

RAMI MALEK

BUSTER'S MAL HEART



ONLY IN THEATERS 4/28/17 • 96 MIN • COLOR • ENGLISH • 5.1 • SCOPE 2.40:1 • NOT RATED

The story of a man split in two.



OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2016





DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I like to make movies that have their own cosmology, governed by emotion. Jonah is one soul in two bodies, split by grief.

It's a story of a spiritual fission catalyzed by a cry against the gods... a cry so loud that the fabric of spacetime caught on fucking fire. It's a meditation on individual responsibility in a mechanistic universe. Whose fault is it that Jonah was born with a malformed heart? Who should stand trial, the insane man or the universe that gave birth to him?

Examined through the lens of this film, insanity becomes a problem of quantum entanglement. One soul, two realities. Each incarnation is a man determined to call God to task.

After all, a pool of suffering fuels the Machine, blood as black as oil. The picture show cranks on, churning out All Things Beautiful. Miracles flicker before our eyes, ceaselessly. We are lucky to be here, on this side, bearing witness, enjoying the fruits of someone else's decay.

The Christians fervently, desperately, retell the story of a man who will suffer for us. He loves us so much, he's willing to be sacrificed. Over and over again, all alone. He'll save us from the terrible machine. What a guy!

But it takes more than the blood of one man to keep the cycle in motion. Every flower requires more than it's weight in dirt, that is the law of Nature.

And so we know, in our happiest moments, that our turn will soon come. We'll melt in the hot fires, be boiled down for fuel like the rest. This is our curse and our honor.

I like to think of BUSTER'S MAL HEART as a comedy. Not the kind played for laughs, but the other kind... the kind that arises from our earnest and imperfect efforts to be in the world, to make sense of the senseless.

Because perhaps, despite our often graceless existence, Love is a force to be reckoned with. Perhaps the strongest hearts can elicit a response from the void.

-SARAH ADINA SMITH



GAMECHANGER FILMS, Financing Company

Launched in September 2013, Gamechanger Films is the first for-profit film fund dedicated exclusively to financing narrative features directed by women. The company aims to shift the gender disparity in the film marketplace by tapping into the enormous but undervalued talent pool of female filmmakers and providing the necessary financing to bring their work to audiences worldwide. Gamechanger's films include Martha Stephens & Aaron Katz's LAND HO! (Sundance 2014, Sony Pictures Classics, 2015 Independent Spirit Cassavetes Award), Karyn Kusama's THE INVITATION (SXSW 2015, Drafthouse/Netflix), Jamie Babbit's ADDICTED TO FRESNO (SXSW 2015, Gravitas), So Yong Kim's LOVESONG (Sundance 2016, Strand/Netflix), Sarah Adina Smith's BUSTER'S MAL HEART (TIFF 2016), and three forthcoming films, including Jennifer Fox's THE TALE.

MYNETTE LOUIE, Executive Producer

Mynette is president of Gamechanger Films and winner of the 2013 Independent Spirit Piaget Producers Award. Producing credits outside Gamechanger include GEMINI (forthcoming), LAND HO! (Sundance 2014), COLD COMES THE NIGHT (Sony/Goldwyn 2014), CALIFORNIA SOLO (Sundance 2012), STONES IN THE SUN (Tribeca 2012), ARCADIA (Berlin 2012), CHILDREN OF INVENTION (Sundance 2009), and MUTUAL APPRECIATION (SXSW 2005), among others. Louie is on the board of directors of Film Independent; serves as an advisor to Sundance Institute, IFP, and SXSW; and was named one of Indiewire's "100 Filmmakers to Follow on Twitter."



