



OFFICIAL SELECTION

**INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM**

2015

- *Spectrum* -

WORLD PREMIERE

STINKING HEAVEN



Press Contacts:

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Narrative Feature - USA - 2015

70 Minutes - HD - COLOR

www.stinkingheaven.com

LOGLINE

A black as tar comedy charting the dissolution of a commune for sober living in early 90's suburban New Jersey.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Married couple Jim and Lucy (Keith Poulson, Deragh Campbell) run a commune for sober living out of their suburban New Jersey home. The motley members eat, bathe and work together selling homemade "health tea" out of their van. Although there's constant bickering and plenty of fires to be put out, Jim and Lucy have managed to establish a haven for these outcasts. But the harmony is interrupted when Ann (Hannah Gross), a recovering addict and the ex-lover of one housemate, arrives. Ann's insidious presence sends the members spiraling out of control, resulting in paranoia, drug relapse and eventually death.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I'll never shake the quote: "Hell is other people". Every movie I make is a wrestling match with this statement. A movie about a commune in the early 90's seemed like the perfect arena for the latest match. We worked without a script or storyboards. My co-writer and I outlined the story structure; the actors and I developed the characters; and the cinematographer improvised along with the actors. The point was to create an environment that would allow chaos and life to rule the movie. Shooting a period piece, I found it necessary to work with a news camera from the time. In the end, it's a documentary of a fictional world – one that deals with the need for family, love, and humiliation.

CAST

Ann.....	HANNAH GROSS
Jim.....	KEITH POULSON
Lucy.....	DERAGH CAMPBELL
Betty.....	ELÉONORE HENDRICKS
Courtney.....	TALLIE MEDEL
Kevin.....	HENRI DOUVRY
Al.....	JAY GIAMPIETRO
Fred.....	JASON GRISELL
Marie.....	EILEEN KEARNEY
Gene.....	LARRY NOVAK
Tina.....	ELEANORE PIENTA
Dwayne.....	CARL KRANZ
Marge.....	DIANE LANYI
Kevin's Ex-wife.....	JULIE MARCUS

CREW

Director.....NATHAN SILVER
Producer.....RACHEL WOLTHER
Story by..... NATHAN SILVER & JACK DUNPHY
Executive Producers.....DIANE LANYI, JERE B. FORD
GLEN WOLTHER, DONNA ROSEN,
RJ BEAVERS
Production Companies.....STINKING HEAVEN, INC.,
FORDWORKS MEDIA
1st ADs.....FRANCESCA COPPOLA, BRITNI WEST
Co-Producer.....JACK DUNPHY
Location Manager/Assoc. Producer.....CARL KRANZ
Production Assistants.....DREW TOBIA, SARAH SALOVAARA
Director of Photography.....ADAM GINSBERG
Assistant Camera/DIT.....NATACHA GILER
Production Designer.....BRITNI WEST
Wardrobe Designer/Set Decorator.....ZOE KOKE
Production Sound Mixer.....NIKOLA CHAPELLE
Boom Operator.....IVAN LE BORGNE
Editor.....STEPHEN GUREWITZ
Sound Designer.....ARJUN G. SHETH
Composer.....PAUL GRIMSTAD
Colorist.....SANDY PATCH

CAST BIOS

HANNAH GROSS – ANN

Hannah Gross was born in Toronto, Canada. Her film credits include *I USED TO BE DARKER* (dir. Matt Porterfield), *UNCERTAIN TERMS*, dir. Nathan Silver), *LYDIA HOFFMAN*, *LYDIA HOFFMAN* (short, dir. Dustin Guy Defa), *BEACH WEEK* (short, dir. David Raboy), *HAZE* (short, dir. Chloe Domont), and *VALEDICTORIAN* (dir. Matthew Yeager). Hannah is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where she studied theater.

KEITH POULSON – JIM

Keith Poulson is a Brooklyn-based actor, filmmaker and musician. He can be seen in writer/director Bob Byington's *SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME* (SXSW 2012/ Locarno Special Jury Prize 2012), Alex Karpovsky's *RED FLAG*, Alex Ross Perry's *LISTEN UP PHILIP* (Sundance 2014/ Locarno Special Jury Prize 2014) & forthcoming *QUEEN OF EARTH*, Michael Bilandic's *HELLAWARE* and, most recently, in the Amazon TV show *MOZART IN THE JUNGLE*. In addition to his film work, Keith spent years as a dedicated touring musician in the NYC-based bands Bishop Allen & Air Waves.

DERAGH CAMPBELL – LUCY

Deragh grew up in a theater family. Her mother runs the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-lake and her father is a member of the ensemble. Her father's side has been in theater for generations – her great-grandparents were members of Shaw's company, and *SAINT JOAN* was written with her great-grandmother in mind. Deragh's film credits include Matt Porterfield's *I USED TO BE DARKER* (Sundance/Berlinale) and Dustin Guy Defa's award-winning short film, *PERSON TO PERSON* (Sundance, Berlin, New Directors/New Films).

ELÉONORE HENDRICKS – BETTY

Eléonore is an actress, photographer and casting director based out of New York City. As an actress she is known for her performances in the Safdie Brother films: *THE PLEASURE OF BEING ROBBED*, *DADDY LONGLEGS*, and *THE BLACK BALLOON*, Maiko Endo's *KUICHISAN*, and Dustin Guy Defa's *BAD FEVER*.

TALLIE MEDEL – COURTNEY

Tallie Medel is an actress, dancer, and improviser. She is a founding member of the comedy outfit Cocoon Central Dance Team and has performed with the trio at MoMA PS1, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and Upright Citizens Brigade LA & NYC. She starred in and co-choreographed the music video for Passion Pit's "Cry Like a Ghost." Film credits include *STINKING HEAVEN*, *VALEDICTORIAN*, *UNCERTAIN TERMS*, *JOY KEVIN*, *THE UNSPEAKABLE ACT* and UCB Comedy's *GARY SAVES THE GRAVEYARD*.

HENRI DOUVRY – KEVIN

Henri returned to acting 10 years ago after a lengthy hiatus and has appeared in many stage productions such as THE MERCHANT OF VENICE and A CHRISTMAS CAROL. In the past two years he has worked in over a dozen films in lead and supporting roles. He is a character actor whose full life and checkered past have provided him with a plethora of experiences to draw on for both comedic and dramatic roles.

JAY GIAMPIETRO – AL

Jay Giampietro is a filmmaker and musician who skipped film school and instead got a membership at Kim's Video where his search for bootlegs of Frederick Wiseman movies endeared him to the notoriously prickly staff. STINKING HEAVEN is his acting debut. His short films have played at the Maryland Film Festival and BAMcinemaFest. His documentary street portrait photos can be seen at [instagram.com/jaygiampietro](https://www.instagram.com/jaygiampietro).

JASON GRISELL – FRED

Jason Grisell is a musician, painter, and actor who began working in street performance, pantomime, and theater. He is the lead singer of New York City synth pop band Bubbles. He was a band member and vocalist, singing in duet with Karen O for her psycho opera STOP THE VIRGENS which performed at St. Ann's Warehouse and Sydney Opera House. He is the co-founder of Magic Square Films which has produced works that have screened at Maryland Film Festival and BAM Cinemafest. He co-starred with Kim Gordon in UNE DANSE DES BOUFFONS by artist/director Marcel Dzama which premiered at 2013 Toronto International Film Festival and had an extended exhibition at MOCCA Toronto.

EILEEN KEARNEY – MARIE

Eileen Kearney was born into a family of young actors and musicians. She made her Broadway debut at the age of 12, in RING ROUND THE BATHTUB, with Richard Mulligan and Elizabeth Ashley. Prior to that, she originated the role of Greta Powers on the NBC daytime drama, THE DOCTORS. Her brother Michael Kearney had great success as a child actor working with Burt Lancaster, Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward and Geraldine Page. Her cousin, John Spencer, built a brilliant career on stage, in film and on television. After John's death, at the height of his career, playing Leo McGarry on the West Wing, Eileen decided to return to acting. In 2013, she starred in the award winning short film, THE PURITANS, written and directed by Sean Robinson, followed by her role in the award winning independent feature, SWIM LITTLE FISH SWIM, written and directed by Ruben Amar & Lola Bessis. She is thrilled to be a part of STINKING HEAVEN.

LARRY NOVAK – GENE

Larry is an American actor and artist best known to television audiences for his character roles in the MYSTERIES AT THE MUSEUM series franchise and his countless depictions of the disenfranchised in both television and movies.

CREW BIOS

NATHAN SILVER – Director/Co-Writer

Nathan Silver graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2005. Since then, the filmmaker has written and directed four short films and five feature films: *THE BLIND* (2009), *EXIT ELENA* (2012), *SOFT IN THE HEAD* (2013), *UNCERTAIN TERMS* (2014), and *STINKING HEAVEN* (2015). His films have played in festivals around the world, including Viennale, Vancouver, Melbourne, Slamdance, Sarasota, Torino, Munich, and BAFICI and venues including MoMA and the Film Society of Lincoln Center. *EXIT ELENA* opened in New York at the reRun Theatre and received glowing reviews in the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and the Village Voice. *SOFT IN THE HEAD* opened at Cinema Village in New York and received glowing reviews in The Village Voice, The New Yorker, and Slant Magazine. Recently, Filmmaker Magazine named Silver “one of the most interesting emerging directors in U.S. indie film,” and The New York Times did a profile on him. *UNCERTAIN TERMS* had its world premiere in competition at Los Angeles Film and its international premiere at Edinburgh International Film Festival. His fifth feature, *STINKING HEAVEN*, recently had its world premiere at International Film Festival Rotterdam.

