



Northwest Mini U-Store:

No Hidden Fees!

Written and Directed by

Michael Ward

Produced by

*Kyle Eaton
Robert D'Esposito*

Synopsis

Kurt's commitment to offering low-cost storage solutions with no hidden fees brings him to the very brink of madness.



About the Cast

Kurt Conroyd

Kurt Conroyd is a film, television, and stage actor working out of Portland, OR. He is a graduate of Willamette University and studied at Studio Magenia in Paris, France. Kurt appeared alongside Reese Witherspoon and Gaby Hoffmann in *Wild* and can currently be seen on Amazon Prime in the comedy series *The Benefits of Gusbandry*.

Amy Frankel

After graduating from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Amy Beth Frankel danced both on Broadway and in the national tour of *42nd Street*. She continued her career of performing and choreographing at regional theatres upon moving to Portland, OR. Amy most recently went back to school to receive her Bachelors of Science in Nursing, and is now working as a registered nurse at the Portland VA Hospital.

Paul Glazier

Paul Glazier is a bad guy who is sometimes funny, other times handsome. He's been on TV a few times and on stage a lot. In Portland, OR, he writes copy for a living and comedy for fun. His favorite car is a bike and his favorite meal is coffee.

About the Filmmakers

Michael Ward (Writer/Director)

Michael Ward was born and raised in Portland, OR, and got his bachelors degree in film production from the University of Southern California. He returned to Portland and has been working as a film and commercial editor since 2010. In 2013, Michael edited the feature film *Birds of Neptune*, directed by Stephen Richter and featuring Kurt Conroyd in a decidedly non-comedic role. Michael and Kurt met for the first time when the film premiered at the Slamdance Film Festival in 2014, after which they remained friends and finally teamed up again for *No Hidden Fees* this past year.

Kyle Eaton (Producer)

Kyle Eaton is a Portland-based director and producer. His short *Taco Night* recently won the audience award at the Northwest Filmmaker's Festival, and he is currently wrapping post-production on his first feature film *Shut Up Anthony*. As a commercial producer, Kyle works internationally for clients including Apple, Google, Nike, and many others.

Robert D'Esposito (Producer)

Robert D'Esposito is a media producer based in Portland OR specializing in short form live-action, animation, VFX and post. In his free time he enjoys studying the occult. Robert was born on Staten Island but is not officially a member of the Wu-Tang Clan.

Rodrigo Melgarejo (Director of Photography)

Rodrigo hails from Mexico and works as a cinematographer and camera operator in Portland, OR. He has shot music videos for artists such as Aesop Rock, Kimya Dawson, Esme Patterson, Vacationer, and others.

Jon Titterington (Composer)

Jon Titterington is a composer based out of Los Angeles, California. Jon started his career as a session/touring musician, and has traveled the world in backing bands for Christina Perri, Kina Grannis, and many more. He is currently working on a third album with his band The Roof Beam Carpenters.

Aaron Mullan (Composer)

Aaron Mullan mis-spent his adulthood on tour with rock bands, mixing live concerts for such Titans of Indie Rock as Sonic Youth, Neutral Milk Hotel, The Stooges, The Melvins, Spiritualized, Julian Cope, Cat Power, and Steven Malkmus and the Jicks. As a musician, he has recorded and toured the world with his own bands Tall Firs and Spectre Folk, and joined Krautrock legend Michael Rother to perform the music of NEU! Recently relocated to Portland, Oregon, Aaron is now composing and mixing for TV and film, most recently for two shows on the Viceland TV network, *Flophouse* and *Party Legends*.

2&A with Writer/Director Michael Ward

What was your inspiration for the film?

There's a storage unit near my house that had a "No Hidden Fees" sign on it as I drove by one day, and the idea of a storage-unit owner fanatically obsessed with hidden fees just popped into my mind, and it just grew from there. I had been wanting the opportunity to experiment with a number of different visual and tonal styles, and to see if it would work to shift between those styles within the same narrative. Around that same time, I had been working on some low-budget music video shoots in Portland with a really fun and talented crew, so it was also an opportunity to get everybody back together and just have some fun..

What was the casting process like?

There really wasn't one. I met Kurt at the Slamdance Film Festival in 2015, where we were premiering a film by Stephen Richter called *Birds of Neptune* that I had edited and Kurt had starred in. His character in *Birds* was super dark and moody, so I was surprised to find that the real Kurt is goofy and hilarious and a great comic actor. Considering the big tonal shifts that happen in *No Hidden Fees*, I immediately thought of him for the role. I don't think it would have worked without him.

Amy is the wife of an old family friend of mine and I'd seen her in a few theatrical productions in Portland. She's extremely talented and just a lovely person, and despite having largely retired from acting, she graciously agreed to come help us out. Paul was actually cast the morning of the shoot after the original actor had a sudden injury. I was frantically calling around trying to find someone at the last minute and a friend connected me to Paul, whom I'd seen in several plays around Portland and who came over on a moment's notice and just knocked it out of the park. I feel extremely lucky that everyone came together the way they did.

So what's next?

Well, hopefully this is the start of a healthy festival run for *No Hidden Fees*. Beyond that, I feel very fortunate that I've found this great crew of people, and I want to just keep making weird funny shit with them. Kyle Eaton is writing and developing his second feature film, so we're going to start working on getting that off the ground. Kurt is gearing up for production on the second season of his web series *The Benefits of Gusbandry*, which is getting a lot of acclaim. Portland has long been a production location, but there's starting to be a growing talent pool of local writers and directors, which is really encouraging. I'd like to keep fostering that community and see where it goes.

Credits

KURT CONROYD
AMY FRANKEL
PAUL GLAZIER

WRITER / DIRECTOR
MICHAEL WARD

PRODUCED BY
KYLE EATON, ROBERT D'ESPOSITO

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
RODRIGO MELGAREJO

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
KYLE EATON
NICK VAN ATTA

PRODUCTION SOUND
ZACH KAHL

HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN
ERIN LYON

ASSISTANT CAMERA
LANE CLARK

GAFFER
EFREM PETERS

EDITOR
MICHAEL WARD

SOUND DESIGN
AARON MULLAN

COLORIST
JAKE BUFF

COMPOSERS
JOHN TITTERINGTON, AARON MULLAN

RUNNING TIME: 6:45
ENGLISH / COLOR / 1.77:1