

THE **ORANGE** *AT THE* **SEDER**



Written & Directed by Jacob Combs
Produced by Matt Garland, Maura Turner, & Jacob Combs


2024 / Dramey / 15 mins. / USA / Color / English
1.85:1 / Sony FX6 Digital 4K

TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/1010686515/0ebf10bee3>

PRESS CONTACT

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 orange_seder_film

LOGLINE

When Adam brings his first-ever girlfriend to his beloved mentor's annual queer, all-male Passover seder, he must come out of the closet all over again—putting his relationship with his chosen family in jeopardy.

SYNOPSIS

Tonight is Ira's annual gay Passover seder dinner. Adam, Ira's young protege and practically a grandson to him, is proposing some changes to the very ceremony Ira wrote with his late partner and has used for years. Ira suspects Adam's stubborn insistence is a case of nerves — after all, Adam's invited his new boyfriend, Charlie, to tonight's dinner. But reality comes crashing down for Ira when Charlie arrives with helping hands — not only is Charlie not Jewish, she's a woman! With humor, heart, and a bit of tsuris (that's Yiddish for mayhem), Adam, Ira, Charlie and Jason must attempt to reconcile their differences. Can't they make a new tradition, together?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As a queer Jewish filmmaker, representation means everything—there's nothing like that hunger to see people like you on screen. This film highlights characters who are often invisible in our industry, like queer seniors and bisexual people.

I wish this story weren't as timely as it is. In an environment of increasing challenges for both queer folks and Jews in our society, it feels imperative to tell stories centered on these communities—and to explore their intersection. As a queer Jew, I find both aspects of my identity frequently relegated to the sidelines and supporting characters of the shows and films I watch—if they make it in at all!

In creating this film, I wanted to speak openly and proudly about Jewish culture and our traditions, and focus on the joy and humor that are such centerpieces of my Jewish life. Even more personally, I wanted to interrogate my continued journey to understand my own sexuality and explore the discovery of a piece of myself I'd known about for some time but wasn't sure how to express or even fully understand.

In a world where homophobia and anti-semitism are far too widespread, this film is for me a chance to highlight Jewish and queer joy and invite viewers on a process of discovery about the world we live in—and about themselves.

MEET THE TEAM



Jacob Combs (Writer, Director, Producer) is a queer Jewish director, writer, producer, and composer based in Los Angeles. Most recently, he directed *The Orange at the Seder*, which premiered at the LA Shorts International Film Festival. He was part of the writers' room for the Netflix comedy *Blockbuster*, and is developing a half-hour dramedy project with showrunners Vanessa Ramos and Jackie Clarke, as well as Bridger Winegar. Previously, Jacob spent a 6-year stint at Pixar in a variety of writing, development and production roles. He wrote on an untitled feature in development and was part of the writers' room for *Dream Productions*, an upcoming original episodic series. He also wrote several episodes of the Emmy-nominated Disney+ documentary series *Inside Pixar*. In addition to his animation work, Jacob wrote the screenplay for the live-action short film *Messrs.*, which won Pixar's AfterWORK screenplay competition. Jacob's first live-action short as writer/director, *Without*, showed at several festivals in 2019 and 2020.



Matt Garland (Producer) is an award winning film producer based in Los Angeles with a diverse background in the arts, technology, and filmmaking. Originally trained as a sculptor, Matt worked as a web designer before transitioning to live virtual events and video streaming. He's proud to have worked with some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry including Hulu, Disney, and ESPN. A lifelong fan of film and TV, he jumped at the opportunity to start producing films over a decade ago. With a passion for genre stories that blend universal human challenges with fantastical worlds, Matt has produced numerous short films and supported them at film festivals across the US and Canada. He loves the collaborative nature of filmmaking and is keen to partner with like-minded writers and directors to bring their visions to life.



Maura Turner (Producer) is a Bay Area based filmmaker and Feature Relations Manager at Pixar Animation Studios, most recently supporting the global marketing and product release campaigns for *Inside Out 2*, *Elemental*, *Turning Red*, *Luca*, *Soul*, and *Onward*. She also worked in production management, coordinating shot and asset pipelines on *Toy Story 4*, *Incredibles 2*, *Cars 3*, *Coco*, and in Pixar's creative development department, supporting artists in the earliest stages of their creative process. Maura loves digging into new creative projects and has collaborated on multiple live action short films that have played at film festivals globally, including *Messrs.* and *Without* (Jacob Combs' directorial debut!). She is thrilled to be producing her most recent project, *The Orange at the Seder*.



Circus-Szalewski (“Ira”) has credits on stage spanning 50+ years, 40+ years in television, 20+ years in feature cinema, and recently ventured into the newer realms of interactive cinema and podcasts. Film/TV highlights include *Babylon*, four seasons as a sketch performer on *Conan*, several appearances on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, (too many on *Tim and Eric Awesome Show, Great Job!*), and voicing Puss the dog in *Miss Twiggley's Tree* on many PBS stations, a couple characters in the Hallmark animated special *Hoops and Yoyo Ruin Christmas*, and Squash in ToonDisney's *Squash & Stretch*. Circus is currently based in Los Angeles and can be visited online www.Circus.actor



Andy Cohen (“Adam”) recently guest starred in *Chicago Med*, as well as the second season of Amazon's *Leverage: Redemption*, which will premiere this fall. In January, he attended Sundance for the premiere of *Little Death*, produced by Darren Aronofsky, where he stars alongside Dominic Fike and David Schwimmer. Known for recurring roles on *Grey's Anatomy* and *Ray Donovan*, Cohen has also made guest appearances on *Killing It*, *NCIS: Hawai'i*, *I Think You Should Leave*, *Lucifer*, *Good Trouble*, *Woke*, *9-1-1*, *S.W.A.T.*, *Henry Danger*, and many more... Additionally, Cohen is involved in voice over and motion capture, notably for Sony's *Horizon Forbidden West: Burning Shore*.



Virginia Ma (“Charlie”) is a bilingual actress born and raised in Arcadia, California, and went on to study at USC's BFA Acting program. She has since acted in national commercials, television shows, and movies. As a second-generation immigrant, she seeks culturally rich roles that challenge and utilize not only her emotional well, but also her physicality as an actor. Her first professional role took place in Hengdian, China where she played an assassin in a martial arts series. Having produced several short films, Virginia prides herself in her onset professionalism and positivity, aiming to be a true filmmaker's actor. Virginia's credits include TV's *Magnum PI*, a lead in the indie film *Chindia*, supporting roles in the upcoming films *Transparent* and *The Last Score* for Tubi.



Augusto Guardado (“Jason”) is excited to be making his on-screen debut in *The Orange at the Seder*. He is a proud first-generation American, born and raised in the San Fernando Valley in Southern California, and a graduate of Cal State Northridge with a BA in Theatre/minor in Gender and Women Studies. Having a background in theatre, Augusto is an actor, singer, and dancer who recently traveled around the country on the 2nd Broadway National tour of *On Your Feet* the musical, the story of Gloria and Emilio Estefan. He has also performed at Tony Award-winning regional theatre companies, such as the Utah Shakespeare Festival, and worked as the Assistant Choreographer for their production of *The Sound of Music*. When not performing, Augusto immerses himself in other creative avenues such as design, sustainable fashion, sewing, activism, hand lettering, gardening, etc., with the continuous goal of creating/inspiring the most authentic art possible.



Robin Pabello (Director of Photography) is an L.A.-based, award winning-cinematographer born in Inglewood, CA and raised by Filipino-Scottish-American parents. Robin had a tough love grandmother that shared her passion for films and make believe. Robin graduated CSULB with a BA in Liberal Arts and Science and a minor in Human and Child Psychology. She taught second grade for eight years, until she transitioned to freelancing in the entertainment industry, capturing and filming mini documentaries to raise awareness for non-profit organizations such as Cure Autism Now and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Later she graduated top of her class with a Film and Video degree from OCC, specializing in Cinematography, which lead her to be an electrician, Best Boy and Gaffer for two years before transitioning to the camera department in the Local 600. She is currently working as a DP and Camera Operator. With beginnings in the documentary world and her strong suit in photography, having an artistic eye, composing a shot and lighting design all translate to visual storytelling. She has a broad range of style from lifestyle branding to moody cinematic films and commercials. Her work ethic and techniques have elevated her and refined her skills and have taken her around the globe.



