkinen is a sound designer who graduated with her MA in 2005 from the Department of Film and TV at the University of Art and Design in Helsinki, and currently resides in Los Angeles. After working in Finland, United Kingdom and Czech Republic, she started her US career with a bang: in 2015, two feature films she was the supervising sound editor on played at the LA Film Festival, one of them winning the Domestic Competition, playing at the Berlinale Film Festival, and receiving an Independent Spirit Award nomination. In her film career Anne has always been especially passionate about great stories, and exploring how the creative use of sound can be used in telling them.

CAST BIOS



Annie Heise **REBECCA**

Annie Heise is an actress, known for *THE GOOD MISTRESS*, *TSI: HOLLYWOOD*, and *MADOFF*. Heise attended Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama, where she was awarded the Carnegie Scholarship. Named one of *Backstage Magazine's* 2013 Backstage 30 - 30 actors on the brink of stardom.



Aaron Costa Ganis
MATTHEW

Aaron Costa Ganis graduated from NYU Graduate Acting Program '12. He was a Tisch School of The Arts Fellowship recipient. He starred in *PRICE FOR FREEDOM* opposite Navid Negahban (*HOMELAND*), *BLOOD, SAND, AND GOLD*; dir. Gaelan Connell; Supporting lead in feature film *STRAIGHT OUTTA TOMPKINS* with Whoopi Goldberg, *Backstage Magazine* & *Hollywood Reporter's Backstage 30: Actors On The Brink of Stardom*, 2012.



Amin El Gamal KALIL

Amin El Gamal was born during an earthquake in Palo Alto, California. His parents are both Egyptian immigrants - his mother came to the United States with her family at 13 to escape political persecution and his father immigrated to study electrical engineering at Stanford University. He attended Palo Alto High School, and then graduated with a bachelor's degree in Drama and English from Stanford University before progressing to the USC School of Dramatic Arts, which he left with a masters in 2011.



Arye Gross
RICHARD CREST

Extremely gifted character actor whose face is readily familiar to the public but they can often not remember why. He tends to turn minor supporting roles into perfect studies in human frailty, strength, passion, avarice or anything else demanded by the role. Gross' extensive stage credits include *LA BETE* for the Stages Theatre Center, *ROOM SERVICE* for the Pasadena Playhouse, *THREE SISTERS* for the Los Angeles Theatre Center, *TAMING OF THE SHREW* and *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* for the Grove Shakespeare Festival, *TROILLUS AND CRESSIDA* for the Globe Playhouse and *SCREWBALL* and *LET'S PLAY TWO* for the South Coast Repertory Theatre.

