

**INDIECAN ENTERTAINMENT**  
**presents**

# MOON POINT

**A Film by Sean Cisterna**  
**(82 min, Canada, 2011)**

DISTRIBUTION



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High res stills may be downloaded from: <http://www.moonpointmovie.com/media.html>

## **ONE LINE**

An ambitionless 24-year old travels hundreds of miles in an electric wheelchair to track down his grade-school crush.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

MOON POINT is the story of Darryl Strozka (Nick McKinlay), a socially awkward and ambitionless 23-year old who seems destined to live forever with his mother. As his cocky cousin Lars' wedding approaches, Darryl decides that the best way to prove to his family that he is not quite as worthless as they think he is, is to track down his elementary school crush, now an obscure B-movie actress shooting a horror film in Moon Point, and bring her to the wedding. Darryl enlists his best friend, known affectionately as Femur (Kyle Mac), and travels hundreds of miles in a wagon hooked onto the back of Femur's electric wheelchair. On their journey, the boys meet Kristin (Paula Brancati), a sharp, sarcastic young woman who is running away from a relationship back home. Eager to join the boys on their adventure, she begins to realize that love can find you in unlikely places. But naturally, as tends to happen on such a quest, things don't turn out quite as planned. Along the way, Darryl and his friends get shot at, track a banana to an AA meeting, and are the victims of theft by a karaoke competitor. For a while, it all seems hopeless. But in the end, things work out surprisingly well for our heroes and they come to find that in MOON POINT, just like everywhere else, every loser deserves a little love.

## **LONG SYNOPSIS**

MOON POINT is the story of Darryl Strozka, a socially awkward and ambitionless 23-year old. Darryl is the brunt of his family's jokes, especially his cocky, soon-to-be-wed cousin Lars' hurtful jabs. At a family gathering, Darryl is belittled in front of almost every guest, when it is learned that his only source of income is delivering community newspapers with his physically disabled best friend, Femur – an alienated, electric wheelchair-bound outcast.

One evening, Darryl sees a news story on his local community television station, that former local child star Sarah Cherry has returned to her hometown. Sarah is an actress in a B-movie called '*Blood Lust*'. Through flashback, we learn that Sarah and Darryl were once close childhood friends. She moved away before he could give her an elaborate Valentine card he made for her, breaking his young heart. Darryl has been holding onto this Valentine card ever since. Now, Darryl is convinced that if he can bring Sarah Cherry to Lars' wedding, he will finally prove to his family that he isn't as worthless as they make him out to be.

Darryl cunningly convinces Femur to let them use his wheelchair as their long-distance mode of transportation, when all other logical attempts at transport fail. During their arduous journey, the duo encounters Kristin, a brassy and eccentric 21 year old who's trying to escape from her life. She hops in the wagon and joins the boys on their quest, bonding with them along the way. Their long journey leads them to a number of unanticipated stops, including a quaint century home run by a bizarre Innkeeper. They also unwillingly visit an AA meeting with recovering alcoholics dressed in full-scale fruit and vegetable costumes. Meanwhile, Rick, a struggling

performer upset at the group's earlier karaoke prize win, takes their last remaining possessions, including Femur's heirloom, a scrapbook of his life since birth.

Throughout their various trials and tribulations, Kristin begins to fall for Femur, as he's the only person who's ever treated her with dignity and respect. However, a call on a payphone to her "man" ends in a screaming fight. Kristin threatens to leave, and Darryl steps in with some advice, telling Kristin that Femur is terminally ill, and that this experience on the road to Moon Point is his last hurrah. She agrees to stay with them.

However, Kristin inevitably discovers that Darryl has lied to her about Femur's supposed terminal illness. She is rightfully upset and abandons the group. So does Femur, who also feels betrayed when he discovers that Darryl has been collecting cheques from a community service group for spending time with him, due to his handicap. All alone, and with time ticking away, Darryl must decide whether forge ahead towards Moon Point to find Sarah Cherry, or to do an unselfish deed for his best friend. At his lowest point, Darryl jeopardizes his chance to reunite with Sarah, and risks his life for Femur's scrapbook.

Darryl encounters Kristin, and apologizes for his actions. Returning home a changed person, Darryl presents Femur with the reclaimed scrapbook. Kristin, meanwhile, takes the reins and forms a romantic relationship with Femur.

The unlikely trio head to Darryl's cousin's wedding, where it is revealed that Lars had been engaged to Kristin this whole time. Kristin dumps Lars and sets off into the night with her new beau, Femur, leaving Lars alone and embarrassed.

Later that night, Darryl sees a mysterious figure outside his house – it is Sarah Cherry, who has come to see him. The two instantly bond after many years. Sarah, upset that her career is going nowhere fast, is given some advice by Darryl – and his words seem to inspire even himself. With witty dialogue and bizarre characters, Moon Point is a comedic journey of self-discovery, strange obstacles and unexpected outcomes.



## ***A story inspired by the joys and humiliations of first love and loserdom***

An old-school road trip film about a twenty-something down and out loser who still lives with his mom and delivers papers for a living, MOON POINT tells the story of Darryl Strozka and his wheelchair-bound best friend Femur, who set out on a journey (in the wheelchair) to find lost love. Along the way they pick up Kristin, a young woman on the run from her impending wedding; they end up at an AA meeting populated by fruit; are imperiled at the hands of an unstable innkeeper; they sing some killer karaoke launching a competitor into an envy driven rage; and truths are unveiled that threaten to destroy their friendship unless they all can find the strength to step up and grow up, finally. However, even with all this going on, MOON POINT ultimately, is simply a love story, inspired by love, created with love, and resulting in love...for one of its creators.

The idea for the screenplay first emerged in the mind of director Sean Cisterna. “It actually started with an odd image I had of a disabled guy in an electric scooter towing someone in a garden wagon along a dirt road. That’s it. I didn’t know where they were going or how they got to that place, but the image just sort of stuck with me.”

