

storyboard

**Tribeca Film and
Storyboard Entertainment**

present

A Chris Lowell Film

BESIDE STILL WATERS

76 min., 1:85, 16mm

Press Contact

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SYNOPSIS

SHORT SYNOPSIS

When Daniel (Ryan Eggold) invites his oldest friends to spend one last weekend at his parents' lake house, secrets are confessed, romances are rekindled, and a particularly epic game of Whiskey Slaps is played.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Daniel Thatcher, a young romantic, has recently lost both of his parents in a car accident. None of his friends came to the funeral, and now he's losing the family home. The weekend before he has to move out, Daniel hosts a memorial celebration and insists that his friends attend. In addition, Daniel invites his ex-girlfriend, Olivia, to the house, with the hopes of rekindling their old romance.

Things quickly take a turn for the worse as none of his friends share in Daniel's nostalgia of the good old days. Furthermore, when Olivia finally arrives, she's brought her new fiancé. But as the night progresses, the house brings out the adolescence in all of them, and what follows is an evening full of drinking and dancing. Laughter and secrets. Sex, drugs, mischief and regret.

The next day everyone must face the revelations of the night before, none more so than Daniel, who finally confronts his friends about their absence at his parents' funeral. Once again, Daniel finds himself alone and brokenhearted. He has to let go of the past. He has to mourn. He has to forgive. In doing so, Daniel begins to see that the flaws in the people he loves are intertwined with their beauty. As everyone prepares to leave the house for the last time, their childhood memories come flooding back to them, and Daniel is left with the hope that the friendships of his past will become the family of his future.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I began writing this film with Mo Narang in the summer of 2010. We had just spent a week at my family's home in northern Georgia. It was the home where, growing up, all of our friends had gone skinny dipping for the first time, drank alcohol, smoked pot and fallen in love. It was the epicenter of our youth.

A year later, we were selling the house. People were moving away. Weekly phone calls became monthly and monthly phone calls became emails. Everyone had jobs, partners, priorities. At the same time, parents were no longer invincible. They were getting older. Many were getting sick. It was the first page of a very difficult chapter in all of our lives. Overnight, this story became much more significant to us, and we found that it resonated with others. It was a story we wanted to share, and so "Beside Still Waters" was brought to fruition.

"Authenticity!" became my mantra throughout the process of making this film. The movie had to feel truthful. I wanted to shoot on actual locations with actors who looked and felt like regular people. Elia Kazan once said that ninety-percent of directing is casting, and that could not be truer in "Beside Still Waters." These actors gave themselves over to this project, completely. The film would never have worked without their chemistry, which was just as strong off-camera as it was in front of the lens. We had to believe that these people had been friends since childhood. It took months to find the right actors, and at the end of the day, I could not be more proud of this cast.

Almost as important as finding the right actors was finding the right house. We needed a location that felt lived in and loved. Each member of the cast brought their own personal mementos to put inside the house. There were photographs hidden in cupboards, old sweaters, fishing rods, pieces of twine: each one with a story. By the end of our rehearsal period, the cast knew where to find the board games in the house, which floorboards made the loudest creaks, how long it took for the water to get hot. They cooked meals in the kitchen, hosted dinners in the dining room, ate sandwiches on the dock, drank whiskey, went skinnydipping. This set piece became their home.

By creating this authentic world, we are then able to depart it through the vantage point of our protagonist, Daniel. I wanted to experiment with different mediums to communicate our transitions into Daniel's mind's eye. He is constantly flooded by romantic images in black & white, reflective of whatever emotion has most recently taken control of him: Love, Family, Death, Youth, etc. On the first night, during a sloppy drunken episode of debauchery among estranged friends, Daniel begins filming them through an old Super 8mm camera. Suddenly we are seeing things the way he sees them: saturated, nostalgic, precious.

This movie was shot on film: 16mm and Super 8mm to be specific. In today's digital world, the mere presence of film creates an immediate nostalgia, an immediate depth. It feels like a step into the past. And yes it's grainy, and yes there are flaws. And yet, through these imperfections the beauty of the image on screen becomes all the more rewarding. And that was the story I wanted to tell. All of these characters are flawed, broken, imperfect creatures, and yet as the story unfolds, we see the beauty in each one of them, regardless of their shortcomings.

