

AMANDA MA

CHARLIE DI STEFANO

KEVIN KHAN

JANUARY

A FILM BY XIN OCEAN

Starring KEVIN KHAN and AMANDA MA Written and Directed by XIN OCEAN Produced by XIN OCEAN, SALLY LONG and ANGELA LOPEZ Cinematography TOMMY MCMASTER and MADDIE RIOUX Editor STEWART ARNOTT Sound Recordist ALEX CHRISTENSEN Sound Design ANDREW DEAN Composed by ROBBIE CORBET Production Designer NIKKO GUAN

CONTENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Film Poster | 13. The Director |
| 2. Contents | 14. Director's Statement |
| 3. Short Synopsis | 15. The Producers |
| 4. Long Synopsis | 16. Producer's Statements |
| 5. Technical Info | 17. Line Producer & DIT |
| 6. The Cast - Cover | 18. Camera Department |
| 7. Noah (Kevin) | 19. Lighting & Sound |
| 8. Jo (Amanda) | 20. Production Design |
| 9. Nick (Charlie) | 21. Full Cast & Crew |
| 10. Mia & Lisa | 22. Stills |
| 11. The Boys | 23. Contact |
| 12. The Crew - Cover | |

JANUARY



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

SHORT SYNOPSIS

JANUARY

Marooned in a coastal town, Noah yearns to belong somewhere between the blue tides and the raining sun.



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

LONG SYNOPSIS

Set in the festive summer of 2016 between the blue tides and the raining sun, Noah finds himself on a secluded beach with his friend Mia and a group of boys. With no place to stay, no car, and only their belongings and a few cans of beer, Mia, chooses to leave Noah behind, drifting away with a new boyfriend.

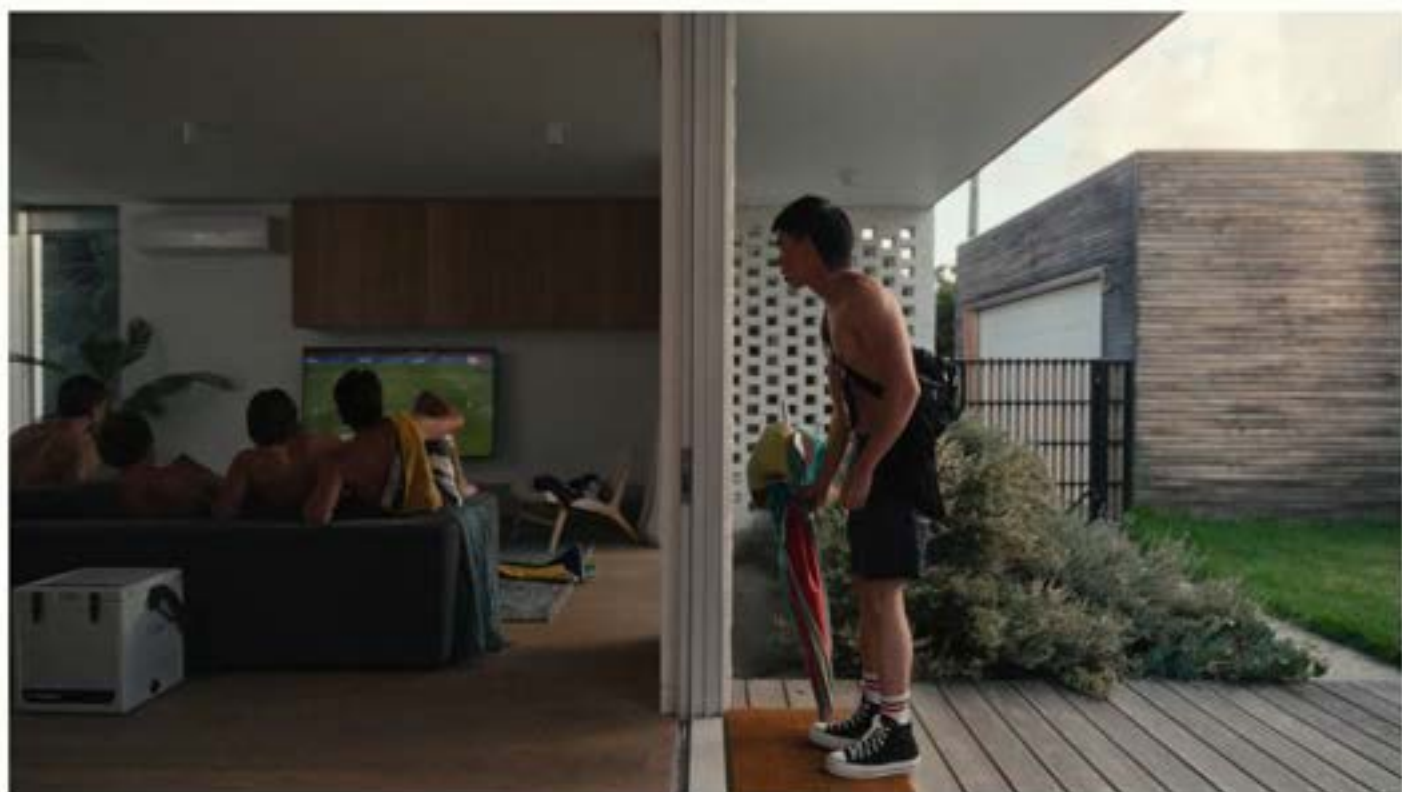
Out of necessity, Noah falls into the rhythm of the group, tagging along with Nick and the others. They spend the afternoon playing drinking games, with Noah initially feeling out of place. But as the hours slip by and the beers flow, Noah begins to relax, his guard lowering as he's slowly accepted into the fold.