Somehow, this initial seed of an idea became the foundation for a story about the profound joy and humiliation of first love and the universally permanent impact of its end. “I know it’s kind of a weird leap, but when I thought about two guys making a road trip on an electric scooter, which seemed to be pretty dramatic and hilarious, I then asked myself ‘Where are they going?’ And the answer that jumped out at me was – looking for love!”

Cisterna adds, “This lead me to thinking about first love, and how hard that hits, and really has a lasting impact on you. Now let me preface this by saying how much I love my wife, but I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t deeply infatuated with one special girl from my 6<sup>th</sup> grade class whom I’ve never forgotten. I still actually have letters that she wrote to me 20 years ago! MOON POINT, for me, is pretty much based on that one girl.”

## ***Nothing makes you feel like a loser quite like love***

Cisterna brought the idea and the bare bones of a script to his friend and collaborator Rob Lazar. “Sean and I met for coffee and he presented me with the bones of a story. We had both been inspired by some recent comedies that had come out that were edgy and quirky, like *Juno* and *Little Miss Sunshine*, and we were both thinking about something in that vein, something that looks at life through the lens of outsiders. Which for a first love story made a lot of sense to us as I think everyone, even the cheerleader, feels a bit like a hapless loser when they first fall in love.”

“We were both really excited about making a road movie too,” adds Cisterna. “We realized there were all these great road movies that we loved and that all happened to be Canadian, like

*Highway 61, One Week, Hard Core Logo.* And the road movie would enable us to introduce a lot of obstacles to the culmination of the love story.”

Lazar of course also had his own personal experience of first love to draw from, when he sat down to write the screenplay, also coincidentally courtesy of a certain social networking web site. “I remember logging on to this ‘small site’ called Facebook, which was still a relatively new concept for those no longer enrolled in school. I was enjoying reconnecting with people from my past and checking them out and one night, I came upon a girl I knew from elementary school. I couldn’t tell from her picture exactly what she looked like, but it didn’t matter. You see, when I was 10 years old, she was my first crush. (i.e., she spoke to me). She stirred feelings in me I couldn’t comprehend at such a young age. Then came the day she transferred to a new school. I was heartbroken. Thoughts of her crept into my mind periodically throughout the years. But it wasn’t until that moment when I saw her profile picture that these long-spent embers of childhood feelings I had thought extinguished by my less-than-innocent adult relationships, crept back into my thoughts. I quickly put in a friend request, which was accepted the next day. Curiosity possessed me as I began browsing through her profile. I clicked on her photo album and spied the 10-year old girl I once knew, iridescent behind the eyes of a 20-something woman. I clicked on the next picture and there she was, husband on one side, two children on the other – a perfect Norman Rockwell family portrait. The air around me seemed to oxidize into ash. I remember thinking how inane it was to even feel anything at all from this. What we had was innocent nonsense. Totally meaningless. But it wasn’t meaningless. It was the discovery of a lost chapter to a book you’ve read so many times and realizing it completely changes the narrative.”

When Lazar presented Cisterna with a first draft of MOON POINT a few months later, the script immediately resonated with him. “I thought it was just brilliant, funny, odd, totally memorable, and I loved it. I think it captures both the sense of how ridiculous and dorky you feel both as a young person and in the face of first love, and it also had that nostalgic feeling that really great coming-of-age stories have. It reminded me of how I felt when I first saw *Stand By Me*. There’s a line in that movie that I thought of everyday we were shooting MOON POINT, “I never had any friends later like the ones I had when I was twelve. Jesus, does anyone?”

### ***Love hurts***

Following the initial draft, the film struggled to find a team that really understood it, and also that didn’t have instincts towards trying to soften the comedy. “This film definitely has characters and situations that are out there and our leads are very flawed. Sean and I have found that even in movies that we’ve loved that are purported as “quirky” that there is this movie rule that your lead characters can’t do anything that would be too hard for them to redeem themselves from. But of course we all do shitty things, and we wanted to believe that audiences could accept really human characters.”

One of the most challenging moments in the film is when it is revealed that Darryl has been receiving government cheques to spend time with Femur as part of an outreach program for

disabled youth. However this situation was in fact drawn from Cisterna's own life. "One summer, during high school, I worked with a disabled boy. I was responsible for taking him to summer camp, out to movies, to amusement parks. The boy was just ecstatic that I was hanging out with him. Even though I cared about this boy, it was always the most uncomfortable feeling to accept payment for simply hanging out with him...but I needed the money! So perhaps this is a way of making amends with myself and admitting my own past selfishness."

Unfortunately, the filmmakers found that some of the producers and financing opportunities they explored would be conditional on them softening the edges of the movie they wanted to make. "The movie takes some risks and touches upon what I guess are considered sacred cows," shares Lazar. "Some people that we tried to work with to produce it didn't seem comfortable with taking those risks. Until we found Avi."

A few months into the process, Cisterna went to a small film festival to see a screening of the successful Canadian road movie *One Week*, which was produced by industry veteran Avi Federgreen. "I thought the film was great and listening to Avi talk afterwards I was struck by his passion and his commitment to supporting the artistic vision of a project, and I knew from his credits that he wasn't a guy who walked away from edgy material. So I basically jumped him after the show and asked him to read the script."

And read he did. Federgreen read the script very quickly and liked the material. And while the script of course had to work for him for him to get involved, he was really compelled to join the team because he felt that Sean and Rob were kindred spirits. "I really saw in Sean me. He was a keen, eager, passionate filmmaker who loves films and was willing to do whatever it took to make the film. I felt that I needed to help him see this film through to the end, and that I felt we could find an audience with his film. It felt like a hip, new *Some Kind of Wonderful* by John Hughes or a film like *Say Anything!* I love those type of films and I have always wanted to make a film like that and I felt MOON POINT could be a film like that."

### ***Love knows no bounds***

From that point on, the movie became its own rag tag road trip of sorts, and the team picked up team members and had myriad surprising experiences along the way. The next stop on this trip after getting some money together to make the film, was to cast, which in this case was quite a feat given somewhat limited resources and a fairly large ensemble of quirky characters to fill.

