

# SATURN DEVOURS



Redheaded Stepchild Productions | Tiny Town Media

**Running Time:** 14:09  
**Genre:** Comedy/Drama  
**Completed:** Sept 2016

## Short Synopsis:

A young man experiences a string of bad luck at the same time a man resembling the Ancient Roman god Saturn starts following him around.

## Full Synopsis:

In the middle of a high-stakes interview, rings of ice and carbon form around 29-year-old Johnnie's head (à la the planet Saturn). Later, he gets followed by an old man in a toga with a fondness for raw meat, coinciding with a string of bad luck. From bombing the interview, to losing his job, to chipping his tooth, Johnnie just can't catch a break. But when a one-night stand turns into an impromptu info session on the tumultuous astrological phenomenon known as the Saturn Return, Johnnie finally starts to realize what he's dealing with. *Saturn Devours* is an offbeat magical realist comedy about astrology, gay sex, and millennial ennui.

## Official Selection:

- IMAGE+NATION Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Montreal Film Festival, 2016
- REELOUT Queer Film + Video Fest, 2017
- Victoria Film Festival, 2017
- Worldfest-Houston, 2017 (**BRONZE PRIZE, COMEDY SHORT**)
- Out Here Now Kansas City LGBT Film Festival, 2017
- National Screen Institute Online Short Film Festival, 2018
- T.O. Short Film Festival, 2018
- Athens International Film + Video Festival, 2018

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wrote the screenplay for *Saturn Devours* in 2014 after a couple months of rotten bad luck. I'd describe my misfortunes to friends and acquaintances at parties, and I kept getting asked the same strange question in response: have you heard about a Saturn Return? I learned that every 27-30 years, the planet Saturn returns to the place in the sky it occupied at the moment of your birth. According to astrologists, the planet (tied to the cruel and bloodthirsty Roman god who shares its name) brings with it a period of great upheaval and turmoil when it makes its return.

My background as an artist is theatre: I spent over a decade as Co-Artistic Director of Toronto-based company Nobody's Business Theatre and I've written about a dozen plays (including my solo show *Redheaded Stepchild*, which I've toured nationally and which has just been published by Playwrights Canada Press). But when a friend suggested I should try making a short film, I immediately knew what mine would be about: that meddling, mean-spirited old geezer, Saturn!

I was very fortunate to connect with Sam Lebel-Wong, a gifted cinematographer with strong ties in the Toronto film community. He assembled a top-notch crew and helped make our little movie look like it had a much larger budget than it actually did. I pulled together a cast from the Toronto performance scene, including my theatre company Co-Artistic Producer Morgan Norwich, who actually Skyped in her performance as a version of herself from Edmonton, Alberta. The trickiest role to cast by far was Saturn himself, and we were incredibly lucky to get Canadian theatre legend Dean Gilmour, co-founder of the seminal Theatre Smith-Gilmour. I was also very excited to be able to feature music by Light Fires, the latest project by Canadian indie music legend Reg "Gentleman Reg" Vermue.

I am very proud to share completed a debut short that is funny, strange, casually Magical Realist, and unabashedly queer. I hope you like it too!

Sincerely,

**Johnnie Walker**

Director/Writer/Lead Actor, *Saturn Devours*

## JOHNNIE WALKER (writer, director, actor)



Johnnie is best known for his solo show *Redheaded Stepchild*, which he has performed across North America and was recently published by Playwrights Canada Press. He runs Nobody's Business Theatre, is an artist-in-residence at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, a founding member of Boylesque TO (Canada's premiere all-male burlesque troupe), and General Manager for performance company AnimalParts. Johnnie's plays include *Shove It Down My Throat*, *Scheherazade*, and *The Other Three Sisters*. He DJs Hey Girl Hey, a monthly queer hip-hop dance party where he plays only female artists. He was recently featured in the CBC digital series *Queer (Self) Portraits*. *Saturn Devours* is his first film.

## G. KYLE SHIELDS (actor)



G. Kyle Shields is a classically trained actor based in Toronto. Select credits include: *the marquise of O--* (red light district / SummerWorks 2015); *Outside* (Roseneath), for which he was nominated for a Dora for Outstanding Individual Performance; *explicit* (Rob Kempson / Rhubarb 2015); *Maypole Rose* (safeword), which is being adapted for film to premier this year; *911* (HUMANZOO); *Sucker* (Theatre Brouhaha). For film: *Other Men* (Klymlove Inc.); *Happy Birthday, Chad!* (Spiked Punch Prod.) He is a graduate of George Brown.

## DEAN GILMOUR (actor)



Dean received a BFA from the University of Windsor School of Dramatic Arts. From 1976-78 he studied at the School of Jacques Lecoq in Paris, where he met Michele Smith. They formed Theatre Smith-Gilmour in 1980 and have created, directed and performed over 40 productions. Their work has toured through Canada, Europe, Asia and Russia. Dean teaches at the Humber School of Creative and Performing Arts and has taught across Canada, Europe and China. He is the winner of seven Dora Awards and a Montreal English Theatre Critics for *Chekhov's Shorts* and *Chekhov Longs...In the Ravine*. In 2015 Dean performed at the National Arts Centre in Theatre Smith-Gilmour's production *AS I LAY DYING*, which will travel to Vancouver and Calgary in 2017. Recently he created *THE CLOWNS* at Humber College with Michele Smith.

## RIELLE BRAID (actor)



Rielle is a Toronto based performer and writer. She studied acting at the University of Victoria, where she earned a BFA. Rielle was one of the original cast members of Atomic Vaudeville's *Ride the Cyclone*, for which she did the national tour. She was last seen in Outside The March's production of *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*, where she fulfilled a life-long dream of portraying Bart Simpson. She is one half of the creative team behind musical sketch comedy duo 'Terrible Adults' which she formed with Kholby Wardell.

## MORGAN NORWICH (actor)



Originally from Toronto and now based in Edmonton, Morgan Norwich is a performer, director, and Co-Artistic Producer of Nobody's Business Theatre. Directing credits include: *Trapped!* (Rhubarb Festival), *Scheherazade* (Next Stage Festival), *The Homemaker* (Toronto Fringe, TaDa Festival), *Redheaded Stepchild* (SummerWorks), *Muhammad of Yorkville* (SummerWorks), *Oh My Irma* (BUZZ Festival). Acting credits include: *An Especially Maude-Lynne Xmas* (Videofag), and *A Maude-Lynne Evening* (Toronto Fringe), both of which she co-wrote; *Amusement* (Edmonton Fringe, Toronto Fringe), *The Other Three Sisters* (Toronto Fringe), and *Tough!* (Luminato/Factory – Dora nomination). Morgan is co-MC and leading lady of BoylesqueTO, Toronto's (otherwise) all-male burlesque troupe, under the stage name Balonia Wry.

## RON KELLY (actor)



Ron is a multidisciplinary artist and can be spotted as an actor, storyteller, director, producer, stage manager, composer, and sound designer. He writes in most of the categories that you can think of, and maybe a few more. He has a couple of degrees from the University of Toronto, included a combined Specialist in English and Drama. He once co-produced a Christmas play that featured Johnnie as a grandmother, a newspaper salesman, a landlord, and a Christ-like Rogers technician.

## ALEXANDRA D'AMBROSIO (actor)



Alexandra trained at the theatre program at University of Toronto under Ken Gass and Kate Lynch, among other well-known Canadian theatre practitioners. Selected Theatre Credits include: *The Other Three Sisters* (Toronto Fringe), *8 Girls Without Boyfriends* (Nobody's Business Theatre), *Dennis Cleveland* (Luminato Festival - World Premiere), *The Vagina Monologues* (Toronto Cast, Capitol Theatre), *Phone Play* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival - Top 25 of the Festival), *Romeo and Juliet*, *King Lear* (Hart House Theatre), and *High School Musical 2* (Toronto Centre for the Arts). She starred in the short film *Catherine and Hugh*, which was featured in the Zero Film Festival in Toronto, Los Angeles, and New York.

## KAT LETWIN (actor)



Kat Letwin is an award-winning actor/writer/comedian. She's appeared on MTV Canada, CTV Digital, CBC Radio One, BiteTV, and has performed across Canada with comedy troupes Rulers of the Universe and Northwest Passage. Theatre credits: Acaste in *The Misanthrope* (Mirvish/the red light district), Princess/Michelle in *Scheherazade* (Next Stage Festival 2014), Marlow in *Dark Matter* (Circlesnake Productions), and Michele Doucette in *The Chasse-Galerie* (Red One Theatre). Kat currently co-hosts *Sing For Your Supper* at The Storefront Theatre, plays Franki in Kat Sandler's radio thriller *How To Build A Fire*, and can be seen next in *The Amazing Gayl Pile*.

## **SAMUEL LABEL-WONG (director of photography)**

Sam Label-Wong is a film producer and cinematographer working in Toronto. With writer/director Jordan Tannahill, he runs the production company [Short Haul Engine](#), which has produced the short films *Father*, *Mother*, and *Swim*. Sam's work has premiered at major festivals around the world, including the Toronto Intl. Film Festival, Uppsala Intl. Short Film Festival, and Montreal World Film Festival. Recently, Sam has worked as cinematographer on the CBC Arts project *Deep Teen Thoughts* with Mammalian Diving Reflex.

## **BLAIN WATTERS (producer)**

Blain Watters has written sketch for The Fauxhemians, reviews for pop culture podcast *Rewatchability*, comics for *Feathertale Magazine*, and short films that have premiered in New York and Milan. After graduating from the CFC's Prime Time Television Program, he has worked as a Coordinator on *Lost Girl*, has co-written three episodes of the Netflix series *Between*, and has co-written the screenplay for feature *Sleeping Giant*, which premiered at TIFF and was nominated for Best Motion Picture at the Canadian Screen Awards.

## **JENNA MACMILLAN (assistant director)**

Jenna MacMillan is a filmmaker from Charlottetown, PEI and a graduate of the film production program at Ryerson University. Her short film, *Not My Brother* premiered at the CBC Shorts Gala at the 2015 Atlantic Film Festival. Jenna is a graduate of the Women in the Director's Chair program and a producer of *A Small Fortune* which is part of the National Screen Institute's Features First program in 2016.

## **PAOLO DI TEODORO (sound recordist / sound editor)**

Paolo Di Teodoro is a Toronto based audio engineer, specializing in location sound recording and audio post production for film, documentary and commercial video. He is a graduate of the Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology (OIART) in London, Ontario and his work has been featured at the Toronto International Film Festival, Slamdance Film Festival, on the Biography channel, Discovery Channel, VICE.com and at the Royal Ontario Museum.

## **THOM SMALLEY (editor)**

Thom Smalley is an award-winning editor who works in Canada and the UK. He has worked as an editor on the CTV digital series *Guidestones*, for which he won a Canadian Cinema Editors Award, and Tourism PEI's documentary series *Coastal Stories*.

## **GIAN MARCO CASTRO (composer)**

Gian Marco Castro started piano lessons at the age of 13. Later he studied piano with the Accademia Pianistica Siciliana. He took part in different master classes with international pianists like Violetta Egorova, Goran Filipec, and Eduardo Hubert. He went to School of Art in Syracuse, and later Catania Conservatory V. Bellini for "Music Production-Composition," dedicating himself in soundtrack composition and at the same time he continued to take part in different national and international contests like: "Rimusicazioni Film Festival of Bolzano" (Italy), "Oticons Faculty" (Bulgaria), "Marvin Hamlisch Film Festival" (Washington, DC), "Knoxville Trailer Music Festival" (Knoxville, TN) and others from 2014 to 2015. He began working as Film Score Composer in June 2015.

## **STEPHANIE AVERY (art director)**

Stephanie Avery is a Toronto-based artist and adventurer. An artistic jack-of-all-trades, Stephanie works in several different mediums, concentrating on themes of play, discovery, identity, and memory. Stephanie also works as an art director and set decorator for film and theatre, a job that combines her love of installation art with her love of paying rent. The rest of her time is devoted to experimenting with any medium she can get her hands on and looking for ways to make the world a more interesting place.

## **LARISSA PALASZCZUK (makeup artist)**

Since 2005, Larissa has been a hard working and diverse makeup artist and hairstylist in Toronto. She received her certification in Makeup Artistry from Sheridan College with honours and began working even before her courses were complete. Larissa's varied experience began in theatre and character makeup where her work graced faces on stages across the GTA. She branched out into makeup for photography and fashion, focusing on alternative style like burlesque, pinup/vintage and fetish and has worked with FAT: Toronto's Alternative Fashion Week since 2011. In 2015, Larissa won Toronto's Top Alternative Makeup Artist Award. Larissa's diverse background has given her the opportunity to become Beauty Editor for Toronto's alternative fashion magazine Missy/Ink, Brand Representative for Make Up For Ever Canada and Makeup Program Instructor at George Brown College. Currently, Larissa's career focus is in the film world—she is a member of Toronto's local film technician Union NABET700, which brings her work on sets across Ontario.

## **DEVORA BELLAICHE (stylist)**

Devora Bellaiche is the founder & owner of GLT Toronto, an event, styling and vintage boutique. Her styling services include: personal shopping, visual re-branding, special occasion looks, trend pieces, look-books, editorial, film & television, and runway. Check out her website at [GLTToronto.com](http://GLTToronto.com). You can also find GLT Toronto's curated selection of vintage goods at [Etsy.com/shop/GLTToronto](http://Etsy.com/shop/GLTToronto).



## CREDITS

<b>Writer/Director</b>	Johnnie Walker
<b><u>Cast</u></b>	
<b>“Johnnie”</b>	Johnnie Walker
<b>“Executive #1”</b>	Ron Kelly
<b>“Executive #2”</b>	Rielle Braid
<b>“Executive #3”</b>	Kat Letwin
<b>“Saturn”</b>	Dean Gilmour
<b>“Morgan”</b>	Morgan Norwich
<b>“Joanne”</b>	Alexandra D’Ambrosio
<b>“David”</b>	G. Kyle Shields
<b>Producer</b>	Blain Watters
<b>Original Score</b>	Gian Marco Castro
<b>Cinematography</b>	Samuel Lebel-Wong
<b>Film Editing</b>	Thom Smalley
<b>Art Direction</b>	Stephanie Avery
<b>Makeup</b>	Larissa Palaszczuk
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Jenna MacMillan
<b>Sound Department</b>	Paolo Di Teodoro
<b>Costuming</b>	Devora Bellaiche
<b><u>Camera/Electrical</u></b>	
<b>Assistant Camera</b>	John Baxter Alastair Sinclair Lars Strand
<b>Grips</b>	Jeff Becker Kay Grospe Sarah Pidgeon Dale Sood
<b>Gaffers</b>	Alex Knish Matt Richardson