The story takes a turn, when Nick reveals his attraction to Noah. Tension escalates when Nick's stepmother, Lisa, begins to grow suspicious of them. Uncomfortable with Noah's presence, she eventually forces him out of her home. The boys watch in silence, no one stepping forward to defend him.

Alone, with nowhere to go, Noah wanders the streets in a haze of shame. His sense of belonging shattered. He crosses paths with Jo, a local resident. Their first interaction is hostile, a mix-up that ends with Jo accidentally hitting Noah with a book, mistaking him for a magpie. Realising her mistake, Jo immediately takes responsibility and offers help, inviting Noah into her home for a meal.

Though Noah is quiet, Jo senses his isolation without needing words. She offers him a place to stay, and in the coming day, she takes him along on her daily fishing trips. As they spend more time together, they open up to each other—sharing stories, vulnerabilities, and truths. In Jo, Noah finds someone who understands him, someone who sees him for who he truly is.

Later that afternoon, Noah decides to reconnect with his friends, realising that he's ready to move on. But he finds himself back at Jo's house by evening, and they share a light moment, passing a joint and laughing together. Their connection is brief yet profound—a sweet, ephemeral bond that was simply just enough.



TECHNICAL INFO

Run time 20mins 53seconds (≈21mins)

Shot on SONY FX6

Shooting format Ultra HD (MXF)

Frame rate 25FPS

Aspect ratio 16:9

Sound details: Stereo/5.1

Exhibition format: DCP

Genre: Drama

Theme: Coming of Age

Country of production: Australia

Language: English with English subtitles

Production Completion on 7/4/2024

Post-production Completion on 25/11/2024

JANUARY



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

THE CAST



NOAH

Lead

KEVIN KHAN

He/Him

Kevin Khan stars as the lead role 'Noah' in January. Noah has always yearned and longed for a sense of belonging without knowing how to articulate it.

He's always just managed to 'fit in' without taking too much space to be noticeable. Subservient, kind-hearted and sometimes anxious - gets taken for granted by his peers. A product of his environment, Noah is stuck in fair weather friendships derived from a private school education reeking of toxic masculinity and a prevailing euro-centric culture - his heart is desperately trying to climb out - he just needs someone to throw him a rope.

Kevin Khan is an Australian-Vietnamese actor based in Naarm/Melbourne. Graduating from The National Theatre Drama School in 2020. During his time he worked across an array of in-house productions across both theatre and film. Shortly after, he received representation from Active Artist's and went on to play the recurring role of 'Anh' in Paramount Plus' Last King Of The Cross - working alongside Tim Roth 'Reservoir Dogs' (1992), Hoa Xuande 'The Sympathiser' (2024), Lincoln Younes and many more. Currently Kevin is developing his own screenplay 'Tommy' in background of working on a supporting role for an upcoming Screen Australia / Amazon Prime feature film 'Sacrifice', where he plays a young soldier 'Mason Mullet Le'. Beyond Kevin's innate passion for acting, he works freelance as a DJ playing at events and venues across Melbourne.



