

PRESS KIT

40Dish

Don't Stop Believing



RENNICK PRODUCTIONS AND AMADEO PRODUCTIONS PRESENT PRESENTS "40DISH" A FILM BY TRACY HAYS PRODUCED BY ALESIA ALEXANDROVA, FLORENCE SLOAN, SEAN STEFFANI, CATTILYN RENEE CAMPBELL, & NICOLE STUARTSTERLING STARRING ANGELA COHEN, NICOLE STUART, TESSA FERRER, THEODOR CHIN, ANDREA LWIN, ALBERTITA WYNN, WITH JACK SUNDMACHER AND ANDREW SCHLESSINGER WRITTEN BY NICOLE STUART CINEMATOGRAPHY BY GREG COTTEN PRODUCTION DESIGNER MINDY SMITH

OVERVIEW

DIRECTED BY Traci Hays

PRODUCED BY Caitlin Renee Campbell

WRITTEN, STARRING AND PRODUCED BY Nicole Stuart

AWARDS: 25 wins & 8 nominations.

RUNTIME 25 min

GENRES: Short | Comedy

RUNTIME: 25minutes

LANGUAGE: English

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Souptime & Amadeo

LINK: [IMDB](#) | [vimeo](#)

PRESS LINKS

- FESTIVAL OF COMEDY -HIGHLIGHTS 40ish..Winner Best Performances
- WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT 40ish...
- THINK SHORTS FILM REVIEW
- TAKE 2 Indie Review
- LA Indies Magazine Review
- Take 2 Indie Review
- Film Daily - Ageism and 40ish...
- Film Craft- Confront Hollywood and Ageism
- CANNES SHORT FILM CORNER
- TORONTO FILM MAGAZINE - INTERVIEW



40ish WAR STORY

One night sitting in my kitchen with my husband complaining about an audition that I had went on that day... and losing the part to the directors daughter along with what casting directors had said to me regarding my age... pissed me off. I was angry. I was told something like, "We need 40 year olds," and they said I look too young. Which was great in theory but at the same time, my age range played into many facets within the industry walls. I was always told I looked a different age all the time, just like you hear about the Hollywood cliches... yet it's true. I thought to myself this is good but what are you going to do about it....

"Let's make something creative with your anger, Nicole... I want to write about it." My husband then mentioned Vin Diesels short film "Multi-Facial," and asked if I had seen it? I hadn't and grabbed my iPad. He said my story reminded me of his, in a way. So I watched it and the light bulb went off! I always make it a point to make lemonade out of lemons, and this seemed the perfect way to do it.

I started writing 40ish that night and finished it in a week. I sent it to a few people who liked it and then I set to the side. I had other projects percolating and thought those would have happened before this ever got made. But those projects became sidetracked for one reason or another. So I went back to another feature I wrote, The Egg and I, and realized all of the same characters in this film were in the short. This was unintentional at first. Then I kept expanding the feature and then went back to the short, re-writing it over and over. Then I sent 40ish to my friend Caitlin Renee Campbell, who's my producing partner and the one who pushed me to make it. At this point, I just had a baby and didn't have any money to fund this project. She encouraged me to do an Indiegogo campaign. Which was the last thing that I wanted to do. It made me so uncomfortable. I asked her "why would anyone ever give me a cent."

She said, "for as many bad things that people want to donate money too, people also want to see funny, good things put into the world too, and this has to happen." In the meantime, I had a friend that I grew up with Dana White (UFC), who was interviewed by Tony Robbins. He's very successful and he told me to watch his interview. I was so inspired by it and remembered how motivated we both were as teenagers. After that something clicked in my brain, like "what the fuck are you waiting for Nicole?". I called Caitlin my producer and said "Lets do it."

My reasoning.... Doing Indiegogo made me extremely uncomfortable but I always say, that if it makes you uncomfortable you should do it. And Danas interview was so inspirational, it took me back to my teenage years when I used to walk around with a huge video camera on my shoulder making movies and I thought to myself.. why the hell has it taken me so long to write my own movie for myself.... timing is everything. His interview pushed me to move forward as well. Lastly, I heard my acting coach for years always saying "Don't wait to be chosen." And now I can say that I really, really heard it.



A STREETCAR
NAMED DESIRE
by Tennessee Williams

Plot In Three Acts

BY TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS

DRAMATISTS
PLAY SERVICE
INC.

25 AWARDS & OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Winner- Best Comedic Short Film

California's Womens Film Festival
Los Angeles | 2022

Winner- Best Comedy

Oregon Short Film Festival. Oregon | 2021

Winner- Best Short and Audience Favorite

Louiseville International Film Festival
Louiseville, Kentucky | 2021

Official Selection

Cinema OF Film NYC, NYC | 2022

Official Selection

Micheaux Film Festival, Los Angeles | 2022

Official Selection

Think Shorts, Los Angeles | 2022

Winner Best Performances

Los Angeles Comedy and Screenplay
Film Festival, Los Angeles, Ca | 2022

Official Selection

Red Movie Awards
Reims, France | 2022

Official Selection- Honorable Mention

Venice Shorts, Los Angeles | 2021

Winner - Best Director

Montreal Independent Film Festival
Montreal | 2021

Winner- Best Short

Montreal Independant Film Festival
Montreal | 2021

Official Selection Montreal

Independent Film Festival | Montreal,
Canada | 2021

Nomination Outstanding Comedic

Actress- Nicole Stuart as "Natalie"
Micheaux Film Festival, Los Angeles | 2022

Honorable Mention

London-Worldwide Comedy Short Film
Festival AUTUMN 2021
London, UK | 2021

Winner - Best Short Film Narrative

LA Independent Women Film Official Selection
Los Angeles | 2021

Winner Best Actress

Toronto Film Festival
Toronto, Canada | 2021

Semi-Finalist Flicker Rhodes Island

Film Festival | Rhode Island | 2021

Best Director Nomination

Womens Comedy Festival Atlanta Georgia
Atlanta Georgia | 2021

Official Selection Best Comedy Short

Womens Comedy Festival Atlanta Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia | 2021

Official Selection- Best Comedy Short Film

LA Comedy Festival 365
Los Angeles, Ca | 2021

Quarter-Finalist Monte Carlo Comedy

Film Festival | Monte Carlo, France | 2021

Winner Best Actress Gold Award

International New York Film Festival
New York, NY | 2021

Winner Best Director Gold Award

International New York Film Festival
New York, NY | 2021

Winner Best Short International New

York Independent Film Festival
New York, NY | 2021

Cannes Court Metrage-

Short Film Corner
Cannes, France | 2021

Press

Confront industry ageism with the new short film '40ish'

Too often the biases of Hollywood and the film industry at large are ignored. Writer Nicole Stuart and director Traci Hays are pushing some discussions into the limelight with their new short film *40ish*.... Stuart stars in the film as Natalie Silverman, an actress in her mid-forties struggling against the rampant ageism of the movie business.

If you're looking for a comedy that has substance & heart, then you're in the right place. *40ish...* has the whole package, from laughs to memorable characters and a tightly written script. This film could easily become your favorite short of the year.



Powered by the cast

The film takes a searingly comedic approach to its subject matter and manages to balance genuine exploration of a serious issue with a lighthearted and easily enjoyable tone. The already good script is taken up several notches by the film's powerful cast. It's impossible not to watch Stuart's before as Natalie and not be charmed by the character and rooting for her through her struggles.

Part of what makes Natalie's character so endearing is her undying optimism. She's been struggling through the cruel world of acting for nearly twenty years and is still waiting for her big break. Nevertheless, when Natalie says she is "living the dream", she means it. Her dream is to be a working actress, and *40ish...* highlights the difference between what people imagine the dream to be and what it is. Natalie gets it.



The wonderful supporting cast includes Brooke Lyons, Tessa Ferrer, Feodor Chin, Andrea Lwin, Matt Marquez, Jack Sundmacher, Algerita Wynn, Andrew Schlessinger, Joanne Scorgia, Caitlen Renee Campbell and Clive Coogan. All of them breathe enough life into their characters that the short film often feels like the pilot of your next friend sitcom. The comedic chops of the cast are impressive.

40ish... gives everyone a chance to shine. Chin's character sparks the earliest laugh and sets the tone for everything that comes. Lyons & Ferrer strike gold with their dry embodiment of characters who are really just part of the industry machinery. Sundmacher's character, himself a working stand-up comedian, delivers some of the most memorably hilarious lines with perfection.



Growing recognition

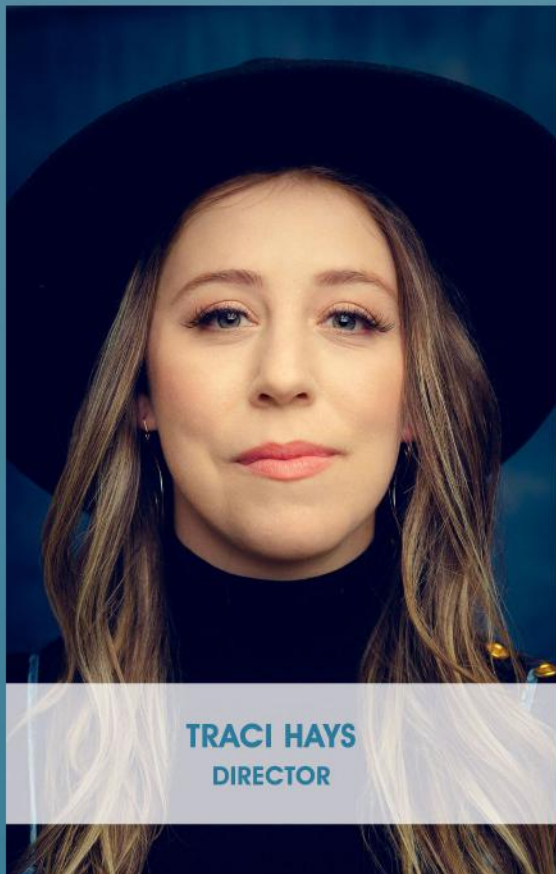
As *40ish...* makes its way to film festivals, it's garnering heaps of praise. The film was an official selection at both the Women's Comedy Film Festival in Atlanta, Georgia and the LA Comedy Film Festival. It was also a semi-finalist at both the Flicker Rhode Island Film Festival and the Monte Carlo Comedy Film Festival. Most recently, *40ish...* was accepted to present at the Cannes Film Festival Court M  trage Short Film Corner.

Director Traci Hays and lead actress Nicole Stuart have gotten some special recognition for their work on the film. They won Best Director and Best Actress awards from Toronto Film Magazine and the International New York Film Festival.



40ish... is impressing audiences & critics everywhere that it goes. If there's a complaint to be had about the film, it's that there isn't more of it waiting to be seen. Luckily, Stuart's feature film *The Egg and I* directly follows the story and characters introduced in *40ish...*. Her next feature, *Vegas Girl*, will use a darker lens than *40ish...* to explore growing up in Las Vegas.

Hays & Stuart have knocked it out of the park with this short, and if you haven't seen it already, you should watch *40ish...* as soon as possible.



TRACI HAYS
DIRECTOR

TRACI HAYS | DIRECTOR

Traci Hays is a DGA Award-nominated director. Her feature directorial debut, *TANGLED*, based on the New York Times Best-Seller premiered this February on Amazon. The Hollywood Reporter named it a must-see romantic movie to watch this year. Prior to this, Traci directed *FREDERICK* which premiered at Dances with Films and won 20 awards including Best Director at the LA Film Awards and Best Picture at the NYC Film Awards. Traci partnered with Women's Weekend Film Challenge to direct the thriller, *DISCONNECTED* with an all-female cast and crew. It won Traci Best Director at the Independent Short Awards, Top Shorts, and Indie Short Fest. Her short, *40ISH*, won numerous accolades including Best Director and Best Short at the International NY Film Festival, an official selection at the Rhode Island International Film Festival, and showcased at the Short Film Corner at the Festival De Cannes. An alumna of Chapman University's film program, Traci was awarded an apprenticeship with Randal Kleiser who continues to be an active mentor in her career. She is proud to be a part of Free the Work, a curated talent discovery platform that connects underrepresented creators. When she's not directing, you'll find Traci hiking in the Glendale mountains, listening to classic jazz, and making mouth-watering cheeseboards.



NICOLE STUART
ACTRESS, WRITER, PRODUCER

NICOLE STUART | PRODUCER • WRITER • PRODUCER

Nicole Stuart is an actress and a celebrity trainer in Los Angeles. She was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. At eighteen Nicole moved to NYC to study acting at Stella Adler after being accepted into the UCSB School of Dance. Nicole performed a brief stint in a Las Vegas revue before moving to Los Angeles in 1991. Nicole has been writing and has a fitness book *Total Body Beautiful* coming out early October 2022 and has written two feature films. *Vegas Girl* and *The Egg and I*, along with her memoir titled, *Vegas Girl*. Nicole has also appeared in film and television, most recently *Ray Donavan*, *Devil's Due* and *House of Lies*. Nicole is a well-regarded theatre actress. Her performance in *Modigliani* at the Open Fist Theatre in Los Angeles has garnered sterling reviews, including: "Electric support by Nicole Stuart," *StageSceneLA*. and "the voluptuously graceful yet ballsy performance of Nicole Stuart," *Backstage*, among others. Nicole has also appeared in numerous magazines, including *People*, *W Magazine*, *US Weekly*, *InStyle*, and *Cosmopolitan*. She has also appeared on *MSNBC.com* with Faith Ford as part of the "Mind, Body, Balance" Web series, which had over 4,000,000 views. Her App is available on Vimeo and is being sold worldwide; The total units sold worldwide is over 30k.



CAITLIN RENEE CAMPBELL
PRODUCER

CAITLIN RENEE CAMPBELL | PRODUCER

Caitlin ('cRc') followed an academic route pursuing her dream of acting. She scored a scholarship to California Institute of the Arts which brought her West from WVU, and later took her East to Russia/MXAT. Before, during and in between the academic pursuits and stage productions in LA & NYC, cRc worked as an Assistant to an Agent (Sean Perry), Assistant to Prod/MadAboutYou, as a recurring nurse on *One Life to Live* and a ton of other support jobs along the way including as a transcriptionist for the writer, Sidney Sheldon, and lab assistant for the notorious, Anthony Pelicano . . . ever gathering material for her personal story. Then the business grew into a new dimension - the digital world. No longer waiting to be hired, we were creating our own content. Thus, cRc became an actress/producer, and focused on producing theatre and film. For the last six years, she has been the Festival Director of the WV FILMmakers Festival. <http://wvfilmmakersfestival.org>

"What I realized arriving at 40ish . . . is, I stopped trying so hard. I had all the academia, experience, crap jobs, good jobs, almost-got-the-part moments that are all tying together into the adventure of my life."

Don't Stop Believing

FESTIVAL DE CANNES 2021

Micheaux Film Festival

2022

OFFICIAL SELECTION

Festival of Cinema NYC

2022

Honorable Mention
London-Worldwide
Comedy Short Film
Festival
2021

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**Montreal
Independent
Film Festival**
2021

**Festival of
Cinema NYC**

2022

BEST ACTRESS
**Montreal
Independent
Film Festival**
2021

WINNER
Best Comedy Short
**Oregon Short
Film Festival**

WINNER
Best Director
**Toronto Film
Magazine Fest**

WINNER
Best Director
**INTERNATIONAL
NEW YORK FILM**

SEMI-FINALIST
Rhode Island International Film Festival

**LACOMEDY
FEST 365**
Official Selection

WINNER
Best Short
**LA Independent
Women Film
Awards**
2021

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**Women's Comedy
Film Festival in
Atlanta**
2021

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**Monte-Carlo
Comedy Film
Festival**
2021

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**Los Angeles Comedy
Film & Screenplay
Festival**
2022

BEST ACTRESS
INTERNATIONAL
NEW YORK FILM
FESTIVAL
2021

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**Flickers' Rhode
Island International
Film Festival**
2021

OFFICIAL SELECTION
**Louisville's
International
Festival of Film**
2021

RENWICK PRODUCTIONS AND AMADO PRODUCTIONS PRESENT PRESENTS "QUISH" A FILM BY TRACI HAYS PRODUCED BY ALESIA ALEXANDROVA, FLORENCE SLOAN, SEAN STEFFANI, CAITLIN RENEE CAMPBELL, & NICOLE STUART/STERLING STARRING ANGELA COHEN, NICOLE STUART, TESSA FERRER, THEODORE CHIN, ANDREA IRWIN, ALBERTA WYNN WITH JACK SUNDMACHER AND ANDREW SCHLESSINGER WRITTEN BY NICOLE STUART CINEMATOGRAPHY BY ERIC COTTEN PRODUCTION DESIGNER MINNY SMITH



40ish

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