

HOMESTATE

Starring
Blaise Miller
Grace Love
Shaneye Ferrell
David Hickey

2016 Austin Film Festival - Audience Award Winner

“This is as far from pretentious as independent movies get”
- Austin Chronicle

85 minutes

Not Yet Rated by the MPAA
Camera: Shot on the Canon C300

Casita Films LLC

Los Angeles

Blaise Miller

213 291 5110

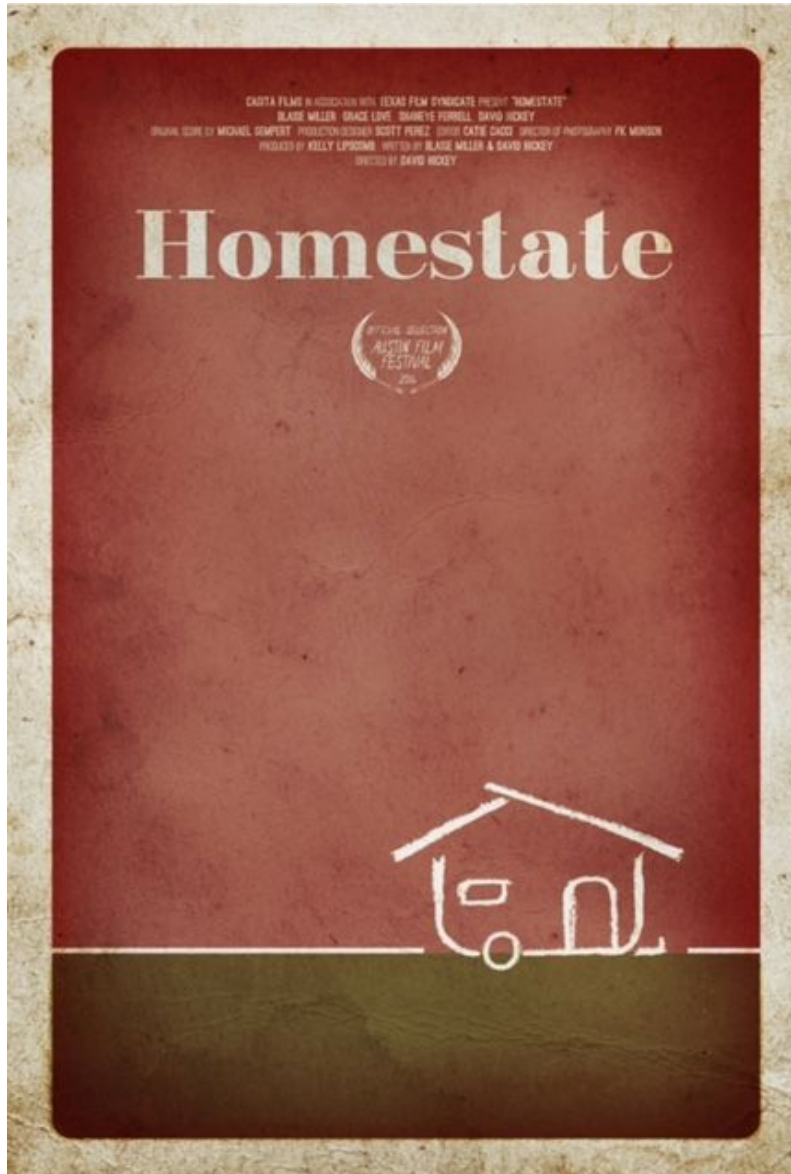
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Austin

David Hickey

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Director's Note

HOMESTATE was shot over 13 days at my home in Austin, Texas. Lead actor, Blaise Miller (Josh) lived on set for 2 1/2 months with me (Harvey), my wife Shaneye Ferrell (Crystal) and our daughter Grace Love (Pearl), immersing ourselves in the project and blurring the lines between reality and fiction. Family really is family in this slice of life drama.

HOMESTATE

Logline

A down and out brother shows up unannounced, altering the routine of his sister's family.

Synopsis

HOMESTATE depicts a week in the life of a seemingly run-of-the-mill family. Harvey struggles to keep his new business afloat, at any cost, in the uncertain economy.

Crystal is a full-time mom who keeps Pearl, their 10 year old daughter, on schedule and manages the household responsibilities. When Josh, Crystal's troubled brother, shows up with no place to go, the balance of their routine is thrown into disarray. This unexpected addition to the family sets off a series of events that exposes underlying issues, inadequacies and suspicions which threaten the foundation of their family ties.

HOMESTATE

Press

The Austin Chronicle Review:

Endearing local film pops with authenticity and nuance

Such an entrancing surfeit of warmth and homegrown values is contained within the Austin-set *Homestate*. Thanks to a synchronized quartet of stellar local actors, this brief, lovely drama from writers Blaise Miller and David Hickey (who also directed) defies expectations of quality for films of such minute scope.

This is as far from pretentious as independent movies get, and the filmmakers are wise not to try and reinvent the wheel with a high-concept story or bold aesthetics. It's all quite typical, actually: A young man, Josh (played by Miller), shows up at his artist-sister's house unannounced, disrupting her suburban Texas life with eccentric daughter Pearl (Grace Love) and a plateaued marriage to home contractor Harvey (Hickey). But when Josh, who struggles with drugs and real-world responsibilities, begins to clean up his act and become a caregiver for Pearl, he finds himself Oedipally bullied by her untrusting father.