JANUARY

JO
Lead
AMANDA MA
She/Her

Amanda Ma stars as 'Jo' in January, embodying a woman in her fullness. She is as fierce as she is nurturing, as grounded as she is sporadic, serious as she is witty. Unapologetic and deeply maternal, Jo's life is simply blissful to the naked eye, but that's not to say she hasn't suffered. After a life of loss and losing a child she has been on a healing journey ever since. Jo is the living example of the embodied bohemian spirit.

Graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1975, an esteemed alumni of St. Martins Theatre School and the Kathleen Gorham Ballet Academy, Amanda paved the path for young Asian actors in Australia. Amanda has left an indelible mark on the industry through her extensive work across film, television, and theatre. Her diverse career includes notable performances on stage including Anthem (Melb. Syd. Perth festivals), Cybec Electric (MTC), A Ghost in Her Suitcase (Melb. Syd. Perth festivals). And on screen in both mainstream and art house productions including Stateless (Netflix), Family Law (SBS), Better Man (SBS), Bed of Roses (ABC), Highway to hell (1991), The Furnace (2020) and Strange Creatures (2024).

Amanda's artistic journey took her to New York, where she created and presented her own performances, leading to a short film that garnered awards and was featured at the Melbourne Film Festival and other U.S. venues. In addition to her film and theatre work, Amanda contributes her passion for storytelling and the arts as a freelance Safari Tour Guide at the Werribee Open Range Zoo where she expresses her endless love for animals.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



NICK
Supporting
CHARLIE DI STEFANO
He/Him

Charlie Di Stefano stars as 'Nick' in January, Nick is the charismatic embodiment of white privilege. He exudes a golden exterior of confidence, charm and innocence yet beneath the facade lies a love starved boy in a hollow home. Concealing his homosexuality and harbouring a world of secrets few are privy to, Nick could end up just like his father.

Charlie Di Stefano, based in Melbourne, Australia, is a versatile artist known for his extensive work in acting. He began his career at a young age, appearing in numerous short films across Australia and the United States. His long-running role in the iconic Australian series Neighbours gained him significant recognition. More recently, Charlie has featured in the popular TV show Last Kings of the Cross (Season 2) and the ABC series Crazy Fun Park. In addition to television, Charlie has made a lasting impression in theatre, playing iconic roles such as John Proctor in The Crucible and King Malcolm in Macbeth. Although primarily known for his acting, Charlie is also recognised for his filmmaking. His most notable project, Is This Forever, is an emotionally driven film that has won over 40 awards worldwide. Drawing from his personal experiences with grief. Before this, Charlie also spent some time living in Los Angeles, where he further expanded his creative network. With a diverse acting background and a growing presence as a filmmaker, he continues to explore challenging subjects both in front of and behind the camera, bringing authenticity and depth to all his projects.



MIA
Played By
ISABELLA MANGANO
She/Her



LISA
Played By
CAITLIN O'FARRELL
She/Her



THE BOYS

Played By

GABE CALI | MARKUS GAVAN | LACHIE THOMSON | CHARLIE FAUBEL

He/Him

He/Him

He/Him

He/Him

THE CREW



XIN OCEAN

Director, Writer and Producer
He/Him

Xin, a Chinese Australian actor, writer and director based in Naarm (Melbourne), Australia. With an early break into the industry - featuring a notable role as a series regular in ABC's 'The Heights' (2019), followed by a guest appearance in 'The Furnace.' (2020). Currently represented by CBM - one of Australia's top talent agents, Xin has dedicated the past seven years to refining his skills whilst simultaneously working freelance. With roots in both stage and screen, Xin integrates both naturalism and dramatics into his poetic storytelling giving his characters and performances a layered existence. Xin has a distinct approach to explore psychosocial behaviours and the neural development of his characters to always portray 'real' believable people on screen. His research and community participation extends across dance, connection, spiritual and embodiment workshops worldwide.