PRODUCTION STILLS





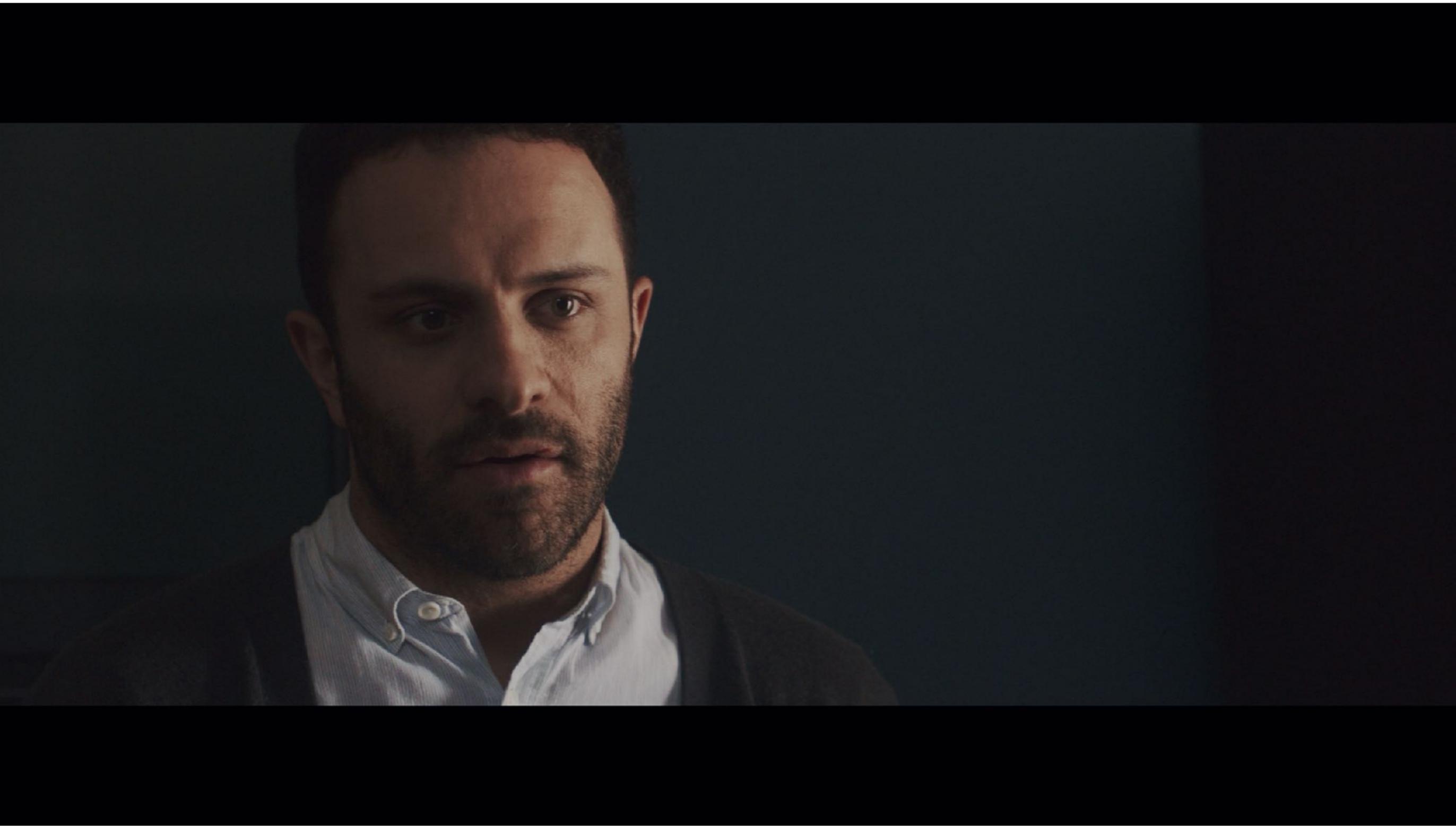
















BEHIND THE SCENES











RED

SHIMANE 0 9 9
PINOT NOIR
MALBEC

WHITE

SAUVIGNON BLANC 10
PINOT GRIGIO 6 7
VERDEJO 7

SPARKLING

CAVA 8 7 9
LAMBRUSCO 7 9
ROSE (see menu)

BOTTLES

BUD/BUD LIGHT '5

STELLA '6

MODELLER '10

BIT BUNCH '10

ANTHEM '10

KOMB '10

9.9
5.2
6.8
10



END CREDITS

Produced by

ROMELL FOSTER-OWENS

Cinematography by

DAGMARA MALINSKA

Editing by

BARNABY LEVY

Original Score by

MARCELLO DE FRANCISCI

Sound Design by

ANNE TOLKKINEN

Written, Directed, and Produced by
MICHAEL MASAROF

Matthew Rosetti	AARON COSTA GANIS
Rebecca Rosetti/Lisa Russo	ANNIE HEISE
Kalil	AMIN EL GAMAL
Richard Crest	ARYE GROSS
Malena	MALIN BARR
Alexander	WILLIAM CASTROGIOVANNI
Audrey	MIA BARRON
Robert Harrington	ADAM HUBER
Boris	VERYLE RUPP

Young Rebecca JOSLYN SCALLON

Young Matthew MILES PLATT

**Entertainment News Anchors SHEILA CARRASCO
JOSH STAMELL**

**Co - Executive Producers TOM COLEMAN
NATHAN DUNN**

**Associate Producers ALISON MAREK
JOHN SALERNO
PETER LOMENZO**

First Assistant Director MARA DITCHFIELD

Script Supervisor **GENEVIÈVE CASHMAN**
GAELE HARVEY

Additional Photography **JAMIE URMAN**
OLIVIA KUAN

First Assistant Camera **PATRICK GERAGHTY**
SEAN GOODE

Second Assistant Camera/DIT **HARRIET BEANLAND**
SARAH GREENWALD
XIAFANG SALLY XU