Familiar themes, to be sure – so how is it that the characters are so memorably portrayed and the payoff so legitimate? Most important to this film are Love, Miller, the sympathetically nasty Hickey, and Shaneye Ferrell as the painter Crystal, all of whom are uniformly superb. Love plays an unfortunately stereotypical character: a quirk-ridden, precociously smart child who makes meaningful drawings of her uncle and represents his ultimate salvation. Yet in her scenes with Miller, who perfectly fits the bill of a sloppy Texan millennial (the decisively dominant character trope at this year's Austin Film Festival), Love anchors *Homestate's* redemption narrative so honestly that we wish Josh the utmost success.

Then there is the unassuming script, which is flush with unexpected intimacies and nuances. As Harvey, Hickey plays a jealous and secretive man whose new mailbox-building business is causing him stress. But I challenge you to name another recent film in which a mean character unironically attends a men's church group – with no representations of alcoholism or spousal abuse in sight. That same, rare attention to detail distinguishes Hickey's and Miller's writing from the more formulaic structural beats that typify many independent films. It's the microbudget equivalent of those strangely special family get-together dramas like *Dan in Real Life* or *Home for the Holidays*. *Homestate* is a lovable movie waiting to be discovered by those not yet cynical enough to judge festival screenings by title alone. To be frank, this particular title is the film's worst cliché.

-By Sean L. Malin

HOMESTATE

MEET THE FILMMAKERS

David Hickey (director/writer/producer/actor):

David was raised in Fort Worth, Texas. He received a Master of Fine Arts from Texas Tech University and has been making films ever since. David is a member of the Director's Guild of America and currently resides in Austin, TX with his wife Shaneye and their daughter Grace. His film BAGHDAD TEXAS won Outstanding International Feature at the 2011 Reel World Film Festival. HOMESTATE, which took home an audience award at the 2016 Austin Film Festival, marks David's fourth narrative feature.

Blaise Miller (writer/producer/actor):

Blaise received a B.A in Theater at Randolph-Macon College in Virginia and continued his training in Chicago at Second City and IO. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles where he has carved a niche for himself playing likeable everyman types in independent films such as THE SCENESTERS, IT'S A DISASTER and FOLK HERO AND FUNNY GUY. Currently, Blaise can be seen recurring on MARVEL'S AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D as Agent Nathanson.

Kelly Lipscomb (producer):

Kelly is a graduate of the RTF program at University of Texas and has been in Austin ever since. He owns and operates a full service television production company and creative advertising agency called Widespread Creative. In 2013, the History Channel premiered AMERICAN DAREDEVILS, a television show which he created and produced. Kelly has also produced broadcast content for MTV Networks, Sony Music, Columbia Records and CBS News, among others.

Homestate

Credits

CASITA FILMS
Presents
In Association with
TEXAS FILM SYNDICATE

Directed by
David Hickey

Blaise Miller Grace Love Shaneye Ferrell David Hickey

Written by
Blaise Miller & David Hickey

Produced by
Kelly Lipscomb

Director of Photography
PK Munson

Edited by
Catie Cacci

Production Designer
Scott Perez

Costume Designer
Amy Maner

Original Score by
Michael Sempert

Casting by
Sally Allen

UPM/First Assistant Director
Glen Moorman

Second Assistant Director
Barrett Farmer

Cast

Josh	BLAISE MILLER	Nole Saunders	LARRY DOUGLAS
Pearl	GRACE LOVE	Jane Saunders	KATHY ROSE CENTER
Crystal	SHANEYE FERRELL	J.T.	JET BAKER
Harvey	DAVID HICKEY	Nick	TITOS MENCHACA
Mr. Byther	BRETT BROCK	David	TIM MATEER
Jeanie	WENDY ZAVALETA	Floyd	JARRETT KING
Jack	BEAU SMITH	Kevin	CLYDE HOPKIN
Alice	SUSAN ROBERTS	Redd	BARRETT FARMER
Jerry	DAVID LEE HESS	Rock Worker	CARSTEN LUECK
Jose	RODNEY GARZA	Yoga Friend	KINGA SNOWHORN
		Karen	GIA VANGIERI

Art Director

Robert R. Wonson

Set Artist

Corissa Smith

Painter

Juliet Guimont

"A" Camera 1st Assistant Camera

Evan Ho

Brian Nelligan

Chris Smith

"B" Camera Operator

Kelly Lipscomb

Steadicam Operator

Matt Harshbarger

Still Photographer

Suzanne Pressman

“Behind the Scenes” Camera

Carsten Lueck

Sound Mixer

Patrick Wylie

Boom Operators

Audra Hughes

Aaron Casper

Gaffer

Scott Creemans

Electrician

Taylor Creemans

Key Grip

Wes Ahl

Make up/Hair Stylist

Kate Howard

Costume Assistant

Morgan Bentz

Production Coordinator

Shannon Burrows

Casting Assistant

Willita Mahone

Key Production Assistant

Lorna Nash

Production Assistants

Chris Carpenter

Gregory Carpenter

David Lackey

Assistant Editor

Mike Melendi

Sound Designer

Eric Friend

Digital Intermediate Colorist

Brandon Thomas

Songs

“Clay Pigeons”

Written Blaze Foley
Performed by Blaze Foley
Courtesy of Marsha Weldon

“Fur Elise”

Written by Ludwig Van Beethoven
Performed Grace Love

“Long Long Ago”

Written by Thomas Haynes Bayly
Performed by Grace Love

The Filmmakers Wish To Thank The Following For Their Assistance

The Honigblum Family
The Caskey Family
The Griffin Family
Mrs. Emily Velasquez
Duke and Linda Altman
Scott and Marty Starkjohn
Say Om Yoga
Todd Smiley
The Munson Family
Widespread Creative
Friendo Sound
TBD Post

“Secret Garden”

Written by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Performed by Grace Love, Blaise Miller & Shaneye Ferrell

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