Evan Black (Production Designer) is a Production Designer and Set Decorator living in Los Angeles. As a kid, he always had an affinity for art and an at-times-unhealthy obsession with film, so naturally he found himself working in the movies! Evan has designed and decorated a wide array of narrative work, with his most recent set decorated short film *Say Hi After You Die* receiving the 2024 Sundance Award for US Fiction. Awards aside, it's the collaboration and artistic expression that make up Evan's favorite parts of filmmaking. His passion lies in the creation of new worlds and new characters, utilizing camp, color, and humor to give an authentic touch to each project he works on. If he's not on set he's probably taking glamor shots of his cat, Tennessee Williams, or discussing the deep, profound philosophical questions of life (also with his cat, Tennessee Williams).



Lindsay Armstrong (Editor) is a Los Angeles based film & television picture editor. She earned her MFA from the School of Cinematic Arts at USC, where she quickly formed a deep love of editing. Following her graduation from USC, Lindsay moved to the Bay Area and worked as an assistant editor at Pixar Animation Studios. She is proud to have been on the editing teams behind *Finding Dory* and *Onward*. As an editor, some of Lindsay's work includes the Blumhouse feature film *Soft & Quiet*, which premiered in competition at the 2022 SXSW Film Festival, season one of Amazon's series *The Summer I Turned Pretty*, and Netflix's series *XO, Kitty*. She recently edited the feature film *Young. Wild. Free.*, which premiered at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. When she's not editing, Lindsay loves swimming, going on long walks, watching live theater, and trying out new coffee shops. She will never say no to coffee or dessert.

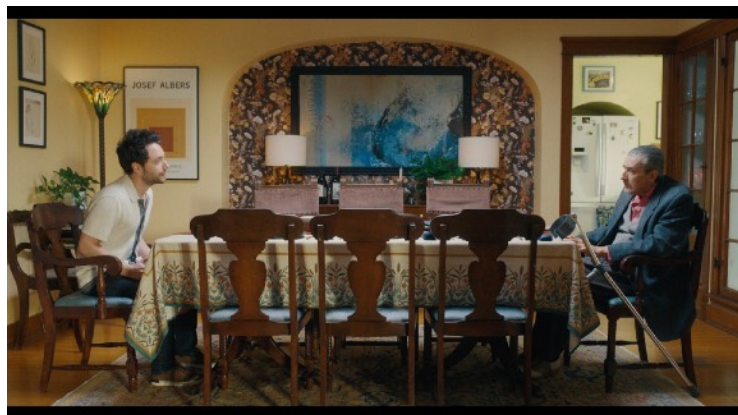


Jake Monaco (Composer)'s recent credits include Nat Geo/Disney+'s *Incredible Animal Journeys*; Pixar's series *Cars on the Road* as well as Paramount+'s *Jerry and Marge Go Large*. Monaco's musical fingerprints can be found on some of the biggest films of the past decade including Netflix's *Dumplin'*, directed by Anne Fletcher; Fox's action comedies *Keeping Up With the Joneses*, directed by Greg Mottola, and *Let's Be Cops*, directed by Luke Greenfield; Fox/Searchlight's comedy *Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie*, directed by Mandie Fletcher; Lionsgate Films' *Think Like A Dog*, directed by Gil Junger; Tribeca Film's *Struck By Lightning*, directed by Brian Dannelly; and more. Monaco is also known for having enriched the worlds of family-favorite animated series and films including Disney+'s *Flora & Ulysses*; Pixar/Disney+'s *Forky Asks A Question*; Amazon's *The Stinky and Dirty Show* and *Do, Re & Mi*; AppleTV+ series' *Eva the Owlet* and *Pretzel and the Puppies*; Netflix/Dreamworks Animation's *DinoTrux*; and Warner Bros. Animation's *Be Cool Scooby Doo*. In addition to his film and television credits, Monaco's music can also be heard on Pixar/Disney+'s short films *Lamp Life* and *Out*; Pixar's 2017 Oscar-winning animated short *Piper*, which Monaco orchestrated, arranged and produced; as well as President Obama's re-election short, *The Road We've Traveled*, narrated by Tom Hanks.



