

PRESS KIT



THE IMPORTANCE OF BLIND DATING A Short Film

Dharma Road Productions
In Association with Broken Bow and Lily Pad Productions
A James Gang Film

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A Synopsis

THE IMPORTANCE OF BLIND DATING

A Short Film

How hard is it to hook up with your soul mate? We find out in **The Importance of Blind Dating**, as a pair of internet romancers end up at the wrong table for a hilarious mess of a first meeting.

Mr. Anders, a rejection-letter writer for a busy publishing house, just wants a good burger. **Cindy**, the romantic internet poet of dubious talent, wants to finally meet the man of her dreams.

Miss Torres, a teacher of literature to disinterested students, wants to spend a little time in a good book. And **Bob**, the hopelessly dorky singer-songwriter, just wants to share his soul with his bewildered Juliet.

Patrick, the impish and mysteriously omniscient flower vendor, manipulates destiny to drive these four unsuspecting strangers together, then stands back to watch as fickle fate and idealistic love collide.

Mistaken identities, romantic tomfoolery, and a mix-up with a red carnation and a popular book by Oscar Wilde all conspire to prove that “the course of true love never did run smooth.”

About the Cast

The Importance of Blind Dating

STEPHEN TOBOLOWSKY (Patrick)

Some highlights from Stephen Tobolowsky's over 100 film appearances include *Memento*, *Pope Dreams*, *Stephen Tobolowsky's Birthday Party*, *Mississippi Burning*, *The Insider*, *Thelma and Louise*, *Sneakers*, *Single White Female*, *Basic Instinct*, *The Grifters*, *Great Balls of Fire*, and of course, *Groundhog Day*. He's all over the television too, with appearances on *Deadwood*, *Desperate Housewives*, *Will and Grace*, *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*, *Las Vegas*, *CSI: Miami*, *Malcolm in the Middle*, *The Closer*, *The Practice*, *That 70's Show*, and *The West Wing*. A Broadway veteran Mr. Tobolowsky is also a teacher, director and writer. Writing credits include *Two Idiots in Hollywood* for New World Pictures and *Rules of the Road* for HBO and Channel 4 BBC. As the mercurial flower-vendor **Patrick**, Mr. Tobolowsky orchestrates a whimsical evening in the lives of the four unsuspecting characters who will find love whether they expect to or not.

TIM WOODWARD (Chris Anders)

Tim Woodward, New York veteran theatre actor, has had a long career on the stage and acting in the short films, *A Midsummer Night's Rewrite*, *Come Hard or Don't Come at All*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Together and Apart*, and *Suds*. On television, he's been seen on Dick Wolf's series *Arrest and Trial*, *Days of Our Lives*, *Vital Signs*, *Get a Life*, *It Is Written*, in national commercial spots for Miller Lite, and in an international soap opera. Tim brings a mid-western flintiness to his role of **Anders**, the tightly wound editor of a small publishing house who will be drawn out of his shell by love whether he likes it or not.

SUSAN CAROL DAVIS (Lily Torres)

Susan Carol Davis' film roles include *My Dog Skip*, with Kevin Bacon and Luke Wilson, *Daddy and Them*, directed by Billy Bob Thornton, and cult favorite, *Existo* with the late Jim Varney. Other credits include festival award winning short, *Bartender's Soliloquy*, and the upcoming *Truly Unusual*, a Tom Jones "mockumentary". Television audiences have seen her on *Monk*, *Weeds*, *NYPD Blue*, *The Guardian*, and HBO's *Against the Wall*, directed by the late John Frankenheimer. Susan brings her love of language and great writing to the role of **Lily**, a community college English teacher, who finds herself in a blind dating minefield on a Friday evening when she wonders if "there's something in the air."

CLAIRE MARTIN (Cindy)

Claire Martin has been in show business since early childhood when she appeared in several national commercials in English and Spanish. Television credits include *Malcolm in the Middle*, *Committed*, and IFC pilot, *The Minor Accomplishments of Jackie Woodman*. Film credits include Valerie Horwitz' satirical comedy short, *Making the Cut*, and the leading female role in the short, *Ralph and Marcy*. Ms. Martin has had major label deals at Sony Discos (Latin), and MCA Records as a member of the girl band Girlstown, singing in both Spanish and English. In her film debut, Claire brings her infectious energy and vitality to **Cindy**, the confused ingénue looking for a little help from Oscar Wilde in the ways of love.

