

JENICA BERGERE AMY FARRINGTON MELANIE PAXSON ERICKA KREUTZ MATT LETSCHER
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PAIGE MORROW KIMBALL

Ending Up

Sometimes the end
is just the beginning...



"Ending Up" EPK

Logline: *A divorce celebration opens the door to new possibilities.*

Short Synopsis:

When Sadie's friends take her out to celebrate her divorce, their evening takes an unexpected turn, revealing the true meaning of friendship and the ironies of starting over in the middle.

Long Synopsis:

"Ending Up" is a female buddy comedy short film about starting over, in the middle. The film explores the ironies of divorce, true friendship and happy endings for four women in their forties. Sadie (Jenica Bergere), a tax accountant and mother of nine-year-old Jack (Mikah Massman-Johnson), is struggling with the impending finalization of her divorce. After a year of separation, Sadie is having a hard time letting go of the way she thought things 'should' be, and accepting how her life has 'ended up'. When Paul (Matt Letscher), her soon to be ex-husband picks up their son Jack for the weekend with his 'new family', he asks Sadie if she has received the final divorce papers. Sadie is crestfallen, and to cheer her up her best friends, Terri (Amy Farrington), Blair (Melanie Paxson) and her sister Maddie (Ericka Kreutz), throw her a divorce party and take her out to celebrate. But before the night is over, their girl's night out takes an unexpected turn, reminding Sadie about what really matters most.

Our Team:

Our team is passionate about creating dynamic roles for women both in front of and behind the camera, with a special focus on women entering their forties and beyond. Our film will deliver a message of hope, through laughter, to those who need it – whether it's going through a divorce, or simply standing in the middle of life, wondering what to do next. "Ending Up" reminds us that it's NOT the end- it's only the beginning...of the middle!

<http://endingup.com/our-team/>



Paige Morrow Kimball (Writer/Director/Producer) was born and raised in New York City and inherited her love of film making from her father who had 16mm movie-making equipment in their Brooklyn apartment. They would make films together every weekend and she discovered her passion: the art of telling stories through film. Paige received a B.F.A from NYU film school and began her career as a Production Assistant for directors Sidney Lumet and Woody Allen. She went on to produce and direct Documentaries and Reality Shows for HBO, ABC, CBS, FOX and more. Credits include: *“Project Greenlight”* *“The Oprah Winfrey Show”* *“Boot Camp”* *“16 Days of Glory Lillehammer”* and many more. After producing her greatest achievements to date: her two daughters, she was inspired by motherhood to leave no stone unturned, and she explored the entertainment industry from the other side of the camera, as an actor. Paige noticed that great roles for women in their 40s were too few. She returned to the filmmaking roots that intrigued her as a child and began making her own movies, filling this void, by creating roles with strong female leads. Film writing/directing credits include *“OMG! I’m Knocked Up”* and *“Slipped.”* Paige is a contributing writer for The Huffington Post and Women’s Voices for Change.

www.paigemorrowkimball.com



Kathleen Minogue Keagy (Producer) With a resume that ranges the worlds of business, marketing, education and the arts, Kathleen has made a career of wrangling creative ideas into cohesive projects. She fostered emerging artists in the classroom and at non-profit organizations before her combination of creativity and business savvy landed her at JPMorgan where she helped build relationships with leading technology venture capitalists. Kathleen is also a producer, writer, director, choreographer, actor, singer and dancer. Most recently, Kathleen has focused her creative talents to launch Primelmpulse, a production company that supports the work of female artists in the middle of their lives. When she is not developing projects for Primelmpulse, Kathleen helps make crowdfunding dreams a reality as Director of Executive Projects for Social Edison, developers of the crowdfunding fan-building platform called Crowdjammer.



Jenica Bergere (Actor/Producer) loves good material and is thrilled to tell this particular story under the direction of it's author, Paige Morrow Kimball. She loves to act in both comedy (MEN BEHAVING BADLY, FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS, SEINFELD) and drama (WITHOUT A TRACE, CSI, BONES), but has rarely gotten the chance to flex both muscles in one film. Bergere is beloved by fans of the DREW CAREY SHOW for her recurring role as "Sharon, his girlfriend, the plumber" for two seasons (made memorable by a tool belt striptease) and has had series regular roles on NBC, ABC, CBS and FOX. Most recently, Bergere's co-starring role in SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED, a SUNDANCE 2012 winner, has garnered her great reviews and captured the attention of one female writer/director (Paige Morrow Kimball) who seems to understand that good material is both funny and poignant.

Michelle Ehlen (Assistant Director/Co-Producer/Editor) is a graduate of The Los Angeles Film School where she studied writing and directing. Her thesis short film, Half Laughing, aired nationally on LOGO and Here TV and is distributed on DVD. Ehlen also produced, wrote, directed, and acted in two critically acclaimed feature films, Butch Jamie and POP-U-larity. Butch Jamie won several awards on the festival circuit, including Best Feature at the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. In 2012, she produced two features for LOGO TV - Eating Out: Drama Camp and Eating Out: The Open Weekend. Currently, Ehlen has just completed the sequel to Butch Jamie - Heterosexual Jill.

David Speck (Director of Photography) is an award winning DP who excels in the narrative and commercial world. His drive and passion for exciting visuals and storytelling, whether he is collaborating with a director, or with an agency, never fails to bring creativity and intensity to the table. The son of a military officer, Speck garnered a well-rounded outlook on people and places from moving frequently around the United States and overseas in Germany. His experiences are the foundation for his ability to create fantastic images and to find common ground with his collaborators. Speck attended The University of North Carolina School of the Arts: School of Filmmaking with a concentration in cinematography. In 2009, Speck was a winner of the International Cinematographers Guild Emerging Cinematographers Award for his work on the film Rain Rain, which also garnered best cinematography awards at several other film festivals. As a Director and DP, Speck's commercial clients include Konami. He is based out of Los Angeles.
www.speckinthegate.com

Sherri Chung (Composer) is a classically trained pianist, singer and composer of songs, concert music and music for film & television. While still in her teens, Sherri earned numerous awards as a composer and pianist, and had opportunities to tour and perform across the U.S. and Europe. Originally from New York, Sherri received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Composition and Theory at Florida's Jacksonville University. Graduate school drew Sherri to Los Angeles in 2008. USC's prestigious film scoring program allowed her to work alongside some of the industry's most successful composers and orchestrators, including Randy Newman, Christopher Young and Brad Dechter. Sherri's recent credits include scoring the TV documentary "3D Safari: Africa", and contributing music to shows "Let's Make a Deal" and "Mario Lopez: Saved by the Baby". In addition to composing, Sherri has orchestrated for a number of composers, including Walter Murphy, and regularly works with him on "The Family Guy" and "American Dad". She has also worked in the music department on films "The Haunting in Connecticut", "Toy Story 3", "The Princess and the Frog" and "TED".

Amadaes Baj (Co-Producer) is an accomplished singer/songwriter, musician, producer and filmmaker. She graduated with honors from the University of Michigan, receiving her B.A. with a double major in Film and Communications. She continued her education at USC's MFA Film Production Program. After being offered a major record deal, Baj put her film path on hold for a career in music. She was a part of "Forest For the Trees," the first band signed to DreamWorks Records (produced by Carl Stephenson-Beck, That Dog, Jude). With her duo Luminary Baj provided original music for the Comedy Central Show, "Sit n Spin" and for the acclaimed Hollywood Hell House." As a music producer, she lent her producing talents to "Forest For The Trees," Michelle Katz, Lexie Shine, and many up-and-coming artists. Baj is currently producing her original screenplay set during the Civil War, and featuring her music.

Nadia Voukitchevitch (Associate Producer) was born in New York and has been a Commercial TV Producer for over 10 years in the US Hispanic Market. Clients include: Time Warner Cable, Comcast, HBO, Target, Anheuser-Busch, GMC-Pontiac, Toyota, and McDonald's. She has won numerous awards including a Belding Award for Kohl's and a So Cal Broadcast Association award for excellence in radio broadcast. With a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College, she worked on independent films at Good Machine Inc. with James Schamus and Ted Hope. She wrote, produced and directed documentaries and shorts including "Behind Closed Doors." She's worked with celebrities Ang Lee, George Sluizer, Cristina Saralegui, Meryl Streep, Steve Buscemi, and Salma Hayek. She produced and directed two PSAs for CHIRLA that received honors and in 2005 she began creating meaningful, thought-provoking projects to raise awareness about global issues, utilizing all 360 degrees of media. Voukitchevitch represents numerous award-winning production companies, editorial, animation/VFX and music houses.

Our Cast:

<http://endingup.com/the-cast/>



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Melanie Paxson (Blair) was born in Champaign, IL and has been acting since she was a child. She has a bachelor of arts in theater from University of Missouri. Melanie received more training at the famed Second City in Chicago and performed at the Steppenwolf Theatre. Also, while in Chicago Melanie was cast in the recurring role of Jaclyn in Jeremy Piven's Cupid. Cupid's arrow led Melanie straight to Los Angeles where audiences fell in love with her. Although Melanie first became known for her national Gladware commercial campaign, audiences soon realized Melanie's talent extended well beyond Gladware. Melanie has been seen as a regular cast member on shows like NBC's sitcom HAPPY FAMILY as Sara Brennen, the daughter of John Larroquette and Christine Baranski, as well as harried new mom Julie in ABC's sitcom NOTES FROM THE UNDERBELLY. Melanie has had a string of successful television guest star appearances that hasn't stopped. A partial list of Melanie's work includes THE DREW CAREY SHOW, RELATED, JOEY, CSI, RULES OF ENGAGEMENT, MEDIUM and TRUE JACKSON. Most recently, she played the role of Dolly in SAVING MR. BANKS.



Amy Farrington (Terri) was born in Boston, but raised in Garland, near Dallas. She attended a musical theatre conservatory program, and worked in local and regional theatres before moving to Chicago. In Chicago, she performed at the Bailwick Repertory, The Court Theatre and the Steppenwolf Theatre. Twenty plays later, she moved to Los Angeles. She was a series regular in NBC's, THE MICHAEL RICHARDS SHOW. She starred in pilots for several networks and guest-starred on numerous sitcoms including WILL & GRACE, JUST SHOOT ME!, MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE, TWO AND A HALF MEN, KING OF QUEENS & NEW ADVENTURES OF OLD CHRISTINE.



Ericka Kreutz (Maddie) is originally from Milwaukee and has worked all over the country doing theatre, including PROOF in Vermont, RECKLESS in Cincinnati, and THE UNDERPANTS (adapted by Steve Martin) in Philadelphia. She has been seen on: LAW & ORDER, SEX & THE CITY, BROTHERS & SISTERS (to name all the shows with an "&"), COMMON LAW and as the impressionable mid-western neighbor, Debbie Dooley, in Disney's GOOD LUCK CHARLIE. She worked on the popular webisode series BOOK CLUB on HULU and in such films as MAINE STORY and THE SLEEPY MAN with John Hawkes. Her son Beckett was proud to make his first screen appearance in "Ending Up", in utero.



Matt Letscher (Paul) was born in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, attended college in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan and got his start as an actor in Jeff Daniel's Purple Rose Theater. Matt's numerous television credits include SCANDAL, BENT, THE GOOD WIFE, ENTOURAGE, ELI STONE, BROTHERS & SISTERS and GOOD MORNING, MIAMI. He plays the young Carrie Bradshaw's father in THE CARRIE DIARIES. Letscher's film highlights include playing opposite Antonia Banderas as Captain Harrison Love in THE MASK OF ZORRO, IDENTITY and GODS AND GENERALS. He also appears in the Atom Egoyan film, DEVIL'S KNOT and plays Amy Adams husband in Spike Jonze's HER.



Mikah Massman-Johnson (Jack) is a ray of sunshine: smart, eager, energetic, funny, playful, confident, genuine, and compassionate. A fountain of creativity with a true love of filmmaking and visual storytelling, he has been writing, illustrating, photographing and filming his own stories and stop motion animations since he was 4. He revels in school performances, has taken 2 stop motion animation courses, 3 sessions of Second City Improv, and the week-long Hollywood Stunt Camp. Mikah is very excited to have his first film role.