Megan Apostoles (Casting Director) is a Casting Director & Associate based in Los Angeles. She has experience casting in all genres including major studio features, independent films, television productions, short form projects and commercials. As a Casting Associate, she has been nominated for two Artios Awards for excellence in casting for the films *Cha Cha Real Smooth* (Apple TV+) and *Harriet* (Focus Features). Other credits include *The Rehearsal* (HBO), *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* (Paramount+), *House of Cards* (Netflix) and the independent feature *Coup!* which recently premiered at the Venice Film Festival.

PUBLICITY STILLS



CREDITS

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY Jacob Combs
PRODUCED BY Matt Garland, Maura Turner & Jacob Combs
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS Bill Schaff, Cynthia Schaff & Lauren Lukow
“IRA” Circus-Szalewski
“ADAM” Andy Cohen
“CHARLIE” Virginia Ma
“JASON” Augusto Guardado
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Robin Pabello
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Evan Black
EDITED BY Lindsay Armstrong
MUSIC BY Jake Monaco
CASTING DIRECTOR Meghan Apostoles
CO-PRODUCERS The Carroll Obremskey Family
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS We Make Movies, Inc., Brauna Brickman & Skip Walsh, Pamela Schaff & Elie Gindi, Michael Acevedo & Hanna Burch, Malcolm Walsh & Kathleen O’Hara, Isabel Walsh
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Becca Weston
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR Kyle Stephens
ON-SET PHOTOGRAPHER Niño Ellington
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Filo Franchina
ART DIRECTOR Jamie Portillo
COSTUME DESIGNER Jaime Klein
HAIR & MAKEUP ARTIST Lili Hardy
SET COSTUMER Maura Turner
CAMERA OPERATOR Robin Pabello
FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA Celeste Barbosa
SECOND ASSISTANT CAMERA Joey Magallanes
GAFFER Max Goldberg
KEY GRIP Dan Conner
KEY GRIP Darryl St. Juste
GRIP & ELECTRIC SWING Pedro Penteado
POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR Molly Speacht
DIT & ASSISTANT EDITOR Brandon Marchionda
COLORIST Stephen Derluguian
TITLE DESIGN Bert Berry
CREDITS DESIGN Jacy Zuckerbrow
MASTERING Matt Wilkinson, Dan Goslee
POSTER DESIGN Staphon Arnold
PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER Eli Moskowitz
SOUND DESIGNER & RE-RECORDING MIXER Rachael Bigelow
POST SOUND SUPPORT Rebecca Nisco
RECORDING SOUND ENGINEER Vince Caro
SCORE COORDINATOR Jose Kropp
SCORE MIXER Michael Bouska
ADDITIONAL CAST Mark Morante & Kelly Bunasawa
ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION SUPPORT Sami Kolko, Kevin Luu, Molly Lyons & Eric Bodge
ADDITIONAL VOICE TALENT Mark Milla & Matt Wilkinson
CROWDFUNDING CONSULTANT Ana Verde

FESTIVALS & PRESS

Festivals

2024

LA Shorts International Film Festival

HollyShorts Film Festival

Cinema Diverse: The Palm Springs LGBTQ+ Film Festival

San Jose International Short Film Festival

Orlando Film Festival

UK Jewish Film Festival

Austin Jewish Film Festival

Press

[Podcast, Settling is Bullshit: On Creativity, Identity, Queerness, and Belonging with Filmmaker Jacob Combs](#)