

GLORY



Synopsis

In the wake of the sudden death of his long-term boyfriend, Benji's obsession with glory holes leads him on a psychedelic journey through the annals of his own queer consciousness.



GLORY (2025)

DIRECTED BY Kai Kim
WRITTEN BY, STARRING Billy Griffin, Jr.
PRODUCED BY Daniel Jaffe

RUN TIME: 13:47

GENRE: Drama/Dark Comedy/Queer

CAST: Billy Griffin, Jr., Hunter Canning, Jason Veasey, Matthew Wilkas, Ivica Marc, Joie Bauer, Jaylon Jazz McCraven, Brandon Weber, Roger Yeh

EDITED BY Daniel Jaffe
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY Adam Baron-Bloch
PRODUCTION DESIGN by V Haddad
SOUND DESIGN BY Roni Pillischer
ORIGINAL COMPOSITION BY Mattie Berger
COLOR AND EFFECTS BY Garret Harkawik



SOME CONTEXT

In 2022, I began researching the *history of the glory hole* in preparation for what I imagined would be a kind of stand-up style comedy piece: "the History of the Hole, as told by a gay man." Glory holes largely live in the zeitgeist as a bizarre, silly, sometimes terrifying, or depraved way of connecting -- you stick your what, where? It seemed ripe for comedy.

But as I dug deep into the origin story, which of course included tangential research into bathhouse and cruising culture, and anonymous sex in general, I was confronted with something more poignant than a silly little hole in the wall. The glory hole, in many moments in history, has served as *a safe way to connect*, when anonymity was paramount, or shame too overwhelming -- when the act of just being known could mean life or death. I wondered if there was a way to consider the glory hole then, as a real *symbol of perseverance*, in a world constantly trying to disappear queer folks?

In our puritanical American culture, we're still fighting *stigmas around sex*. But connection and physical intimacy are crucial to our survival. And sure, love is love, but the thing that others me in straight spaces, is how and with whom I have sex. Rather than shy away from that critical detail, I wanted to tell a story where that was an entry point.

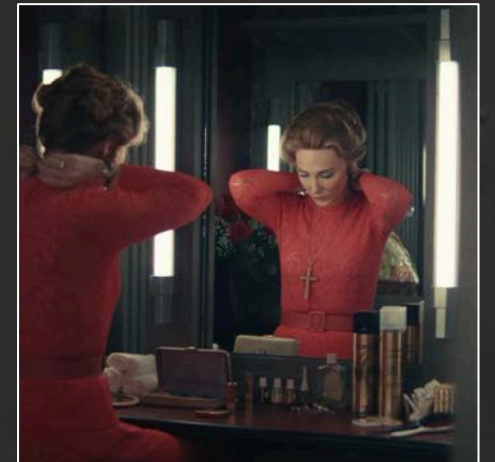
It's common for queer people, especially of my generation and beyond, to have grown up experiencing some amount of isolation around their *queer identity*. Lack of representation and malignant social messaging can contribute to false narratives around queerness, even in communities that are largely supportive. Our early queer romances can become so charged then -- our sense of self as a queer person is being co-created by and interwoven with these people, and in some cases, becomes dependent on them. What happens when we suddenly lose someone so formative to our sense of queerness? To our sense of self? That's Benji's journey in G L O R Y.

- Billy Griffin, Jr., *writer/performer*

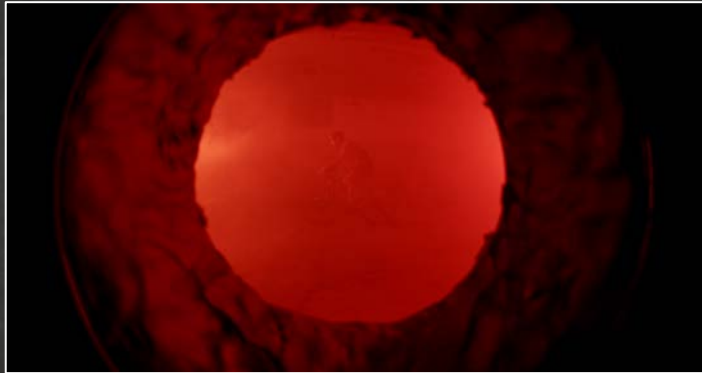
MOODBOARDS



MOODBOARDS



PRODUCTION STILLS



MAIN CHARACTERS



BENJI

Our protagonist. Grieving the loss of his partner and fanatically researching glory holes.



ARI

Benji's therapist. Leads him on a psychedelic journey through the glory hole.



SAM

Benji's partner. Recently died in a tragic hot dog cart accident.



Officer Dave, Anita, & The Wrestler

A cast of characters sprung from Benji's queer subconscious. They live on the other side of the glory hole.



Setting / Locations

BROOKLYN (Mostly), the Present.

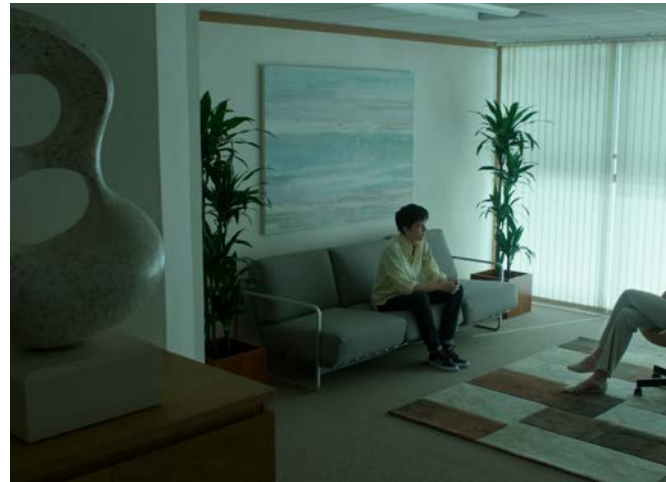
Benji's PARK
SLOPE Studio

Lousy with memories of Sam.



Ari's Therapist Office

A safe space to
try psychedelics.



The Glory Hole /
Liminal Space

Neither queer nor there.



Themes & Questions

The Glory Hole as a symbol of queer persistence in a world that is constantly trying to disappear us

Anonymity

What is gay identity and how do we build it?

Grief & Love, Sex & Belonging

Historical oppression as cultural messaging

Sex as avoidance, sex for connection

Formative gay relationships

Shame

Portals



Team overview



Billy Griffin, Jr. | *Benji*, Writer (he/him) is an actor, teacher, and writer based in Los Angeles. He has worked in theater, film, and television in the U.S. and the U.K. Notable credits include *Black Mirror: San Junipero*, which won the 2017 Emmy for Outstanding TV movie, *Outlander*, and indie feature *Funny Face*, which premiered at the Berlinale in 2020. Billy is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where he also worked as an adjunct professor, directing curricular projects at the Meisner Studio and teaching courses in contemporary scene study and Shakespearean performance.



KAI KIM | Director (they/them) is a queer, non-binary, Korean-American artist that primarily creates art in unusual spaces and in ways that center the experience of the audience. Some may call this immersive or interactive theater. Kai has created, directed, and consulted on numerous theatrical experiences. They have directed dance concept videos, music videos, and short films. Work includes: "Severance" SDCC Activation/ Director - Apple TV+ & Kamp Grizzly; Gumihō/ Director - Moxie Arts; *Metamorphose*, and *Future Stages*/Creator & Director - Juilliard, Center for Innovation in the Arts, among others.



DANIEL JAFFE | PRODUCER & Editor (he/him) is a filmmaker, photographer, writer, and artist living in New York City. Daniel's films have been shown at SXSW, Telluride Film Festival, New Orleans Film Festival, AFI Festival, Atlanta Film Festival, Austin Film Festival, and Slamdance, among others, as well as having work featured on Showtime, Vimeo Staff Pick, Short Of The Week, NoBudge, The Bureau of Creative Works, and the Slamdance Channel. In 2021, Daniel (alongside collaborator Michelle) was named one of "25 New Faces of Independent Film" by Filmmaker Magazine.



HUNTER CANNING | SAM (he/they) originally from Los Angeles, is delighted to join this wildly inventive project. You can catch Hunter in Season 2 of "Dr. Death" on NBC's Peacock, sharing the screen with Mandy Moore and Edgar Ramirez. Known for his nuanced portrayal of Jack in the popular series "The Outs," Hunter resides in New York City, where he has appeared on Broadway, TV, and the occasional TikTok alongside his tiny dog, Francis.