In recent years, Xin has delved into directing, working and collaborating closely with esteemed mentors, including Kim Farrant 'Strangerland' (2015) - starring Nicole Kidman and Hugo Weaving, and Anthony Brandon Wong 'The Matrix' (2003) - starring Keanu Reeves and Laurence Fishburne. Co-existing with his passion for acting, Xin nurtures a profound ambition to tell untold stories and bring unseen characters to screens. Drawing from both lived experience and fascination, his stories break from conventions and expectations of who people 'are' and who they 'should be'. Xin with a passion for humanity desires to explore the profound depths of storytelling and create beautiful, compelling, truthful work.

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

Honouring my teenage self, I gathered recollections, memories, exchanges, events, conversations, looks, words said and unsaid during my upbringing in conservative Western Australia. I used them to paint a picture of friendship against blue currents, white sands, and purple skies. 'JANUARY' shares my personal lived experience of being a second-generation immigrant growing up with working-class parents amongst an opulent and Eurocentric culture where isolation and invisibility came with being anything but Caucasian.

I specifically wanted to pry into the dynamics of modern day Australian coastal towns, where people are often barefoot and carefree. Where breathtaking bucolic beauty conceals an undercurrent of exclusion and hostility. It was about conjuring these energies and turning them into the characters. I created these characters based on people who were real and that I knew in my own life but were noticeably absent from the big screens. Noah (Kevin Khan) and Jo (Amanda Ma) embody the characters I longed to see on screen growing up, even up until now. In the film, Jo is everything that an Asian woman is and more. And Noah is just a boy who wanted to belong somewhere. Their story bridges the worlds—youth and maturity, Asian and Australian. Emphasising the co-existence of these narratives within the diasporic experience.

To me, an actor's role is to create a 'full' human being—one, audiences can see themselves in. As a director, I had the privilege of witnessing and fostering a safe container for this exploration. We worked with our fears, truths, vulnerabilities and boundaries throughout this process. We welcomed all parts of ourselves – the good, bad and the ugly, and we weaved it into the fabric of the film.

This project also grew from just wanting to gather all my friends together and create something precious and special. I have been so lucky to develop this vision alongside a talented, strong, supportive, diverse, and loving group of filmmakers. Together crafting a narrative that celebrates identity and culture through a lived experiences that speaks to many. This film also represents a homage and an endless love I have for my parents, family, chosen family, elders and other mentors in my life.

Often, I am very susceptible to volatility in this rapidly growing world. I feel I am always in and out touch, conflicted and resolved, grounded and ungrounded, found and then lost. But it is these nourishing connections that have kept me going. I do believe it is paramount for young people to have guidance and have someone to throw them a rope. Especially in this day and especially as artists, I hope JANUARY can be a reminder for that.



THE PRODUCERS

JANUARY



SALLY LONG

Producer

She/Her

Sally is an emerging film producer based in Naarm (Melbourne), Australia, with a passion for storytelling and diversity. She has worked on endless sets, including commercials, music videos, and short films. Driven by a deep interest in narratives that shed light on minorities, Sally is particularly drawn to stories about Asians in Australia. With her Chinese Australian heritage serving as both inspiration and motivation, she is committed to amplifying the voices and experiences of underrepresented communities through her work in film production.

Sally's journey as a producer is characterised by a dedication to authenticity, empathy, and the power of visual storytelling. Through her projects, she seeks to challenge stereotypes, celebrate diversity, and foster greater understanding and connection among all audiences.

Angela Lopez (she/her) is an Australian-born Filipino producer, production designer and first assistant director. Her work has been recognised at several esteemed film festivals, including MIFF, St Kilda Film Festival and Byron Bay International Film Festival. Angela has collaborated with well-known Australian actors, such as Lachy Hulme ('Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga') and Michala Banas ('Upper Middle Bogan'), as a co-producer and first assistant director on the acclaimed project 'Teach Me How To Cry'. Additionally, her work as a first assistant director for Ayesha Madon and Aggung Mango earned recognition as 'Wild One' of the Week on ABC Rage.

Drawing on her second-generation immigrant background, she infuses her work with personal experience and cultural influence, exploring the nuances of the Asian-Australian diaspora.



