

ELI OVER DARKNESS

A FILM BY
JAMES BACHELOR

PRESS KIT



Logline

Eli, a teen in the punk scene, struggling with depression and loss, learns to accept mortality and embrace life with the help of family and friends.

Synopsis

Diagnosed with depression, 17-year-old Eli attempts to live a normal life while memories of his deceased mother continue to haunt him. This drama follows Eli as he fights off anger, sadness, and confusion with the help of his friends, father, and therapist.

Eli and his friends, a rag tag group of teenage punk rockers, decide to form their very own punk band. It isn't long before Eli and Jenna, the band's guitarist, begin to grow closer. A budding romance seems inevitable, until memories of his mother's death start creeping back into Eli's life. Old sadness and fears take control of Eli as he begins distancing himself from Jenna and the other band-mates. Though he's stuck in a self-destructive spiral, the love of family and friends might give Eli enough strength to pull himself out of it and regain control over his life.

Director's Notes

The goal of *Eli Over Darkness* was to portray teenagers and, specifically, the ways depression can affect them, as honestly as possible.

Growing up, my brother and I had several friends who we later learned suffered from chronic depression. What struck me was that these friends weren't full of angst and aggression, as the media frequently suggests, nor did they seem helpless or lost. Rather, they were trying their hardest to be in the present and to enjoy moments with friends instead of letting the depression quietly eat away at them.

I found their daily determination to conquer depression incredible and inspiring and wanted to capture that in a story on the big screen.

As a Director, I greatly enjoyed working on this film because of the fact that it's not a big spectacle, but rather, a realistic look at life and the small victories that occur every day.



Director: James Bachelor

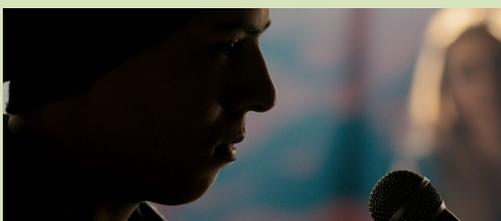
James has been making films since he was old enough to pick up a VHS camera. In High School, he directed a film nominated for Best Short at the OC Film Festival. He went on to pursue a BFA in Film Production with an emphasis in Directing at Chapman University where he made several more shorts. He graduated May 2014 with his thesis film “Eli Over Darkness.”



James firmly believes in the power of honest storytelling. Whether he’s directing a horror/thriller, broad comedy, or teen drama, James strives to create films that reflect emotional and societal elements true to life.

Writer: Alan Bachelor

Alan Blake Bachelor has been watching and making movies with James since childhood. Growing up on a steady diet of Steven Spielberg films, he developed the love of creative storytelling that he has today. Now a Drama major at UC Irvine, he spends much of his time acting, writing, and performing improv comedy. Alan hopes to bring as much honesty as he can to everything he writes and performs.





Producer: Jessica Herman

Jessica Herman is currently working at Generate Management under Defy Media as an assistant to three talent managers. As a recent graduate of Chapman University's Creative Producing program, her sights are still set on making inspirational and feel-good movies. When she's not working, Ms. Herman is helping in the production of a faith-based Asian co-production that will be shooting in the Philippines in March 2015. In her free time, she likes to spend time with her family, watch movies, and go on spontaneous adventures.

Cinematographer: Casey Stolberg

Casey Stolberg grew up in San Rafael, CA, a small suburb north of San Francisco, and is currently a senior at Chapman University, majoring in Film Production with an emphasis in Cinematography. Casey has shot many student short films during his time at Chapman, as well as several professional music videos and commercials.

Casey's passion is to create imagery that captures and enlivens the emotional moments of a story. In doing so, he seeks to push the boundaries of the conventional frame. He works to find innovative and organic construction in compositional and lighting design, inspiring powerful connections in human feeling.

Editor

Delaine De Beer is a freelance filmmaker and photographer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She recently received her BFA in Film Production (editing emphasis) from Chapman University. Delaine is the owner and founder of creative company Lux Aeterna Productions, LLC.

CAST

David Patty (Eli)

David grew up in the bay area. He is currently studying screen acting at Chapman University and has starred in several student films there. He recently received a Best Actor nomination for his portrayal of Eli in this film at the Young Cuts Film Festival in Montreal.

Elly Schaefer (Jenna)

Elly Schaefer grew up in Niceville, FL (Yes, it is a real place) and attended the Florida State University. During her time there, she majored in Editing Writing and Media, but mostly helped her friends in the film school make movies. After graduating, Elly moved across country to pursue her acting career in Los Angeles. Since the move, you've seen her in Criminal Minds, Conan, and a national Google Commercial.

Dillon Silverstein (Matt)

Dillon was born and raised in Los Angeles. He is an actor as well as the lead singer and guitarist for the band L.A Rocks.

Jacob Ben-Shmuel (Aaron)

Jacob, originally from the bay area, is currently studying drama at the University Of California Irvine. When he's not performing in plays or films he enjoys participating on the University's improv comedy team.

Stan Klimecko (Father)

Stan Klimecko was born on June 9, 1970 in Niagara Falls, New York, USA. He is an actor and producer, known for Day of the Dead 2: Contagium (2005), Last Call (2012) and Back to Holding (2009).

Timothy Guest (Dr. Truman)

This Texas native previously landed a recurring role on the CBS daytime soap opera The Young and the Restless (1973). Recent film roles include the Nick Swedlund helmed family drama film Sanctuary (2008) with Trevor Morgan, the dark comedy Midlife (2010) with Arye Gross.

ELI OVER DARKNESS
FAQ's
(Answered by Director James Bachelor)

1. *What would you say was the biggest challenge during the making of the film?*

Well the script called for much of the film to take place outside at night. Securing these night locations and figuring out how best to light them with our modest budget was definitely our greatest hurdle. However, I believe that tackling challenges like this really help to get the creative juices flowing and so in the end I think it actually helped to make a better film.

2. *What was your favorite part of production?*

My favorite parts of the shoot were any of the scenes involving the whole band. David, Elly, Dillon, and Jacob were amazing to work with and their chemistry as a group both on screen and off made the already exciting shoot even more fun.

3. *What's the central theme of the film?*

I think Dr. Truman, the therapist in the film, puts it best. He says to Eli "Just because something doesn't last forever, doesn't mean it's pointless." It's pretty easy in life to get preoccupied with the thought that everything comes to an end at some point, and to let this thought convince us that there's no meaning to life, but this isn't true. Life is full of the meaning that we create for ourselves. It's full of love, joy, adventure, and more if we choose to pursue those things.

4. *Why did you choose to make the teen characters punk rockers?*

There are a few reasons. First, my brother Alan, the film's writer, is into the punk rock scene. Second, Alan and I feel that punks are often misrepresented in films and TV and so we wanted to do a film that portrayed punks in a more honest and realistic way. Third, if you listen to punk lyrics, you'll find they're often singing about grappling with complex emotional issues such as depression. All in all it just felt like a good fit for the film.

5. *What separates Eli Over Darkness from other teen films?*

We didn't want the film to feel like another glamorized or overly simplified look at teen life. We wanted the characters to take things seriously, but not be overly dramatic, we wanted them to be sweet but also awkward, and we wanted them to be unique but not stereotypes. Ultimately we wanted to portray teens as they actually are, emotionally complex individuals.



CAST

ELI
David Patty

JENNA
Elly Schaefer

MATT
Dillon Silverstein

AARON
Jacob Ben-Shmuel

FATHER
Stan Klimecko

DR. TRUMAN
Timothy Guest

MOTHER
Beata Dalton

YOUNG ELI
Brayden Nguyen

KEY CREW

**CO-WRITER/
DIRECTOR**
James Bachelor

WRITER
Alan Blake Bachelor

PRODUCER
Jessica Herman

CINEMATOGRAPHER
Casey Stolberg

EDITOR
Delaine De Beer

**PRODUCTION
DESIGNER**
Rachel Deering

SOUND DESIGNER
Andrew Guastafarro

COSTUME DESIGNER
Alan Blake Bachelor

ORIGINAL MUSIC
Alan Blake Bachelor,
James Bachelor, and
Robert Bachelor

TECHNICAL SPECS

**COUNTRY OF
PRODUCTION**
United States

DATE OF COMPELTION
May 2014

FORMAT
Digital

RATIO
2.35

DURATION
20 mins 11 Seconds

GENRE
Drama/Teen Realism

A Short Film By
James Bachelor

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“Just because something doesn’t last forever...
... Doesn’t mean it’s pointless”

NewFilmmakers Los Angeles Screening

Saturday, December 13th 9:30 PM at the AT&T Center in Downtown LA

Contact

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NEWFILMMAKERS
Los Angeles

