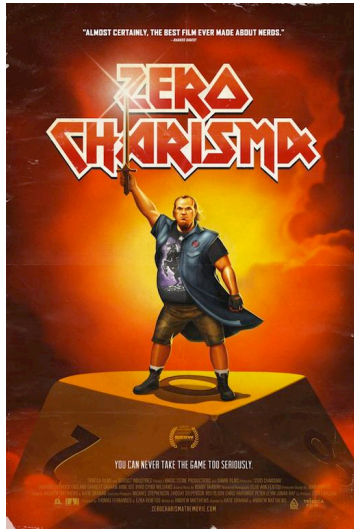




TRIBECA FILM and NERDIST INDUSTRIES present  
a MAGIC STONE PRODUCTIONS and SHARK FILMS production



# ZERO CHARISMA

Directed by Katie Graham and Andrew Matthews  
Written by Andrew Matthews

## Select Theatrical release:

11-Oct	New York	Cinema Village
18-Oct	Phoenix	Film Bar
18-Oct	San Francisco	Roxie
18-Oct	San Jose	Camera 3
18-Oct	Chicago	Facets Cinematheque
18-Oct	Austin	Alamo Village
23-Oct	Austin	Alamo Slaughter Lane
25-Oct	Portland	Hollywood Theater
25-Oct	Houston	Alamo Vintage Park
1-Nov	Denver	Sie Film Center
4-Nov	Columbus	Gateway Film Center
8-Nov	Santa Fe	Jean Cocteau Cinema
9-Nov	Miami	O-Cinema
29-Nov	Albuquerque	Guild Cinema
15-Feb	Williamsburg, VA	Kimball Theater

Available on VOD, iTunes, and other on demand platforms October 8, 2013.

Press Materials: <http://www.tribecafilm.com/festival/media/tribeca-film-press/>

Run Time: 97 Minutes

Rating: Not Rated

**Distributor: Tribeca Film**

375 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10011

**TRIBECA FILM:**

Brandon Rohwer  
212-941-2038  
brohwer@tribecafilm.com

**ID PR:**

Lafilm@id-pr.com  
Nyfilm@id-pr.com

**Synopsis**

As the strict Game Master of a fantasy role-playing game, Scott (Sam Eidson) leads his friends in a weekly quest through mysterious lands from the safety of his grandmother's kitchen. But his mastery of his own domain starts to slip — along with everything else in his life — when neo-nerd hipster Miles (Garrett Graham) joins the game, winning over the group with his confident charm and dethroning Scott with an unexpected coup. Caught in delusions of grandeur, Scott must roll the dice and risk everything to expose Miles as the fraud he believes him to be. A darkly comedic fable of epic proportions, Zero Charisma is an ode to nerds from every realm.

## Director's Statement

In 2009, we came to SXSW with a film we shot and edited called *Best Worst Movie*. It was the first film festival we had ever attended and we were completely inspired by that environment to make our own narrative. We noticed that a lot of independent films were about young, attractive, hip people, and it inspired us to make a film about a character who was kind of the opposite of that.

*Zero Charisma* was written with the firm belief that people want to see movies with untraditional protagonists. As a filmmaker, there's so much pressure to create characters that are "likable" (which often translates to "bland"), so choosing an unorthodox main character became an exciting challenge that kept us going throughout the process.

Scott is based on a lot of different sources: comedic archetypes, people we've known, even bits of ourselves. We wanted him to be funny, but in a painfully familiar way. Everyone knows what it's like to crave admiration, what insecurity feels like, how strongly we will protect our turf if we feel threatened. Most people are just better at controlling and hiding those emotions than Scott.

Andrew has been playing role-playing games generally, and Dungeons and Dragons, specifically since junior high. Besides being a familiar and comfortable world in which to set our film, role-playing games also afforded important creative and social aspects to Scott's life. We wanted Scott to not just be an obsessive, but a creative obsessive--a misunderstood artist whose passion is no less relevant to his story for the perceived absurdity of his hobby.

Our main hope is that audiences will come to love the character as we do, be entertained by him, and maybe be surprised that they ended up empathizing with someone who possesses none of the characteristics of traditionally "likable" characters.