RACHEL WOLTER – Producer

Rachel Wolther is a producer based in New York City. Her film *SEE YOU NEXT TUESDAY* (Drew Tobia, 2013) won Best Narrative Feature at the Sidewalk Film Festival, screened at BFI London and BAMcinématek, and was named one of the best undistributed films of 2013 by both the Village Voice and Indiewire. She was a co-producer on Josephine Decker's two feature films, *THOU WAST MILD AND LOVELY* and *BUTTER ON THE LATCH*, which premiered at the 2014 Berlin Film Festival. Other projects include on the second season of Ingrid Jungermanns hit web series, “F to 7th” and *RICHARD'S WEDDING* (Onur Tukel, 2012). Wolther is the Executive Producer at National Headquarters, a boutique production company that focuses on original storytelling and branded content.

JACK DUNPHY – Co-Writer

Jack Dunphy is a filmmaker and animator based out of New York. Raised on the glorious South Side of Chicago, Jack recently fled the Midwest to pursue a lucrative career in independent filmmaking. His work blends documentary with fiction, animation with live action and comedy with dark stuff that bums his mom out. His short film, *SERENITY*, is currently being featured in the short documentary program in Sundance.

ADAM GINSBERG – Director of Photography

Adam Ginsberg is a sometimes director of photography and editor. Among his most recent credits are the films *RED FLAG*, and *MARVIN SETH AND STANLEY*, as well as the upcoming *7 CHINESE BROTHERS*, *TIRED MOONLIGHT* and *STINKING HEAVEN*. He shot Dustin Guy Defa's award-winning short film, *PERSON TO PERSON* (Sundance, Berlin, New Directors/New Films).

JERE B. FORD – Executive Producer

President and founding partner of Fordworks Media Group. Creative, passionate, and energetic, as Writer, Producer, Songwriter, Inventor, Publisher, Manufacturer, Importer with years of multi-faceted entrepreneurial experience in sales and marketing; new product design, development and introduction; new business development; executive search; real estate development and sales; travel, events and meeting planning.

DIANE LANYI – Executive Producer

Diane Lanyi was born in New Jersey. She is a graduate of Parsons School of Design. Diane is known as an independent contractor and represented various artists whose work is in the permanent collections of the major museums in the United States. After her marriage to the late Andrew Lanyi, Diane represented her husband's research division in the financial service business. She also worked for Aspect Development a company based in California.

BRITNI WEST – Production Designer

Britni West is a Minneapolis and New York City based filmmaker. Recently she served as the set decorator on the Independent Spirit Award Nominated film KUMIKO, THE TREASURE HUNTER and the assistant director on the upcoming film, 7 CHINESE BROTHERS, starring Jason Schwartzman and Olympia Dukakis. After directing a series of short films, her debut feature, TIRED MOONLIGHT, will make its international premiere at the 2015 International Film Festival Rotterdam, and it's U.S. premiere at the 2015 Slamdance Film Festival.

STEPHEN GUREWITZ – Editor

Stephen Gurewitz is a New York based filmmaker. His editing credits include MARVIN, SETH AND STANLEY and SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME.

PAUL GRIMSTAD – Composer

Paul Grimstad's songs and scores have been featured in FROWNLAND (2007), BEETLE QUEEN CONQUERS TOKYO (2009), JOHN'S GONE (2010), THE VANQUISHING OF THE WITCH BABA YAGA (2014) HAPPY CHRISTMAS (2014) and TIRED MOONLIGHT (2015) among other films. He has written and recorded over 500 songs.

ARJUN G. SHETH – Sound Designer

Arjun G Sheth is an award winning independent production and post production mixer based in New York City. Arjun was the supervising sound editor on "The unexplained," which aired on the Biography Channel and has worked on films that have gone on to screen in numerous film festivals, including Sundance, South By South West, Slam Dance, LA Shorts, NewFest, Rotterdam, Hamptons, Woodstock, Cinequest as well as many more; GOD OF LOVE, a film Arjun helped sound design, went on to win an Oscar in 2011. As someone who works in both production and post production, Arjun helps bring a unique and far reaching perspective to his work.

NIKOLA CHAPELLE – Production Sound Mixer

Nikola Chapelle is a New York based sound mixer. Nikola has worked on feature films such as GRACELAND, THE WARRIOR & THE SAVIOR, and KUMEYAAY LAND, ARTE and PBS documentaries, as well as reality TV shows such as THE VOICE and TOP CHEF.

ZOE KOKE – Wardrobe Designer / Set Decorator

Zoe Koke is a filmmaker/artist based in Montréal. She studied Photography at Concordia University.

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