

# TRIBECA FILM in partnership with AMERICAN EXPRESS presents

# a FALIRO HOUSE and M-13 PICTURES presentation

a BOB BYINGTON film

# **SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME**



Run Time: 75 Minutes Rating: Not Rated

Available On Demand: March 12, 2013

#### **Select Theatrical release**

March 8	Chicago	<b>Music Box</b>
March 15	Los Angeles	Cinefamily
March 22	San Francisco	<b>Roxie Theater</b>
March 29	Denver	<b>Denver Film</b>
March 29	Brooklyn	BAM
April 5	Austin	<b>Violet Crown</b>

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# Starring

Keith Poulson as Max

Nick Offerman as Sal

Jess Weixler as Lyla

Stephanie Hunt as Clarissa

Marshall Bell as Lyla's Dad

Jonathan Togo as Adult Lyle

Kate Lyn Sheil as Ex-Wife

Ted Beck as Steakhouse Patron and Homeless Man

Anna Margaret Hollyman as Paula

Chris Doubek as Businessman

Bob Schneider as Wedding Singer

Alex Ross Perry as First Customer

Gabriel Keller as Lyle Age 5

Ian Graffunder as Lyle Age 10

Jake Lewis as Lyle Age 15

with Kevin Corrigan as Memorial Man

and Megan Mullally as Therapist

#### SYNOPSIS

Bob Byington's smart, subversive comedy skips through 35 years in the life of Max Youngman (Keith Poulson), his best (and only) friend Sal (Nick Offerman, "Parks and Recreation"), and the woman they both adore (Jess Weixler, *Teeth*). As they stumble in and out of hilariously misguided relationships — strung together with animated vignettes by Bob Sabiston (*A Scanner Darkly*) and an original score by Vampire Weekend's Chris Baio — Max never ages, holding on to a mysterious briefcase that may or may not contain the secret to life.

# FILMMAKER STATEMENT FROM BOB BYINGTON

SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME is a comedy about a man watching his life fly by.

The screenplay was really a letter to the two leads, Keith Poulson and Nick Offerman, both of whom I've worked with now for a few years. Keith has stayed pretty resolutely a non-actor, while Nick has become a very successful television actor, playing cult sensation Ron Swanson on "Parks & Recreation." I very much liked the idea of pairing them, and would not have made the movie without them.

I sent the script to producer Hans Graffunder, who works with Terrence Malick, and he read it in November 2010. By June 2011 we were ready to shoot. All the prep for the job went well, and when we found Jess Weixler to play the female lead things really started clicking. Our supporting cast includes a number of phenomenal actors, among them Kevin Corrigan, Jonathan Togo, Stephanie Hunt, Kate Lyn Sheil, Alex Perry and Marshall Bell.

This project was on a bigger scale than anything I've previously directed and I can't say enough about the team we assembled to work on it. The group, while not necessarily ignoring the Austin summer heat, seemed largely oblivious to it. Everyone gave their all. We had indie superstar cinematographer Sean Price Williams shooting the movie, a tireless art department and a sound department that was superhuman. I think that film shoots usually bring out the best in people and this was no exception.

Toward the end of the shoot we were slated to do a poolside scene that had nudity in it. We had all agreed it was important to the scene. I was a little nervous about it, as I'd not done anything like that before, as a director, and the actress seemed to also have a little anxiety. Perhaps sensing this, Nick Offerman, in his role as one of the producers, jumped nude in the pool, and cavorted with an inner tube. This relieved the tension enormously and we were able to complete the scene in no time.

I worked with two editors on this project, both excellent filmmakers themselves, Frank Ross and Stephen Gurewitz, who live in Chicago and Minneapolis respectively. File sharing has become sophisticated enough that we were able to work from three separate cities. We also convened as a team in Madison, Wisconsin for ten days, and worked together in Denver and Austin (where I live). We worked with an astounding animator, Bob Sabiston (A SCANNER DARKLY) for our transitional sequences.

Chris Baio, the composer, whose day job is bassist for Vampire Weekend, was introduced to me by our astounding music supervisor, Lauren Mikus, who has previously been in a band with him.

I asked him to talk about his experience and he sent me this note:

"When Bob asked me to score SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME, he also had me watch great

movies like BANANAS, BRIEF ENCOUNTER, and HUDSUCKER PROXY for inspiration. This led me to not only watch movies in a new way, but also to think about music from a completely new perspective. In complementing Bob's vision, I tried to write simple and whimsical pop melodies with the occasional hint of melancholy. I hope the audience leaves the theater humming the music."

We also used three Albert Hammond, Jr. songs in the film. Albert is a member of The Strokes, and put out an excellent solo album recently. In addition to Albert and Chris, we have music from The Cars, Sandy Rogers, Sandie Shaw and Love Inks. Bob Schneider and Quiet Company also appear as the wedding band.

SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME marked a transition for me. As compared to my last film, HARMONY AND ME, we made more of a concerted effort to put across scripted material rather than improvising. We took the time that it needed to make this film, and I think that shows.

I hope audiences enjoy the film while they are watching it, and that they not reconsider their enjoyment afterwards.

# CAST BIOS

# Keith Poulson ("Max")

Keith Poulson is a New York City-based musician, actor and filmmaker. Poulson graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with degrees in English and Radio-Television-Film. In 2006 and 2007, he served as the Operations Assistant and Internship Coordinator for the Austin Film Society and Austin Studios.

Poulson has spent several years working behind the scenes in the sound, casting and camera departments for independent filmmakers such as Andrew Bujalski, Joe Swanberg and Alex Ross Perry. As an actor, he completed work on several films in 2011, including EPIC starring Scott Eastwood. Poulson is also a touring multi-instrumentalist for the New York-based bands Bishop Allen and Air Waves.

#### Nick Offerman ("Sal") - Producer

Best known for his role as Ron Swanson on NBC's critically acclaimed "Parks & Recreation" Nick Offerman's humor has made him a fixture in television culture.

On the Emmy-nominated show "Parks & Recreation," Offerman plays the masculine director of a parks and recreation department in small town Indiana. Working alongside the ensemble cast of Amy Poehler, Rashida Jones and Rob Lowe, Offerman is a comedic heavyweight whose role has developed a cult following. For "Parks & Recreation," Offerman received the Television Critics Association Award for Achievement in Comedy in 2011, after a previous nomination in 2010. The Critic's Choice Awards also nominated him for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy for 2011.

His most recent film, SMASHED, recently premiered at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival. With a cast that includes Octavia Spencer, Megan Mullaly, Mary Elizabeth Winstead and Aaron Paul, SMASHED is a comedic drama about a married couple whose bond is built on a mutual love of alcohol gets their relationship put to the test when the wife decides to get sober.

Recently, he appeared in two major comedies, CASA DE MI PADRE with Will Ferrell, Gael Garcia Bernal and Diego Luna and 21 JUMP STREET with Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. Both films open wide on March 16, 2012. He has recently completed production for the upcoming comedy GAY DUDE.

Offerman also shared the screen alongside Ryan Gosling and Kirsten Dunst in ALL GOOD THINGS and appeared in THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS alongside George Clooney and Kevin Spacey, Adult Swim's "Children's Hospital," and "Taking Chances."

Other film credits include: HARMONY AND ME and RSO [REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER], both written and directed by Bob Byington; FORWARD alongside Amy Ryan; THE GOGETTER with Zooey Deschanel and Jena Malone; WRISTCUTTERS: A LOVE STORY; SIN CITY alongside Bruce Willis, Mickey Rourke and Rosario Dawson; MISS CONGENIALITY 2: ARMED & FABULOUS, CURSED; GOLF CART DRIVING SCHOOL; NOVEMBER; PEE SHY; GROOVE and TREASURE ISLAND.