Gimbal Operator **GEORG SARKISIAN**

Gimbal Operator Assistant **CHRISTIAN VALLE**

Production Designer **YANA RUSANOVA**

Costume Designer JADE THOMPSON

Wardrobe TIANA BRINTON

Makeup Artist/Hair Stylist MECCA DICKERSON

ANA GABRIELA QUINONEZ

Assistant Makeup Artist TONI LOVE RITCHEY

Stills Photographer TIBRINA HOBSON

Assistant Editor ALEX DISHAL

Production Sound Mixer JAMIE GAMBELL

JOSEPH FIORELLO

DOUG PEARSON

Boom Operator ETHAN BIGGERS

Gaffer VALENTINA MARTINICO

Key Grip STEVE D'HAEM

SOPHIA STIEGLITZ

Swing Grip and Electric ANDREW KAHN

BRENT BAILEY

Stunt Coordinators CHASE RIVERA

MATT SIGLOCH

Set Teacher JAN TURETSKY

Accountant SUZAN GLICKMAN/RC BARAL

Production Assistant YOUNG HO KIM

Caterer IMPECCABLE TASTE

Colorist JUSSI MYLLYNIEMI/WHITEPOINT

**Re-Recording Mixers OLLI PÄRNÄNEN/MEGURU FILM SOUND LTD.
ANNE TOLKKINEN**

**Additional Musicians ROB DOBSON
ADAM BROCK**

Visual Effects **BILLY PENCE**
JOUKO MANNINEN

Title Design **JEREMY WABISZCZEWICZ**

End Titles **COURTNEY TANIGUCHI**

Graphic Artist **NANCY SOHN**

Production Counsel **BIANCA GOODLOE, ESQ./GOODLOE LAW**

Production Insurance **TRUMAN VAN DYKE**

ATHOS INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC

MUSIC

“O Ma Lyre Immortell”

by Charles Gounod

Performed by Marianne Cornetti and Alfredo Abbati

With Permission of Marianne Cornetti

“Life”

By Paul Bergmann

Performed by Paul Bergmann

From the album “Stars and Streams”

With Permission of Paul Bergmann

“Wintersturme”

by Richard Wagner

Performed by Domenico Ricci

With Permission of Domenico Ricci

“Cause For Alarm!”

Courtesy of Film Chest Media Group

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Abraham El Gamal

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Chad Hahn

Christine Rhoades

Clayton Apgar

Danny Mendoza

Adam Horowitz

Alec Ananian

Alexis Nussbaum

Amanda Jung

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Asbed Kassis

Becky Silber

Brandi Nicole Payne

Caren Sokol

Charlotte Frires

Cindy Chan

Dan Pecci

Darlene and Stanley Portnow

Adam Varga

Alex Akers

Alisa Bergman

Anastasia Spencer

Andrew Wroblewski

Anne Nemer

Ashley Oppon

Benjamin Zaretsky

Brett Moss

Carla Silber

Christina and Russell Spieler

CJ Harry

Daniel Ahn

David Chandler

Adonna Thompson

Alex Maghen

Alisa Han

Andrea Janelle Simental

Angela Kilgore

Anshul Kumar

Ashraf El Gamal

Beth Scanlon

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Levana Shkedi	Lisa Klein Padilla	Loren Bonner	Luba and Steve Fredericks
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Trencher	Keegan Goudiss	Judy and Marty Knee

From The Heart Productions Inc.

Trencher

Don Andes/Little Joy

Jill Notini

Luke Matheny

Steve Herman

Vahram Sukyas

Pacific Inn

Jill and Gary Spieler

Keegan Goudiss

Mari and Pasi Hotti

Todd Soiefer

Rafael Del Toro

Eric Singer

Pacific Inn

Arthur and Arlene Schwimmer

Nancy Langsan

Judy and Marty Knee

Byron Kominek

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Color Time

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Terry Perl

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Stephanie and Mike Radkay

Rebecca Berman

Louise and Marcus Masarof

Julie Dara Masarof

In Memory of
Blanche Levy | Sten Witzel



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