

PRODUCTION SMOKES ENTERTAINMENT
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
SLICKBARON PICTURES

ADVENT

A FILM BY JOHN BICKERSTAFF

PRODUCED BY
JAMES KELLER NICK JAGELSKI LUKE PALMER

25.5 MINUTES
NOT RATED BY THE MPAA
SHOT ON RED CAMERAS

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Advent's Story

In the summer of 1962, strange lights appear in American skies. Below, the Hardy family struggles with this world changing event while coping with their own familial concerns. Teenagers Will and Michael find their love of all things space diminished when the real thing comes to call. As if aliens landing weren't enough, mother Joyce has to accommodate a visit from her alcoholic sister, Bev. And father Ken Hardy tries to balance his curiosity about the event with his instinct to protect his family – violently, if necessary.

The Story of Advent

Advent was created for Emerson College's BFA Program, an exclusive advanced media study program structured around the production of a thesis film applying all of the skills and resources acquired throughout the Emerson Film Production program.

John and James dreamed up *Advent* from a mutual obsession with the American space age and the desire to explore on screen how an American family might react to extraterrestrial contact. They drew inspiration from science fiction classics such as *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and dedicated themselves to the story of people struggling with their own life changes, backgrounded by the world changing through first contact.

The production of *Advent* presented many challenges such as finding a period appropriate house, working with an ensemble cast, and managing a crew of 25 college students living on location in Weare, NH for the two week shoot.

The Storytellers

Production Smokes Entertainment is a group of creatives who met during their study at Emerson College. The Production Smokes team is dedicated to delivering high-quality, unfiltered filmmaking, committed to telling challenging stories in the most unique and exhilarating media.

Currently we are focused on promoting *Advent*, which has screened at Cannes Marché du Film, Palm Springs International Shortfest, Austin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Harvard College Film Festival, and the New Hampshire Film Festival, in addition to many screenings at Emerson and winning Emerson's Best Directing award for 2014.

We are also in pre-production on John's next feature, and are working on many other commercial and artistic endeavors, including music videos, webseries, and a play.

CAST

WAYNE SHORE as KEN HARDY

Wayne Shore is an actor and producer, known for *Single Loaded Cylinder* (2012), *Home Sweet Home* (2012) and *The Convict* (2014).

KATE JURDI as JOYCE HARDY

Kate works throughout the New England area as a Film and Theater Actress, as well as a model and stand-in. Kate is known for her work on *R.I.P.D.* (2013), *Killing Khan* (2014) and *Tangled 8* (2015).

HENRY MACLEAN as WILL HARDY

Henry is a native of Marblehead, Massachusetts and was a theater actor there before making his film acting debut in *Advent*. Henry currently attends Emerson College and is majoring in film production, where he has taken on many roles behind the camera.

PATRICK SULLIVAN as MICHAEL

Patrick Sullivan is a Film and Theater actor working throughout the New England area.

KIM GORDON as AUNT BEV

Kim has been chosen again and again for roles where honesty and conviction come first: a doctor dealing with a woman who has been a victim of spousal abuse, an addictions specialist urging a change of treatment to a substance abuser, a lawyer trying to keep a witness from perjury, an oncologist telling a parent that her child is dying from an untreatable form of cancer. Of course, she welcomes roles where her forcefulness make some question that integrity. Her resume shows how often she is asked back for a second or third project with the same team - an efficient, well-prepared, hard-working actor.

HARRY ASPINWALL as GLENN KEENE

Harry is a film and theater actor working in the Boston, Massachusetts area. Harry has lived and worked in D.C., England, Scotland, Massachusetts, New Zealand, Rhode Island and Japan. He graduated from Brown University in 2011 with a degree in Linguistics and Literary Arts. Harry's driving force in life is to create; has worked on TV series, video games, visual art installations, sound design, musical composition, plays, haunted houses, as well as film. Harry can next be seen in *Fury: The Tales of Ronan Pierce* (2014).

CHARLIE TACKER as NATHAN HARDY

Charlie decided at the age of 4 that he wanted to be an actor when he realized that the super heroes in his favorite movies were not really super heroes but actors. In the past 6 years, he has appeared in print ads, commercials, and over 40 films. Motivated and not afraid of hard work, Charlie loves nothing more than being in front of the camera. He has been fortunate enough to work with the most talented film makers and actors in New England. He has also worked closely with actors such as Allison Ashley Arm, Terry Moore, Crispin Glover, Paz de la Huerta and John Travolta. He can next be seen in Hooroo Jackson's feature *Aimy in a Cage* (2015).



The cast on set (June 2013).

From left: Patrick Sullivan, Harry Apinwall, Kim Gordon, Henry Maclean, Kate Jurdi, Wayne Shore, & (front) Charlie Tacker

The Production Smokes Team

The crew that formed at Emerson College to create *Advent* continues to work together as Production Smokes Entertainment. John and the team are committed to delivering high quality, unfiltered filmmaking, and are currently prepping a feature film to be shot in 2015.