Team overview



Adam Baron-Bloch | CINEMATOGRAPHER (he/him) After an obsessive foray into photography, Adam Baron-Bloch (née Gundersheimer) graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in 2011 with a concentration in cinematography. He has been the cinematographer on hundreds of narrative short films, music videos, documentaries, and commercial projects. His films have played at festivals including Telluride, Malibu International, Slamdance and more.



Véra "V" Haddad | PRODUCTION DESIGNER (she/they) is a collaborative filmmaker, editor and production designer based in Catskill, NY. Born in Chicago, Haddad grew up in both the Midwest and Northeastern US. For about a decade Haddad has helped create narrative films, documentaries, music videos and commercial video. She holds an MFA in New Genres from UCLA, a BFA from The Cooper Union, and is an alumni of The Lighthouse Works fellowship. She was the recipient of the Center of Documentary's Lange-Taylor prize for portraiture accompanied by text.



Jason Veasey | ARI (he/him) created the role of "Thought 5" in the Broadway production of the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning musical *A STRANGE LOOP*. Veasey is recognized for his multi-season arc as "Jonathan" on the hit Hulu series *ONLY MURDERS IN THE BUILDING*, which garnered him a 2024 SAG Award nomination. TV: *LITTLE VOICE* (Apple), *CHICAGO FIRE* (NBC), *HIGH MAINTENANCE* (HBO Max), *FLATBUSH MISDEMEANORS* (Showtime), *BETTY* (HBO), *DASH & LILLY* (Netflix), and the Hulu pilot *OLGA DIES DREAMING*. Film: *I'M NOT HIM*, *HOME FREE*, and the upcoming *FRIENDSHIP* (alongside Paul Rudd and Tim Robinson). Following him on socials: @Veaseyville



MATTHEW WILKAS | OFFICER DAVE (he/him) is an award winning actor and writer, currently starring alongside Marcia Gay Harden in "So Help Me Todd" on CBS. You can also catch him on RuPaul and Michael Patrick King's "AJ & The Queen" as well as "Bonding", both on Netflix. Other TV/film credits include "Gayby," "Modern Family", "Looking", "And Just Like That", "Bros" and "Top Five". On Broadway, Matt played Peter Parker in "Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark" and has appeared in numerous off-Broadway and regional theatre productions. Most recently he played Orin the Dentist in the critically acclaimed production of "Little Shop of Horrors" at the Pasadena Playhouse with MJ Rodriguez and Amber Riley.

TEAM OVERVIEW



RONI PILLISCHER | *SOUND DESIGN* (she/her) is a distinguished sound designer and editor celebrated for her exceptional contributions to film and television. Her work has earned her accolades including a 2023 Golden Reel Award for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Editing for "Prey" and nominations for both an Emmy and a Cinema Eye Honors Award for her work on "Retrograde" and "Kokomo City," respectively.



MATTIE BERGER | *COMPOSER* (they/them) is a Brooklyn-based composer for film, podcast and stage, including New York Musical Festival's Best of Fest Award-winning FAT CAMP, the cult-fav pod SCP ARCHIVES, and one of "Apple's Most Popular Podcasts" MAYFAIR WATCHERS SOCIETY. Their score for DEAD SPACE: DEEP COVER was a Webby Award finalist in 2024. They are the guitarist and songwriter for the band Teen Girl Scientist Monthly.



GARRET HARKAWIK | *COLORIST* (he/him) is a documentary filmmaker, editor, colorist and occasional composer based in Vermont.

ADDITIONAL CAST AND CREW

The Wrestler | *Ivica Marc* Dancers | *Joie Bauer*, *Jaylon Jazz McCraven*, *Brandon Weber*, *Roger Yeh*

1st AD | *Morgan Ingari* 1st AC | *Beth Fletcher* Gaffer | *Justin Fischer* Key Grip | *Rylie Field* Sound Mixer | *Sam Weiner* Hair & Makeup | *Blu Allison* Costume Consultant | *DW* Choreographer | *Michelle Uranowitz* Quasar Tech | *Emma Gottlieb* Production Build / Carpenter, etc. | *Joie Bauer*

Production Assistants | *Elizabeth Bays*, *Kira Stone*, *Yeshe Pfeifer*, *Zack Canonico*, *Šime Viduka*, *Emilia Aghamirzai*, *Meghan-Morgan Lynch*

THANK YOU!

Contact / more info

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