

A young man with dark hair, wearing a brown ribbed beanie and a dark vest over a light-colored shirt, is looking down at a book he is holding. The background is dark with many out-of-focus blue and white lights, creating a bokeh effect. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

ELIJAH

A FILM BY PATRICK FRITZ

LOGLINE

A queer teenager struggles to come out when she makes a miraculous discovery: her grandfather was once in love with another man. Armed with this newfound knowledge, she convinces him to take on the challenge of telling their family together.

SPECS

Runtime:

15 minutes

Aspect Ratio:

2.39:1

Shooting Format:

RED Dragon

Mastered in 4K

Sound:

5.1 Surround

Filmed In:

Los Angeles County, USA

FILMMAKERS

Written & Directed by

Patrick Fritz

Produced by

Michael Schwarcz

Austin Gay

Patrick Fritz

Director of Photography

Jeff Caroli

Production Designer

Nicholas Golowko

Editor

Raymundo Archila

Music Composed by

Xander Rodzinski

Sound Supervisor

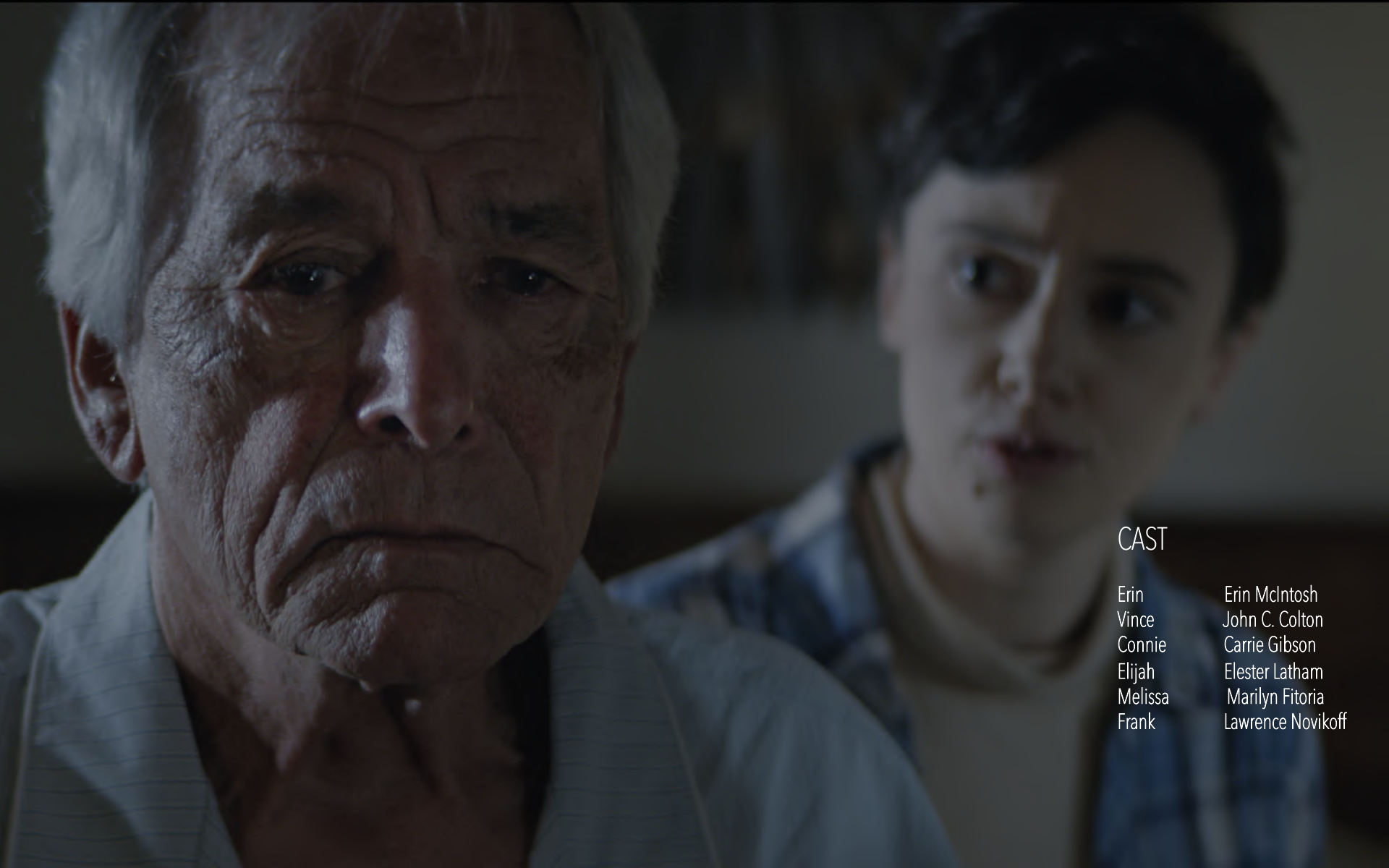
Kyle Bailey

Associate Producer

Luke Willis

Casting Director

Jaimie Beebe



CAST

Erin	Erin McIntosh
Vince	John C. Colton
Connie	Carrie Gibson
Elijah	Elester Latham
Melissa	Marilyn Fitoria
Frank	Lawrence Novikoff

SYNOPSIS

ERIN, a high school senior, attempts but fails to come out to her mother, CONNIE. Distraught, she seeks out her safe space, a hideaway in the attic. But she's soon called downstairs to assist her frail grandpa, VINCE, as he moves in. When FRANK, her father, spills the contents of Vince's box, Erin glimpses a peek at her grandfather's decades-old entertainer's vest. Later that evening, MELISSA, Erin's high school crush, works with Erin on their class project. Wanting to make her move, Erin is frustrated when she's unable to muster the courage to make her affection for Melissa known.

Defeated, Erin shows Melissa out and rummages through Vince's boxes, finding the gleaming vest she saw earlier. She dons the antique attire, modeling in front of her mirror. But inside a vest pocket, she discovers a military dog tag belonging to "Elijah Burns." The unexpected find leads to a shocking discovery: intimate photos capture grandpa Vince, as a young man, posing intimately with a black ballet dancer. Could Vince be secretly gay?