TODD TRULEY (Bob)

Todd Truley has appeared in the films, *Martini* and *Splendor Falls; Falls*; he recently completed shooting the horror thriller, *Furnace*, directed by William Butler and played opposite Tom Sizemore. His television appearances include *ER*, *The Practice*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Strong Medicine*, and *JAG*. A southern boy at heart, Todd co-produced and starred in the popular short film *A Music City Miracle: The Story of the Mother Teresa Cinnamon Bun*, a comedic tale about discovering Mother Teresa's likeness in a Nashville coffeehouse cinnamon bun. Mr. Truley's extensive stage credits span from New York to Los Angeles. Todd brings verve and gusto to his role of **Bob**, the well-intentioned and lyrically challenged suitor who's desperately looking for a love who won't take no for an answer.

HELEN BOWMAN (Sophie)

Helen Bowman's film credits include the festival award-winning titles of *Hustle and Flow*, *The Poor and Hungry*, *Resolutions of a Complacent Man*, *The Morning Ritual*, *Blue Citrus Hearts*, and the upcoming feature, *Away (A)wake*. The documentary *Free Fall and Fly*, which captures thrill-seeking sky divers, marks her debut as a Tennessee based filmmaker. Helen brings a quiet, comedic talent to the widow, **Sophie**, who takes drastic measures to drown out the noise being created by the romantic antics occurring around her at a favorite restaurant.

JEFF CHARLTON (Joaquin)

Jeff Charlton appears in the films, *Seekers*, *Immortal Combat*, and *Biting The Hand*. A veteran theatre actor, Mr. Charlton has appeared in numerous plays stretching from Chicago Shakespeare to Neil Simon's *Fools* with Los Angeles' Actors Co-op and Rubicon Theatres. Jeff adds an edgy spark to the romantic machinations of our story as the lascivious **Joaquin** who makes Cindy question the appropriateness of her attire for a blind date.

GARY BALLARD (Kendrick)

Gary Ballard's long acting career features roles in the films *Murder in the First* with Kevin Bacon and Christian Slater, *Defending Your Life* with Albert Brooks, *Postal Worker* with Brad Garrett, and *Blue Desert* with D. B. Sweeney. Television roles include *ER*, *Profiler*, *Living Single*, *Max Headroom*, *MOW's Police Story II*, and *The Bates Motel*. Mr. Ballard's extensive theatre work ranges from New York to Los Angeles. Gary brings his delicious wit to the role of **Kendrick**, the snooty put-upon maitre'd of the Rosewood who can't help but bring his patrons' insecurities to their attention with his sabre-tipped tongue.

CATHERINE GAFFNEY (Melanie)

Catherine Gaffney is a sought after voice over artist who's voiced commercials for numerous clients including Microsoft and Discovery Health Channel. Ms. Gaffney's diverse stage performances and educational tours with Seattle's Taproot Theatre Company highlight her 15-year career as a professional actress. Catherine brings a wry charm to the role of **Melanie**, a stressed out waitress who'd rather be studying than waiting tables.

ANTHONY PLATIPODIS (Busboy)

Anthony Platipodis is a Chicago-based writer and actor with special interests in film, theatre, and radio. His professional training includes Second City Chicago and the Act One Writing Program of Hollywood. As the Rosewood's one and only **Busboy**, Anthony keeps a watchful eye to the romantic shenanigans of our internet lovers.

MICAH KOBAYASHI (Carol)

Micah Kobayashi appears in the indie shorts, *Final Scene*, *Green Season*, and *All in the Family*. Micah's studies at Oxford University with Royal Shakespeare Company's James Methven combine with her keen interest in film production, theatrical performance, and tutoring underprivileged children around the Los Angeles area. Micah's producer credits include "*William Shakespeare's The Things We Do for Love*" at Los Angeles' Actors Workout and *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Actors Co-op. Micah brings a feisty spirit to tart-tongued secretary, **Carol**, who rouses her introverted boss, Anders, from his dull existence by encouraging him to "get a life".

About the Filmmakers

The Importance of Blind Dating

JAMES BUGLEWICZ (Director, Producer)

Prior to directing *The Importance of Blind Dating*, James Buglewicz directed *To Cross a River*, a historical drama, *Lobby Rats*, a hotel farce, and the documentary, *Defining Male*. He is a partner in James Gang Productions which with Screaming Productions produced *The Angel of Death*, a violent homage to the director Sergio Leone. Other Screaming credits include *Stalk* and *Haunt*, due out on DVD in late 2005. Of the 50 offerings directed for the stage, Mr. Buglewicz's latest show, *A Night with Paul Lynde*, was recently produced as a VOD special for Hear TV and a DVD pressing. James is a faculty member at East Los Angeles College where he directs the Children's Theatre program.

SEAN GAFFNEY (Screenwriter)

Sean Gaffney is a playwright, screenwriter, director, teacher and producer. He has authored twenty produced plays, several produced videos (including for Big Idea, Angel Wars, SuperBook and Globalstage), and three published books. Sean is a Senior Lecturer at Biola University, a reader for Act One's APEX Script Critique Service, and has been a judge for the Angelus Film Awards and Writer's Digest Magazine. He received his BFA from Drake University, his MFA from Columbia University, and graduated from the Act One: Writing for Hollywood program.

SUSAN CAROL DAVIS (Producer)

The Importance of Blind Dating marks Susan's first film producing role with LilyPad Productions. Susan has recently partnered with Sanctus Productions to produce multiple television projects and 4FFilms to produce a short film for festival competition. Previously Susan produced educational videos for the Alzheimer's Association of Los Angeles with John Dutton Media, live programming in improvisation comedy, a one-woman show & professional theatre.

TIM WOODWARD (Producer)

Tim Woodward's energies in film producing focus on development and publicity with a keen interest in festival programming domestically as well as abroad. *The Importance of Blind Dating* marks his first producing role with Broken Bow Productions.

KAAT CLEENEWERCK (Co-Producer)

Kaat Cleenewerck is an experienced producer originally from Brussels, Belgium, whose work includes projects with TV Brussels before coming to Los Angeles to work for Cineville International. She co-produced the critically acclaimed and award winning documentary *Just Another Day in the Homeland*. Her other short and feature film credits include *Hollywood the Short Way*, *Life on a Leash* and Carl Colpaert's award winning film *The Affair*.

SHIRLEY LEONG (Production Designer)

Shirley's extensive credits include her feature debut as Production/Costume Designer and Set Decorator in Carl Colpaert's award-winning film, *The Affair*. Her work as Creative Director and Production Designer embraces such projects as Chris Palzis' music video, *Casualty of War*, David Scott Hay's feature, *Hard Scrambled*, and commercials. Shirley Leong is currently in production as Production Designer in Philippe Caland's film entitled *Ripple Effect*, starring Forest Whitaker, Virginia Madsen, Minnie Driver, Alec Baldwin and Philippe Caland. Just prior to that she served as the Production Designer in Carl Colpaert's film, "G.I. Jesus", a bold approach in dealing with multicultural post-war trauma. Born in Hong Kong and now a L.A. resident, Shirley attended The Form and Function Institute of Design in Canada, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Fashion Design, and University of Calgary, Business Management.

BRENDA CARLSON (Editor)

Brenda Carlson is a free-lance editor working with CNBC as well as various TV shows, films, commercials & promos. Whether editing commercials for an advertising company or trailers for films, Brenda is doing work that she earmarked as her dream job as early as 9th grade in Fargo, North Dakota. Brenda majored in Film Production at Minnesota State University.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS (Dir., Photography)

Jonathan Williams is a visionary cameraman shooting short/feature films in the Los Angeles/ Boston areas for the past four years. He is currently shooting a production for a pilot, *Never Go Back Again*; a short film directed by Randy Cordray (Co-Executive Producer, *Dharma and Greg*) and a music video shot in Texas that looks at the effects television has on American society. Credits include *Lobby Rats*, *Stalk*, *El Angel de la Muerte*, *Haunt & Camp Daze*. Directorial debut, *Morphine Dreams & Heroin Highs*, a cautionary tale of drug use, currently distributed through ScreamKings Productions. Jonathan has also started ReelResume.com that produces and hosts online resumes and reels for talent in the entertainment industry. Comfortable in front of the camera as well, Jonathan can be seen in *El Angel de la Muerte*, *Zombies*, *Haunt & Lobby Rats*.

JAMES CONANT (Sound Engineer, Asst. Dir., Photography)

James Conant is a multitasking professional with directing, writing, and director of photography experience. He is currently shooting two TV shows, *Platinum Weddings* for WE and *Bringing Home Baby* for TLC and is producing a documentary about the struggle for equal education in South Central Los Angeles. His Director of Photography credits include World Of Wonder Productions' AFI winner "Gay Republicans," Sundance Channel's "Transgeneration," and Bravo Channel's "Sports Kids, Moms and Dads." His most recent film, "El Angel De La Muerte" AKA "The Angel Of Death", is a multi-lingual homage to the spaghetti western and Sergio Leone. It is currently being distributed by Scream Kings Productions.

BRAD FOWLER (Composer, Original Score)

Brad Fowler is a composer and conductor for film, theatre, & the concert hall whose music reflects the European and contemporary classical tradition, jazz, & traditional Hollywood movie music. He has scored films directed by James Conant in the thriller genre which combine electronics & a 45-piece orchestra. Brad has been acknowledged by the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival for compelling orchestral scores (Shakespeare's *Othello*, Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*). B.A. in Music, Missouri Western State College, M.A. in Composition, Truman State University.

DAWN DEWITT (Costume Designer)

Dawn DeWitt is an award winning costume designer with over 250 plays, films & television programs to her credit. Dawn's designs are showcased in many Chicago & Los Angeles theatres of note. The New York Times applauded Dawn's design ingenuity in the 2005 feature release, *Camp Daze*. Credits include cable television's *Queer Eye for the Straight Girl*, *Strong Medicine*, and MTV's *Undressed* along with films, *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, *Fat Albert*, *The Virgin of Juarez*.

MICHAEL DAVID GALLEGO (Key Hair and Make-up)

Michael David Gallego has produced photo shoots, fashion shows, and created key stylist designs for films & television including *Queer Eye for the Straight Girl* and is credited with innovative styling in *Ladies Home Journal*. Michael is a graduate of the International Academy of Cosmetology and works with brother, Alex, master hairdresser & the gifted team of Pasadena CA's Alex & Friends Salon. Danielle Shulkatis, Denise Scarpa, and Mindy Metcalf rounded out our outstanding crew for the hair and make-up styling of 10 principals and 15 background players.

STEVE GUSTAFSON (Post Production Supervisor)

Steve Gustafson is president and owner of Malibu Digital Services in Burbank, CA. He has won numerous awards for work in the DVD format including a Telly Award and AXIEM award for "ANTZ". Steve's work on the cutting edge of DVD technology produced DVDs for such clients as DreamWorks, Disney, Showtime, and MGM. Steve's screenwriting and TV/Film appearances as a child actor from Broadway to Vegas round out an outstanding career both in front and behind the camera.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Director's Notes - James Buglewicz

The Importance of Blind Dating is a witty, little romp of a film that explores the unbelievable set of circumstances that bring two people together in love and asks the question, is it pure chance, destiny or just a bit of the gods' whimsy that enables us to find our one and only love?

The dialogue and the characters are what first attracted me to the script. Sean Gaffney is a master craftsman who has a great comic sense. The audience is able to see themselves in every one of the characters he's drawn. We've all been the overanxious suitor or the shy romantic at some time in our lives. The literary references and parallels to *The Importance of Being Earnest* added to the intelligence and appeal of the script. Most importantly, it's genuinely funny!

I wanted to shoot it in a very clean visual style that focused the audience's attention on the dialogue and situation. Utilizing simultaneous action and parallel cuts helped the story to move and controlled the rhythm of the film. The entire production and design crew worked well to give a warm floral palette to the look of the film. An original score by Brad Fowler along with our end credits' song by Sam Vance together with a great ensemble of actors made it possible to realize the full potential of the script in production. Working with Stephen Tobolowsky was a treat. He's a very giving man and an excellent actor. We were very lucky to have him working with us.

Behind the Scenes

In January '03 producer Susan Carol Davis invited a dozen actors and film technicians to her home for dinner and brainstorming. Out of that evening emerged Avalanche, a group of friends sharing a common goal: To produce a short film for festivals that embodied great storytelling, high production values, and our diverse talents. Avalanche met regularly for a full year, committing to Sean Gaffney's script for our short and 6 months of pre-production in October '03.

For the Guest Artist role of Patrick, we wanted an actor with classical training and a strong interest in independent filmmaking. Producer Tim Woodward brought Stephen Tobolowsky's name to the table as a fellow alumnus of Southern Methodist University. Stephen joined our cast when contacted by fellow L.A. actor and SMU alumnus, Fred Bailey. Mr. Tobolowsky embraced the opportunity to work on a script with literary reference, poetic language, and Oscar Wilde's humor.

Avalanche shifted gears before shooting began in March '04 when three of the original members of the group decided that they were unable to commit to the rigorous production schedule ahead. In a matter of three weeks, roles were recast and the entire crew assembled.

Locations for *The Importance of Blind Dating* involved a curious search for an eclectic bookstore with a Charles Dicken's flavor, a restaurant with Old World ambience, a book publisher's office with a history all its own, and a city sidewalk full of contemporary pedestrians in a neighborhood like atmosphere. A bookbinder, G.A. Coronel, who restores antique volumes for blockbuster movies led us to our bookstore. A wrong turn on a Burbank street brought us to our restaurant location, an Argentinian furniture store originally as a saddle shop. The historic Culver Hotel where the likes of John Wayne worked and the Wizard of Oz munchkins lived became book publisher Anders' office. A scaffolding in our director's backyard provided the means for James Gang Productions DP Jonathan Williams' aerial shots of a mystical red carnation; and Kenneth Village in Glendale, with over 30 merchants agreeing to allow our one day exterior shoot, became our final destination, for a total of 7 shooting days over a 4 month period.

Oscar Wilde found his way amongst us during shooting with an ever abundance of flowers, detailed costume and hair/makeup design by our Art Department, and gourmet crew dinners provided by our resident director/chef, James Buglewicz.

Post-production involved a series of rough cuts carefully crafted by editor, Brenda Carlson, and Buglewicz. Producers Davis and Woodward hosted an informal screening for family and friends in March '05 which resulted in additional post services being generously offered by Steve Gustafson of Burbank's Malibu Digital (www.malibudigital.com)

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CREDITS

The Importance of Blind Dating

Cast

Patrick	Stephen Tobolowsky
Chris Anders	Tim Woodward
Carol	Micah Kobayashi
Lily Torres	Susan Carol Davis
Cindy	Claire Martin
Joaquin	Jeff Charlton
Kendrick	Gary Ballard
Bob	Todd Truley
Melanie	Catherine Gaffney
Sophie	Helen W. Bowman
Busboy	Andrew Platipodis

Assistant Director	Liz Montgomery
Second AD	Rita Cofield
Co-Producer	Kaat Cleenewerck
Script Supervisor	Diane Burton
Assistant Camera	James Conant
Still Photography	Naima Blasco
Production Assistants	Clint Sykes
	Katya Maslova
	Brandon Alexander
Design Logo	Alena St. James
Graphic Design	Doug Haverty
Web Design	Andrea Nasfell

Village Pedestrians

Woman with flowers	Brenda Ballard
Woman with map	Matilda Novak
Tourist	Walter Teper
Woman with dog	Kara Dahl Russell & Gibson
Man with book	William Creitz
Woman with boxes	Lisa Kaster
Pedestrian	Katya Maslova

Restaurant Patrons

Couple #1	Matilda Novak
	James Wente
Trio	Teresa Bisson
	Peter Bisson
	Inga Czech
Couple #2	Erica Wendlend
	Todd Munson

Production

Written by	Sean Gaffney
Directed by	James Buglewicz
Produced by	Susan Carol Davis
	Tim Woodward
Dir., Photography	Jonathan Williams
Editor	Brenda Carlson
Production Design	Shirley Leong
Original Score	Brad Fowler
Sound Engineer	James Conant
Costume Design	Dawn DeWitt
Key Hair/Make-up	Michael David Gallego
Asst. Make-up	Danielle Shulkatis
Asst. Make-up	Denise Scarpa
Asst. Make-up	Mindy Metcalf

Music

Original score composed, orchestrated, and conducted by Brad Fowler.

Asst. to the Composer	Andrea Fowler
Clarinet	Aaron Diestel
Bassoon	Chuck Wines
Piano	Andy Lee
Violin	Andrew Holmes
Cello	Ben Humphrey

Music recorded, mixed, and edited by Scott Stillwell.
Music recorded at Kearney High School Performing Center. Kearney, Missouri.

“Nights Like This”

Written and performed by Sam Vance.
Produced by Chris Kramer.

Post Production rendered by

Malibu Digital Services
Burbank, CA
Steve Gustafson, President and Owner
Glenn Darby, Editing
Isa Alsup, Titles
Michael Malooly, Authoring
Rick Johnson, Administration
Ron Rivera, Quality Control