RAMI MALEK

BUSTER'S MAL HEART



The story of a man split in two.









SYNOPSIS

In this bold thriller peppered with dark humor and interlocking mystery, an eccentric mountain man is on the run from the authorities, surviving the winter by breaking into empty vacation homes in a remote community. Regularly calling into radio talk shows — where he has acquired the nickname "Buster" — to rant about the impending Inversion at the turn of the millennium, he is haunted by visions of being lost at sea, and memories of his former life as a family man.

Buster (Rami Malek, MR. ROBOT) was once Jonah, a hard-working husband and father whose job as the night-shift concierge at a hotel took its toll on his psyche and, consequently, his marriage to the sensitive Marty (Kate Lyn Sheil) — until a chance encounter with a conspiracy-obsessed drifter (DJ Qualls) changed the course of their lives forever. As the solitary present-day Buster drifts from house to house, eluding the local sheriff at every turn, we gradually piece together the events that fractured his life and left him alone on top of a snowy mountain, or perhaps in a small rowboat in the middle of a vast ocean — or both, in this visceral mind bender that will provoke discussion long after it turns your world upside-down.

Color / 2.40:1 / 2k • Dolby Digital 5.1 • 96 min • Not Rated

Shot on location in Kalispell, Montana.

CAST

Jonah	RAMI MALEK	Ophthalmologist	RICKY HARTUNG
	DJ QUALLS	Mormon Bishop	
Marty	KATE LYN SHEIL	Quack Scientist	
Roxy	SUKHA BELLE POTTER	Radio DJ Voice I	NICK KNUDSEN
Deputy Winston	TOBY HUSS	Radio DJ Voice 2	GREG BEHRENDT
	LIN SHAYE	"Cat"	PICKLE
Oscar	MARK KELLY	Phone Sex Operator	KATE BERLANT
	BRUCE BUNDY	Rude Guest	
Adelita	TERESA YENQUE	Subdued Preacher	CHRISTOPHER KRIESA
	JARED LARSON	Evangelical Preacher	MICHAEL CLINE
	SANDRA ELLIS LAFFERTY	Network Newscaster	
Mr. Bowry	NICHOLAS PRYOR	Kathy Rose	JENNY LEONHARDT
	RJ BURNS	Maria Cueyatl	
	GABRIEL CLARK	Psychic Commercial Voice	
Morning Shift Concierge	LILY GLADSTONE	Public Access Psychic	SANDRA SEACAT
	CHRIS TORMA	Psychic Caller	
Local Newscaster	SHI NE NIELSON	Ranger Joe	



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.



FILMMAKER BIOS

Sarah Adina Smith - writer/director

Sarah's first feature was THE MIDNIGHT SWIM, a psychodrama that won six awards on the festival circuit, including the audience award from AFI FEST. She wrote and directed MOTHER'S DAY, a segment of the horror feature anthology HOLIDAYS, which opened the Midnight section at Tribeca 2016 and had a worldwide release shortly thereafter.

Her script THE COLONY was a semi-finalist for the Nicholl Fellowship and earned her a coveted invitation to The Screenwriter's Colony in Nantucket, where she wrote the script for BUSTER'S MAL HEART.

Sarah was born in Colorado and studied Philosophy at Columbia University. She lives and works in Los Angeles and is one half of EVERYTHING IS EVERYTHING, a new film company looking for a ride to the moon. Jonako Donley - producer

Jonako is a producer and creative partner in the company EVERYTHING IS EVERYTHING. Her first feature was the festival darling DEAR LEMON LIMA, starring Academy Award winner Melissa Leo. She produced Sarah's feature THE MIDNIGHT SWIM and has produced many of her shorts, including MOTHER'S DAY, THE SIRENS, and MADURA. She's also produced WHITE LIGHT, an adaptation of a Miranda July short story; SPRING OF SORROW for the ITVS Futurestates series; and OLIVE AND MOCHA, which won Funny of Die's 2014 "Make 'em LAFF" competition.

Jonako is a Los Angeles native. She received a BA in Film Studies and Art History from Columbia University and an MFA from the Peter Stark Producing Program at USC. Travis Stevens - producer

Travis is the founder and CEO of Snowfort Pictures. Recent Snowfort productions include the 2013 SXSW Audience Award Winner CHEAP THRILLS (Drafthouse Films), the 2013 Cannes Director's Fortnight documentary JODOROWSKY'S DUNE (Sony Classics), the 2014 SXSW / 2014 BUFF Director's Choice Award winning STARRY EYES (MPI/Dark Sky Films), WE ARE STILL HERE voted one of 2015's best horror films by Rolling Stone, 2016 SXSW high-school thriller TEENAGE COCKTAIL (Netflix), Karyn Kusama's segment of the all female horror anthology XX, Mexican skateboard documentary CONCRETE FUTURO, Trent Haaga's 68 KILL and Ted Geoghagan's MOHAWK (MPI/Dark Sky Films)

Prior to launching Snowfort Pictures, Travis worked in film development, acquisitions and international sales.

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 MixerJOSH 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 Compositor 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

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Payroll Services NPI ENTERTAINMENT PAYROLL, INC.

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