--Andrew Matthews and Katie Graham

## **About the Cast**

### **SAM EIDSON (Scott)**

Sam came to Austin, Texas in late 2009 and has stirred the pot in the film scene ever since. He has been cast in numerous independent films including *Natural Selection*, *My Sucky Teen Romance*, *The Man from Orlando* and has had his biggest success acting in the geek dramedy *Zero Charisma*. He recently acted in the football comedy *Intramural* this past summer. He is also a director/actor for the play troupe Old Murder House Theatre who finished a US tour for a play version of *Jurassic Park* in Summer 2012.

### **BROCK ENGLAND (Wayne)**

Brock England has been performing on stage and screen for most of his life, starting with a strong upbringing in musical theater. Along with numerous recent stage credits, he's been seen in several independent films and commercials in the past five years, including the horror short *Hell No* (dir. Joe Nicolosi) which premiered alongside *Zero Charisma* at SXSW 2013. He was also recently awarded Best Actor by the Austin Critic's Table for his performance in Hidden Room Theater's *Rose Rage*. He co-writes and produces a strange web series called *Clown vs Mime*, writes for an automotive blog called The Daily Auto, is an avid runner, and has lived in Austin for the past ten years.

### **GARRETT GRAHAM (Miles)**

Garrett Graham is a Houston, TX native who earned a degree in Fine Arts from Texas State University. He had the honor of studying with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. Graham's on screen appearances include "Friday Night Lights," "Chase," "Lone Star," and numerous commercials. He is currently based in Austin, TX.

## CREW BIOS

### **KATIE GRAHAM (Co-Director/Producer)**

Katie Graham is Producer/Director currently living in Austin, TX with roots in Los Angeles, CA. Her first feature film, *Zero Charisma*, which she co-directed with her partner Andrew Matthews, won the Audience Award in the Narrative Spotlight Category at SXSW 2013. Prior to that, she was the Director of Photography and Assistant Editor of the award winning documentaries *Best Worst Movie* which premiered at SXSW 2009 and the Chiller Network's *The American Scream* which won best documentary at Fantastic Fest 2012. *Zero Charisma* will be released through Tribeca Film and Nerdist Industries fall of 2013.

### **ANDREW MATTHEWS (Writer/Co-Director/Producer)**

Andrew Matthews is an Austin filmmaker whose recent film *Zero Charisma*, which he wrote and co-directed, won the Narrative Spotlight Audience Award at SXSW 2013 and will be released by Tribeca Film and the Nerdist Industries in mid-October. He is also the editor of the award-winning documentaries *Best Worst Movie* and *The American Scream* (winner, Best Documentary, Fantastic Fest 2012).

### **ELLIE ANN FENTON (Director of Photography)**

Ellie Ann Fenton – Director of Photography Ellie Ann Fenton grew up on the U.S. border with Mexico in El Paso, TX. She began filmmaking in Austin, TX, and later relocated to Los Angeles to attend the distinguished Cinematography Program at the American Film Institute Conservatory. During her studies, she wrote and photographed her thesis film *Lucha* to receive her Master's in Fine Arts. *Zero Charisma* marks her first feature film as Director of Photography

### **THOMAS FERNANDES (Producer)**

Thomas Fernandes is an independent filmmaker living and working in Austin, TX. He is also a teacher and a musician, and is a graduate of the film school at UC Berkeley.

### **EZRA VENETOS (Producer – Shark Films)**

A veteran of the Texas film industry, Ezra began by producing 3 award-winning NYU Grad Thesis short films. His first feature was *5 Time Champion* which was distributed by Warner Bros. *Zero Charisma* is the second banner feature for the production company, Shark Films, founded by Ezra in 2009. Most recently, Ezra was a Co-Producer on *The Bloc*, a Polish film premiering at the Austin Film Fest, and *Intramural* which stars Nikki Reed, Kate McKinnon, and other cast members of Saturday Night Live.