To kick off the search for comedic talent who could bring some chops to the supporting parts, Cisterna began with his friend and notable comedy talent Christian Potenza. Potenza loved the script and was game to come on board not just to perform but to also help produce the film and use his many contacts in the Toronto comedy talent pool to cast the cameo roles.

“What excited me about the script, was that it was a story that I could relate to. I am a hopeless and constant romantic. I have been on a quest since I can't even remember when to be in love. I believe in love and all the things it makes you do - I am a love first person,” enthuses Potenza. “When I saw our hero get motivated and gather his manhood and go find his true love, I thought to myself – that’s me! I had no other option other than to see this story play out. Like a photographer chasing the sunset, I can relate to Daryl. It's simple math - BOY likes GIRL= ADVENTURE!”

So Potenza approached every contact he knew from Casting to Production trailers. “What I love about my community of actors in this town is that they will more often than not just respond to good material and dedicate themselves to a project, regardless of the paycheck.” He adds, “I am very blessed to have fallen into the role of producer on this film and it is a time of my life I will always cherish. It’s amazing to have seen filmmaking from both sides now – I honestly couldn’t say which I love more.”

With Potenza’s connection, the producers were able to wrangle together a supporting cast of comedy all-stars including Linda Kash, Jessica Holmes, Boyd Banks, Jayne Eastwood, Tony Nappo, and Art Hindle.

For the lead roles the team cast relative newcomers Nick McKinlay (*Cooper’s Camera*) and Kyle Mac (“Triple Sensation”, “Baxter”), as well as the seasoned young actress Paula Brancati known from “Degrassi” and “Being Erica”. “For our leads we really wanted fresh faces who would bring vulnerability and authenticity,” offers Sean Cisterna. We looked at a lot of young actors, and made all our choices intuitively. It always feels like a bit of a gamble, but in this case I think we really put three people together who brought honesty and a lot of chemistry to the story.” Moving forward, it seemed that the amount of commitment everyone brought to the project was inversely proportionate to the financial resources the low-budget indie had. “It was like the perfect storm of filmmaking,” says Hindle upon initial reflection of MOON POINT. “Everything came together - a perfect script, perfect cast, perfect crew who were all unflinchingly sacrificial to the final product”.

The film was shot outside of the big city filmmaking hub in picturesque York Region and Simcoe County, in October 2010. The production team took advantage of the beautiful fall foliage in the various rural settings, and took the road trip story to heart, filming in small towns in a new location every day. Each location had something different to offer and helped the cast add further nuance to their performances. “Not having seen any of the locations beforehand allowed us to come into the scenes with a real sense of experiencing the environment just as our characters do”, says Brancati.

For Cisterna, the process of making this coming-of-age film was a coming-of-age experience in itself, and not so far off from that quote from *Stand By Me* that had inspired him. “MOON POINT is something I’m tremendously proud of. It was the first – and only – project I will probably ever independently make out of sheer love for the story. What we lacked in budget was made up with in heart, and I’ll never forget the friends and experiences we had along the way.”

The icing on the cake? As the journey went on, the crew's resident romantic, Christian Potenza, had his own heart stolen during filming. "I found love on the set and we are together now and making plans for the future. I have no idea where this movie will take us but I am prepared for anything because for now, I've found my 'Sarah Cherry' and I am ALL GOOD!"

### ***The perfect road trip mix tape***

Everyone knows that a great road trip needs a great mix tape. But in the indie filmmaking world, a significant soundtrack can be hard to achieve.

Luckily, the combination of Cisterna and Federgreen's tenacity and Federgreen's contacts from an earlier project enabled them to make their dream 'mix tape.'

"I wanted, wherever possible, to use music that sounded as if it was recorded while on a road trip. I only wanted tracks that were acoustic," shares Cisterna regarding his aesthetic for the music choices. "There is one song that defines the tone of the film for me, and that's City and Colour's *The Girl*. I wanted this song all during the development phase of the film, years before production even began. As City and Colour grew in popularity, I came to recognize that we could likely never afford to license the song. But the band's management team was kind enough to hear our plea and deal with our pestering and finally allow us to use the song in the film."

To get many of their other choices, Executive Producer Avi Federgreen's connections from previous projects proved invaluable. Specifically, as the producer of the film *Score! A Hockey Musical*, Federgreen worked closely with Canada's music industry on original compositions for the film.

"Right from the get go, Sean and I talked about a soundtrack with a mix of great songs and score. To that end, we reached out to a lot of friends and contacts in the Canadian music industry. Many great Canadian artists never get their songs in feature films, and we wanted to see that change, so MOON POINT's soundtrack features both well known Canadian indie artists as well as new, up and coming acts," shares Federgreen.

He continues, "We started thinking about whose music would be great for our little film -- I called up many friends and artists like Emm Gryner, Danny Michel, Phil Klyco of weewerk (who reps Great Lake Swimmers and Jon-Rae Fletcher), Susan de Cartier of Starfish Entertainment and Suzie Ungerleider (aka Oh Susanna), and Wayne Petti of Cuff The Duke. Sean and (composer) Mark Alexander also brought on other great artists like Basia Bulat, Spirit of the West, Nathan Lawr, Howie Beck, Michou, Stars of Boulevard, Jory Nash, Blair Packham, Marty Smets, Erin Gignac, Glen Ried, Danny Bakan, Clinton Johnston Band, Mike Kivari, Sara Giguere, and The Danger Bees. I think the end result is an eclectic music mix that serves the story and is also a remarkable showcase of Canadian music."

During the process of selecting the soundtrack the filmmakers also held a contest on their Facebook page asking our fans to submit a song they thought would work in the film. They received over 150 entries that they narrowed down to four songs. The four winners were Frankie Whyte and the Dead Idols, Diana Zitimanis, Teresa Boase, and Final Thought.

“We are very fortunate that all of these artists and their representatives believe in our film and were gracious in helping us,” comments Cisterna. Federgreen adds “In return we will be setting up a soundtrack playlist on iTunes and will use our website, posters and any other way possible to help promote these amazing artists.”



# CAST

## **NICK MCKINLAY (Darryl Strozka)**

Nick McKinlay got his start in a high school theatre production of "Robin Hood" and his single line was "duuuuhhh". Nick has been acting professionally for three years now. He has been featured on programs such as the Family Channel's "Overruled!" and starred alongside Canadian comedy royalty in *Coopers' Christmas* (an opportunity he received once again as part of the MOON POINT team). Nick spends his free time searching out live music or watching "The X-Files", and occasionally writes/plays music of his own under the name "Nicholas Doubleyou". He currently resides in Toronto, ON.

### ***NICK'S FIRST CRUSH***

*"My first crush was in Grade 5. Well, "crush" is probably a misnomer really, because as far as I was concerned it was Love. Her name was Kaitlyn and her family had moved to my tiny town from Alberta that summer. She was very pretty and very organized (which was the opposite of me). I helped her find her missing Pokemon cards, wrote about her in my journal; we spent a lot of recesses together and I had never had so much to talk about with a girl. She moved back to Alberta that February and I never had the courage to tell her how I felt. So thanks Kaitlyn, wherever you have ended up, you were undoubtedly the prototype, the beta model, for the bevy of hyper-intelligent, wide-eyed, old-fashioned-knock-me-outs that I have found myself carrying torches for over the years."*

## **PAULA BRANCATI (Kristin)**

Paula is an extremely versatile performer and a veteran of the film and television industry. She is best known for her portrayal of Jane Vaughan on the internationally acclaimed "Degrassi: The Next Generation" and her work on the Emmy-winning series "Dark Oracle", both of which garnered her Gemini Award nominations for Best Performance in a leading role. She can be seen as Jenny in the CBC/Soapnet hit series "Being Erica", currently in its 4<sup>th</sup> season.

Paula is also a two time Dora Award nominee, earning nominations in the same year for her title role in Ross Petty's musical adaptation of *Cinderella* and Van's Sister in *Dog Sees God*.

Other theatre credits include starring alongside Andrea Martin, Louise Pitre, and Mary Walsh in the Canadian premiere of the off-Broadway smash-hit *Love, Loss and What I Wore*.

Paula's passion for the arts also extends to music. She showcased her rock/pop vocal abilities on 3 songs she recorded for the "Degrassi Takes Manhattan" soundtrack. Paula can be seen this holiday season starring in the ABC Family Christmas movie "Desperately Seeking Santa".

### ***PAULA'S FIRST CRUSH***

*I was 4 years old when I had my first real crush. We were in Junior Kindergarten and the coolest game to play was "Saved by the Bell" (based on the hit early '90s TV show, of course!). I would*

*expertly cast my friends in their appropriate character roles; the boy I liked was (obviously) "Zack Morris" (AKA the epitome of coolness and charisma.) I knew another girl in class was crushing on the same guy as me, and everyday, she would insist on being "Kelly" (the coveted female role, and Zack's longtime girlfriend on the show.) For a 4 year old, I was apparently very persuasive, convincing her that because of her extremely curly hair, she looked much more like "Jessie Spano" (Zack's smart best friend) and if we were going for realism here, she had no choice but to take on that character. She bought it and I was thrilled! My crush and I would pretend to be boyfriend and girlfriend everyday as we played "Saved by the Bell", living vicariously through Zack & Kelly's on screen-lives. It was awesome.*

### **KYLE MAC (Femur)**

Kyle Mac was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta. After graduating high school, he took off to Victoria, British Columbia to attend the *Canadian College of Performing Arts*, focusing on musical theatre and acting. At the end of his two years of training Kyle auditioned for CBC's reality competition "Triple Sensation", the search for Canada's next musical theatre star, and was one of 12 performers selected from across Canada to compete in the show. He was ranked first every week and was a finalist. Immediately following, Kyle moved to Toronto and quickly got work as *Romeo* in Classical Theatre Projects production of *Romeo & Juliet*. He then changed his focus to Film & Television, training all over the city until he landed a guest on "Flashpoint", and then a series regular role on MTV's vampire thriller "Valemont", as a villain vampire. He was then lucky enough to book a series regular role on Family Channel's original series "Baxter". Since, he has had guest star roles on "Murdoch Mysteries", "Wingin' It" and "Unnatural History". Kyle's role as a paraplegic named Femur in MOON POINT is the most exciting opportunity and rewarding experience of his young career!

### **KYLE'S FIRST CRUSH**

*Kyle's first crush was one he can vividly remember to this day. Justine Brown was a tom-boyish girl who lived far across a field from Kyle in a very large mansion. They went to school together throughout all of elementary and junior high. Kyle's crush on Justine was no secret to anyone, he truly loved her for 6 years, and he could not be swayed from this girl. He would go to the bus stop early to flirt with her everyday if he could, and made friends with her friends so that they would put in a good word for him. This went on from Grade 2 until Grade 8. Convinced his persistence terrified the young girl, after being shut down on 2-3 separate occasions and not even a spin the bottle kiss, Kyle decided he was young and it was time to move on. Since Justine Brown, Kyle has had few loves that have compared to that intense kindergarten crush. Only a few years ago Kyle learned that Justine indeed grew up to be a lesbian. Sewing the wounds of his tarnished ego up for good.*

### **KRISTEN GUTOSKIE (Sarah Cherry)**

With a love for performing that extends to her early years, Kristen Gutoskie has trained and worked as an actor since the age of 12 and sung and danced since she could tie her shoe. Over these years, Kristen has won numerous competitions as a solo singer, and competed in many

dance groups. She got her start in commercials and soon appeared in television productions on Showcase, CTV, and Global. Her training includes time at 'The Second City' and 'Armstrong Acting Studio'. She continued working into her teen years, and went on to complete an honours arts degree at Wilfrid Laurier University, where she taught hip-hop dance classes in her spare time. In her last year of study she traveled as an exchange student to Australia, where she starred in Australian play *Cosi* by playwright Louis Nowra. She continued her travels in New Zealand and Europe. Since returning, Kristen's recent appearances include roles in "Being Erica" (CBC/Erik Canuel), "Rookie Blue" (ABC/David Wellington), "Breakout Kings" (A&E/Mel Damski), "Vacation with Derek" (Disney/Mike McGowan), and feature film *Leslie, My Name is Evil* (Reginald Harkema). She is currently wrapping up in South Africa, where she is shooting a lead role in new series "Beaver Falls" for Company Pictures' ("Skins", "Inbetweeners") and E4. When home, she performs occasional music gigs in Toronto and is writing her first album. Kristen trains with renowned acting instructors Lewis Baumann and David Rotenberg.