ANGELA LOPEZ

1st AD / Co-Producer

She/Her

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

PRODUCER STATEMENTS

As an Asian Australian filmmaker, I have always felt a deep desire to tell our stories within the context of the Western world. When I first came across the script of 'JANUARY', I was captivated immediately. This story beautifully explores how Asian individuals often feel the need to conform, while also shedding light on the challenges we face during our teenage years. It delves into the complexities of finding our identity and place in such a unique environment.

'JANUARY' is a narrative filled with both struggle and warmth. It portrays feelings of isolation and betrayal, but it also emphasises the kindness and support we can find from unexpected sources. To me, this film holds a message of resilience and empowerment—reminding us that no matter how complicated our circumstances may be, we can always find genuine friends and carve out a space where we truly belong.

SALLY LONG

Producer
She/Her

'JANUARY' captivated my interest through its intimate diasporic storytelling set against the the beauty of Australia's shores. Witnessing the evolution from script to screen has been a remarkable experience, especially observing all various elements come together in harmony from start to finish.

The story reflects the experiences of many second and third-generation immigrants living in Australia and their adolescent experience . I believe it will resonate with many individuals even outside of the Australian context.

Xin is not only an exceptional writer and director but also possesses a kind and generous spirit; it was a privilege to collaborate with such a talented team on this project during production. I hope that 'JANUARY' can be seen by many and will inspire them to continue sharing their own stories of the Australian coming-of-age experience.

ANGELA LOPEZ

1st AD/ Co-Producer
She/Her

LINE PRODUCER & DIT

Sinead is a Naarm-based actor (Lyrebird, All The Light That Never Fades), film producer (Netflix Korea, Bengar Films) and musician (sin). Sinead's passion for film began at a young age and scored lead roles in multiple independent productions locally and internationally. As a producer, she is dedicated to cultivating authentic and underrepresented voices, with a strong focus on independent films that champion marginalised communities. As an all-round creative she is curious, proactive and engaged. When she's not busy writing songs and shifting between multiple hats on set, she's a home chef, unintentional pilates instructor to cat Zuzu and guitar-string-breaker.



SINEAD BROWN
Line producer
She/Her



JAMES WAJURA
DIT/Assistant Camera
He/Him

James Wajura, a Melbourne-based Film Director and Director of Photography. He began his career as an editor and Assistant Camera at Homie Creative, a local video production company with high-profile clients like Disney, Microsoft, Champion, Samsung, and Headspace. His dynamic cinematographic approach, strong foundation in visual storytelling and technical expertise has allowed his work to span both across both commercial and creative projects.

CAMERA

JANUARY



MADDIE ROUX

Director of Photography
She/Her

Maddie Roux is Melbourne based dynamic photographer, videographer, and director with a strong background in fashion, beauty, and storytelling. Currently working as a commercial and editorial photographer in fashion and advertising - She's shot for both local and international brands including Bvlgari, Levis, Cleopatra's Bling, and It's All Fluff. Maddie also works closely with content creators and influencers, shaping the digital and visual aesthetics of contemporary culture. Driven by a profound appreciation for nature, landscapes, and human connection, her work—spanning both digital and film formats—always captures the raw, stripped-back authenticity and genuine portrayal of her subjects.

Tommy McMaster is a Melbourne-based cinematographer known for his work across a diverse array of fashion, music, and documentary style projects. With a strong focus on commercial content and video production, Tommy has collaborated with a range of inclusive brands including Arc'teryx, July, Rollasjeans, and Adore Beauty. His keen eye for visual aesthetics and his ability to capture the perfect shots all contribute to his commercial successes in creating compelling narratives that resonate with specific audiences. As an established cinematographer and an aspiring storyteller, Tommy's work blends technical skill with artistic vision to elevate stories on screen.



TOMMY MCMASTER

Cinematographer
He/Him

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

LIGHTING & SOUND

JANUARY

Daniel is a cinematographer and gaffer based in Melbourne, Australia. He has experience in being selected as the cinematographer for narrative based films, music videos and documentaries. Daniel has been recognised by the ACS (Australian Cinematography Society), as an active cinematographer. He has won several awards, notably winning the Platinum Remi Award for 'Hakuumacaato' (2020). He is a highly skilled practitioner, having worked within both studio and on location film-sets, often collaborating on both big and small crews. He has worked as a gaffer on several projects, notable gaffing on the feature film 'The Returned' (2024), and multi award winning short film 'Crossfire' (2018).