### **MICHAEL STEPHENSON AND LINDSAY STEPHENSON (Executive Producers – Magic Stone Productions)**

Magic Stone is a production company helmed by husband-and-wife team, Michael and Lindsay Stephenson. The Company produced *Best Worst Movie* and *The American Scream*, two award-winning feature documentaries that rose to critical and commercial success (both also directed by Michael Stephenson). Most recently, Magic Stone executive produced *Zero Charisma* an indie comedy that has gained critical acclaim and will be distributed this Fall by Tribeca Films and Nerdist Industries. The company announced it will produce Bob Odenkirk's ("Breaking

Bad”, “Mr. Show”, *Nebraska*) feature, *Girlfriends Day*. Odenkirk, who penned the script, will star and Michael Stephenson will direct. Magic Stone is currently in development on numerous film and television productions including *Destroy*, a fast-paced dark comedy.

#### **ROD OLSON (Executive Producer)**

Rod has been in the entertainment industry since the age of nine when he started singing, acting and dancing professionally. He has appeared in many TV commercials and TV productions. He attended Brigham Young University where he Studied Musical Theatre. He moved to Nashville and soon became a backup singer for some of the hottest singers at the time, including Lee Greenwood and Randy Travis. He moved to New York City and became active in the Musical Theater industry and toured nationally for 4 years for Broadway shows such as *A Chorus Line* and *Phantom of the Opera*. As a successful businessman Rod worked at McCann-Erickson Worldgroup for seven years before partnering and growing a successful shipping logistics company in 2004. He sold the company in 2009 and began to focus solely on the entertainment industry. He recently joined Magic Stone Productions where he produced the company’s recent award winning documentary *The American Scream*.

#### **NERDIST INDUSTRIES (Co-distributor)**

Nerdist Industries is a multi-platform creator of genre and popular culture content. Its online presence includes a website at [Nerdist.com](http://Nerdist.com), a premium YouTube channel ([youtube.com/nerdist](http://youtube.com/nerdist)), Nerdist News daily e-newsletters, 2 million Twitter followers, a Podcast Network including the flagship Nerdist Podcast, also produced as a TV show on BBC America, and the Nerdist Alliance, a community of curated partnerships with some of YouTube's most talented and passionate creators. Nerdist also produces content for television including “All Star Celebrity Bowling” for AMC, “In the Name of Science” for National Geographic Channel, and a Chris Hardwick hosted late-night show debuting this fall for Comedy Central. Further, Nerdist hosts live events around the country such as The Nerdist Podcast Live! and Course of the Force, an annual lightsaber relay in partnership with Lucasfilm LTD and Octagon which leads up to San Diego Comic-Con International.

**CREDITS**

a MAGIC STONE PRODUCTIONS and SHARK FILMS production

Directors.....Andrew Matthews  
.....Katie Graham  
Writer.....Andrew Matthews  
Producers.....Thomas Fernandes  
.....Ezra Venetos  
Executive Producers.....Michael Stephenson  
.....Lindsay Stephenson  
.....Rod Olson  
.....Chris Hardwick  
.....Peter Levin  
.....Jonah Ray  
Casting.....Thomas Fernandes  
Music.....Bobby Tahouri  
Costume Designer.....Elise Garza  
Co-producer.....Zack Carlson  
Editors.....Andrew Matthews  
.....Katie Graham  
Production Designer.....John Parker  
Director of Photography.....Ellie Ann Fenton, Jr.

**CAST**

Scott.....Sam Eidson  
Wayne.....Brock England  
Miles.....Garrett Graham  
Wanda.....Anne Gee Byrd  
Barbara.....Cyndi Williams  
Leonard.....Brian Losoya  
Martin.....Vincent Prendergast  
Greg Goran.....Dakin Matthews  
Pete.....John Gholson  
Kendra.....Katie Folger  
Bob.....Larry Jack Dotson  
Kenny.....Jeff Fenter  
Kevin.....Michael Foulk  
Russell.....James Patrick Robinson  
Sarah.....Ashley Spillers  
Checker.....Jennymarie Jemison  
Mrs. Yi.....Nguyen Stanton  
Ulrich.....Lowell Bartholomee  
Mel Vernon.....Robert Tolaro  
Nathan.....Duncan Carson  
Gamer #1.....Joe Nicolosi  
Gamer #2.....Robert Stevens

Kid.....Jason Crawford  
Burt.....Dave Mikol  
Henry.....Ronald Kopita  
Irene.....Adrienne Harrell  
“Let’s Rock and Roll!” guy.....Kevin Welch