JOHN BICKERSTAFF

WRITER, DIRECTOR

John is currently based in Los Angeles but describes the city as “too nice” for him. Since directing *Advent* he has worked many roles in production, bringing a frugal and hard working East Coast each project. His recent credits include the Universal feature film *Term Life* (2015) and the final season of AMC's *Mad Men*. In 2015, He and the Production Smokes team will begin pre-production on his first feature film.

JAMES KELLER

PRODUCER, EDITOR

In addition to editing *Advent* James took on the role of producer and supervising post-production. Fluent in more programs than we have space to list, James is currently applying his many talents as Lead Animator at the up and coming Los Angeles animation studio Wondergrove Kids.

LUKE PALMER

PRODUCER

Luke Palmer has been described as a mad scientist, a genius, a moron, sexy, weird, a renaissance man, a supervillain, but most importantly: a pretty swell guy. He has produced films, plays, sketch, cartoons, podcasts and is currently working with the New York Neo-Futurists and Upright Citizen's Brigade. In addition to producing *Advent*, Luke (and Slickbaron Pictures) produced [*Punchline*], written and directed by associate producer Jackson Birnbaum.

MATTHEW TOMPKINS

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Matthew also completed the BFA program at Emerson College and leapt into the LA community in 2014. Currently working with A-list music video production company Doomsday, Matthew has worked with clients such as Expedia, and Blackberry in addition to over a dozen short film projects. He plans to return as Director of Photography on Production Smokes first feature in 2015.

DANIEL PEREA

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Daniel Perea is a writer, director and producer passionate about innovating the science fiction genre. Following *Advent*, Daniel, along with Director Stephen Ilous, created the science fiction short film *POLIS* through the Prototype contest. Daniel is currently living and working in Los Angeles.

JACKSON BIRNBAUM

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Jackson Birnbaum is a writer, director and producer who attended Emerson with the rest of the Production Smokes team. Prior to *Advent*, he wrote and directed the short film [*Punchline*] which was produced by Luke Palmer and starred Daniel Perea. Jackson is currently based in Los Angeles and in this year has been traveling to various jobs, including the zombie horror feature *Meltdown* (2014).

JORDAN MICHAUD-SCORZA

EXECUTIVE IN CHARGE OF PRODUCTION

Jordan is a writer and director in her own right and the physical production supervisor of Production Smokes. Jordan helps to keep us all in line and on schedule, taking on roles such as Assistant Director and UPM when on set, in addition to working on her own feature film and many other film and television productions in the Los Angeles area.

Credits:

Written and Directed by John Bickerstaff
Story by John Bickerstaff and James Keller
Produced by James Keller, Nicholas Jagelski, Luke Palmer
Exec Producers – James Keller Sr. Michael Palmer Donna Johnson
Associate Producers – Jackson Birnbaum, Daniel Perea

Director of Photography: Matthew Tompkins
Edited by James Keller

Unit Production Manager – Nicholas Jagelski
1st Assistant Director – Jordan Michaud-Scorza
2nd Assistant Director – Jake Humphery
1st Assistant Camera – Holly Horne
2nd Assistant Camera – Kelsey Barrett
Camera Production Assistant - Dennis Kirkman-Moriarity

Key Grip - Mitchell Ball
Best Boy Grip - Andrew Naugle
Grips - Dillon Puswald, Adam Silverstrim, Victor Vega
Chief Lighting Technician - Dimitri Christofordis
Best Boy Electric - Matthew Slodziak
Set Electrician - Evan Yee

Sound Recordist - Joseph Fiorillo
Script Supervisor - Michael Berlind

Production Designed by John Bickerstaff and James Keller
With thanks to cast and crew for their contributions to design
Set Design Consultants - Mitchell Ball, Megan Kaltenbach, Suja Ono
Spaceship Design by Elizabeth Barraza Concept Art by Jody Steel
Costume PA - Kelsey Barrett Maskmaker - Luke Palmer
Consulting Producers: Benjamin Stoll, Adam Sloves, Andrew Harwood
Production Assistant: Alex Pease
Mom on Set: Liza Zierenberg

Original Score by Gabriel Ryfer Cohen
Score Preparation – Jesse Hartov

“Stardust” “To Build a Home”
Written and Performed by Hoagy Charmichael Written and Performed by The Cinematic Orchestra

Sound Designer – Cheng Lu
Dialog Editor – Filipe Antunes
Sound Effects Artists – James Sanders, Salil Bhayani, Bradley Kroheling
Sound Consultant – Marcus Shutrump
Sound Engineer – Anthony Majors
Assistant Sound Engineer – Martina Albano

Special Thanks

The Palmer Family, John Gianvito Patrick Labadia, Suzanne Iacobucci, Tim Mckenna and the EDC Staff
Lenny Manzo, Chrissy Hunt and the DPL Staff, Theodore Life, Paul Goleburn, Christine McMann, Kim
McKee, Steve Kaye, Nick Giannino, The Town of Weare, NH

In memory of Michael Palmer (1941-2013)