



Searchlight Pictures presents

THEATER CAMP

Starring

Noah Galvin as Glenn Winthrop
Molly Gordon as Rebecca-Diane
Ben Platt as Amos Klobuchar
Jimmy Tatro as Troy Rubinsky
Patti Harrison as Caroline Krauss

Nathan Lee Graham as Clive DeWitt
Ayo Edebiri as Janet Walch
Owen Thiele as Gigi Charbonier
With **Caroline Aaron** as Rita Cohen
And **Amy Sedaris** as Joan Rubinsky

Directed by..... Molly Gordon & Nick Lieberman
Written by..... Noah Galvin, Molly Gordon, Nick Lieberman, Ben Platt
Produced by..... Erik Feig, p.g.a., Samie Kim Falvey, Julia Hammer, p.g.a., Ryan Heller, Maria Zuckerman, Jessica Elbaum, p.g.a., Will Ferrell, Noah Galvin, Molly Gordon, Nick Lieberman, Ben Platt
Executive Producers..... Alex Brown, Mary Bundy, Shayne Fiske Goldner, Jimmy Tatro, Michael Bloom, Jennifer Semler, Jeff Valeri
Director of Photography..... Nate Hurtsellers
Production Designers..... Charlotte Royer, Jordan Janota
Edited by..... Jon Philpot
Costume Designer..... Michelle Li
Score by..... James McAlister, Mark Sonnenblick
Original Songs by..... Noah Galvin, Molly Gordon, Nick Lieberman, Ben Platt, Mark Sonnenblick
Music Producers..... Bill Sherman, Will Van Dyke
Music Supervisor..... Lindsay Wolfington
Choreographer..... Maud Arnold

<https://press.searchlightpictures.com/>

Running Time: 94 minutes

Rating: PG-13

Los Angeles
Jessica Sanchez
323.229.2280

Jessica.Sanchez@SearchlightPictures.com

New York
Sarah Amro
201.375.8935

Sarah.Amro@searchlightpictures.com

Regional West
Cristina Karangelov
714.454.8930

Cristina.L.Karangelov@SearchlightPictures.com

Regional East
Michelle Matalon
212.536.6422

Michelle.Matalon@searchlightpictures.com

THEATER CAMP

After the indomitable and beloved founder of a scrappy theater camp in upstate New York falls into a coma, its eccentric staff must band together with her clueless “crypto-bro” son to keep the thespian paradise afloat.

Searchlight Pictures presents, **THEATER CAMP**, a Picturestart Production, a Topic Studios Production, a Gloria Sanchez Productions Production. Directed by Molly Gordon & Nick Lieberman, and written by Noah Galvin, Molly Gordon, Nick Lieberman, Ben Platt, based on their short. The film stars Noah Galvin, Molly Gordon, Ben Platt, Jimmy Tatro, Patti Harrison, Nathan Lee Graham, Ayo Edebiri, Owen Thiele, with Caroline Aaron and Amy Sedaris. Producers are Erik Feig, p.g.a., Samie Kim Falvey, Julia Hammer, p.g.a., Ryan Heller, Maria Zuckerman, Jessica Elbaum, p.g.a., Will Ferrell, Noah Galvin, Molly Gordon, Nick Lieberman, Ben Platt.

Searchlight Pictures acquired **THEATER CAMP** following its world premiere at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Ensemble. The film is part of the SXSW Official Selection in the Narrative Feature section.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

As summer rolls around again, kids are gathering from all over to attend AdirondACTS, a scrappy theater camp in upstate New York that's a haven for budding performers. After its indomitable founder Joan (Amy Sedaris) falls into a coma, her clueless "crypto bro" son Troy (Jimmy Tatro) is tasked with keeping the thespian paradise running. With financial ruin looming, Troy must join forces with Amos (Ben Platt), Rebecca-Diane (Molly Gordon), and their band of eccentric teachers to come up with a solution before the curtain rises on opening night.

First-time feature directorial duo Molly Gordon and Nick Lieberman authentically celebrate the brilliant and slightly unhinged educators and magical spaces that allow kids to be themselves and find their confidence, nailing the details after experiencing decades of camp life. With a winning ensemble cast and boundless creativity, **THEATER CAMP** wears its cult-following potential squarely on its sequined shoulders, gifting us with instantly quotable lines and zany, lovable characters in the kind of hilarious comedy that deserves rapturous applause.

ACT ONE

THEATER CAMP came out of a nearly decade-long collaboration between directors and writers Molly Gordon (*Booksmart*, *Good Boys*) and Nicholas Lieberman, as well as actors, writers and producers Ben Platt (*Pitch Perfect*, *Dear Evan Hansen*) and Noah Galvin (*Booksmart*, *Assassination Nation*). The film is based on an improvised short that they made, using their talented community as a troupe of actors.

They chose the world of youth theater because that's where they all originally connected – when Molly and Ben were still children. They knew well the unique vibe of drama teachers—at once inspiring, liberating, and unhinged—and wanted to create a whole staff of these larger-than-life characters to play off each other, as well as campers of all ages.

"We know theater camp. We went there. We lived it and we've been processing the insanity for years," said Gordon and Lieberman. "We've spent the week on vocal rest, worn the fake mustaches and snuck a kiss with the actor playing our dad. It's a beautiful, highly specific oasis that needs to be taken seriously and also fully exposed for the wonderful, insane place that it is."

It took many years to get the greenlight for the feature. The team never gave up on it and knew it could be something special. Gordon and Galvin worked with Gloria Sanchez's Jessica Elbaum on the 2019 film *Booksmart* and asked her to be a part of it. She brought it to Picturestart and Topic Studios, and the film finally came together. Even then, **THEATER CAMP** still had its production challenges including shooting in 19 days with tons of kids, a full musical, and having time to improvise within every scene. It was a mad dash to get everything done. "When you work and collaborate with people you know so well, a bad idea gets shut down immediately – that trust is amazing and that friendship stopped us from wasting time," added Gordon. "We also lived in a house together while making this movie, 12 minutes away from the camp," continues Galvin. "That closeness kept us organized and methodical."

Another challenge was not laughing and ruining the takes, though in a way, that was the best part: to work with friends and enjoy watching each other fly. "There was a moment where Patti was improvising something at the camp mixer," remember Gordon and Lieberman. "Ayo, Owen, Jimmy, and the four of us were all at the monitor. We looked around and saw the whole crew hanging on Patti's every word. When

we cut, the whole set erupted in laughter. Our set had become like a live theater show where everyone wanted to see what would happen next—every take held something spontaneous and new. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.” While THEATER CAMP is full of fun moments, it also stays grounded in its setting delivering a nostalgic story about the sacrifices that one often makes to be part of theater. Almost all of the scenarios in the film are based on things that have happened to the group or stories from friends. The authenticity runs deep, including real footage of Platt and Gordon performing together as kids.

ACT TWO

“We’ve always loved the ensemble-driven and improvisational spirit of Robert Altman and Christopher Guest and we dreamt of making something with the special energy that only comes from a bunch of actors who really know each other letting loose in front of a camera,” said Gordon and Lieberman. Both shared a creative language and trust since they were 13 years old. They continued, “We had long fantasized about making something that was deliciously silly, but that was still captured in a naturalistic and filmic way. We also wanted to play with a mockumentary style that didn’t hinge on interviews or voiceover and instead gave a nod to the comedy found in verite films we love so much like *Salesman* and *The War Room*.” Other sources of inspiration were Christopher Guest’s iconic mockumentaries like *Best in Show*, *A Mighty Wind* and *Waiting for Guffman*.

Theater’s gift is that it welcomes all. The filmmakers wanted an opportunity to do the same and make a film where even the campers could contribute ideas, take big leaps, and be their authentic selves. Like a real documentary, every great moment came from the reality of what was unexpected.

Gordon and Lieberman found the kids through their wonderful casting directors Bernard Telsey (*In the Heights*, *Hamilton*, *The Greatest Showman*) and Kristian Charbonier (*In the Heights*, “Love, Victor”, *tick, tick... BOOM!*). Gordon, Platt, and Galvin had worked with Telsey and asked him to join them. “They changed the game for us because their incredible eye for talent opened the door to the most electric, distinct and wonderful kids. They truly are remarkable,” said Gordon and Platt. Kids of all ages and experiences were recruited to play the campers – from *Minari* breakout star Alan Kim who plays Alan Park, to Alexander Bello (“And Just Like That...”) who plays Sebastian Campbell, to Bailee Bonick and Kyndra Sanchez (“Sesame Street”), Donovan Colan (*Zoe*), Vivienne Sachs, and Quinn Titcomb.

“Before we started this project, many people told us, ‘Make sure the kids won’t have to improvise.’ But in every audition, we did improv exercises and they were amazing,” continued the filmmakers. “It showed us that there is nothing more exciting than watching kids surprise themselves and made us especially excited to capture that magic on camera.” Gordon added, “Working with so many of them really reminded me of that time when I wasn’t self-conscious at all – they’re just so free.”

Gordon, Lieberman, Platt, and Galvin were lucky to work with a lot of their close friends on **THEATER CAMP**. Many of them they had met on other projects and they had always wanted to create a space that was a corrective to any bad experiences and feelings of powerlessness they’d had on other sets. They wanted an environment where they could all come together and collaborate for a few stolen weeks between jobs. “Our movie was beyond elevated by our incredible cast. We were so lucky Ayo was able to be a part of this between press for *The Bear*. We only had her for three days and she was brilliant. It meant so much to have our friends join us,” said Gordon.

Another incredible addition to the core team was Jimmy Tatro in the role of Troy. “We didn’t know Jimmy before this project, but are longtime fans,” commented Gordon and Lieberman. “As we were coming up with the character of Troy, he was always in our head. He has this innate ability to play a bro while remaining grounded and emotional and never a one-note punchline. He finds the humanity in every piece he’s in, no matter how kooky the character is.” For this film, they needed to straddle a tone between comedy and the earnestly heartfelt, and no one could do that better than Tatro. He quips, “I think what this character and I have in common is that we both have never been to theater camp and kind of have no idea what’s going on.” While THEATER CAMP is a story that is very personal to those who made it, his character, as kind of an outsider to this world, really broadens the movie in a way for all to identify with.

The scriptwriting process wasn’t typical, and depending on the role and scene, some parts were written entirely, while others only partially. “It was a lot about controlled chaos and giving people a really good framework in which to feel open and find their characters,” added Platt. “It was about tailoring the experience to each individual performer.”

For the songs, it was another writing process entirely but with a 5th collaborator in composer Mark Sonnenblick (*Spirited*). “We just got to sit down together and play,” says Galvin. “I think having this full musical at the end of the movie was a nice bookend that helped to keep us on track.” Adds Platt, “To have this fully crafted and be able to do that in the context of something so absurd, and to have such clear references and jumping off points, really freed us up for the more flexible moments in the storytelling.”

“Our goal was to make something with a true collective spirit—where the actors and crew had agency to make it their own,” conclude Gordon and Lieberman.

THEATER CAMP is a celebration of any place where people, whether they be brilliant improvisers, visionary designers, crypto bros or utterly talentless lunatics, find a home because they are fully themselves – and best of all, are rewarded by the magic of connecting with an audience.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Molly Gordon, Director/Writer/Producer/Cast

Molly Gordon recently wrapped on her feature directorial debut *Theater Camp*. She's currently filming the second season of Adam McKay's HBO series *Winning Time*. Other credits include: *Shiva Baby* (John Cassavetes Award), *Booksmart*, *Good Boys*, *Life Of The Party*, and *Ramy*. Upcoming: Netflix's *You People*, starring opposite Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Jonah Hill, and Eddie Murphy.

Nick Lieberman, Director/Writer/Producer

Nick Lieberman is a Los Angeles-based writer-director. He has made music videos with a variety of artists, including Ben Platt and Remi Wolf, and his commercial work includes projects with Samsung, Billboard, and Fendi. *Theater Camp* is his feature directorial debut.