This juxtaposition between reality and nostalgia is the focal point of Daniel's struggle. "Beside Still Waters," is a film about past vs. present, memory vs. truth. It is about letting go and accepting things for what they are. It is a story of friendship: for all its flaws and all its beauty. It is a story close to my heart. And for anyone who has ever lost a parent... a home... a friend... I'm confident that it will be equally close to theirs.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

CHRIS LOWELL (Writer/Director/Producer)

Chris Lowell makes his directorial debut with *Beside Still Waters*. Born and raised in Atlanta, GA, Chris studied film production at the University of Southern California before continuing his studies at the New School. He has had great success in his acting career, performing in Oscar nominated films (*The Help*, *Up In The Air*) and award winning TV shows (*Private Practice*, *Veronica Mars*). Chris is also an alumnus of the highly respected Sundance Labs. In addition, Chris has built a successful career as a fine art photographer. His work is included in the Elton John Collection and the Sovereign Collection. In 2010, he co-hosted Photo LA alongside David LaChapelle. As a writer, Chris' first screenplay, *The Bridgewater Umbrella* was a finalist for the Sundance Screenwriter's Lab. Most recently, you can find Chris acting on Fox's new comedy *Enlisted* as well as the upcoming *Veronica Mars* movie. He currently lives in New York City.

JASON POTASH (Producer)

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Jason moved to Los Angeles to work for Showtime Networks on their hit show *Californication*, and has been involved with many film and television productions including *The Dark Knight*, *Nights in Rodanthe*, and *The Express*. Jason went on to produce the Tribeca Film Festival award winning short film *some boys don't leave*. *Some Boys* is the recipient of the Alexis Award at the Palm Springs International Short Festival, official selection of AFI Fest, and was the #1 best selling short film on iTunes. Jason adapted the short with director Maggie Kiley in to the feature film *Light Years*. Jason currently has two films in post production, including Chris Lowell's *Beside Still Waters*. Founder of his Michigan based production company J.P. Productions, Jason began his career producing corporate videos and commercials at age 16. He is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago.

PAUL FINKEL (Producer)

Paul began his career as a real estate professional, graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in Building Construction Management. Over the next 25 years, he built and acquired properties that totaled in excess of 1,000,000 square feet. After this successful career in real estate, Paul made the life altering decision to pursue his true dream and passion, entertainment. In 2011, he co-founded Storyboard Entertainment with Jason. Paul successfully produced and financed the feature film *Light Years*, which was shot entirely on location in New York City. He brought his next production, *Beside Still Waters*, to his home state of Michigan for filming on location in Petoskey.

MOHIT NARANG (Writer/Producer)

Mo is a graduate of Georgetown University, and currently resides in New York. He is a founder and board-member of the Hilltop MicroFinance Initiative. This is his first feature.

STEVEN GOREL (Producer)

Steven's career in the entertainment industry began at the age of 19, when he was hired as the youngest intern in the New York office for New Line Cinema. After working at New Line and 20th Century Fox, Steven moved to the Los Angeles based company Taurus Entertainment, where he served as the Director of Acquisitions for four years. In addition to his role as Director of Acquisitions, Steven line produced the independent comedy *What Do I Do Now*, and co-produced the sci-fi short *The Unknown*, that played at the Palm Springs Short Festival in 2010. He left Taurus to continue pursuing projects as an independent producer. Steven went on to produce the award winning film *In the Woods* and the Hong Kong style martial arts movie *The Price of Success*. His latest films include *Hitting on Destiny*, *Light Years*, and *Beside Still Waters*. Steven has now changed direction again in his career and has take on the role of Head of Programing and Production at Kingmaker, Inc a digital branding and Production Company that has launched its first content vertical, Marlaydrive.com, which centers around instruction videos in beauty and fashion.