Transformed, Erin works up the bravery to come out to Vince. Mortified at first, Vince slowly warms to Erin before admitting his own truth; that he was in love with a male Broadway dancer. Erin is mesmerized. Together, the duo teams up, launching an effort to track down ELIJAH (the dancer), and, dauntingly, come out to their family together.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The opportunity is ripe to tell a bold, progressive narrative that confers the mores of elder wisdom, familial bonds, bravery, and a tinge of magic onto traditionally marginalized characters. Enter *Elijah*: a unique portrait into the joy, frustration, elation, and terror encountered by a Queer Gen Z teenager and her elder LGBTQ grandfather. As LGBTQ communities garner acceptance, queer characters will permeate the social fabric of America cinema: kids, grandpas, moms, and dads will be happily gay, regardless of film genre, scale of production, or intended audience. This is what *Elijah* sets out to do.

The ritual known as “coming out” is similarly overdue for a cinematic makeover. While we often see youthful characters reveal their vulnerability on screen, rarely do we see eighty year-olds do so. *Elijah* is a kids film as much as it is one for senior citizens: our story seeks to destigmatize being old and gay, just as we hope to shatter stereotypes surrounding today's queer high school students. *Elijah* connects LGBTQ stories about acceptance and resiliency to the wholly American message of championing family. In doing so, the film places queer characters as the guardians of family values; something the LGBTQ community has always been able to do but which *Elijah* has the unique privilege of portraying.

The road toward acceptance is different for everyone. Only after one accepts their LGBTQ identity, do they realize their unique perch in the universe. A gay person is endowed with many gifts: empathy for the downtrodden, a keen ability to detect bigotry and prejudice, and a profound capacity for compassion. And in 2019, a hopeful narrative fueled by optimism and emblazoned with diversity can be the stamp of difference that American Cinema needs. Given the long march toward LGBTQ equality, it is imperative that a family-driven queer movie shows the power that our community—kids and elders included—now wield.



DIRECTOR'S BIO



Patrick Fritz is a filmmaker, writer, director, and production designer. His most recent work is *Elijah*, a heartwarming, intergenerational coming of age story featuring diverse LGBTQ characters. The short film is slated to screen at United Talent Agency and William Morris Endeavor before it begins its festival circuit thereafter. His other recent director work, a film commissioned by the Spirit of Troy and its band director of 50 years, Dr. Arthur C. Bartner, features interviews from composer Alan Silvestri, producer Kevin Feige, NFL coach Pete Carroll, Matt Barkley, and a litany of musicians, USC athletes, and alums. As a freelance production designer, Patrick has completed ten projects with Disney Digital Network, and 25 total projects including online commercials, music videos, short films, web series, and one indie feature effort. Patrick's USC junior thesis film, *Backwards*, was selected for screening at the iconic LA festival, *Dances With Films*.

A native of Jupiter, Florida, Patrick graduated from Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts High School, where he focused on music and film studies. He is a 2016 graduate of the School of Cinematic Arts at USC, earning a B.A in Film and Television Production. He also holds a M.S. in Entrepreneurship & Innovation from USC's Marshall School of Business. In his spare time, Patrick plays the trumpet and mellophone and is a proud alum of USC's The Spirit of Troy Trojan Marching Band.



BIOS – Actors

Erin McIntosh (Erin)

Erin McIntosh began her acting career in regional theater before going on to land a lead role in the Lionsgate horror feature, *The Mooring*. Since then, she has numerous television credits, including *Criminal Minds* on CBS, *Lethal Weapon* on FOX, *Seal Team* on CBS, and *Awkward* on MTV. Most recently, she can be seen in her recurring role on the new Snapchat series *Class of Lies*. Erin is also a published writer, her poetry and short fiction appearing in more than a dozen literary journals internationally.

Elester Latham (Elijah)

Elester Latham has been involved in all aspects of theatre and movie performance for more than 40 years. His credits include: *Air Force One*, *Ted 2*, *Gone Girl*, *Court of Conscience*, *All the Way*, *Lucifer*, *The Night Stalker*, *The Forgiven*, *Glimpse*, *Agenda* and *Guide to Black History*.

John Colton (Vince)

John Colton is an actor with over 100 television and motion picture credits. He is known for CBS's new show, *All Rise* (2019), Netflix's new series, *AJ and the Queen* (2019), HBO's *Silicon Valley* (2019), *Timeless* (2018), *NCIS: Los Angeles* (2017) and is a voting member in The Television Academy. In addition to his film and television credits, John has been a recurring performer in comedy sketches on *Jimmy Kimmel Live* for the past ten years.

Marilyn Fitoria (Melissa)

Marilyn Fitoria was born in Los Angeles and graduated from Cal State Long Beach, where she majored in Theatre Arts. Marilyn's credits include: the web series, *The Walkers* and *Bloody Maria*. Marilyn also worked with Teatro Frida Kahlo Theater. In 2017 she played the role of Gaby in *Senorita Monthly Juice*, which performed in the Hollywood Fringe and with The Skylight Theatre Company in a new play, *The Lost Child* playing the role of Angelica.

Carrie Gibson (Connie)

Carrie Gibson is an actor, writer and singer. Her credits include: *The Politician*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Jane the Virgin*, *Superstore*, *Scream Queens* and *Bones* as well as independent feature films. As a writer she has two screenplays currently in development. *The Sand Sea* is slated to shoot in Morocco in early 2020. She sings in two a cappella groups, Blindsight, a trio, and The Sound of Musical, a musical theater a cappella group.

Lawrence Novikoff (Frank)

Lawrence is an actor, known for *Legion* (2017), *Visceral Matter* (1997) and *V.I.P.* (1998).



BIOS

Xander Rodzinski (Music)

Graduating from the University of Southern California, Xander already had over 70 composing projects under his belt. He is most recently the music producer on Disney's *The Nutcracker* and *Crimes of Grindelwald*, working for the 9-time Oscar-nominated, as well as Emmy and Grammy winning composer, James Newton Howard. He has written additional music for the Netflix series *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, as well as Oscar winning director Kathryn Bigelow's new film, *Detroit*. He has done synth programming for the recent film, *Roman J. Israel, Esq.* with Denzel Washington, and the film, *Red Sparrow* with Jennifer Lawrence. He has also written music for spots for IBM, Motorola, Lenovo, Bloomberg, GE, and the Boys and Girls Club of America.

Jaimie Beebe (Casting Director)

Jaimie Beebe has worked as a casting director on over two dozen film and television projects including *Paradise City*, *State of Pride*, *The Nanny is Watching* and *G-Funk*, working with actors such as Luke Hemsworth, George Lopez, John Cusack, Drake, Taye Diggs, Jaimie King, Ice Cube, Tobin Bell, Perry Reeves, Fairuza Balk, and Wiz Khalifa, just to name a few. Jaimie grew up in the Midwest, making her way out to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the entertainment industry. She also hosts an upcoming true crime podcast entitled, *Strictly Stalking*, scheduled to debut in 2020.

Michael Schwarcz (Producer)

Michael is a writer, director and producer specializing in commercial, narrative and branded content work in LA. A graduate of USC's School of Cinematic Arts, he's the founder of the production company, Row Five. Michael has an immense passion for storytelling and collaborating with fellow artists.

Ray Archila (Editor)

Raymundo Archila, a graduate of USC's School of Cinematic Arts, is an editor who has had the chance to travel and edit in countries such as China, Guatemala, Indonesia and Korea. He edited a music video for Grammy-Award winning artist, Judith Hill, a documentary for American football legend, Adrian Peterson, and is now currently working on two Facebook Watch series - *Airport Security Squad* and *Fired*.

Austin Gay (Producer)

Austin spent time in Leeds, England, working for a local newspaper before deciding to follow his lifelong dream of becoming a filmmaker. Since moving to LA, Austin received his bachelor's degree in Screenwriting, worked for big industry names, (Peter Berg, Lorenzo Di Bonaventura, Simon Horsman and more) and most recently has written and directed a short, *Sunshine State*, which was selected for the HollyShorts Film Festival.



BIOS

Kyle Bailey (Sound)

Kyle Bailey was born in Bend, OR and started playing music at a young age. He decided to pursue a degree in Recording Arts at Chico State. Kyle secured a job as studio manager and production audio lead for the school and graduated at the top of his class with the honor of Most Outstanding Student in Recording Arts. Today, Kyle works with the top professionals in his field as a Sound Designer at Formosa Group.

Jeff Caroli (Director of Photography)

Jeff Caroli is a cinematographer working and living in LA. He has filmed all over the US and internationally, including Australia, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cayman Islands and Malaysia. Jeff enjoys shooting both narrative, commercials, as well as music video. His credits include: *Bali: Beats of Paradise*, commercials for corporate giant, Intel, and the music video, *Queen of the Hill*.

Nicholas Golowko (Production Design)

Nicholas is originally from New Jersey but has since relocated to LA where he studied at LMU. His pursuit of a career as a film director has led him to work as a Production Designer. He is drawn to collaborating with directors on their vision through set design and strengthening the story through the objects placed around the players we see on screen. He worked in the Art Department for a shoot with Disney Digital. He has several documentary projects planned for the upcoming year.

Luke Willis (Associate Producer)

Luke is a writer and director based out of San Francisco, CA. Luke studied film production at the University of Southern California. He has worked on the award winning documentary, *Gay Chorus Deep South*. Luke's work on this film inspired him to dedicate himself to telling stories that celebrate otherness and bring people closer together through a more empathetic understanding of one another.

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WHEN **P**RI**D**E SKIPS A GENERATION