Offerman has also tickled television audiences with his roles on "Deadwood," "Will & Grace," "Monk," "The West Wing," "24," "ER," "George Lopez," "NYPD Blue," "The Practice," "The King of Queens," "Gilmore Girls" and "CSI: NY."

Offerman got his start in the Chicago theater community, where he was a founding member of the Defiant Theatre. He worked extensively at Steppenwolf, The Goodman, Wisdom Bridge, and Pegasus Players, among many others. Off-Broadway credits include *Adding Machine* at The Minetta Lane Theater. In Los Angeles, he is a company member of Evidence Room Theater Company, where he has appeared in many plays. He is also the recipient of the Joseph Jefferson Citation Award for his performance in *The Kentucky Cycle* by Robert Schenkkan at Chicago's Pegasus Players Theatre. He was awarded a second Jefferson Award for the puppets and masks he crafted for *The Skriker* at the experimental Defiant Theatre in Chicago, Illinois.

Offerman currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife, Megan Mullally. While he's not acting he is working in his woodworking shop building canoes, tables and other items by hand.

# Jess Weixler ("Lyla")

In 2007, Jess Weixler was awarded the Special Jury Prize for Acting at Sundance Film Festival, as well as the Rising Star Award at the Hampton's International Film Festival for her work in the motion picture TEETH. Weixler graduated from the prestigious Julliard School of Drama where she created an impressive list of classical and contemporary roles. She starred in Studio Dante's production of *Safe* and the Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre production of *Stay*.

Weixler's selected feature credits include THE BIG BAD SWIM, PETER AND VANDY, ALEXANDER THE LAST, and TODAY'S SPECIAL. In 2011, Jess wrapped production on the following feature projects: THE NORMALS with Bryan Greenberg, FREE SAMPLES with Jesse Eisenberg and LUMPY with Justin Long and Tyler Labine. Currently, Jess is set to begin production later this month on Jason Katim's new NBC pilot, starring opposite Jason Ritter.

#### **Stephanie Hunt ("Clarissa")**

Stephanie Hunt is an actress and musician from Austin, Texas. She grew up doing theatrical projects in elementary and high school, playing and teaching the violin, and singing with different bands in the Austin music scene. She went to the University of Texas to study Journalism and Russian and left in 2008 to pursue a creative life. A week after taking time off, Stephanie was cast as Devin Boland in the NBC series "Friday Night Lights." Since then she has spent a lot more time in Los Angeles and has appeared on the television shows "Greek" and "Californication." In 2009 she made a not so typical movie about Valentine's Day, LOVE &TAMBOURINES that she stars in and co-wrote with a childhood friend of hers that premiered at the Austin Film Festival. Stephanie sings with a band Cowboy and Indian who in 2011 played at the Austin City Limits Festival, and she also writes and performs songs on her own.

### Kate Lyn Sheil ("Ex-Wife")

Kate Lyn Sheil is a graduate of NYU's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts. In the years since, she has solidified her place as a major player in the independent film world starring in such films as Carlo Mirabella-Davis' KNIFE POINT, Alex Ross Perry's IMPOLEX, Lawrence Michael Levine's GABI ON THE ROOF IN JULY, Sophia Takal's GREEN (SXSW 2011), and Joe Swanberg's SILVER BULLETTS (Berlin 2011 and SXSW 2011).

2012 continues to be a very busy year for Kate. Up next, Kate can be seen in the upcoming Joe Swanberg and Adam Wingard directed AUTO EROTIC, Adam Wingard's YOU'RE NEXT, and Amy Seimetz's SUN DON'T SHINE.

Kate currently resides in Greenpoint, Brooklyn and is represented by One Entertainment.