CREDITS

Written and Directed by SARAH ADINA SMITH
Produced by JONAKO DONLEY
Produced by TRAVIS STEVENS
Executive Producer MYNETTE LOUIE
Executive Producers JULIE PARKER BENELLO,
DAN COGAN, GERALYN DREYFOUS,
WENDY ETTINGER
Executive Producer SAMUEL T. BAUER
Co-Executive Producers ERIKA KELTON
REGINA K. SCULLY, LESLEY ANN SKILLEN
Composer MISTER SQUINTER
Sound Design PAULA FAIRFIELD
Director of Photography SHAHEEN SETH
Costume Design by EMILY BATSON
Production Design by ALEXIS ROSE
Casting by SAMY BURCH
Associate Producers WILLIAM ADASHEK,
KEVIN CANNON
Associate Producer DEREK NGUYEN
Line Producer ERIK OLSON
Unit Production Manager SKYE GRACE BENNETT
VFX Supervisor OLIVER ZELLER
Key Hair & Makeup ANA GABRIELA QUINONEZ
Production Sound Mixer JOSH BISSETT
Music Supervisor Rachel Komar
Editor SARAH ADINA SMITH
First Assistant Director BROOKE SWANEY
Second Assistant Director NIKOLAI HAMEL
Art Director TESSLA HASTINGS
Art Interns ASPEN BASSETT, TREVOR CUMMINGS,
GARRETT DEFFERT, KATIE KELLER, MAX KUBISIAK,
HIROKA MATSUSHIMA, JERI MILLER, ERIC MOSLEY,
YEEJ MOUA, CHRISTINE SCHOEN, LIZ ZITNIK

First Assistant Camera NEEDHAM B. SMITH
Second Assistant Camera JOHNNY MONTANO
2nd Unit Photography KIER ATHERTON
2nd Unit Second Assistant Camera MARK PIPER
Gaffer DYRON PACHECO
Best Boy Electric LAFFREY WITBROD
Key Grip JOHNNY HERNANDEZ
Best Boy Grip ISAAC DAVID GUY
Script Supervisor VICTORIA GESKE
Key Costumer ALYSSA TULL
Key Costumer (Los Angeles) DYLAN "SLAB" HOSTETTER
Costumer (Los Angeles) KAREN BAIRD
Costume Intern SARAH BELL
Location Manager KYLE MORGAN
Assistant Location Manager JOHN ANSOTEGUI
Key Production Assistant ZACH SMITH
Production Assistants BRIT CLARK, EMMA WOMACK
Craft Services ALEXSA PRINCE
Armorer/ Special Effects STEPHEN KLINEBURGER
Assistant Special Effects RON NOVAK
Behind the Scenes Photography CHRIS POUND,
ANNA ZEROVA
Set Medic AMY MCKOON
Post Sound Services EARGASM INC
Sound Effects Editor TIM RAKOCZY
Dialogue Editors JOSH BISSETT, CHAD WALKER
Foley SONIC IMPRINTS
Additional Foley JUSTIN ASHER
Re-Recording Facility ICM CREATIVE
Visual Effects STUDIO OMZ
Flame Artist JOHN J. BUDION
Storm Sequence Visual Effects PFX
Sequence Supervisor FRANTISEK STEPANEK

Sequence Producer JIRI MIKA
Composer TOMAS SNIZEK
Matte Painters TOMAS HAVELKA, ANNA GURJEVA
Digital Intermediate By PREHISTORIC DIGITAL, LLC
Colorist KEVIN CANNON
DI Executive Producer WILLIAM ADASHEK
DI Producer JOSEF SIPKINS
Title Design FRIEND OF A FRIEND
Main Title Animation SHAHEEN SETH
End Credit Design ALEX SETH, SARAH ADINA SMITH
(ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY)
Line Producer OMAR VEYTIA
Key Grip SHAYLAN TAYLOR
Grip OSCAR INZUNZA
Grip MARTIN MARTINEZ
Art Director ALEXIS WADE
Art Department Assistant FERNANDO ESTRADA
Production Sound Mixer NANCY KWON
Makeup ANNIE CARDERA
Hairstylist/ Beard Effects JAIME LEIGH MCINTOSH
Drone Operator ALEX LAZZARINETTI
Production Assistant PAOLA GOYCOOLEA
Medic GREGORIO MARTINEZ
Driver MANUEL QUINTERO
Customs Broker ADOLFO AYALA
Insurance Provided By
Production Legal THE LAW OFFICES OF JON VAN SCHAİK
Payroll Services NPI ENTERTAINMENT PAYROLL, INC.

Made possible in part by the Big Sky Film Grant