DANIEL TAN

Gaffer
He/Him



ALEX CHRISTENSEN

Sound Engineer/Recordist
They/Them

Alex Christensen is a Melbourne-based sound recordist and sound engineer, specialising in capturing immersive and creative performances on screen. Alex's versatility in their work has led them to gain a plethora of experience across corporate, TVC, documentary, and narrative projects. Recent credits include the feature film *Beyond The Wasteland* (2022) directed by Eddie Beyrouthy, *Spontaneous Combustion* (2022) by Brendan Pinches, and *The Emu War* (2023) directed by John Campell. Alex is particularly passionate about supporting and amplifying local Australian, queer and other minority stories, ensuring marginalised voices are recorded on mics.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

PRODUCTION DESIGN

JANUARY



NIKKO GUAN

Production Designer

She/Her

Nikko Guan is a Melbourne-based production designer currently pursuing her Masters of Design and Production at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA). Throughout her studies, Nikko has collaborated with independent artists, singers, filmmakers, and actors, creating and curating sets for a diverse range of short films and music videos. Currently expanding into designing for both stage and screen, Nikko is particularly passionate works that explore nuanced culture and identity, with a focus on Asian Australian and female driven narratives. She takes a deep interest in examining the complex psyche of characters and translating their inner worlds into the architectural elements within the frame. Her work is characterised by an integration that draws from cultural and emotional depth and experience to enhancing the vastness of storytelling.

Violet is an emerging Production Designer, Set dresser and Wardrobe Stylist. She has experience working on professional sets such as music videos, brand advertising, short films and web series. Both assisting other Production Designers as well as leading in the head of department. Violet commonly incorporates bright colours and quirky patterns in her set styling to heighten worlds and invoke certain moods and tones for the scenes she is working with. With a love for world building and preserving and telling Australian stories she brings visions to life through her sets. Mindful of the future and environment, Violet process always involves a conscious effort to source sustainably and minimise waste.



VIOLET SELWOOD-THOMAS

Prod Design Assistant

She/Her

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

FULL CAST & CREW

CAST

Noah Kevin Khan
Jo Amanda Ma
Nick Charlie Di Stefano
Lisa Caitlin O'Farrell
Mia Isabella Mangano
Matt Gabriel Cali

Nick's Friends

Charlie Faubel
Lachie Thomson
Markus Gavan
Sinead Brown

CREW

Written and Directed by
Xin Ocean

Produced by
Xin Ocean
Sally Long
Angela Lopez

Casting
Xin Ocean

1st Assistant Director
Angela Lopez

Line Producer
Sinead Brown

Unit Manager
Chelsey Catena

Cinematography by
Tommy McMaster
Maddie Roux

Assistant Camera DIT
James Wajura

Edited by
Stewart Arnott

Assistant Editor
Ella Boon

Script Supervisor
Lina Ly

Gaffer
Daniel Tan

Best Person
Edvard Christie

Sound Designer
Andrew Dean

Music by
Robbie Corbet

Sound Recordist
Alex Christensen

Boom Operator
Bea Brozek
Gonul Tuncel

Production Designer
Nikko Guan

Art Director and Costume Designer
MJ Kim

Production Design Assistant
Violet Selwood-Thomas

Hair and Makeup Artist
Isobel Boekeman

Location Scout
Xin Ocean

Production Runner
Chelsey Catena
Kevin Twan

Florist
Soya

Colourist
Niklas Malkin

Colour by
Crayon

Graphic Designer
Sam Hayes

Rehearsals Facilitator
Sinead Brown

Intimacy Coordinator
Xin Ocean

Stills and Film Poster Photography
Steph Reid

BTS Photography
Kimberley Li

Credits Design
Ella Boon

Special Thanks
Offshoot Rentals
Crayon

STILLS

JANUARY



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

CONTACT

JANUARY



XIN OCEAN
Writer & Director
+61 450 732 988
Xin.ocean@outlook.com

ANGELA LOPEZ
Producer
+61 466 348 351
Angelagablopez@gmail.com



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT