

A FILM BY
JAY ZARETSKY



**PIANO
MAN**

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We shot PIANO MAN over four days and 8 locations, with a tight knit crew of friends and family. The warmth that we all felt each day showing up to make this film extended not only through the end of the shoot, but it's evident on screen.

In particular one moment stands out - Chris Bottoms, our inimitable DP, was my cousin's childhood best friend. My cousin, who was like a brother to me, died a year and a half ago and this was a chance, in some way, for Chris and I to feel close to him again. Not to get too down, but a month after my cousin died, my dad passed away. At one point we were shooting in a jazz club and across the street was this very big hotel. All day long it was hit with the most fantastic and brilliant light and acted as a bounce board for the entire day of shooting - it helped us out immensely.

Chris looked over to me at some point and said, "you know what that is right? Those are our people helping us out today." It went on like that throughout the whole shoot, it was a blessed affair.

To me, the film was a success a long while ago, when we were all together; friends, family, people I haven't seen in 20 years who showed up to be a part of this film. Because, in many ways, our story of showing up to do something bold, something brave, something unique, and something together, is what the story of Piano Man is about at heart.

PIANO MAN

Having been struck with grief and loss, a legendary Jazz piano player retreats into an austere existence where he spends his days making music for his sick father and tuning the pianos of those who don't truly appreciate the instrument. On this one day, Piano Man encounters Rosie, a saxophonist he used to play with back in the day. Convinced Piano Man was dead, Rosie persuades him to return to the stage one more time.







SCREENINGS AND AWARDS





**WINNER - RED ROSE
INT'L FILM FESTIVAL**

**BEST
PERFORMANCE**

**PADDY
WILKINS**



WINNER - RED ROSE

INT'L FILM FESTIVAL

BEST DIRECTOR

JAY ZARETSKY

A portrait of Jay Zaretsky, a man with a beard and a black beanie, looking slightly to the right. The background is dark and textured.

WRITER/ DIRECTOR

Jay Zaretsky is a native of New York City who splits his time between Venice Beach and Joshua Tree.

In New York, Jay studied at the prestigious Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School for Performing Arts, interned at The New Yorker, and programmed the Tribeca Talks series at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Upon moving to California Jay contributed creatively to the first two seasons of FX's *Justified*.

Jay has written copy and developed campaign concepts for the likes of The Daniels, Anthony Mandler, Director X, Rupert Sanders, Alma Har'el, Darren Aronofsky, and many more.

His most recent works include the original feature film *Asher*, starring Ron Perlman, Famke Jansen, and Richard Dreyfus. The biopic of Teddy Pendergrass for Tyrese Gibson, the western, *Marauder* for XYZ Films, *A Different Beyond* directed by Matthew Libatique and produced by Darren Aronofsky.

When he's not writing Jay can be found camped out in the corral with his horse, Willow, but he's rarely not writing.

PADDY WILKINS

A photograph of Patrick 'Paddy' Wilkins, a man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a white bathrobe over a white t-shirt and red pants. He is standing on a city street at night, holding a white coffee cup on a saucer in his left hand. In the background, there are blurred figures of people, including one dressed as Santa Claus, and festive decorations like red berries and lights.

Patrick "Paddy" Wilkins, a versatile TV, film, and stage performer, is also a stage four cancer survivor and patient advocate.

Beyond his artistic achievements, Wilkins' inspiring story is a true testament to the power of resilience.

A native Nebraskan, Patrick earned a scholarship to the National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York City. During his time in New York, Wilkins performed in various off-Broadway productions, sketch comedy, and eventually secured roles with LA Shakespeare.

Wilkins has made significant contributions to the world of TV commercials, representing notable brands like Apple, Geico, Dr. Pepper, Hilton, Nike, Volkswagen, Budweiser, Hyundai, American Express, Hulu, Bank of America, Peloton, Microsoft, Google, M&Ms, and more.

He is a competitive fast walker.



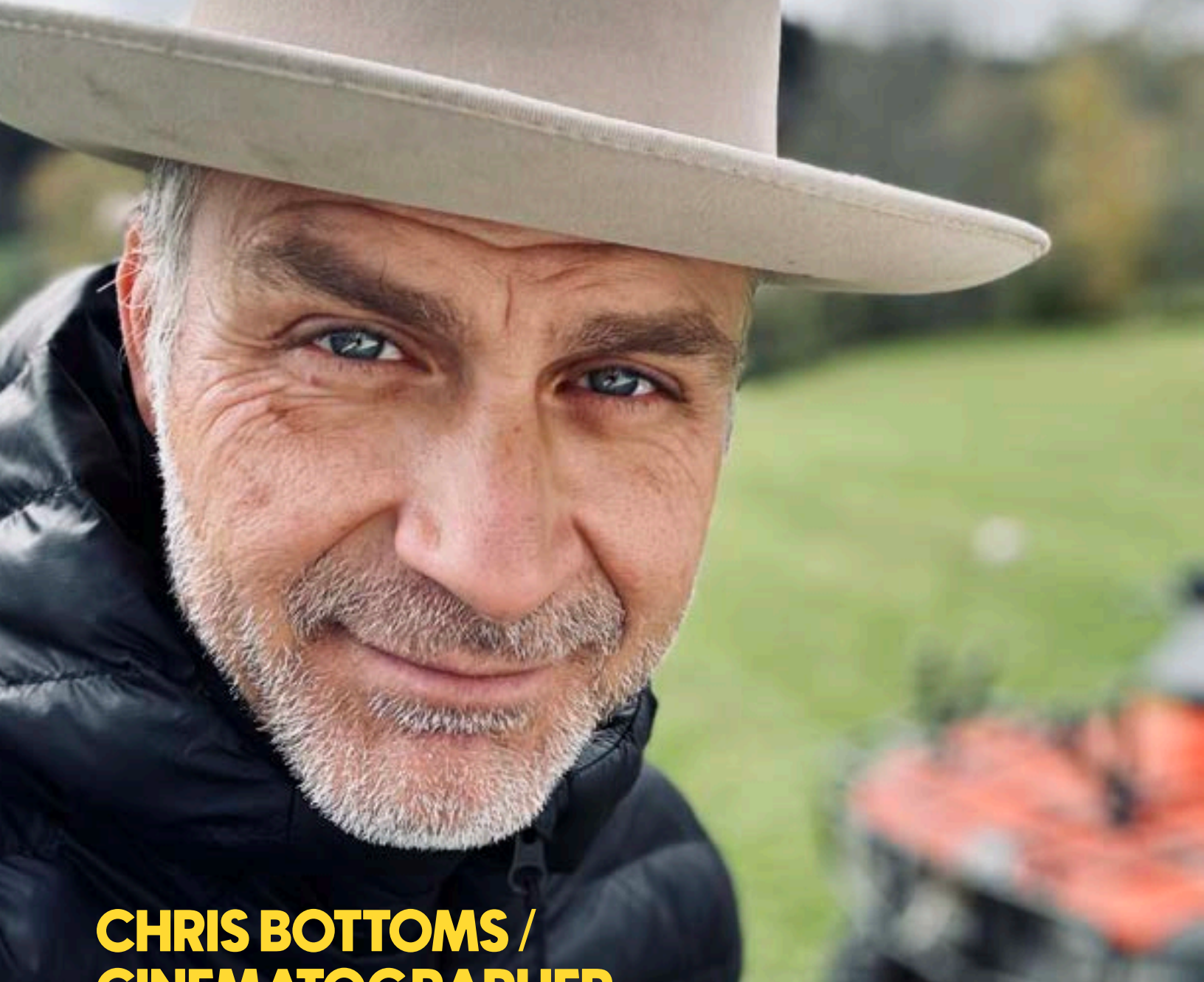
**LAUREN BATES /
PRODUCER**

Bates' early work consists of several cult horror films including, "Bastard" and "Desolation". Her work has also expanded into the abstract and indie genre world, with features including "The Pretenders", "Revenge Ride", and most recently the twisted Icelandic fairytale, "Belle". She continues to explore adventurous and woman-led media with Octopus Productions in Los Angeles.



**SAM COHAN /
PRODUCER**

Founder of OCTOPUS – a story first, genre agnostic production company, Sam Cohan is rapidly garnering a reputation for building innovative and commercially minded film and television projects. He has worked equally in the scripted and unscripted space with Netflix, Adobe and Vice. Sam's film "Fishing Without Nets" won the directing prize at the Sundance Film Festival and "Saving George," the true story of the creators of Curious George's escape from Nazi occupied Paris is set up with Millennium films. He is currently in post with the independent feature, "Desert Road,"



CHRIS BOTTOMS / CINEMATOGRAPHER

Chris is a cinematographer with several decades of filmmaking experience in New York, Los Angeles, and across the globe. After attending The School of Visual Arts in Manhattan Chris went on to shoot numerous feature films, commercials, music videos, and documentaries- and has enjoyed working in different areas from long form narrative to short form branded content. He recently completed the TV show “The Curse” for Showtime and is currently working on a job he can’t talk about.

MUSIC

A man with glasses and a dark jacket is playing a double bass in a dimly lit jazz bar. He is looking down at the instrument. In the background, there is a bar counter with various bottles and glasses. The overall atmosphere is warm and intimate.

Piano Man features original music recorded and performed on set at Mophonics and Sam First Jazz Bar.

Original Soundtrack:

<https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/pianoman1/piano-man-original-motion-picture-soundtrack>



ANNA BUTTERSS / BASS

Anna is a bassist and composer hailing from Adelaide, Australia. They have performed, recorded and toured with Phoebe Bridgers, Jenny Lewis, Madison Cunningham, Bright Eyes and Aimee Mann. In the jazz world, Butterss has performed with Jeff Parker, Larry Goldings, Makaya McCraven, Chris Speed and Walter Smith III, among others. In 2020 they contributed writing and arrangements to several songs by Karen O and Ben Goldwasser for the upcoming feature-length film "Where is Anne Frank?".

Butterss' debut solo record *Activities* was hailed by Pitchfork as "...one of the most exciting, undersung jazz releases of 2022."

<https://www.annabutterss.com>



CHRISTIAN EUMAN / DRUMS

Originally from Chicago, currently based in Los Angeles, Christian has performed all over the world with the likes of Kurt Elling, Billy Childs, and many more.

https://open.spotify.com/artist/69Fc6qhNwvJGJUHPzkw0UX?si=nB_9xCd1QsKCccUefK1jgg



MILES WILKINS PIANO / COMPOSER

Miles is a Harlem based pianist and producer originally hailing from Lincoln, Nebraska. Since graduating from The New School for Jazz, he has been working in New York and internationally as a piano soloist, accompanist, and band leader.

Wilkins specializes in live performance, studio production, and arranging, and has performed with artists such as Angelique Kidjo, Michael Mwenso, Briana Thomas, and is a co-collaborator in Striver's Row Productions, a community driven music production team.

ONWARD

Jay is currently in the stages of writing the feature script for Piano Man and seeking funding from like minded, motivated, heart-led individuals who want to create something with integrity, guts, meaning, community, and a great soundtrack.

CONTACT:

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