

AROUND JUNE

Synopsis

A love story set in the shadow of the shipyards of San Francisco. A young woman (JUNE) living with her much adored (UNCLE HENRY) and domineering, abusive father (MURRY), meets a penniless illegal immigrant (JUAN DIEGO), whose love gives her the insight and courage to finally break free and live her own life.

Production Notes

Principal photography began in mid-January of 2007. The entire film was shot on location, mainly in the Potrero Hill section of San Francisco. Principal photography was completed by mid-February, 2007.

Director's Biography

After studying Film and Photography at Syracuse University, and working as a camera operator (NBC affiliate station), James moved to New York, where he worked as a staff photographer (still life and fashion), production assistant on feature films (Sidney Lumet, Barry Levinson) and studied acting at Carnegie Hall with Louise Lasser.

In 1990, James founded the theater group Big Head Productions. His first full-length play TALK TO ME, which he wrote and directed, sold out audiences at Tom Noonan's Paradise Theatre. He followed-up with off-Broadway productions of OFF MY BACK, TOMORROW NEVER COMES, and JUST LIKE TELEVISION. In 1995, he assembled a sketch comedy group called The Guilty Players, performing weekly at New York's Under Acme in Greenwich Village.

In 1996, James wrote and directed a short 16mm film entitled REVELATION, starring Kevin Corrigan. REVELATION made its broadcast premiere on The Sundance Channel.

After his first taste of filmmaking, James started his own production company, Solo Group Productions. In 2000, James made his feature film debut; writing and directing SLEEPWALK, starring Drea de Matteo, Ivan Martin and John Lurie. SLEEPWALK, a 35 mm film, premiered at SXSW Film Festival. The Independent Film Channel showcased SLEEPWALK as part of IFC's Next Wave Films where it ran monthly for 3 years.

In 2005 James completed his second feature film, THE CROOKED CORNER, starring Chris Messina and Marlo Marron, which he wrote, directed and produced.

In 2007, James wrote and directed his third feature film, AROUND JUNE, starring Samaire Armstrong, Jon Gries, and Brad William Henke.

To view trailers, clips, reel and reviews go to savocafilms.com

Director's Filmography

REVELATION – 1996 – Short 16mm film, starring Kevin Corrigan. Broadcast Premiere on The Sundance Channel.

SLEEPWALK – 2000 – 35mm feature film, starring Drea de Matteo, Ivan Martin, John Lurie. Premiered at The SXSW Film Festival. Made it's Broadcast Premiere on IFC.

THE CROOKED CORNER – 2005 – Feature Film starring Chris Messina and Marlo Marron.

AROUND JUNE – 2008 – Feature film starring Samaire Armstrong, Jon Gries & Brad William Henke.

Cast List

June - Samaire Armstrong
Henry - Brad William Henke
Murry - John Gries
Juan Diego - Oscar H. Guerrero
Mr. Lewis – Michael A. Goorjian

Crew List

Director/Writer/Producer : James Savoca
Producer : Jeremiah Birnbaum, Ralph King
Ex. Producers : EriK Cleage, Alyssa Weisberg, Greg Corbin
Co-Producer: Michael Richter
Director of Photography: Peter Hawkins
Original Score: Didier Lean Rachou
Casting Director: Alyssa Weisberg
Production Designer: Stacey Ransom
Art Director: Rachel Nichols
Production Manager: Tammy Miller
Costume Designer: Lisa Vandenberghe
Makeup: Antoinette Yoka
Post Production Supervisor: Achim Voermanek

Cast Biographies

Samaire Armstrong

Samaire Armstrong is an American actress famous for playing the role of Adam Brody's once-girlfriend Anna Stern in THE O.C.. Born in Tokyo, Japan on Halloween of 1980, Samaire wanted to be an actress as early as when she was three. Her mother even kept a videotape of her declaring so. She was raised in a nomadic life due to her father's job training soldiers from different countries. She lived in Malaysia, China, and Hawaii before settling in Arizona, USA.

She attended Sedona Red Rock High School and participated in school productions there. Samaire also enrolled in a summer program at the Parsons School of Design in New York to learn fashion design. She studied costume design and theatre at the University of Arizona but dropped out after only a year. Samaire then moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in acting. She started out getting small roles and one-time appearances in various television shows including her television debut on PARTY OF FIVE in 2000. