

ABBIE CANCELLED



“The mix of absurd and situational realism make ‘Abbie Cancelled’ a fine example of the short film medium.”

“Amir and Amanda are in the car on their way to a dinner party when they get a call from their friend Abbie that she has cancelled at the last minute. The party continues as a foursome, a night of squirm-inducing awkwardness. It all makes for a surprising astute situational comedy. Norris and Burstein capture the common early midlife crisis of late twenty-something middle class yuppies. Amanda's career envy of Karen makes for some fine awkward comedy as well as an engaging emotional revelation from Karen. Meanwhile Grayson and Amir, bond like bros while sniffing gasoline together in the basement. The mix of absurd and situational realism make ‘Abbie Cancelled’ a fine example of the short film medium.”

–Daily Film Dose



Yuval Boim, Stacie Theon, Craig Glantz and Monica Knight star in Abbie Cancelled

LOGLINE After their mutual friends cancel at the last second, two couples that have never met survive an unforgettable evening of embarrassing moments, strange behavior and hidden agendas.

SYNOPSIS The dinner was supposed to be for six, but when their mutual friends cancel at the last second Amanda and Amir are forced to play dinner party with reluctant hosts Karen and Grayson, who are clearly undergoing relationship issues. A hidden agenda of job groveling reveals itself as the night becomes anything but small talk. Inappropriate behavior amongst these true to life characters creates both laughable and emotional moments that lead to an unexpected ending.

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CAST



Monica Knight as Karen

Monica Knight is a two-time 'Best Actress' winner on the international film festival circuit for her performance as Mindy in *Windcroft*. Other recent film credits include *The Roadhouse* and *A Dangerous Place*, both scheduled for a 2009 release. Monica can also be seen in a host of regional and national commercials. www.MonicaKnight.com



Stacie Theon as Amanda

Stacie Theon, a North Dakota native, resides on the East coast where she has worked primarily on stage. Stacie has trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and with Wynn Handman in NYC. Her recent foray into film has landed her at Sundance twice, as Ellen Thomas in Craig Lucas' *Birds of America* (Spectrum 2008) and now as Amanda in *Abbie Cancelled*. www.stacietheon.com



Craig Glantz as Amir

A native New Yorker, Craig Glantz has appeared in acclaimed festival films such as *Underdogs*, *In Innocence*, *Blindfold*, *Madison Rye*, *The Self-Deprecating Brain* and *The Adventures of Supern-gger*. His television resume includes recurring characters on *All My Children*, *One Life to Live* and *As the World Turns*, as well as series regular roles in pilots such as *Wired City* and *Temps*. Craig's New York City theatrical credits include Aldo in *Italian American Reconciliation*, Tony Aronica in *Savage in Limbo*, and Jason in *Emily*. www.craigglantz.com



Yuval Boim as Grayson

Yuval Boim's recent work includes the film *Center of the Universe* (LOGO/Fourare Films) and Mike Leigh's *Two Thousand Years* (off-Broadway; US Premiere). Yuval can be seen in various national commercial and print ad campaigns (NYLife, currently running). www.yuvalboim.com

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DUMB BUNNY

Award-winning Writer/Director team Jessica Burstein and Robbie Norris were fierce competitors at MTV when they realized that their offbeat comedy styles were a perfect match. Explosions exploded as they combined forces to form Dumb Bunny and create the MTV campaign, *Don't Cha*, which won Promax Awards for Best of Cable in 2007. After directing four hilarious music videos for their electro rock project Turbotronics, Dumb Bunny bypassed their summer vacation in 2008 to write and direct *Abbie Cancelled*. Dumb Bunny is presently developing feature length screenplays, including one for *Abbie Cancelled*. www.dumbbunnyproductions.com



WRITER/DIRECTOR'S BIO Jessica Burstein is an award-winning independent film and commercial Writer/Director. Her commercial credits include MTV, Maybelline NY, T-mobile, Sunkist, Time Warner Cable and Energizer. She wrote, directed, produced and starred in the award winning MFA thesis film *Veronika's Birthday* (www.ponytailproductions.com) which played in numerous festivals worldwide receiving audience and critical praise including Best Direction and Performance at the Arizona International Film Festival and Best Student Film at the New Jersey International Film Festival. Jessica has worked as a Writer/Director at MTV On Air Promos for four years, winning Best of Cable Promax awards and special recognition in Digital Arts Magazine for her work writing and directing spots for MTV, CW and Sprint. Credits include launch promos for The Hills, TRL, My Super Sweet Sixteen, MTV VMAs and Movie Awards. Jessica was an Associate Producer for Off Ramp Films, producing docs for UNICEF and the ACLU. She is a former Co President of CineWomen NY and has her MFA in Photography and Related Media from the School of Visual Arts.



WRITER/DIRECTOR'S BIO Robbie Norris is an award-winning Writer/Director and music Producer/Composer. He began his production career in Chicago playing in rock bands and producing music, eventually creating a partnership with friends to open up a recording studio. While at MTV On Air Promos, Robbie directed award winning promos for MTV, MTV2 and MTV Tr3s, working with celebrity talent including Kanye West, Common, Chris Brown and Wyclef Jean, to name a few. He is currently a Senior Writer/Director/Producer for USA Network, shooting co-branded commercials for clients that include BMW, Subaru, Volkswagen, and Mastercard. In addition to his writing and directing work, Robbie has composed music for on-air commercials, for clients that include Energizer, Sprint, Maybelline NY, Comcast, MTV and VH1. Robbie also plays in the electro powerpop band Turbotronics, a project that has four music videos written and directed by Dumb Bunny, including *Corporate Lady*, which premiered on MTVU and won best music video at the Backseat Film Festival in Philadelphia. <http://www.turbotronicsmusic.com>.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT *Abbie Cancelled* is a fifteen-minute short film with feature length depth and true to life performances. Created through work shopping, improvisation and extensive rehearsals with an ensemble cast, the film is a dark comedy that offers a glimpse into the lives of two career driven, thirty-something couples in New York, each with their own quirks and hidden agendas. Inappropriate behavior ultimately leads these characters into hilarious and dramatic situations, ultimately cutting the evening short.

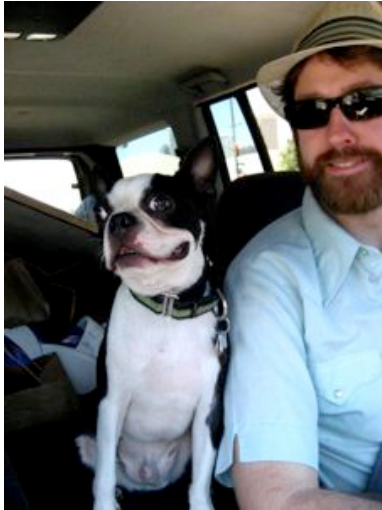
DUMB BUNNY

dumbbunnyproductions@gmail.com

646.315.3246

917.975.8055

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PRODUCER'S BIO Bartow Church began his career working in feature film production in his home state of North Carolina. He then relocated to New York and continued production work, eventually joining Apostle where he currently serves as the Director of Production. He's held an integral role in a varied slate of projects, including: ABC's 'The Job', Comedy Central's 'Contest Searchlight', 'Shorties Watchin' Shorties' and their 'Roast' series. He most recently produced an all claymation pilot for VH1 and also produces Apostle's marquee live comedy events including an upcoming national comedy tour for the FX series Rescue Me featuring Denis Leary. He currently resides in Brooklyn with his rock star girlfriend and their dog, Chacho.



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY'S BIO

Graham Willoughby is a New York based director of photography whose credits include *The Black List* (pts I and II, HBO) which premiered at Sundance in 2008, *Can't Get a Date* (18 shows, VH1), among other cherished shorts, promos, music videos and industrials including and celebrating (most of all) *Abbie Cancelled* (Sundance, 2009). He has been working in film ever since leaving his career as a waiter with a Math-Education degree back in 1994. www.grahamwilloughby.com

EDITORS'S BIO Abbie Carson moved to New York to pursue her dreams as an editor. She began her career at Homestead Editorial in NY, a boutique commercial editing house. She is currently an independent freelance editor and works predominantly on promos for television shows for companies such as MTV and the N. She currently resides in Brooklyn with her husband, Chris who is also an editor. www.abbiecarson.com

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AWARDS

BEST SHORT FILM

Big Apple Film Festival 2009 November 3-7 New York, NY

BEST NARRATIVE

Western Film Festival 2010 April 26-29 Bowling Green, Kentucky

FILM FESTIVALS/SCREENINGS

Sundance Film Festival 2009 January 15-25 Park City, Utah

Florida Film Festival 2009 March 27-April 5 Orlando, Florida

Sarasota Film Festival 2009 March 27-April 5 Sarasota, Florida

NYWIFT Swan Day 2009 March 28 New York, NY

Arizona International Film Festival 2009 April 16-26 Tucson, Arizona

Hamburg International Short Film Festival 2009 June 2-8 Hamburg, Germany

CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival 2009 June 16-21 Toronto, Canada

BAMcinemaFEST 2009 June 17-July 2 Brooklyn, NY

Long Island International Film Expo 2009 July 9-19, Bellmore, NY

CFC A World of Shorts August 19, 2009 Toronto, Canada

Alt.pictureshows '09 Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego August 27, San Diego, CA

Marbella International Film Festival 2009 October 1-4 Marbella, Spain

Hamptons International Film Festival 2009 October 8-12 East Hampton, NY

24 FPS International Short Film Festival 2009 November 6-7 Abilene, Texas

Film Independent Cinema Lounge 2010 January 19 Los Angeles, CA

Carolina Film and Video Festival 2010 February 24-27 Greensboro, NC

Women with Vision 2010 Walker Art Center March 14 Minneapolis, MN

Delray Beach Film Festival 2010 March 22-28 Delray Beach, Florida

Great River Film Festival 2010 March 26-27 Denison University, Granville, OH

Kent Film Festival 2010 April 22-25 Kent, CT

Rincon International Film Festival 2010 April 20-24 Puerto Rico

FEMINA International Film Festival 2010 June 7-13 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Movies with a View Summer Series 2010 Brooklyn Bridge Park July 8, Brooklyn, NY

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PRESS

"The duo is behind several cool MTV spots and music vids."

–Variety

"A night of squirm-inducing awkwardness." "A surprising astute situational comedy."

"Norris and Burstein capture the common early midlife crisis of late twenty-something middle class yuppies."

"The mix of absurd and situational realism make 'Abbie Cancelled' a fine example of the short film medium."

–Daily Film Dose

"The gags are good, but what's really impressive is the way Burstein and Norris manage to pluck emotional chords while keeping their characters utterly tetchy."

–EYEWEEKLY.com

"A farce fit for the times" "The recognizable 2009 equivalent of the neurotic, high-strung New Yorkers Woody Allen caricatured more than 30 years ago"

–The Jerusalem Post

NY1

"Brooklyn Stars Shine Bright at Film Fest Debut" June 18, 2009

NY1 interviewed Dumb Bunny (Jessica and Robbie). Click on link to watch!

<http://www.ny1.com/Default.aspx?ArID=101009&ap=1&Flash>

EYEWEEKLY.com

"Highlights from this year's Worldwide Short Film Festival" June 11, 2009

<http://www.eyeweekly.com/film/film/article/62897>

SUNDANCE CHANNEL PSA April, 2009

Sundance Channel interviewed Jessica, Robbie and Bartow in Park City about their green filmmaking practices.

THE JERUSALEM POST

"Aiming for the 'new normal'" March 18, 2009

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1237114859237&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

"Short films get boost at Sundance Festival" January 30, 2009

http://wotnews.com/like/short_films_get_boost_at_sundance_festival/555085/

DAILY FILM DOSE

"Sundance Report #15: More Sundance Shorts" January 24, 2009

<http://www.dailyfilmdose.com/2009/01/sundance-report-15-more-sundance-shorts.html>

INDY MOGUL

"Sundance Festival 2009 Special, part 1" January 15, 2009

Indy Mogul interviewed Dumb Bunny (Jessica and Robbie) and Bartow Church. Click on link to watch!

http://www.indymogul.com/bestshorts/episode/BSF_20090115

VARIETY

DUMB BUNNY

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"Sundance Trailer "Abbie Cancelled" December 31, 2008

<http://www.variety.com/blog/1390000339/post/1910038591.html>

INFO

TRT 15:30

ASPECT RATIO: 16:9

ORIGINAL MEDIUM: HD CAM NTSC

SCREENING FORMATS:

HD CAM, HD CAM SR, Digital Betacam, Betacam SP, DVD

RELEASE: January 2009

CAST & CREW

CAST: Yuval Boim, Craig Glantz, Monica Knight, Stacie Theon

WRITERS/DIRECTORS: Dumb Bunny (Jessica Burstein & Robbie Norris)

PRODUCER: Bartow Church

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Graham Willoughby

EDITOR: Abbie Carson

MUSIC: Turbotronics and Kenneth Lampl

SOUND DESIGN & MIX: Larry Buksbaum

PRODUCTION DESIGN: Tom Firestone

PRODUCTION LAW: Tiffany R. Almy, Esq.



Abbie cancelled.

LINKS:

www.dumbbunnyproductions.com

www.youtube.com/user/DumbBunnyFilms

www.imdb.com/title/tt1347253/

www.facebook.com/abbiecancelled

www.twitter.com/abbiecancelled

CONTACT:

Dumb Bunny: 646.315.3246, 917.975.8055,

dumbbunnyproductions@gmail.com

Amanda (Theon) and Amir (Glantz) find out