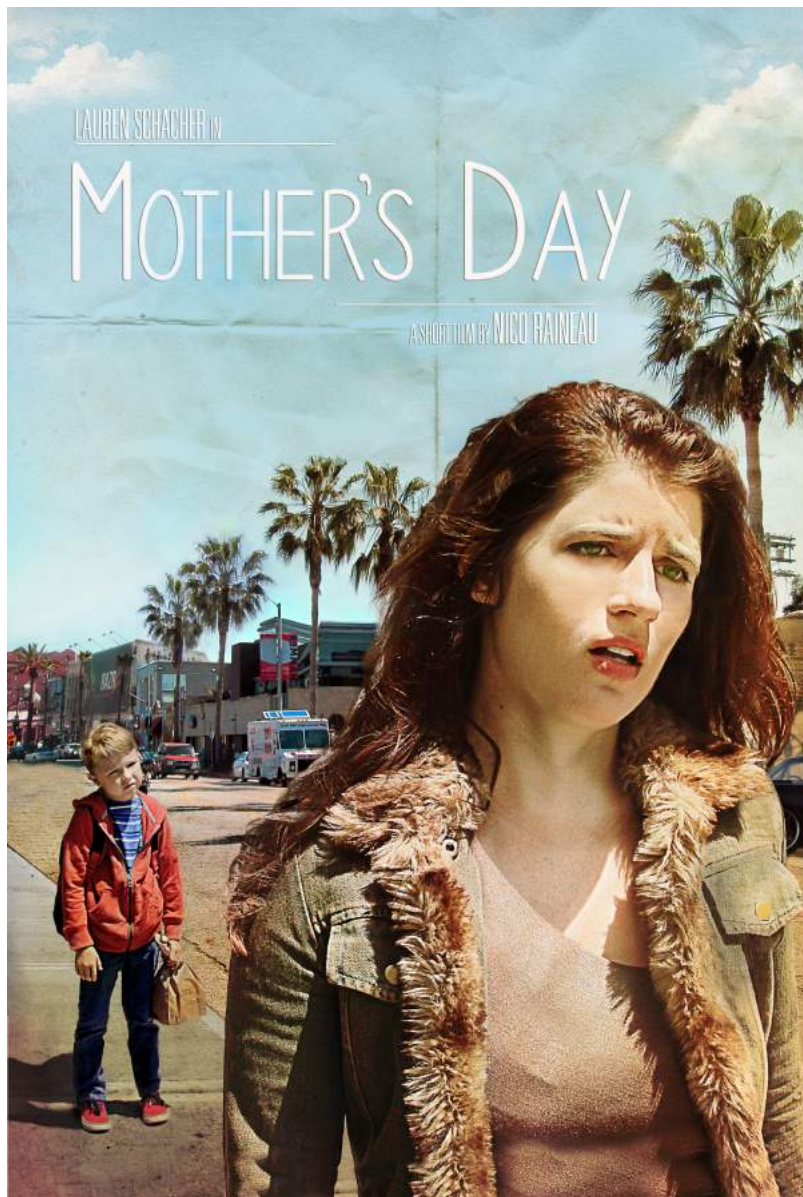




AMFRAN
ENTERTAINMENT



22 Minutes / English / No Yet Rated / No Release Date

Website: www.MothersDay-Film.com

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SYNOPSIS

Mara (Lauren Schacher), an irresponsible 20 something, wakes up in a stranger's bed after a one night stand. As she gets her bearings, a man bursts in and thanks her for agreeing to help him out. He takes off for work, leaving Mara behind and bewildered. Already late for her own job, Mara flees the scene... only to then discover a 6-year-old boy (Robert Carbo) waiting on the doorstep.

Having apparently drunkenly agreed to watch him, Mara has no choice but to take the man's son with her for the day. She races to work where her angry boss, Mrs. Goldman (Kathryn Gordon), threatens to fire her. With her job in jeopardy, she hazardously hides the young boy outside. Mara then finds herself with another child on her hands when Mrs. Goldman takes off for an appointment leaving her 9-year-old daughter behind.

Mara is left with two kids in her care and one hell of a hangover. As her tumultuous days spirals further downward, Mara comes to a crossroads in which she must choose to continue down a path of recklessness... or finally take some genuine responsibility for once. And once her choice is made, she may soon discover that much of this day may have been one big misunderstanding...