Jenica Bergere as Sadie and Amy Farrington as Terri, in *Ending Up*.



Melanie Paxson as Blair, shows off her stuff to Jenica Bergere in *Ending Up*.



Ericka Kreutz as Maddie, was really 8 months pregnant in *Ending Up*.



The Cast of *Ending Up* toast to “the beginning of the middle”.



Jenica Bergere as Sadie.



Mikah Massman-Johnson as Jack.



Writer/Director Paige Morrow Kimball on the set of *Ending Up* with Matt Letscher and Jenica Bergere.



Jenica Bergere as Sadie and Matt Letscher as Paul, in *Ending Up*.



The cast of *Ending Up* at the divorce celebration.

Director's Statement

It was three in the morning, and I couldn't sleep. I tossed and turned for a while, and then gave up. I flipped on the TV and scoured the guide for a good chick flick. No such luck! There was a movie on about a mommy murderess, and all the romantic comedies had male protagonists. Where was Diane Lane when you needed her?!

I realized that stories I can relate to about women around my age, are just not out there. There is a void of female protagonists who are fully dimensional and in the middle of their lives. As an actress in my 40s, I knew that it was difficult to find interesting, developed roles where I wasn't playing some guy's wife or some kid's mother. So I got mad. And then I got busy.

I set out to write a script with great roles for women over 40. About who we really are, and how we really speak. A fire had been ignited and *Ending Up* poured out of me, and onto the page.

Ending up explores the relationships we have in the middle of our lives. How even in our closet friendships we often tell 'convenient truths'. We don't always reveal how we really feel, instead we give the answers we assume others *want* to hear, or the answers that reflect how we *wish* we really felt.

My goal was to make a comedy that made you cry through your laughter (the way life can be at times) by exploring the 'what ifs' in the middle of life. What if my husband and I divorced? After all that time together and with two children, our lives were impossibly intertwined. How would we go about the business of separating our lives? How would I begin again? The comedy is found through the ironies of going from being intimate family members to virtual strangers. My goal was to find 'the funny' in a dark subject: when we can laugh through the tough times, there's always hope.

Ending Up is about coming into your own, letting go of control, and letting go of the false idea of perfection. There's a misconception in our culture, that when you hit 40, you should have arrived to the place you are going by now. That it marks the end of something. It's hardly the end! It's actually an incredibly fertile, creative, and powerful time. We've lived enough to be able to learn from our past and look forward to our future. To live our lives fully as we go through our 40s, we must know that we are enough. We must trust ourselves so we can truly enjoy the ride, with all its ups and downs, knowing that when one part of life ends the next chapter is just beginning. It's an amazing ride!

-Paige Morrow Kimball

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- What inspired you to make this film?
- Talk about the void in films for women in the middle.
- What are some of the themes you explore in *Ending Up*?
- You set out to make a film by, for and about women...how did you accomplish this?
- How did you raise the funds for the film?
- What was your budget? How many days did you shoot?
- How did you meet Producer/Actress, Jenica Bergere?
- What was the casting process like?
- Ericka Kreutz was 8 months pregnant during filming, did this present any challenges?
- How did you find newcomer, Mikah Massman-Johnson, (the boy who plays Jack)?
- What were your greatest lessons in making this film?
- Which Film Festivals has *Ending Up* been seen at, and where is it going next?
- What is your next project?

Technical Specs:

- TRT: 15:00
- Color
- Aspect Ratio: 16x9
- HDV
- Shot on a Nikon D800
- Dolby Digital Sound

Website:

www.endingup.com

Trailer:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Re0AoGrZV90>

EPK:

Meet the Director, Producers, and Cast Behind the Scenes of *Ending Up*:

<https://vimeo.com/70381183>

Press:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeryl-brunner/why-paige-morrow-kimball-_b_3893875.html

<http://www.ontaponline.com/2013/09/01/dc-shorts-celebrates-10-years/>

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<http://womensvoicesforchange.org/paige-morrow-kimball-making-films-about-women-in-the-middle.htm>

<http://womensvoicesforchange.org/women-of-reinvention-paige-morrow-kimball.htm>

<http://momsla.com/2012/08/mommy-match/>

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