# **Kevin Corrigan ("Memorial Man")**

Kevin Corrigan has appeared in many feature films including THE DEPARTED, SUPERBAD, PINEAPPLE EXPRESS, AMERICAN GANGSTER, BIG FAN, BUFFALO '66, SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS, WALKING AND TALKING, and GOODFELLAS. On television he played recurring roles on "Damages, "Fringe," and was a cast regular on the sitcom "Grounded for Life."

#### Megan Mullally ("Therapist")

Megan Mullally is one of Hollywood's most versatile talents – an actress and singer; she has appeared on Broadway, at concert halls, on the big screen, and on daytime, primetime, and cable television. She is best known for her two-time Emmy and four-time SAG Awardwinning role as Karen Walker on the hit NBC Series "Will & Grace." Megan was seen on the 2nd season of the Starz hit cable series "Party Down" alongside Adam Scott, Ken Marino, and Lizzy Caplan. She can also be seen as the Chief on the Adult Swim's comedy "Children's Hospital," an extension of the Rob Corrdry web series of the same name, which premiered in August 2010. Megan appeared in Fox's new series "Breaking In" starring opposite Christian Slater. She is currently in development on *Karen: The Musical*, based on the character Megan made infamous on "Will & Grace." Megan appeared on NBC's "Parks & Recreation," on the big screen in 2009's FAME based on the hit 1980 film, and in her critically acclaimed performance as Beverly Wilkins in the West Coast debut of *The Receptionist* at the Odyssey Theatre which wrapped in November 2009.

Megan made her television debut alongside Elaine Stritch and Ellen Burstyn on "The Ellen Burstyn Show" in 1986. She appeared opposite Stanley Tucci as Walter Winchell's wife in Paul Mazursky's award-winning HBO bio-pic "Winchell" and opposite Juliet Stevenson in Lifetime's "The Pact." She has guest starred on the hit shows "30 Rock," "The New Adventures Of Old Christine," and "Boston Legal," among others. She starred on ABC's "In The Motherhood" alongside Cheryl Hines and Rachael Harris. Megan also ventured into the daytime realm hosting her own daytime syndicated talk show, "The Megan Mullally Show" from 2006-2007.

Megan made her Broadway debut in the 1994 revival of *Grease* alongside Rosie O' Donnell. She then received an Outer Critics Circle Award nomination for her performance as Rosemary in the Broadway revival of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* opposite Matthew Broderick and starred in the hit Broadway musical, *Young Frankenstein*. Her other Los Angeles theater credits include *The Berlin Circle* at The Evidence Room Theater, for which she won the 2000 Backstage West Garland Award for Best Lead Actress in a Play and the L.A. Weekly Award for Best Leading Female Performance. She also appeared in *Mayhem* at The Evidence Room, as well as a variety of plays and musicals in both Chicago and Los Angeles.

On the big screen, Megan starred in the film EVERYTHING PUT TOGETHER directed by Marc Forster - an entry in the 2000 Sundance Film Festival's main competition and also appeared in 1999's ANYWHERE BUT HERE. Other feature film credits include STEALING HARVARD, SPEAKING OF SEX, and REBOUND.

Megan also is a talented singer, recording albums and performing around the country with her band Supreme Music Program. Next up, Megan and Supreme Music Program will make their international debut in the West End, performing at the Vaudeville Theater in London for eight performances in February 2010. Megan's most recent concert appearances with her band include The Allen Room at The Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, The Seattle Symphony, Chicago's Goodman Theatre, SUNY Buffalo Performing Arts and the Orange County Performing Arts Center. She also has appeared as a soloist at The Disney Concert Hall. She has made three CDs with Supreme Music Program entitled "The Sweetheart Break-In," "Big as a Berry" and the recently recorded "Free Again!" She can also be heard singing the solo barn burner song "You Took Advantage of Me" on the new FAME soundtrack.