TIM NAYLOR (Director of Photography)

As a child, inspired by a trip to Universal Studios, Tim, created his first movies as stick figure “flip book” animations in the margins of many a classic. Years later, upon graduating from the University of Michigan, then working as a camera assistant, he went on to major in directing and cinematography at NYU's Graduate Film Program. His thesis, *Generic Metal Titan*, won Best Short at the American Independent FF, Finalist AFI FF, Bronze at Houston Wordlfest and the Warner Bros Production Grant. He then began a career in cinematography, shooting several indies, TV shows and commercials. For the film *Horror*, he won Best Cinematography at the NY International Horror FF. More recently, the promo, *Take the Long Way Home* for CBS, won Best Promo at the New York Awards; and the *Absolut Kanye* campaign, starring Kanye West, was cited as Spot of the Week in Shoot Magazine. A triple threat, Tim combined his directing, shooting and editing skills, helming several music videos for Atlantic Records, Universal and Warner Music Group. This includes: the critically acclaimed, *Crying Out for Love* as well as the 40 million hits and counting, *Love is Wicked*. Still DP'ing, he also focuses on his directing career, shooting spots and developing an immigrant thriller he plans to shoot within the year. As a filmmaker to the core, not a day goes by where something doesn't turn his head and make Tim ask: “wouldn't that look great on film?”

NICK HOUY (Editor)

Nick Houy is a New York City based editor, who has collaborated on such films as *Solitary Man*, *Tokyo!*, *Fairhaven*, and *Warrior*. He recently edited alongside the directors of *American Splendor*, honing their newest film *Girl Most Likely*; starring Kristen Wiig and Annette Bening. He is now directing and editing the upcoming documentary, *Men of Brutus*.

JOEY OSTRANDER (Production Designer)

Joey Ostrander began making art and films in the '90s as a teenage photographer, animator, collagist of photo and video, and short story writer in the suburbs of Detroit. At the University of Michigan, he was an avid student and contributor in the local art community, University theatre production and an ambitious student film network. He completed a progressive conceptual art curriculum at the Stamps School of Art & Design at UM. While still in college, Joey began his professional career holding a variety of roles on two independent feature films including Sundance Selection *Bilal's Stand*. Shortly after graduation, his love of architecture, installation art, environments, and photography nurtured his development and growing fondness for Production Design. He has collaborated on eleven features, designing production for five, including award-winning dramas *Mooz-lum* and *Detroit*. Joey maintains a Detroit-based art direction practice in commercial work, shorts and features, and music videos; he designs and produces artworks in a multitude of media; and he is a regular producer and videographer of local arts- and academia-related shorts.

ANNEY PERRINE (Costume Designer)

A Chicago native, Anney holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder. While in France during college, she trained as a baker, and became a pastry chef before entering graduate school for education. Post-graduation, she taught French at a Blue Ribbon charter school. Since moving to New York, Anney has focused on costume design for feature films, beginning in 2011 with two dramas set upstate, *In Our Nature* (SXSW 2012) and *Bottled Up* (Tribeca 2013), as well as NYC love story *Light Years*. Following, she designed the ensemble dramedy *Beside Still Waters*, as well as *A Birder's Guide to Everything* (Tribeca 2013) and the crime thriller *Eye of Winter*. In addition to designing numerous short films, Anney works in both commercial and personal styling, and enjoys the balance of short form work with feature-length projects. Throughout, she has continued to manage BCDF Pictures' wardrobe stock and coordinate their events at film festivals. She is training to be a certified well-being coach and splits her time between Brooklyn and Accord, NY.

KERRY BARDEN (Casting Director)

A native of Atlanta, Kerry majored in theatre at the University of Georgia and has cast over 200 films, including, most notably *Boys Don't Cry*, *American Psycho*, *The House of Mirth*, *Bad Boys 2*, *Pineapple Express* and four films for director John Waters. As a Producer, his credits include the award-winning *Conversations with Other Women*, starring Aaron Eckhart and Helena Bonham Carter, and the musical *Temptation*, starring Zoe Saldana and Michael Cerveris, Kerry divides his time between Barden / Schnee's Los Angeles and New York offices.

PAUL SCHNEE (Casting Director)

Paul Schnee is originally from Wilmington, Delaware and is a graduate of Kenyon College. After graduating, Paul worked in the film business for legendary agent Sam Cohn, then as assistant to director Mike Nichols. He then veered into the publishing world, and held editorial jobs at Alfred A. Knopf, Simon and Schuster and Brill's Content magazine. He and Kerry formed Barden/ Schnee Casting in 2008. Paul lives in Brooklyn NY with his wife and daughters.

ABOUT THE CAST

RYAN EGGOLD (Daniel)

Southern California native Ryan Eggold graduated from the USC's esteemed theatre department, then immediately landed recurring roles on CBS's *Young and the Restless*, HBO's *Entourage*, Cartoon Network's *Out of Jimmy's Head*, ABC's *Brothers & Sisters* and The CW's *Veronica Mars*, before obtaining his first series regular gig on the FX's *Dirt*. He broke out on the hit CW series *90210*. He will next be seen on television in the *The Blacklist* for NBC. In addition to his work in television, Ryan made his professional stage debut in the acclaimed 2006 Ahmanson Theatre/Center Theatre Group production *Dead End*, directed by Nick Martin, and has since appeared in productions of *Leipzig*, and the L.A. Weekly Award-winning production of *Marat/Sade*.

Continually busy, Ryan has a slate of films set for release. *Lucky Them* will see Ryan working opposite Toni Collette and Oliver Platt and will also feature some of his original music. He has also completed work on Tyler Perry's *Single Moms Club*. When he isn't acting, Ryan is writing music, playing guitar, piano and singing in his band.

BECK BENNETT (Tom)

Beck Bennett is a founding member of the Good Neighbor sketch group. He's been a regular writer/performer at UCB for the past 5 years and has done several recurring spots on Nick Swardson's Comedy Central show. He's coming off of wrapping a Comedy Central pilot presentation with Good Neighbor and doing a guest spot on *Arrested Development*.

WILL BRILL (Martin)

Will Brill makes his L.A. theater debut at the Mark Taper Forum this Spring in Nina Raine's *Tribes* directed by David Cromer. Off-Broadway and other N.Y. theatre credits include *Tribes* at the Barrow Street Theatre (for which Brill was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award), David Cromer's *Our Town* (Barrow Street), *You May Be Splendid Now* (Shelby Co.), *Ephemerama* (Shelby Co. at the Magnet Theatre) and *Restoration Comedy* (Exit, Pursued by a Bear). Regional: *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre), *Arcadia* (TheatreWorks Palo Alto), *Translations*, *Goat Song for Asa Jacobs*, *Restoration Comedy*, and *Don Juan in Hell* (Stanford Summer Theater). Film: *Not Fade Away*, *King Kelly*, *Beside Still Waters* and *Girls Against Boys*. Will is a founding member of Shelby Company and Exit, Pursued by a Bear in NYC. He is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University where he received the John Arthur Kennedy Award.

BRETT DALTON (James)

Brett Dalton will next be seen on Marvel's *S.H.I.E.L.D.* written and directed by Joss Whedon. Other television credits include *Blue Bloods*, *Army Wives* and *Nurses (pilot for Fox)*. Most recently, Brett was seen in National Geographic Channel's *Killing Lincoln*, a Tony and Ridley Scott Production. Theater credits include *Passion Play*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Happy Now?* (Yale Repertory); *Sweet Bird of Youth* and *Demon Dreams* (Williamstown Theatre Festival); *Macbeth* (Macbeth) and *You Can't Take It With You* (Chautauqua Theater Company). Brett Dalton received a BA in Art from the University of California at Berkeley and an MFA in Acting from Yale School of Drama.

ERIN DARKE (Abby)

Erin is originally from Michigan, but now happily calls New York home. Her film credits include *Young Adult*, *We Need to Talk About Kevin* and the upcoming *Kill Your Darlings* (Sundance Competition selection 2013), *Animal Rescue*, *Draft Day* and *The Quitter*. Her TV credits include *Girls*, *Pan Am*, *Zero Hour* and *Mercy*. She has also done many plays and improvisation shows across New York.

JESSY HODGES (Charley)

Hailing from the suburbs of Detroit, Jessy spent her summers in northern Michigan attending the prestigious Interlochen Arts Camp where she began her training in musical theatre. After graduating with a BFA from the experimental theatre wing at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Jessy began her career in downtown and off Broadway theatre in New York City. Credits include *The Metal Children* at the Vineyard Theatre (written and directed by Adam Rapp, starring Billy Crudup), *The Great Recession* at the Flea Theatre, and *Misery and Good Fortune* at Here Arts Center. Past film includes *The Sound and the Shadow*, *Satan's Playground*, and most recently, the sci-fi short *Stepping Up For Mankind*. This summer, Jessy will recur on HBO's *True Blood*. Past TV credits include *Greek* and *Grey's Anatomy*. Online Jessy can be seen as Sophie in the multi-award-winning web-series *Anyone But Me*, in the web-series *Next Time On Lonny* (Red Hour productions), and in numerous sketches with popular comedy group BriTANick.