Ben Platt, Writer/Producer/Cast

Platt's evolving body of work also includes memorable roles in the Tony® Award-winning original Broadway production of *The Book of Mormon*, Universal's film adaption, *Dear Evan Hansen*, the blockbuster films *Pitch Perfect* and *Pitch Perfect 2*, and the acclaimed Netflix series *The Politician*, which he starred in and served as executive producer. Platt was last seen in BJ Novak's Anthology series *The Premise* on FX, and will soon be seen in the Amazon film *The People We Hate At The Wedding* alongside Kristen Bell and Allison Janney. The winner of the 2017 Tony® Award for "Best Leading Actor in a Musical" for his performance as Evan Hansen in the smash hit *Dear Evan Hansen*, Platt also received a GRAMMY® Award for his role on Atlantic's *Dear Evan Hansen* (Original Broadway Cast Recording) and a 2018 Daytime Emmy Award for his part in the cast's powerful performance of "You Will Be Found" on NBC's *TODAY*. The actor, singer/songwriter will hit the road this fall on The Reverie Tour, his biggest North American headline tour to date. Released last year, his second solo album, "Reverie", includes extraordinary singles such as "Happy To Be Sad" and "Imagine." Now boasting over 86M worldwide streams and counting, the album has been hailed by the likes of Rolling Stone, Billboard and many others. "Sing to Me Instead" proved a full-fledged sensation upon its March 2019 release, amassing over 337M global streams and earning applause from fans and critics alike. A truly multi-faceted actor, singer, and all-around performer, the album saw Platt making a remarkable arrival as a solo recording artist and a songwriter, co-writing all of the album's 12 songs. Highlights include "Bad Habit," "Ease My Mind," "Grow As We Go," and "Temporary Love." He is represented by CAA, Immersive Management, One Entertainment, and Jackoway Austen Tyerman Wertheimer Mandelbaum Morris Bernstein Trattner & Klein.

Noah Galvin, Writer/Producer/Cast

Galvin currently stars in *The Good Doctor* and his past credits include *Booksmart*, *The Real O'Neals*, and *Assasination Nation*. He is represented by Stewart Talent, Station 3, and Jackoway Austen Tyerman Wertheimer Mandelbaum Morris Bernstein Trattner & Klein.

ABOUT THE CAST

Jimmy Tatro

Jimmy Tatro can currently be seen in the ABC series *Home Economics*, in which he stars opposite Topher Grace. Upcoming, Jimmy stars in the Legendary feature *The Machine* opposite Bert Kreischer as well as in *California King* opposite Travis Bennett for writer / director Eli Stern. Jimmy can also be seen in Universal's *The King of Staten Island*, directed by Judd Apatow. He can be seen in his Facebook Watch series *Real Bros of Simi Valley*, which he created and in which he stars. Jimmy stars in Peter Farrelly's Quibi series *The Now*, opposite Dave Franco and O'Shea Jackson Jr.

He gained notoriety as the lead in Season 1 of Netflix's *American Vandal*, for which he was nominated for a Critic's Choice Award for Best Actor.

He began his career as the creator and star of his YouTube channel *Life According to Jimmy*, from which he was plucked by Phil Lord and Chris Miller to play a supporting part in Sony's *22 Jump Street* opposite Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill.

Patti Harrison

Patti Harrison was nominated for the Independent Spirit Award for Best Female Lead in Nikole Beckwith's *Together Together*, co-starring Ed Helms, which premiered at Sundance. She can also be seen opposite Sandra Bullock and Channing Tatum in Paramount's blockbuster *The Lost City*, which premiered this year.

In addition to writing and starring on three seasons of Netflix's *I Think You Should Leave with Tim Robinson*, Patti is known by fans for her roles on *Shrill*, *High Maintenance*, *Search Party*, and *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*. She's written on multiple series including two seasons of *Big Mouth* on Netflix.

She can currently be seen on the current and upcoming seasons of HBO Max's hit series *Made For Love* and *She Hulk*, on Disney+. Next, she will soon be seen in *Theater Camp* opposite Molly Gordon and Ben Platt, which will premiere at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. Most recently, she is filming Netflix's *Electric State*, by the Russo Brothers, opposite Millie Bobby-Brown and Stanley Tucci, as well as the independent feature *Turn Me On*, directed by Michael Tyburski.

Nathan Lee Graham

Nathan Lee Graham is the originator of over 17 diverse and hilarious roles on stage and screen. Most notable films: *Zoolander*, *Zoolander 2*, *Sweet Home Alabama*, and *Hitch*. Television: *The Comeback*, *Scrubs*, *Absolutely Fabulous*, *Law & Order SVU*, *Broad City*, "Bernard" in the Fox comedy *LA to Vegas*, "Francois" on the CW show *Katy Keene* and currently "Draque Noir" on the Hulu series *Woke*. On stage: the original Broadway casts of *The Wild Party* and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*. A 2017 Lucille Lortel nomination for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical for *The View Upstairs*. In 2016, the IRNE award for Best Supporting Actor in a Play for *The Colored Museum*. Also a Drama League nomination for the off-Broadway production of Tarell Alvin McCraney's *Wig Out!* The 2005 Best Classical Album Grammy Award for *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* as a soloist. Nathan is a recipient of the HRC Visibility Award. He is currently touring the country playing the role of Hermes in the National tour of the Tony Award winning musical, *Hadestown*.

Ayo Edebiri

Ayo Edebiri is an actor, writer and standup who stars in the FX series *The Bear*. She's made a name for herself in the animation space, voicing roles on *Big Mouth* and *Clone High* among others. She also stars in

the upcoming MGM/Orion feature *Bottoms* from director Emma Seligman, and has written on shows like *What We Do In the Shadows*, *Big Mouth*, *Dickinson*. Named one of Variety's 10 Comics to Watch in 2021, Ayo is currently developing an original half hour together with Goddard Textiles and FX.

Owen Thiele

Multitalented actor Owen Thiele is quickly establishing himself as one of Hollywood's most exciting rising stars in the industry. He can next be seen in *Theater Camp*, alongside a standout cast including Ben Platt, Molly Gordon, Noah Galvin, Amy Sedaris, and Patti Harrison, which will premiere at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. He will also soon be seen in feature film *September 17th*, directed by Brittany Snow and produced by Yale Productions & Lizzie Shapiro.

Currently, he stars in Season 2 of *Dollface* on Hulu opposite Kat Dennings. He also recently wrapped a Spotify audio original series, *I'm in Hell with Owen Thiele*.

Owen's short film *Moving On*, which he wrote, directed, and stars in, premiered at The Frameline Film Festival in 2021.

Owen has trained and performed at Upright Citizens Brigade, Second City, the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute, and the Meisner Institute.

Alan Kim

Alan Kim is currently shooting Paramount's *Imaginary Friends* opposite Ryan Reynolds for director John Krasinski, but it was his standout portrayal of 'David Yi' at 7-years old in the Academy Award-nominated *Minari* in which he stole our hearts and earned rave reviews. Alan won the 2021 Critics' Choice Award for 'Best Young Actor/Actress,' and earned his place in history as the youngest BAFTA nominee in history, when he was nominated for 'Best Supporting Actor in a Film.' *Minari* premiered to widespread critical acclaim at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival and won both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award. Two years later, *Minari* was nominated for 6 Academy Awards including 'Best Picture.' Now 10, Alan is gearing up to shoot the lead opposite Elsie Fisher in the independent film 'Latchkey Kids,' was last seen opposite Awkwafina in *Nora From Queens*, and can currently be seen in Apple's *Little America*. He will next be seen in the independent film *Theater Camp* alongside an all-star comedic cast including Ben Platt, Amy Sedaris, and Patti Harrison. Alan is the current face of Thom Browne's childrenswear fashion line and he also wrote, directed, produced, and starred in *The Search*, his collaboration with Instagram, which over 3.5 million people have viewed to date. Alan is looking forward to starting the 4th grade in the fall, and his favorite subjects are math and science. He loves riding his bike, reading books in his free time, and he especially loves being a silly brother to his older sister, Alyssa, and his one-year-old rescue dog, Cream

ABOUT THE CREW

Erik Feig, p.g.a., Producer

Erik Feig is the founder and CEO of PICTURESTART, a media company specializing in premium Discovery of Voice content for worldwide engagement across all platforms. Since PICTURESTART launched in 2019, Erik has financed and produced a diverse slate of projects, including *Luckiest Girl Alive* with Mila Kunis and directed by Mike Barker, released on Netflix in Oct 2022 and was the #1 global movie that month; *Sharper* directed by Ben Caron and starring Julianne Moore, Sebastian Stan and Justice Smith; raunchy comedy *Strays* voiced by Will Ferrell and Jamie Foxx, and directed by Josh Greenbaum; *Borderlands*, the ambitious video game adaptation starring Cate Blanchett, Kevin Hart, Jamie Lee Curtis and Jack Black and directed by Eli Roth; and produced and financed both *AM I OK?* directed by Stephanie Allynne and Tig Notaro and *Cha Cha Real Smooth* directed by Cooper Raiff, both starring Dakota Johnson and premiered at Sundance

2022, with the latter film winning the Audience Award at the Festival and selling to Apple for the Festival's highest sale of the year.

Prior to founding PICTURESTART, Erik was one of the founding partners of Summit Entertainment which became the most successful independent film studio of all time, and then served as co-president of Lionsgate's Motion Picture Group when Summit was acquired by them. He has produced, supervised or originated the production of over 100 films ranging from the Step Up, Twilight, and Hunger Games series to Academy Award-winning films including *La La Land* and *The Hurt Locker*, and his films have collectively grossed over \$13BN at the box office.

According to The New York Times, "Feig has built a reputation among book authors for cinematic adaptations." He is a board member of the Columbia University School of the Arts, City Year Los Angeles, the MOCA Acquisition and Collection committee, and an ambassador for the ReFrame Project.

Samie Kim Falvey, Producer

Samie Kim Falvey is the President of PICTURESTART, the discovery-of-voice focused media company, where she oversees all efforts in scripted and unscripted content across film, television, audio and print media. With an extraordinary track record in developing, producing and programming zeitgeist-shaping hits across multiple platforms, Samie excels at finding unique voices and helping them tell the most powerful, memorable stories.

She joined PICTURESTART from Imagine Entertainment, where she was Chairman of Imagine Television. In that role, she led the transition of Imagine Television from producing pod to boutique studio, with an eye to ownership and IP creation. Some of the projects she shepherded in her time there: Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol*, *Swagger with Kevin Durant*, *Wu-Tang: An American Saga*, *Why Women Kill*, *Ms. Pat*, and *Willow*.

Samie's previous posts include leadership roles at M4 and ABC. At M4, the premium short-form mobile content service where she oversaw the development and production of all comedy pilots and international scripted formats for ABC. At ABC, Falvey and her team developed and launched the breakout Tuesday and Wednesday Night Comedy blocks, renowned for their quality and inclusivity including five-time Emmy-winning Best Comedy Series *Modern Family*, Peabody-winning and Emmy-winning *Black-ish*, and critically acclaimed series: *Fresh Off The Boat*, *The Goldbergs*, *The Middle*, and *The Real O'Neals*.

Julia Hammer, p.g.a., Producer

Julia Hammer is a Vice President of Production at PICTURESTART. Julia most recently executive produced Netflix's *Luckiest Girl Alive* starring Mlia Kunis and Apple's *Cha Cha Real Smooth* starring Dakota Johnson, which also won the 2022 Sundance Audience Award. Her upcoming credits include *Sharper* for Apple and A24, starring Julianne Moore and Sebastian Stan, and *Strays* for Universal, starring Will Ferrell and Jamie Foxx.

Ryan Heller, Producer

Ryan Heller is Executive Vice President of Film and Documentary, Topic Studios, the entertainment unit of First Look Media. He is responsible for building and shepherding the company's film slate through development, financing, production and distribution as well as seeking out key acquisitions to complement original studio productions. Recent projects Ryan has overseen and executive produced for the studio include Pablo Larrain's Academy Award®-nominated *Spencer* (NEON/Topic Studios) starring Kristen Stewart; Nikyatu Jusu's psychological horror film *Nanny* which won the 2022 Sundance Grand Jury Prize; Debra Granik's acclaimed *Leave No Trace* (Bleecker Street); Michael Angelo Covino's buddy comedy

and winner of Cannes' Un Certain Regard Heart Prize *The Climb* (Sony Classics); Julius Onah's three-time Independent Spirit Award-nominated dramatic thriller *Luce* (NEON/Topic Studios) starring Kelvin Harrison Jr., Naomi Watts and Octavia Spencer; Steven Soderbergh's Panama Papers satire *The Laundromat* (Netflix) starring Meryl Streep; and Kevin Macdonald's Golden Globe®-winning legal thriller *The Mauritanian* (STXfilms) starring Jodie Foster, Tahar Rahim and Benedict Cumberbatch. Ryan's documentary projects include PGA Award and Emmy-winning HBO series *100 Foot Wave*; Ry Russo Young's acclaimed series *Nuclear Family* (HBO); Lucy Walker's California wildfire exposé *Bring Your Own Brigade* (Paramount+); and Lizzie Gottlieb's documentary on literary giants Robert Caro and Robert Gottlieb *Turn Every Page* (Sony Classics).

Upcoming projects include Brandon Cronenberg's *Infinity Pool* (NEON) starring Alexander Skarsgård and Mia Goth, Ben Platt and Molly Gordon-starring musical comedy *Theater Camp*; and Toni Collette's directorial debut *Writers & Lovers* based on Lily King's bestselling novel.

Ryan was previously at Starz Entertainment where he led the buying and releasing of feature films for the Starz Digital banner including: Amy Berg's *Every Secret Thing* starring Diane Lane, Dakota Fanning and Elizabeth Banks; Jason Bateman's *The Family Fang* starring Bateman, Nicole Kidman and Christopher Walken; Sophie Goodhart's *My Blind Brother* starring Adam Scott, Nick Kroll and Jenny Slate; and two-time Academy Award-winning director Barbara Kopple's *Miss Sharon Jones!*

Ryan is a member of the Producers Guild of America. He holds a BA from Boston College and is a graduate of New York University's M.B.A./M.F.A. dual degree program. He is based out of First Look Media's headquarters in New York City.

Maria Zuckerman, Producer

Maria Zuckerman is an award-winning producer and entertainment executive. She most recently served until June 2022 as President of Topic Studios, leading content and strategy for development, financing, production, go-to-market and distribution across theatrical and streaming films, documentaries, television and podcasts. In Maria's three-year tenure leading the Studio (and encompassing the pandemic), projects which she greenlit garnered multiple Academy Award, Emmy, Golden Globe, Independent Spirit, BAFTA, Critics Choice and Peabody wins and nominations, the 2022 Sundance Grand Jury Prize and a Pulitzer Finalist honor, and sold to outlets such as HBO, Netflix, Amazon, Paramount/Viacom, Blumhouse, and Sony Pictures Classics. Projects include the Emmy-winning HBO surfing documentary series *100 Foot Wave*; Pablo Larrain's *Spencer*, starring Kristen Stewart; and *Nanny*, Nikyatu Jusu's directorial debut, acquired by Amazon and Blumhouse.

Maria previously worked for nearly 20 years at HBO, where she served as Senior Vice President, HBO Films, overseeing the development and production of original movies for the network. Her more than 30 titles include movies from filmmakers such as Spike Lee, Tom Hooper, Stephen Frears, Dee Rees, Peter Morgan and David Yates. These films earned HBO 95 Emmy® nominations, winning 17 Emmy® Awards, including three Best Movie/Miniseries; 22 Golden Globe® nominations with five wins, including two for Best Miniseries or Motion Picture Made for Television; 23 BAFTA® nominations and numerous NAACP®, GLAAD® and SAG® Awards.

Maria is a member of the PGA, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and BAFTA, and was named in 2015 to Variety's Hollywood's New Leaders in Television list.

Jessica Elbaum, p.g.a., Producer

Jessica Elbaum originally launched Gloria Sanchez Productions in 2014 with a focus on female voices in comedy, and from that point the company has expanded into multiple genres and platforms in both film and television. Elbaum was named one of Variety's "10 Producers to Watch" shortly after the launch and appeared in the Hollywood Reporter's "The 40 Most Powerful People in Comedy" in 2019 and 2021.

Will Ferrell, Producer

Actor/Writer/Producer Will Ferrell has created some of film's most iconic characters with his roles in *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*, *Elf*, *Step Brothers*, and *Stranger Than Fiction*, among many others. Along with partner Jessica Elbaum, Ferrell is a co-founder of Gloria Sanchez Productions. The company has a three-year first-look deal with Netflix and a multi-year existing first-look film deal at Paramount Pictures. The Netflix deal came on the heels of the incredible overnight success of *Dead to Me*, which aired its second season on the streaming service in May 2020. That same year, *Dead to Me* was nominated for four Emmy Awards, including "Outstanding Comedy Series" and "Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series" for Christina Applegate and Linda Cardellini respectively. The show has since been renewed for a third season, which is slated to premiere in the fall of this year. Gloria Sanchez's recent film and TV credits include *Barb & Star Go to Vista Del Mar*, *Hustlers*, *Booksmart*, and *Live From a Studio Audience*, all of which garnered both critical acclaim and awards nominations.

This holiday season, Ferrell will be seen starring alongside Ryan Reynolds and Octavia Spencer in *Spirited*. The holiday musical, written and directed by Sean Anders and John Morris, is a modern retelling of Charles Dickens' 1843 novella *A Christmas Carol*. The project is set to be released on Apple TV+. In 2023, Ferrell will be seen in Greta Gerwig's highly anticipated live action feature *Barbie*, starring alongside Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling. Ferrell can also be seen starring opposite of Reese Witherspoon in Nick Stoller's *Untitled Wedding Comedy*. Ferrell is also set to star in and co-produce *Untitled Sister Comedy* starring Awkwafina and Sandra Oh.

Ferrell recently starred in and executive produced the Apple TV+ and Gloria Sanchez TV series *The Shrink Next Door*, directed by Michael Showalter and written by Georgia Pritchett. The show premiered in Fall 2021 and was an eight-episode limited series starring Ferrell, Paul Rudd, and Kathryn Hahn. The series, which is based on the No. 1 new podcast of 2019 by Wondery and Bloomberg Media, follows the bizarre relationship between a psychiatrist and his longtime patient.

Other recent projects include Netflix's *Eurovision* in which Ferrell starred alongside Rachel McAdams. Ferrell served as a producer on the project through his Gloria Sanchez banner and the movie premiered in Summer 2020. It then went on to receive an Academy Award nomination for "Best Original Song" for "Husavik," which was performed by Ferrell in the movie. Ferrell also starred opposite of Julia Louis Dreyfus in Searchlight Pictures *Downhill*, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival in 2020.

A graduate of the University of Southern California, Ferrell became interested in performing while a student at University High School in Irvine where he made his school's daily morning announcements over the public address system in disguised voices. He started as a member of the Los Angeles comedy/improvisation group The Groundlings where fellow cast members Ana Gasteyer, Maya Rudolph and former *Saturday Night Live* repertory players Laraine Newman, Jon Lovitz and Phil Hartman began their careers. Prior to his time on *Saturday Night Live*, he appeared on several television programs, including *Strangers with Candy*, *Grace Under Fire*, and *Living Single* while still a member of The Groundlings. It was there he met Chris Kattan and the two became good friends before joining *Saturday Night Live* in 1995.

During his first season, Ferrell was declared quite possibly the worst cast member ever. However, his talented impersonations and wide range of characters soon made him arguably the greatest Saturday Night Live cast member ever. Over his seven-year run, Ferrell played George W. Bush and became one of the few cast members to be nominated for an Emmy for a *Saturday Night Live* performance. In 2002 he left *Saturday Night Live* and was the only cast member to ever receive a farewell from all the current cast members at the end of a season finale show.

Ferrell is widely considered a comedic genius with enormous box office power, starring in hits *Old School*, *Wedding Crashers*, *Zoolander*, *Talladega Nights*, and *Daddy's Home* among many others.

Nate Hurtsellers, Director of Photography

Nate Hurtsellers is an award-winning cinematographer whose work has been screened at festivals around the world. He received his bachelor's from New York University and master's in cinematography from the American Film Institute. Working early on in documentaries, Nate developed an affection for intimate naturalism and an interest in storytelling through images of emotional depth. Nate brought that sensibility into the narrative space, notably lensing SXSW 2019 Special Jury and Audience Award Winner, *Saint Frances*. Other feature credits include *Snatchers* (SXSW 2019), *I Used to Go Here* (SXSW 2020), and *Down Low* (2023), starring Zachary Quinto. Nate is currently wrapping up an HBO documentary series alongside frequent collaborator, Lance Oppenheim.

Jon Philpot, Editor

Jon Philpot is an Emmy award winning editor known for his work on a wide range of projects. Most notably the HBO Max dark comedy *Search Party*, Comedy Central's *Broad City* and the A24 psychological horror, *False Positive*. *Theater Camp* is his second feature film and first feature to make it into the Sundance Film Festival.