# FILMMAKER BIOS

# **Bob Byington (Director/Writer)**

Bob Byington is an award-winning independent American film director, screenwriter, and actor living in Austin, Texas. He is most noted for his films RSO (REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER) (2008) and HARMONY AND ME (2009) which the LA Times describes as a "collision of joyous whimsy and bittersweet melancholy."

# Sean Price Williams (Cinematographer)

Since age 17, Sean Price Williams has worked at great video stores including Kim's Video in New York, and breathed cinema and music every day of his life. Sean's breathtaking cinematography is showcased in Jessica Oreck's BEETLE QUEEN CONQUERS TOKYO, which premiered at SXSW 2009. Variety's Justin Chang calls Sean's cinematography "pure poetry." The film went on to win a Special Documentary Jury Prize for Artistic Vision at Cinevegas 2009. Sean was the cinematographer on Ronald Bronstein's FROWNLAND, which received a Special Jury Award at SXSW 2007, and was named 2007 Gotham Awards' "Best Film Not Playing at a Theatre Near You." Sean has since worked on other films that have played in festivals around the world, including Cannes. He has worked for Abel Ferrara and extensively as Albert Maysles B-Cameraman.

#### Chris Baio (Composer)

Chris Baio is an electronic musician and DJ in addition to playing bass in the Grammy-nominated band Vampire Weekend. In 2012 Greco-Roman put out his first solo release, the Sunburn EP, which Mixmag called a "scorcher." SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME is his first film score.

#### **CREDITS**

Max Keith Poulson
Sal Nick Offerman
Lyla Jess Weixler
Clarissa Stephanie Hunt

Lyla's Dad Marshall Bell

Adult Lyle Jonathan Togo

Ex-Wife Kate Lyn Sheil

Memorial Man Kevin Corrigan

Therapist Megan Mullally

Paula Anna Margaret Hollyman

Steakhouse Patron Ted Beck Homeless Man Ted Beck

Wedding Singer Bob Schneider

Businessman Chris Doubek

Car Rental Employee Mike Wachs

Wedding Guest #1 Josh Ashy Holden

Wedding Guest #2 Nick Ashy Holden

You Guys Lady Margie Beegle

You Guys Lady's Son Josh Meyer

First Customer Alex Ross Perry

Derek Stephen Gurewitz

Ambulance Screen Doctor Andrew Bujalski

Caterer #1 Bill Wise

Caterer #2 Jonny Mars

Bus Boy #1 Ali Rose Garcia

Bus Boy #2 Julio Lucero

16-year old Wedding Guest Brigid Flanagan

Bellman Nicky Kazar

Chapstick Man G-Su Paek

Chapstick Woman Sun Jue Shin

Television Announcer Adam Scott

Lyle Age 5 Gabriel Keller

Lyle Age 10 Ian Graffunder

Lyle Age 15 Jake Lewis

Preacher #1 Mark Miller

Preacher #2 Paul Steckler

Ex-Wife Bedmate Sean Price Williams

Boring Guy Jason Harter

Old Woman Driver Joye Flanagan

Girl thrown in pool Ella Graffunder

Paramedic Jeffry Templet

Maid Yvonne Rodriguez

Wedding Band Taylor Muse

Tommy Blank Matt Parmenter Jeff Weathers

Divorce Lawyer Chrissy Flat

Lyle's Son Infant Locke Reyna

Madden Řeyna

Lyle's Son Age 10 William Sotelo

Original Music by Chris Baio

Costume Design by Kim H Ngo

Lily Walker

Edited by Frank V Ross

Stephen Gurewitz

Production Designer George Dishner

Cinematographer Sean Price Williams

Executive Producers Morgan Coy

Brenda Mitchell

Executive Producers Stuart Bohart

Christos V Konstantakopoulos

Produced by Hans Graffunder

Nick Offerman

Written and Directed by Bob Byington

Animation Bob Sabiston

Music Supervisor Lauren Marie Mikus

Associate Producer Seana Flanagan

Line Producer Marla Quintana

Sound Recordist Greg Armstrong

Location Manager Barry Lacina

Art Director Leila Dallal

Set Dresser Elana Farley

Art Assistant Andrea Doyle

Carrie Gates Mark Miller

Makeup Designer Alexei O'Brien

Key Makeup and Hair Artist Abiiba S. Howell

Assistant Hair Stylist Rose Russo

Katie Elrod Leola Perez

Costume Assistant Polly Veltcheva

Digital Imaging Technician Stephen Gurewitz

First Assistant Camera Reed Smith

Camera PA Wade Mitchell

Extras Casting Christina Jennings

Production Coordinator Molly Routt

Key Production Assistant Cody Sallee

Production Assistants Christina Jennings

Paul Linden Emma Nichols Shane Ramirez John Sheehan Caroline Wallace

Editorial Assistant Huay-Bing Law

Assistant to Mr. Offerman Will Youngblood

#### **MUSIC**

Original Music Composed by Chris Baio
Music Recorded, Mixed, and Produced by David Boyle at Church House Studios

Featuring the Songs "Bright Young Thing", "In Transit" and "Cartoon Music for Superheroes"

Written and Performed by Albert Hammond Jr

From the Album "Yours to Keep" on Watertower Records

Courtesy of Warner Music Group

All Songs Published by Primary Wave Music

"Bright Young Thing"
Written and Performed by Albert Hammond Jr.
Courtesy of Watertower Music
By Arrangement with Warner Music Group Film & TV Licensing

#### Published by Primary Wave Music

"Fool For Love"
Written and Performed by Sandy Rogers
Courtesy of Rattle Records
Published by Rattlesnake Writers Publications

"Double Life"
Written by Ric Ocasek
Performed by Bob Schneider and Quiet Company
Courtesy of Elektra Entertainment Group
By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film & TV Licensing
Published by Universal Music Corp. on behalf of Lido Music, Inc

"Double Life"
Written by Ric Ocasek
Performed by The Cars
Courtesy of Elektra Entertainment Group
By arrangement with Warner Music Group Film & TV Licensing
Published by Universal Music Corp. on behalf of Lido Music, Inc

"Black Eye"
Words and Music by Love Inks
Performed by Love Inks
Courtesy of City Slang
Published by CEUSO Music

"In Transit"
Written and Performed by Albert Hammond Jr.
Courtesy of Watertower Music
By Arrangement with Warner Music Group Film & TV Licensing
Published by Primary Wave Music

"Girl Don't Come"
Written by Chris Andrews
Performed by Sandie Shaw
Courtesy of Sandie Shaw
Published by Warner Music Group

"Cartoon Music for Superheroes"
Written and Performed by Albert Hammond Jr.
Courtesy of Watertower Music
By Arrangement with Warner Music Group Film & TV Licensing
Published by Primary Wave Music
Post-Production Facility
Stuck On On

Post-Production Producer
Allison Turrell

Colorist and DI Editor
Parke Gregg

Re-Recording Mixer, Sound Effects Editor and Dialogue Editor Lyman Hardy

> Sound Effects Editor Eric Friend

Camera and Grip Equipment MPS Studios

#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

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Acadian Ambulance
Austin Bergstrom International Airport
Austin Fast Rising Motor Cars
Austin Film Society
Car2Go

Cafe Express Central Market / H.E.B. City of Austin, TX City of Smithville, TX Dairy Queen, Smithville, TX **Eclectic Eyewear** Foodheads Justine's Brasserie Marriott Residence Inn, 4th Street, Austin, TX Old Focals Pasadena Perry's Steakhouse Ray-Ban Royal Blue Grocery Sweet Leaf Tea Tail Activewear Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Texas Film Commission Tom's Tabooley Trinity United Methodist Church Universal Sign Shop

Filmed on Location in Austin, TX

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In memory of Our Friend and Colleague Bingham Ray