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Mother's Day is a film born of partnerships. At its inception, co-writers Nico Raineau and Lauren Schacher wanted to tell a grounded and emotional story about self-discovery in your late twenties. They themselves were just at the onset of a romantic discovery; Raineau (the film's director) and Schacher (the film's star) had just started dating and were excited about the prospect of collaborating creatively. Neither had co-written a script prior but found the process with one another to be easily organic. "I've never successfully written anything with a writing partner before," says Raineau, "but with Lauren it just works. We share similar sensibilities and tastes and this film kind of just spit-balled out of us into creation."

Mother's Day is about an irresponsible and hapless woman who wakes up in a stranger's bed after yet another one night stand that she barely recalls, but this time her morning takes an unexpected turn. She finds herself having to care for the man's 6-year-old son all day, reluctantly taking him with her as she races to her job as the cleaning lady for an affluent family in the Palisades. Her day continues to snowball, and Mara is faced with a series of dilemmas that bring about her true character. "For some odd reason, we both had been writing about young motherhood a lot," Schacher explains. "Perhaps it's our age since many of our friends are getting married or becoming parents for the first time. Although, to be fair, Mara [the main character] is not actually a mother, this story falls into that category in a more figurative sense." *Mother's Day* is the result of one such story, a character driven narrative about a woman who begins to understand that she's deserving of more self-respect. Schacher continues, explaining that for her the story is about, "taking responsibility, caring for yourself, growing up... human connection. It's through this experience with a little about that she really finally connects with another person."

Once the script was completed, producers Gregory Hutchinson and Kristen Murtha set about turning the pages into pictures. "We were inspired by Nico and Lauren's passion for the story, and also about bringing the character of Mara to life," they recount. The first concern right from the beginning was the casting of Brandon, the 6-year-old boy who was to share almost every scene with Schacher. "He had to be the perfect fit to play this adorable and yet precocious kid," Murtha explains and then adds, "And from the producing side, working with children adds another layer of complexity." To find a young thespian up for such a challenging role, the filmmakers hired casting director Jami Rudofsky who pre-read countless young actors before presenting the best of the bunch to the team. "We were all enchanted in some way by Robert's innocence and genuineness," says Hutchinson. For the film's director, finding the right actor to play Brandon was of paramount importance. "I'm one of those director's who thinks casting is most of a director's job," Raineau explains, "and deciding which 6-year-old's shoulders to place the weight of the film onto was an extremely nerve-racking decision. I took a chance when casting Robert Carbo because he had never acted before and was a total wild card, but his personality was undeniable and I can say now that he is absolutely the heart of the film." Rudofsky also cast 9-year-old Berlin Gremillion in the role of Violet, another talented new actor who had never been on screen before appearing in the short film. Lastly, to help anchor the film, experienced actress Kathryn Gordon was cast as Mrs. Goldman, Mara's boss and narrative counterpoint. "I'm so thrilled to have worked with Kathryn on this film. She was always so willing to play and try different things with the character, and that's a dream for any director," Raineau says. The cast was rounded out with Peter Welkin, a practiced stage actor who the filmmakers found in an open call. Welkin helps launch the film's first scene with a brief but compelling performance that sets the story into motion.

Production took place in Los Angeles over the course of just four days, an ambitious task for a twenty-four page shooting script. “We shot about six pages a day,” Raineau describes, “and I credit our perseverance to our incredible assistant director George Hrico, as well as our supremely talented cinematographer Jess Dunlap.” The crew was comprised of many alumni from Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts, many of whom have been making films together ever since studying there. “We had the greatest crew,” Schacher says when acknowledging the tight-knit group. “Every morning I stepped onto set, I saw only smiling faces. People seemed excited to be a part of this film and that was inspiring. Everyone had the same goal in mind, to make a small piece of great art.”

Like any piece of independent cinema, the art didn’t come easily. The film’s producers express that, “Producing on a small budget in Los Angeles is always a challenge and *Mother’s Day* was no exception. We had some unique situations in this movie, including filming on a city bus, mounting a car onto a rig, and finding the perfect locations.” The story calls not only for a Pacific Palisades mansion, but also two middle class homes right next to each other that could easily be confused at a glance. “We had a lot of help from co-producer Russell Hadaya and were able to find things that met all of our parameters and were visually excellent.” Lauren Schacher even donated the use of her own car for the film, claiming that it was written into the story specifically. “We tried to find a picture car for Mara, but nothing fit the bill as perfectly as Lauren’s actual car,” Raineau corroborates.” Schacher adds, “Yes, the car was my car... and she was a little disagreeable when it came to filming. But when you’re working on a low-budget indie, picture cars aren’t really in the budget. We literally towed her around Hollywood behind a buddy’s pick-up truck during filming.” Any film production is a test of endurance, especially independently, and the filmmakers of *Mother’s Day* dug in, joined together, and achieved success with grace.

