



# SPINSTER

## PRESS KIT

### CONTACT

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## PRODUCTION NOTES

**Title:** SPINSTER

**Other Titles:** None

**Genre:** Feature Film – comedy

**Year:** 2019

**Director:** Andrea Dorfman (4th Feature)

**Nationality of Director:** Canadian

**Writer:** Jennifer Deyell (Canadian)

**Producers:** Bill Niven, Marc Tetreault, Jay Dahl, William Woods

**Co-Production Companies** Sea Green Pictures Inc  
2-5522 Bloomfield Street  
Halifax, NS Canada, B3K 1S8  
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And

2617226 Ontario Inc  
65 East Liberty Street  
Suite 2308  
Toronto, ON M6K 3R2

**Country of Origin:** Canada

**Filming Locations:** Halifax, Nova Scotia

**Original Language:** English

**Running Time:** 90 minutes

## KEY CAST LIST

<b>Chelsea Peretti .....</b>	”Gaby”
<b>Susan Kent .....</b>	”Amanda”
<b>Kate Lynch .....</b>	”Callie”
<b>Nadia Tonen .....</b>	“Adele”
<b>Jonathan Watton .....</b>	“Will”
<b>David Rossetti .....</b>	“Alex”
<b>Bill Carr .....</b>	“Jack”



# CREW LIST

<b>Production Designer</b>	Michael Pierson
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Stephanie Weber-Biron
<b>Editor</b>	Simone Smith
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Sarah Haydon Roy
<b>Sound Mixer</b>	Andrew Rillie
<b>Composer</b>	Daniel Ledwell
<b>Music Supervisor</b>	Rocking Horse Road Productions Janesta Boudreau, Jess Nash





## LOGLINE

Gaby, unceremoniously dumped on her 40th birthday is petrified she'll be alone forever so she embarks on a dating rampage only to discover that her problem isn't that she doesn't have a love life – it's that she doesn't have a life.

## SYNOPSIS

Gaby wants desperately to find love. Recently dumped and on the brink of forty, she feels she doesn't matter to anyone. Her best friend is pre occupied with her kids, her family doesn't get her and running her own catering business, mostly weddings, serves as a constant reminder of the love that has eluded her. Gaby's greatest fear, that she'll end up a lonely and pathetic spinster, seems to be her destiny. After a frenzy of dating leaves her exhausted and demoralized, Gaby admits she might never find love and must create a Plan B. Gaby begins to build a meaningful and connected life. But when a chance romantic encounter with Mr. Right threatens to uproot her, she realizes the value of her life, even if it doesn't involve romance.



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## KEY CAST BIOS

### **CHELSEA PERETTI as “Gaby”**

Chelsea Peretti is a stand-up comedian, actress and writer who currently appears in FOX’s Brooklyn Nine-Nine (2013). The show won two Golden Globe Awards in 2014 including one for Best Television Series - Musical or Comedy.

Peretti stars alongside Andy Samberg, Terry Crews and Joe Lo Truglio as ‘Gina Linetti,’ the 99th precinct’s administrator. Entertainment Weekly calls Peretti one of the fall’s “buzziest breakouts” and the New York Post calls her a “comedic gem, whose dry wit is unparalleled.” Chelsea was recently nominated for Favorite Comedy Supporting Actress - Television for the 2014 American Comedy Awards and “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” also received a nomination for Favorite Comedy Series. “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” was nominated for a 2014 People’s Choice Award for Favorite New TV Comedy and received a Satellite Award nomination for Best Television Series, Comedy or Musical. The hit series was just picked up for a third season.

Peretti had a recurring role as ‘Farley’ on the popular sketch comedy series for Comedy Central, Kroll Show (2013) and has appeared on Louie (2010) and Tosh.0 (2009) and she also plays multiple characters on Adult Swim’s China, IL (2008). Peretti has been praised as one of Variety’s “Top 10 Comics to Watch,” Comedy Central’s “Hotlist” comedians, and in Vanity Fair’s 2013 “Comedy” issue. She was also recognized by TIME magazine as having one of the “140 Best Twitter Feeds” of 2013.

Peretti is also an accomplished writer, having written for Parks and Recreation (2009), Saturday Night Live (1975), The Sarah Silverman Program. (2007), Portlandia (2011) and Kroll Show (2013).

Peretti tours her stand-up at comedy clubs, theaters and festivals across the world.

### **SUSAN KENT as “Amanda”**

Susan Kent is both cast and writer on This Hour Has 22 Minutes, since 2012. Other TV credits include, Trailer Park Boys Seasons 11& 12 and TPB Animated Series, Little Dog, Mr D, Kids in the Hall’s Death Comes to Town, Republic of Doyle, and Hatching Matching and Dispatching. Notable film credits include the upcoming Spinster, and Hands That Bind, as well as A Christmas Furey, Hopeless Romantic, Relative Happiness, How to Be Deadly, and Grown Up Movie Star. Susan is a playwright and wrote and performed the Jerry duology. She is a member of the sketch group Dance Party of Newfoundland.

**JONATHAN WATTON as “Alex”**

Jonathan was born and raised in Corner Brook, a pulp and paper town on the west coast of Newfoundland. His father, Wayne, introduced him to film at an early age, often screening prints from the National Film Board of Canada in the living room for his brothers and kids in the neighborhood. His mother, Barbara, enrolled him in a local theatre program and it was those early experiences on stage that would lead him towards a career as an actor. Upon graduating from Memorial University’s Fine Arts Theatre Program, he was cast by celebrated theatre director Michael Langham in his first professional stage appearance as a founding member of the Atlantic Theatre Festival.

Jonathan’s wide-ranging screen career now spans 20 years. His latest television work includes seasons on CBC’s Murdoch Mysteries, HBO Canada’s Good God and guest appearances on Reign, Private Eyes, Lost Girl, and Taken. In 2019, he is playing Commander Mathew Calhoun, a new and recurring character in the third season of Hulu’s critically acclaimed The Handmaid’s Tale. His latest films include The XX (Sundance), Closet Monster (TIFF), David Cronenberg’s Maps to the Stars (Cannes) opposite Julianne Moore, and the upcoming Spinster opposite Chelsea Peretti. His accomplished theatre career includes seasons with Canada’s preeminent acting ensembles The Shaw Festival and Soulpepper Theatre Company. He returned to the stage recently in the lead role of the critically acclaimed theatrical production of North by Northwest for both the UK and North American premieres.

A recent alumni of Norman Jewison’s prestigious Canadian Film Centre Film Director’s program, Jonathan’s emerging career as a filmmaker has seen his award-winning short films screen at festivals around the world. He is currently finishing his latest film and has a new TV series in development with Frantic Films. Jonathan lives in Toronto.

**NADIA TONEN as “Adele”**

Nadia Tonen is an award winning triple threat performer from Nova Scotia. Her portrayal of Bethany on the CBC’s hit comedy series Mr D gained her online notoriety as a scene has been trending online since it first aired in 2015. She spent four years on the series, winning a Young Artist Award (LA) for Season 8. Nadia is also recognizable for her portrayal of Anne of Green Gables in a Heritage Moment celebrating Lucy Maude Montgomery. She was awarded a Joey Award (Vancouver) for that role. In December she will be appearing, for the third year, in The Nutcracker with Symphony Nova Scotia. Nadia studies dance and voice with one goal in mind.... to someday play Glinda in Wicked. Nadia is always looking to learn more about her craft and has adopted the personal motto “Dream Big. Work Harder”

## KEY CREW BIOS

### **ANDREA DORFMAN – Director**

Andrea Dorfman is a Halifax based artist, filmmaker and animator. She has directed the feature films Parsley Days (2000), a TIFF top ten film, Love That Boy (2003), Heartbeat (2014) and the, soon-to-be released, Spinster. Her short film There's A Flower in my Pedal (2005) was runner up to Best Short at TIFF and her documentary, Sluts (2006) won Best Documentary at the Atlantic Film Festival. She wrote and directed two animated films with the National Film Board - the Emmy nominated, Flawed (2009) and Big Mouth (2012). Her recent NFB feature doc, The Girls of Meru (2018) following a precedent-setting human rights case over the course of 6 years as it made legal history in Kenya, is currently travelling the world on the festival circuit. Dorfman's short live action/animation video collaboration with Halifax poet-musician, Tanya Davis, How to Be Alone (2010), has garnered over 8 million YouTube hits and was adapted into a book published by HarperCollins - illustrated by Dorfman. She also adapted and illustrated, Flawed, recently published as a YA graphic memoir by Firefly Canada and is working on another graphic memoir, Nine, to be published in 2020. Dorfman is currently in pre-production with a short animated NFB film, Hairy Legs. Dorfman lives with her partner, Dave, his kids Max and Sydney (part time) and a menagerie of pets.

### **JENNIFER DEYELL – Writer**

Jennifer graduated from the Canadian Film Centre's writers' residency in 2002. She went on to become a mentor at the CFC from 2006-2008 and with the City Life Film Project in 2011. She co-wrote Love That Boy (2003) with Andrea Dorfman. They developed several other features together, including Spinster and a forthcoming adaptation of A Woman's Way (an account of Mina Hubbard's expedition to Labrador). Jennifer also co-wrote Jerry Ciccoritti's 2012 feature The Resurrection of Tony Gitone. She has also developed television projects and worked as a reader while raising three girls in Toronto).



### **STEPHANIE WEBER-BIRON – Cinematographer**

Stephanie Weber Biron's award-winning cinematography for Xavier Dolan's feature films *I Killed My Mother* and *Heartbeats* has put her at the forefront of Canadian and world cinema. She was the recipient of Best Cinematography awards at the Hamptons Film Festival, as well as a nomination for Achievement in Cinematography (Genie Awards). Stephanie's diverse body of cinematography credits on documentaries, fiction films and television series, include the Warner Bros, Spike Jonze's produced short film *Higglety Pigglety Pop!* directed by academy award nominees Maciek Szczerbowski & Chris Lavis. Weber Biron has shot many feature films including Jason Buxton's award winning film *Blackbird* as well as Guy Maddin's award winning film, *The Forbidden Room* (Sundance, Berlin, TIFF etc). Stephanie lives in Montreal but has shot films in London, New York, Berlin and all over Canada. Passionate about cinema and photography, Weber Biron has written and directed award winning short films and can often be found pursuing still photography, on polaroid and film.

### **SIMONE SMITH – Editor**

Simone Smith is a Canadian Screen Award-winning editor. In 2014, she attended the Canadian Film Centre's Editor's Lab. Since then, she's been working in long and short form narrative film work including *Firecrackers* and the short and feature-length versions of *Never Steady, Never Still*. Other projects include *Suck it Up*, *Goalie* and *Spinster*, a new film from Andrea Dorfman starring Chelsea Peretti. She is currently editing *Happy Place* with director Helen Shaver and Sienna Films.

### **MARC TETREAULT – Producer**

Marc is an independent producer based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Marc produced the feature film "Suck It Up" by director Jordan Canning, which premiered at Slamdance 2017. In 2016 Marc was co-producer on festival darling and multiple Canadian Screen Awards winner "Weirdos" directed by Brice McDonald. "Weirdos" went on to premiere at TIFF '16 and play Berlin '17. In 2013 Marc premiered his Spanish-language feature film "Saudade" which sold to Starz in the US. Marc is a co-owner of Shut Up & Colour Pictures, a boutique production company that has produced countless music videos, including the Prism Prize winner "Brian Wilson is A.L.i.V.E" by Rich Aucoin, a handful of short films including "Benjamin" (TIFF'16) and "I Am Coming to Paris to Kill You" (CUFF '16). In 2014 Marc was accepted and completed the Canadian Film Centre's Cineplex Entertainment Film Program Producer's Lab where he spent six-months developing feature and television projects with experience producer mentors from all over the world. Currently Marc has several feature films and series in development.

**BILL NIVEN – Producer**

Bill Niven began his film career in 1984 at Telefilm Canada with positions in Halifax, Vancouver, Toronto, Paris, London and Los Angeles.

In 1995, he produced the Gotham Awards in New York for the IFP. Later that year he taught at the Escuela de Tres Mundos film school in San Antonio de Los Baños in Cuba.

In 1996 he joined Salter Street films (Now DHX) as VP Development. He opened his own production company, Idlewild Films in 1999 and formed Northeast Films with Jay Dahl in 2009. Niven is bilingual (English and French). Originally from Cape Breton, he is Past-Chair of the Nova Scotia Motion Picture Industry Association; a member of the CMPA; Lifetime ex-officio member of the board of the Atlantic Film Festival; Ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Filmmakers Co-op and served for three terms as Vice-chair, Eastern Canada of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.

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**Feature Film Credits:**

- 2001 Touch & Go - Director Scott Simpson
- 2002 Marion Bridge - Dir: W. VonCarolsfeld; Molly Parker; Ellen Page; Mongrel Media
- 2004 The Conclave - Dir: Paul Donovan; Canada/Germany co-production
- 2006 Just Buried - Dir: C. Thorne; Starring Rose Byrne and Jay Baruchel; Seville
- 2008 There Are Monsters - Directed by Jay Dahl; The Works UK
- 2010 Roller Town - Dirirected by Andrew Bush; Featuring comedy troupe Picnicface; D Films
- 2013 Bunker 6 - (Executive Producer) Directed by Greg Jackson
- 2014 Heartbeat – Directed by Andrea Dorfman; Mongrel Media
- 2016 Halloween Party - Director Jay Dahl; D Films
- 2017 Hopeless Romantic – portmanteau feature film; Directors: Martine Blue, Stephanie Clattenburg, Deanne Foley, Latonia Hartery, Ruth Lawrence, Megan Wennberg
- 2019 Spinster - Director Andrea Dorfman, starring Chelsea Peretti

**Television:**

- 1998 PIRATES! - Pre-school series, 40 eps for YTV/Treehouse
- 2002 Think Tank - Doc pilot for CBC featuring Christopher Hitchens
- 2005 Cheap Draft - CBC comedy pilot written and directed by Jay Dahl
- 2011 Picnicface - Comedy series, 13 x 30 for CTV's Comedy Network
- 2015 The Book Of Negroes – 6 x one-hour mini-series for CBC/BET
- 2008 - 2019 Short Film Face Off - 12 seasons, CBC network

**JAY DAHL – Producer**

Jay Dahl is a writer, director and producer of feature films and television. As a director, Dahl goes to camera on his second feature *But What Are You Really Afraid Of?* in Fall 2016. He is also releasing his first feature *There Are Monsters* (Telefilm, FCINS) in Canada this year through The Works International (UK Sales Agent). The film collected four awards at the 2013 Atlantic Film Festival including Best Director. Dahl also directed two seasons of *Catching Killers* for The Smithsonian Channel and recently finished a CBC half hour *Throw Rock* as writer, director and producer. He also developed the prime time comedy series for the CBC, *True Bromance*. Dahl has written and directed three comedy pilots for CBC and directed four prime-time documentaries for CBC's DocZone.

In 2014, Dahl and Bill Niven delivered a feature film *Heartbeat* (TIFF premiere) by Emmy-nominated filmmaker Andrea Dorfman. In 2013, Dahl delivered 13 episodes of *Picnicface!* for Bell (Comedy) with producing partner Bill Niven and Ira Levy from Breakthrough Entertainment. Dahl and Niven also delivered *Roller Town*, a feature film, for Film NS, Telefilm and D Films. *Roller Town* had its US premiere at Slam Dance and sold to Warner Brothers in the U.S. Dahl has also written and directed almost twenty award-winning shorts that have played in film festivals around the world, including TIFF, CFC and the BFI.

**WILLIAM WOODS – Producer**

William Woods is a Toronto based Producer with a focus on feature films that have both commercial and philosophical merit. He began his career with the thriller *Mean Dreams* (Elevation, 2016), starring Sophie Nélisse, Josh Wiggins, Colm Feore and Bill Paxton, which premiered in the Directors Fortnight at Cannes and had its' North American premiere at TIFF. Woods has just wrapped post-production on two features, *Castle in the Ground* (2020), starring Alex Wolff, Imogen Poots, Neve Campbell, Keir Gilchrist, and Tom Cullen, which recently premiered at TIFF, and *Spinster* (2019), starring Chelsea Peretti, which is set to premiere at WHISTLER. He is also in post-production on *Like a House on Fire* starring Sarah Sutherland and *Hammer* (2019) starring Will Patton and Mark O'Brien. Will is currently in production on *The Kid Detective* starring Adam Brody and Sophie Nélisse and that is the debut feature from Evan Morgan.

Woods graduated from York University with his Masters in environmental ethics. He also completed the Canadian Film Center's Producer's Lab, The Rotterdam Producers Lab and Trans Atlantic Partners co-production incubator. He has also recently launched GAME THEORY FILMS, a boutique distribution company in Canada and LINE 200 a film finance fund with 2.5 million in equity.



## **DIRECTOR'S VISION: ANDREA DORFMAN**

Spinster, like all of my films, tells a story of someone who isn't always seen - in this case, the single woman. When I was in my thirties, at a time when it seemed all of my friends were partnering up and having kids, to be a single woman often felt as though I was invisible. In making Spinster, it was important to me to tell an honest story, not a fantasy. So instead of giving the audience the rom com ending that they might anticipate, the writer, Jennifer Deyell, defies expectations, by beautifully playing with the genre so that it's turned on its ear. Gaby, Spinster's lead, played by the talented Chelsea Peretti, becomes 'seen' entirely on her own terms. Peretti's Gaby is played with humour, heart and vulnerability creating a character we want to champion, inhabiting a story that feels real.

## **WRITER'S VISION: JENNIFER DEYELL**

I know every strong woman should have moved past the shame and terror of remaining single-should have. I wish I could have shared Spinster with friends I watched go through the mid-thirties scramble for a mate.