### **CAMDEN ANGELIS (Young Sarah)**

Camden Angelis is an accomplished young actress who has appeared in numerous films and television shows. She recently completed filming on the feature film *Moon Point* and the upcoming show "Debra" for The Family Channel where she plays the recurring character of Gracie. A few of her other credits include "Bloodletting & Miraculous Cures", "Flashpoint", "Life With Derek", "Guns" and "American Wife". Along with her live action film and TV credits she also has a very extensive list of voice credits for a performer of her young age. She has been a series regular in the animated series' "Franklin", "Rob The Robot", "Doki", "My Friend Rabbit", "Babar" and "Caillou", to name a few. Camden has also performed live on stage in the Mirvish Production of "The Sound of Music" playing the role of Marta Von Trapp. She was one of the few young performers to have stayed with the company for the full 18-month run of the production. Camden resides in Toronto Ontario with her parent's and actor brother London Angelis.

### **KING ALI BADSHAH (Mukhtar, Karaoke DJ)**

King Ali Badshah is a media mogul, a seasoned actor, and an acclaimed and retired comedian. He grew up in Toronto living the street life as a break dancer and graffiti artist, earning his stripes alongside some of the best crews in the world. That foundation spun into a ten year game of acting, writing, producing, directing and live comedy. Ali's created and starred in content for both CTV and Canada's public broadcaster; performed at every comedy festival that counts; appeared in countless televised performances and roles; had his own CBC national radio show; and appeared on the front page of the Toronto Star as one of the Top Ten People to Watch in 2009. Ali has earned his place among Canada's performing elite. His one-hour CTV comedy special (airing in 2011) is also his retirement show, as Ali is focused solely on his dramatic projects for both American and Indian cinema.

### **BRIANNA D'AGUANNO (Ninja Girl)**

At just eight years old, actress Brianna D'Aguanno is already an experienced professional in front of the camera. Brianna entered the acting world at the young age of 3; she landed her first commercial just after she turned 4 years old as the McCain Cool Quencher's "I Love You" girl. Brianna appeared in an episode of CBC's *The Border* when she was only 5. Over the years Brianna has gained extensive television and stage experience through live performances, commercials, voiceovers, and a recurring role in the Web Series "Motherloadtv". Brianna has recently played the lead role of Becky in the CTV *Flashpoint* episode "Severed Ties", as well as a lead role in the 2010 Hallmark Movie "The Santa Suit", for which she received a Young Artist Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress. Brianna has just finished performing the role of Isabella in the upcoming feature film "Stag" and she can be seen as the "Ninja Girl" in the exciting upcoming feature film "Moon Point".

### **JAYNE EASTWOOD (Femur's Grandma)**

Jane Eastwood got her start in performing after being cast in the cult Canadian film *Going Down the Road*. Jayne continued to make a name for herself in the theatre scene in Toronto, and became one of the founding members of The Second City Toronto.

Jayne was last seen in the feature films *Chicago*, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, *Hairspray* and *You Kill Me* with Sir Ben Kingsley. As well she has been in many movies of the week on ABC, CBS, and NBC with stars including Paul Newman, Bette Midler and Alan Alda. Jayne has been the recipient of four Gemini Awards and The Earle Grey Lifetime Achievement Award.

### **LAURIE ELLIOTT (Waitress with Speech Impediment)**

Laurie Elliott has made a name for herself as one of the most versatile and fun to watch entertainers in Canada. She is a winner of the Tim Sims Encouragement Fund Award and has thrice been voted Funniest Female Stand Up at The Canadian Comedy Awards, most recently this year. Her stand up credits include the Montreal Just For Laughs Festival, where her recent Gala set is nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award for Best Taped Performance, the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, the Comedy Factory in Rotterdam, Raw Comedy Club in Stockholm, and a gala run at the Cape Town International Comedy Festival in South Africa. She has just finished a cross Canada tour produced by Clayton and Russell Peters called "GIRL'S NIGHT OUT" with fellow friends and comics Debra Digiovanni and Kristeen von Hagen.

Laurie just won a Canadian Comedy award win for Female Actress for her role in *Almost Audrey*, a pilot for The Comedy Network co-created by Laurie and Greg Lawrence. She also has had recurring roles on Much Music's most highly rated show *Video on Trial*, CBC's *The Red Green Show* (Gemini nominee for Best Ensemble Cast) and *The Jon Dore Television Show*. Writing credits include multiple episodes of the *Total Drama Series* for Teletoon, *Scaredy Squirrel*, *Almost Naked Animals*, kids game show *Skatoony*, TVO's cooking show *Tastebuds* and *The Jon Dore Television Show*. She is currently writing on *Almost Heroes* airing on Showcase this February.

## **JAMES HARTNETT (Lars)**

James is a comedian, writer and actor originally from Caledon, Ontario. In 2007, James was nominated for the Tim Sims Encouragement Fund Award. From this, he was featured on “The Cream of Comedy Showcase” on The Comedy Network.

The next year, James co-wrote and starred in the Toronto Fringe Festival Production *Worst. Show. Ever.* Kate Lacey of Eye Weekly wrote “Four Stars. *Worst. Show. Ever.* is what Fringe comedy is all about...this is the show to see.”

Over the past several years, James has been a host, performer and producer for the weekly comedy show, *Laugh Sabbath*, “featuring the best of the city’s young standup and sketch comedians.” (National Post) and home to “Canada’s finest young comics” (Time Out New York). You can see *Laugh Sabbath* each Sunday night at the historic Rivoli, in Toronto.

Right now, James can be seen as a cast member on the popular YTV sketch comedy show, “That’s So Weird”, which is currently airing its second season. The Globe and Mail writes that the series is “probably the funniest show on Canadian television.” The first season of “That’s So Weird” has earned three Gemini nominations.

## **ART HINDLE (The Banana)**

Born in Halifax to a Canadian Navy father who brought him home to be raised in the Beaches neighbourhood of Toronto, Art has gone on to international success on both sides of the border. From starring in Canada’s first ‘Million Dollar’ movie, *Faceoff* to playing Deputy Ted Jarvis in the highest grossing Canadian Movie *Porky’s* (\$ 300 million) he has been one of our busiest film actors. He has also worked with some Canada’s best filmmakers. People like David Cronenberg, Peter Carter, Eric Till, Daryl Duke and Don Shebib.

But it is on television where Art has had the biggest impact, winning a Gemini as the lead actor in “E.N.G.”, itself a multi-award winning Canadian series. Also he has starred in numerous American TV series and movies for television. Along the way he has shown his versatility in the Director’s chair behind the camera. Forty years in the entertainment business, he still finds it “entertaining and has no plans on retiring”. Art lives on a horse farm with wife Brooke and takes pride in their 8 grown children and 6 grandchildren.

## **JESSICA HOLMES (Eggs)**

Jessica Holmes, a favourite on CBC’s “Royal Canadian Air Farce”, has brought the house down opening for such comedians as Jerry Seinfeld and Leslie Nielsen. Her one-hour comedy special, “Holmes Alone” won a 2001 Platinum Award at the Worldfest International Film Festival and was nominated for a Gemini Award. Her work on the Second City production *The Best of the Very Last* earned her a nomination for the prestigious Tim Sims Scholarship. Holmes is also known for her work on The Comedy Network and CTV’s hilarious, edgy, Carol Burnett-style sketch comedy, “The Holmes Show”. She has appeared in such films as *Welcome to Mooseport* and *Citizen Duane*. Additionally, Holmes’ motivational comedy publication, *I Love Your Laugh*, was published in October 2010.

### **MATT HOPKINS (The Innkeeper)**

Matt Hopkins is a Toronto actor that has been performing in comedy scene for over fifteen years. He is the host of Comedy Networks "Games Face" and recently you have seen him playing Whomper Stiviletto on ABC's "Happy Town". Matt continues to peruse an acting career while producing his own projects.

### **LINDA KASH (Darryl's Mom)**

Linda Kash began her professional life at the Second City in Toronto, where she performed, directed and conducted workshops for four years. She has appeared in a number of plays, films and television shows throughout Canada and the US. Linda performed in "At The Hotel", which won her a Gemini Award. She was also nominated for a Gemini for her work in the Canadian series "Robson Arms". As well Linda has been a guest on "Seinfeld", "Third Rock From The Sun", "Cybill", "Everyone Loves Raymond", "Ellen", and "Sabrina". She can also be seen in *Cinderella Man*, *Man of The Year*, *Waiting For Guffman* and *Best in Show* (nominated for a Canadian Comedy award).

In 2011 Linda worked in Budapest playing the role of Molly Brown in a mini series commemorating the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. She also directed and co wrote the show *Push*, which ran at Tarragon Extra Space in May. Linda has co created several shows for TV including talk show, "Go Girl!" and "The Joe Blow Show", which she also directed. Linda has taught acting workshops for over two decades and recently opened a Performing Arts School called PAPA with her partner, actor Paul O'Sullivan. Linda is best known as *The Philadelphia Cream Cheese Angel* (a successful campaign that ran for 16 years) but her proudest work to date is her family. They live on a farm outside Peterborough.

### **JANE MOFFAT (Lars' Mother)**

In 1977 Jane auditioned for The Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in Los Angeles and was accepted with a partial scholarship. Jane studied for three years and was fortunate enough to audit and attend lectures with Lee Strasberg while he was there teaching his master classes. In 1984 Jane moved to New York to continue her studies and secured a position in the office of the Actors Studio and attended weekly acting sessions there moderated by Joanne Woodward, Shelly Winters and Ellen Burstyn. In 1988 she returned to Toronto where she has continued to work in theatre and film. In 2008, Jane won a Chalmers award to go to Italy to participate in an international Method actor/writer/director workshop. Selected Film and Television credits include: "The Kennedy's"; "Skins"; "The Listener"; "Regenesis"; "This is Wonderland"; "Queer as Folk"; "The Newsroom"; *The Recruit*; *Superstar* and *The Ref*. Next up for Jane is a recurring role in the new NBC/SYFY series "Alpha's".

### **TONY NAPPO (The Man in Charge)**

Tony was born and raised in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada. He attended the University of Toronto for two years before transferring to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New

York City where he graduated in 1991. He has appeared in numerous films and television shows and many independent Canadian films including *Saw 2*, *Four Brothers*, *Mother's Day*, *Land of the Dead*, *This Beautiful City*, *Murder at 1600*, *Hank and Mike*, *You Might as Well Live, Better Than Chocolate*, *Who is Cletis Tout*, *Stag*, "Breakout Kings", "King", "Republic of Doyle", "Intelligence", "DaVinci's Inquest", and "Slings and Arrows".

**CHRISTIAN POTENZA (Rick) \* see producers**

**NOAH RYAN SCOTT (Young Darryl)**

Noah's first acting job came at the tender age of four when he booked an American National Commercial for Kohl's. It was his first audition ever and he was hired on the spot! Noah continued to land spots in numerous commercials including the famous "Dad, I can't sleep" ad for Rogers. Luck came his way one week before his seventh birthday when he landed the role of Jakey in *Booky And The Secret Santa*. He returned to reprise his role the following year in *Booky's Crush*. Happiest when performing Noah continues to work at a steady pace landing roles in both tv and film. Featured television appearances include *Rick Mercer Report*, *Little Mosque*, *Doodlebops* and *The Bridge*.

**DAVID SPARROW (Uncle Larry)**

An actor, writer and producer, Sparrow has appeared in over eighty film and television roles including *Serendipity*, *Star Trek Voyager* and *16 Blocks* and worked with dozens of household names including Julie Andrews, Bruce Willis and Richard Gere. He has performed on stages across the US and Canada, beginning with Toronto's *The Second City*. David has been featured in over sixty television commercials and has voiced hundreds of radio spots and many cartoon characters. He has written industrials, advertisements, both short and feature films, hours of sketch comedy and for CBC Radio. David survives this crazy business with the adages *Trying is succeeding...* and *your results may vary*.



# CREW

## **SEAN CISTERNA (Director, Producer)**

Sean Cisterna is a Toronto-based filmmaker. A graduate of York University's Film and Video Production/Screenwriting program, Cisterna began his directing career behind the camera on the PBS Kids' show, "Ricky's Room" (1999-2001). After directing commercials and on-air promos for *Corus Entertainment* for four years, he produced the feature film *My Brother's Keeper* (2004) starring Aaron and Shawn Ashmore. In the fall of 2007, Cisterna was given a greenlight by YTV to co-produce and direct the teen musical, *King of the Camp* (2008). His new feature film road trip comedy, *MOON POINT* (2011), features a number of well-known young Canadian stars, including Paula Brancati, and heavy-hitters like Jayne Eastwood, Linda Kash and Art Hindle.

## **ROBERT LAZAR (Writer)**

Rob Lazar has been writing professionally for well over ten years. Essentially, he rearranges letters in order to get money. It's a bit like ransom notes, but with less severed fingers involved. While his work has been recognized both in print and on film, Rob has absolutely no recollection how that came to be. Over the years, he has accumulated multiple writing grants, a couple of degrees and other notable awards in the hopes that one day history will look favourably upon him. He has developed original film and television properties for several creative companies that shall go unlisted as Rob is vehemently against name-dropping. When not moonlighting as a superhero sidekick, he spends his days working as a producer in the Entertainment Content department at Cineplex Entertainment LP. Rob enjoys talking about himself in the third person, he almost never sleeps, and he lives in a one-bedroom apartment over an opium den run by cartoon squirrels.

## **CHRISTIAN POTENZA (Producer)**

Christian Potenza moved to the big city with a pair of ripped jeans, skateboard, a second hand bass guitar, and hopes of making a name for himself in the entertainment industry. He was then plucked early from theatre school and started his voyage into the land of TV. His first role was a rookie cop on a soap opera. To follow were roles such as crooks, criminals, and strung out surfers. Then someone thought that it would be a good idea to put this talented, and versatile actor in commercials,....BOOM!. Now this guy was everywhere, and soon earned the title of "THAT GUY" in a multitude of amazing ads. After earning many awards and "BUCKETS" full of cash from the advertising industry, he decided to try something different. Cartoons and voice work seemed like the next logical step. Christian now voices characters on many of North America's most popular shows. Christian is the voice of Chris McLean, on "Total Drama", Jude Lizowski on "6Teen", and Trevor Troublemeyer on "Sidekick" to name a few. He has opened up THE CHRISTIAN POTENZA ACADEMY OF AWESOME VOICE ACTING, and

he has also started up his own production company with many projects, ranging from animation, YOUTUBE videos, and feature films, in development.

### **AVI FEDERGREEN (Executive Producer)**

Avi Federgreen's 16 years of experience in the Canadian film industry feature many highlights, from music videos to TV series to full-length feature films. Starting in the locations department, he moved quickly into production management, line producing, post supervision, and producing.

Chosen to open the 2010 Toronto International Film Festival, Federgreen's most recent project, *Score: A Hockey Musical*, written and directed by Michael McGowan and starring Olivia Newton-John (*Grease*), Noah Reid ("Naturally Sadie"), and Stephen McHattie (*Pontypool*) captures the fervor of Canada's two favourite pastimes in a story big on humour and heart. Last year's production of *George Ryga's Hungry Hills*, directed by Rob King (*Something More, Moccasin Flats – Redemption*), starring Keir Gilchrist ("United States of Tara"), John Pyper-Ferguson (*Everest*, "Brothers and Sisters") and Gabrielle Rose (*Mothers and Daughters*, *Grace*) premiered at TIFF 2009.

As producer Federgreen also worked on the dramatic short films *Tight Space*, *Scout*, and *The Chair*, all written and directed by Cory Kinney, and the Canadian Film Centre short *Pudge*, directed by Annie Bradley. *Pudge* premiered at TIFF 2008 and screened at several other acclaimed festivals internationally. *The Chair* achieved a Bronze Award at the Worldfest Houston International Film Festival in 2001. More successes for Federgreen as producer include the Shaftesbury TV series "Good Dog", written and directed by Ken Finkelman ("The Newsroom"), starring Finkelman and Lauren Lee Smith (*Lie With Me*); documentary *As Slow as Possible* (directed by Scott Smith), an official selection of HotDocs 2008; and the music videos *Giving Thanks* (Tamara Podemski), and *Tough as a Pickup Truck* (Jim Witter).

Federgreen's co-production credits are impressive and varied. The feature film *One Week*, written and directed by Michael McGowan and starring Joshua Jackson, was named Best Canadian Film in the 2008 Calgary and Edmonton film fests, and was an official gala screening at TIFF that year. The film surpassed the \$1.2 million Canadian box office mark, was the #1 rental on iTunes, and finished in the top 10 in DVD sales in Canada during its first week of release. *High Life*, directed by Gary Yates, starring Timothy Olyphant, Rossif Sutherland, and Joe Anderson, premiered at the Berlin Film Festival and was featured at TIFF 2009. *Leslie, My Name Is Evil*, directed by Reginald Harkema, produced by New Real Films and starring Kristen Hager and Gregory Smith, also screened at TIFF 2009. And the TV mini-series "It's Me...Gerald" (Showcase) is nationally acclaimed. Federgreen's diverse experience also includes supervising producer on the first two seasons of the Saskatoon-based TV series "Rabbit Fall" (starring Andrea Menard), and as associate producer for the feature film *Emotional Arithmetic*, starring Susan Sarandon, Gabriel Byrne, and Christopher Plummer.

Federgreen is currently in post-production on two feature films *I'm Yours* produced with New Real Films, and *MOON POINT* produced with partners Christian Potenza and Sean Cisterna.

### **ALEXANDER VERDURMEN (Associate Producer)**

As an honours graduate from the Film and Media program at Queens University with a specialization in media and marketing, Alex is perfectly suited to his title as Production Manager. With experience in both Film Production and Advertising, Alex brings his knowledge, experience, and dedication to getting the job done on budget, and on time. Having held a camera in his hand since his earliest memories, Alex has always had a desire to bring ideas to life and the pursuit of making a film. Having teamed up with the rest of the Moon Point crew and being a relative rookie to feature films, Alex can certainly say this has been the best experience, but certainly not the last.

### **CARL ELSTER (Director of Photography)**

Originally from the West Coast, Carl grew up in Vancouver where from a young age he was an avid sailor, animator and photographer. In 1999, he set sails east to the centre of Canada's independent film community, Toronto, to follow his dream of becoming a filmmaker. There he completed his BFA in film production at York University specializing in Cinematography and Producing. By 2004 he had his first film in official competition at the Toronto International Film Festival. Carl's films have garnered awards and prizes all over the world for acting, directing and cinematography. When he's not working on his own films, Carl is an active member of the film community in Toronto working as a director of photography and lighting technician on features and TV shows. He also owns and operates a successful film production company that produces web commercials, music videos, shorts and features of all types and genres. He has a small roster of directors that he works with regularly and is always looking for interesting projects to work on in the future.

### **LISA GUSTAFSSON (Key Make-Up and Hair Stylist)**

Lisa Gustafsson, make-up artist and hair stylist. Born in Gothenburg, Sweden. Came to Canada in 2008 after starting her career in Swedish Television. Lisa further developed her skills in SFX and prosthetic make-up at North America's leading make-up school, Completions International Academy of Make-up Artistry. Since then she has been busy styling Miss Canada pageant girls, working on TV commercials and shows as well as celebrated Canadian actors and comedians in anything from feature length films to the latest videos on Much Music. Some of her upcoming projects include keying Summer Pictures newest thriller "Dead Dreams" as well as a new web series, which she will also be co-producing, premiering in the fall of 2011.

### **MICHELLE SZEMBERG (Editor)**

Michelle Szemberg was born in Toronto and graduated with a bachelor of fine arts degree from the film and video program at York University, where she focused on Editing. After graduating, she began working as an assistant editor. She has worked with some of the most recognized Canadian filmmakers and editors, such as: Peter Lynch, Helen du Toit, Caroline Christie, Wiebke von Carolsfeld, Susan Maggi, Jeff Warren, Sudz Sutherland, Sturla Gunnarsson, Chris Donaldson, Avi Federgreen, Rod Deogrades and Michael McGowan. She is currently editing

various projects with a number of young, talented filmmakers. Her latest project is editing the independent feature film, MOON POINT.

### **JO ALCORN (Production Designer)**

Jo graduated with a B.A from a Liberal Arts School in New York City, during which she had the opportunity to explore Europe studying colour and architecture. With her experience from having traveled extensively and studying such a wide array of designs she is flexible to meet the needs of any challenge. Jo's passion for design and her flare for entertaining were showcased on HGTV's "Design to Win", 2007 "Designer Superstar Challenge" and as the design expert on the Discovery Channel's "Canada's Worst Handyman 3". Jo's most recent TV adventure is being the small space expert on CBC's "Steven and Chris Show". Her expertise was proven when she was hired on as the Production Designer for a film that was released in 2008 on YTV and DVD and one hitting the film festivals this fall, among other small film projects. With her experience, drive and pure talent in decorating/design and planning events for several Fortune 500 companies in the U.S, she has been running her own successful business since 2005, which caters to clients design needs. Jo has enjoyed the process of making a name for herself in the industry. She has developed a diverse client base and is most proud of being able to provide style and continuity for a range of personalities and decor preferences. Jo's most recent adventure has been designing her own furniture line. Stylish environmentally friendly furniture locally made and designed on the principle of quality. Jo's furniture is showcased on [whitewashco.ca/shop](http://whitewashco.ca/shop) and loved by many high profile designers, design bloggers and online social networks, along with a growing list of publications within Canada and the U.S. You can find Jo this Fall/Winter semester teaching at Humber College North Campus in the decorating and design department.

### **BRIAN EIMER (Senior Sound Designer/Re-recording Mixer)**

Brian has been a part of many projects over his 22 year career, in all genres of film. Most of his success has been in the IMAX and special venue film garnishing 3 Golden Reel awards from the Motion Picture Sound Editors in Los Angeles. In feature film and television he's been nominated several times over the years. His passion is telling stories with sound.

### **MARK ALEXANDER (Composer)**

Mark Alexander is a Toronto based Composer and Producer who's music has been featured on Life Network, W Network, TVOntario, YTV, and Treehouse Television. After attending the prestigious Claude Watson School for the Arts, Mark continued his studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music, then York University, studying under virtuoso pianist Christina Petrowska Quilico and the late, noted avant-garde composer, James Tenney. Mark earned an Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree specializing in Music Composition. He also graduated with a B.Ed, specializing in Music Education.

After scoring a number of independent films and television series, Mark spent several years teaching Film Scoring as well as Music Fundamentals and Post-Production Audio at Toronto's

Trebas Institute. He has also taught music and technology for the Toronto and York Region school boards.

Mark is a proud member of SOCAN, and the Songwriters Association of Canada and was a 2010 FACTOR grant recipient. Mark is currently the Senior Producer and Resident Composer at Winding Lane Music.



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