When asked what the key to a prosperous production is, the filmmakers all agree that collaboration is everything. The process all began with two romantic partners creating together and that laid the foundation for the entire process. Schacher explains in detail that, “It’s the most collaborative experience I’ve ever had. We [Raineau and her] both knew the world equally well. As an actor, there’s nothing more enticing than the idea that someone else knows the world you’ve created as well as you do. Every hole I found myself in, he had the answer to, and vice versa.” Raineau feels the same way, adding, “It so wonderful, not only as a director but also just a collaborator, to be able to turn to your leading actor and just say a word or two, or make a simple gesture, and in that instant nothing else needs to be communicated in order to understand one another. It was an amazing experience.” According to both of them, it’s an experience they intend to recreate in many more collaborations to come.

Mother’s Day was produced by Amfran Entertainment and is playing film festivals in 2015.

ABOUT THE CAST



**Lauren Schacher – Mara
(Co-Writer, Co-Producer)**

Lauren is a self-described writer/actor/teacher/yogi hybrid. Currently based in LA, she's finishing work on her second narrative feature script after her first screenplay was a 2013 Sundance Lab finalist before being selected for the Big Vision Empty Wallet fellowship with Dogfish Pictures. She's an active voice in the fight for more female roles and better representation for Women in Hollywood.



Robert Carbo – Brandon

Robert is just 7 years old and just started acting in 2013. He's already appeared on stage, in commercials, and was featured on episode 3 of *Draw My Dream* for DreamWorksTV. He's very excited about Mother's Day, his first film project, and is passionately pursuing acting.



Kathryn Gordon – Mrs. Goldman

Kathryn was born and raised in Kansas City. She studied at London's Webber Douglas Academy on a British Marshall Scholarship. Among Kathryn's television and film credits, her favorites include guest-starring roles on *Two and A Half Men* and *24*, as well three seasons on the Emmy-nominated *The 4400*. She is currently recurring on the ABC drama *Mistresses*. She also appeared in the comedy feature, *The Hebrew Hammer*, featured at Sundance. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, two daughters, a baby on the way, and two dogs.



Berlin Gremillion – Violet

Berlin is 9 years old and enjoys movie night with her family, playing video games with her older brother, art projects, and telling jokes. Mother's Day is her first short film and marked her first experience on set. She looks forward to future opportunities as an actress.



Peter Welkin – Rob

Peter was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and is an actor known for *And Then Came Summer* (2000), *A Thing Called Happiness* (2013), and *Two Of A Kind* (2005).

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



Nico Raineau is a filmmaker living in Los Angeles. He's originally from the seaside town of Mystic, Connecticut and earned a BFA in film production from Emerson college in Boston, Massachusetts. His career in film began in production as the assistant to a multi-academy award winning writer/actor/director. He then transitioned into creative development, first learning from two award winning producers before working at Team Downey, a Venice based production company where he further honed his skills for storytelling by helping develop film and television projects for Robert Downey Jr. Nico directs film, music videos and online content with a focus on character based, story driven narrative.



Kristen is a Story and Post Supervisor at DreamWorks Animation as well as a freelance producer. Originally from Boston, Kristen moved to Los Angeles and worked in production on *Rise of the Guardians* and *How to Train Your Dragon 2*. She simultaneously continues to produce numerous creative projects, working with & managing talented crews while collaborating with directors across multiple platforms. Kristen thrives on bringing compelling stories and genuine characters to the screen.



Gregory is a passionate storyteller and technologist with a background in filmmaking, post-production and digital technologies. He is a Product Manager for Technicolor Ventures working on a new startup in stealth mode, after recently working on Creative District and Ultravisual. Gregory has worked for Eyeboogie, GSN, and live event awards shows. Gregory loves to tell stories, by any medium; Apps, Products, Film, or a yet undiscovered means.



Jess Dunlap is a Los Angeles based cinematographer. Originally from Boston, his early passion for both music and the outdoors transformed into an obsession with landscape photography and cinema. He believes that story, characters, and locations are the basis of ingenuity within filmmaking, and that good cinematography will augment each element in unison. Jess has shot content across the U.S., Europe, and Japan for Adidas, Mattel, Glamour, Capitol Records, Wired, and Nike.



Natalie is a Production Designer and Art Director based in Los Angeles, California. She draws inspiration from the colors of the Pacific Northwest and believes that just about everything can be fixed with a well placed piece of tape. In her spare time she enjoys baking, traveling and trying to keep her tiny vegetable garden alive. Other credits include art director on IFC's "The Spoils of Babylon" and production designer for various music videos for George Watsky.



Bryce is a freelance film and video editor, post production consultant, and the founder of BigCatBoot. When he isn't cutting and crafting stories in the edit suite, he's building a portfolio as a food stylist, photographer, and documentary producer. Additionally, he is the author of a forthcoming editing blog where he'll help aspiring assistant editors, story producers, and seasoned editors feel more comfortable using Avid editing software.



Brent is the CEO of Unbridled Sound in Los Angeles, California. A graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design, his work has been widely recognized throughout the industry including an Emmy award for Outstanding Sound Editing on Tony & Ridley Scott's *Gettysburg*. When not refurbishing the 1950's trailer sitting in his backyard (an impulsive Craigslist purchase that will one day become his home studio) Brent continues to tell stories through post sound via vast and varied media arts.



Greg is an American music producer and composer. Raised in Los Angeles, Greg began his career at the age of eighteen. He has produced, conceived, mixed or written all genres of music. With experience in over a hundred films, his technical skills paired with an innate sensibility for cutting-edge film scoring, combine to create one of the music industry's most recognized and valuable players. His most recent work entitled "Sonic Soundscapes" is distributed worldwide by Universal Publishing.

Amfran Entertainment
Presents

MOTHER'S DAY

Directed By
Nico Raineau

Written By
Nico Raineau & Lauren Schacher

Produced By
Gregory Hutchinson & Kristen Murtha

Lauren Schacher
as Mara

Robert Carbo	as	Brandon
Berlin Gremillion	as	Violet
Peter Welkin	as	Rob

and
Kathryn Gordon
as Mrs. Goldman

Director of Photography	Jess Dunlap
Production Designer	Natalie Groce
Editor	Bryce Patingre
Sound Supervisor	Brent Kiser
Music	Greg Townley

Line Producer Eric Linger

Co-Producers Russell Hadaya
 Lauren Schacher

Associate Producers Jessica Choi
 Kate Donnelly

Casting Director Jami Rudofsky
Casting Assistant Beth Ryne

Brandon's Dad	Ian Maderia
Gardener	Ralph Navarette

Bus Driver	Leon Citarella
Bus Passengers	Laurie Bass
	Winnie Brice
	Christine Martin
	Ashley Nnebe
	Jonathon Pastore
	Vanessa Sheri
	Jonathan Thompson
	Subha Wanniarachchi
	Masami Yoshino

Daycare Families	McKenzie Burke
	Jessica Castillo
	Raleigh Gremillion
	Christopher Mound
	Jayden Mound
	Kalea Salvador
	Akira Tashi

Unit Production Manager / Assistant Director
George Hrico

Art Director	Emily Grant
Art Swing	Carrie Rudzinski
Make-Up Artist	Valerie Ramirez

Script Supervisor	Elizabeth Seaford
Studio Teacher	Sharon Flannery
First Assistant Camera	Frank Mobilio
Second Assistant Camera	Steve Doyle
	Rochelle Brown
Gaffer	Fernando Morales Jr.
Key Grip	Koby Poulton
Grip and Electric	Ty Robinson
	Alexander D. Paul
	Daniel Farr
2 Ton Driver/Best Boy Electric	Tyler Winegar

Set Photographer	Bing Putney
Set Videographer	Jeff Doiron

Sound Mixer	Tom Colvin
Boom Operators	Jameson Siegert Blake Christian
Post Sound Provided by	Unbridled Sound Inc.
Sound Editor	Andrew Twite
Score Recorded and Mixed at	The Farm
Musicians	Bernie Larsen Kevin McCormick Fritz Lewak
Key Production Assistant	Stephanie Myers
Production Assistants	Kerry Cruikshank Madeline Hendricks
Digital Intermediate	Prehistoric Digital Santa Monica, CA
Colorist	Chris Hall
DI Producer	William Adashek
Online Editor	Josef Sipkins
Graphic Designer	Jeffrey Metcalf
Additional Music	APM
Catering	24 Hour Production Catering
Payroll Services Provided By	ABS Payroll & Production Accounting Services
Payroll Coordinator	Justin Gourlay

Thank You

Lexi Alexander	Rob Hackett
Melinda Carbo	Emil Lamprecht
Chris Cullari & Jen Raite	Danielle Lurie
Kasey Diba	Daniel Ragussis
The Easley Family	Ziggy Rees
Amanda Essick	The Stromsborg Family
Shelley Gremillion	Claudia Townley

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