BRITT LOWER (Olivia)

Britt Lower is an actress, writer, and improviser who was most recently seen as the recurring character, 'Tanya Sitkowsky' on the CBS series *Unforgettable*. In addition to *Beside Still Waters*, she shot lead roles in the indie films *Mutual Friends* and *The Shells* (with Carolyn McCormick), a supporting role opposite Oscar Isaac in the indie comedy *Revenge for Jolly!* and *The Letter* (with Winona Ryder). Other TV credits include the recurring role of 'Meg' in the Gary Sanchez series for Comedy Central opposite Horatio Sanz and Chris Parnell and guest

spots on *A Gifted Man*, *Next Caller*, and *Law and Order: SVU*. She has starred in several short films including *The Worst* with Dean Winters, *Benny to Benny* (Official Selection Miami, Northside and Sacramento Film Festivals) and *One Trick Deiter* with Olek Krupa. While earning her BFA in Theater from Northwestern University, she trained in improv at iO (Chicago) and won the 2008 College Comedy Championship with her college improv team, Titanic Players. She continues to study and perform improv in New York City at the Magnet, The PIT, and UCB with her all-female improv team, Funkle Todd and is a writer/creator/actor for the web series, *Window Dressing* (featuring Karen Black). Theatre credits include NY down-town premiere's of *Hatching*, *Thin Air*, *The Dome*, *Buddy Holly at the Armory* and *A Different Kind of Animal* (Thomas Higgins). She currently lives in Williamsburg in Brooklyn, NY.

REID SCOTT (Henry)

Reid Scott transitions from hunky oncologist to Academy Award nominee Laura Linney on the Golden Globe-winning Showtime series *The Big C* into the coveted role as a D.C. legend opposite Julia Louis-Dreyfus in HBO's Emmy-nominated comedy series *Veep*.

He previously starred in four seasons of the first original comedy for TBS, *My Boys*. He simultaneously juggled a multi-episode arc on ABC Family Channel's hit drama *Secret Life of an American Teenager*. Scott relocated to L.A. upon booking the lead in the FOX pilot *With you in Spirit* in which he played a character loosely based on the show's creator Steve Levitan. He ultimately went on to star on the ABC comedy *It's All Relative*, from the producers of the Academy Award-winning *Chicago*. A recurring role on NBC's acclaimed drama *American Dreams* followed, along with the telefilm *Revenge of the Middle-Aged Woman* with Christine Lahti. He also voices a lead role in Disney XD's animated *Motorcity* series.

He also appeared on the big screen in the New Line thriller *Amusement*, the comedy feature *Bickford Shmeckler's Cool Ideas* which co-starred the likes of Patrick Fugit, Cheryl Hines, and Olivia Wilde; and more recently completed Caprice Crane's short, *Passing the Time*, based upon her best-selling novel, *Forget About It*, as well as the indie drama *Missing William*, and the romantic comedy *Losing Control*.

Born and raised in upstate New York, Scott received a degree from Syracuse University before moving to NYC to pursue acting. No stranger to theatre, he starred opposite the likes of Jon Hamm in L.A. Theatre Work's *The Three Sisters*, and recently directed a local production of *The Elephant Man*. He currently resides in Los Angeles with his beloved pit bull, where in addition to his love of music, he is also an avid downhill skier.

BESIDE STILL WATERS

Directed by
Chris Lowell

Written by
Chris Lowell
&
Mohit Narang

Produced by
Jason Potash
Paul Finkel
Chris Lowell
Mohit Narang

Producer
Steven Gorel

Starring

Daniel.....Ryan Eggold
Tom.....Beck Bennett
Martin.....Will Brill
James.....Brett Dalton
Abby.....Erin Darke
Charley.....Jessy Hodges
Olivia.....Britt Lower
Henry.....Reid Scott

Casting by
Kerry Barden
Paul Schnee
and Allison Estrin

Director of Photography
Tim Naylor

Edited by
Nick Houy

Production Designer
Joey Ostrander

Costume Designer

Anney Perrine

Music Supervisor

John Gillilan

Production Sound Mixer

Clayton Perry

Sound Designer

Andrea Bella

Supervising Sound Editor, Re-Recording Mixer

Michael Feuser

Re-Recording Mixer

Martin Czembor

Colorist

Doug Delaney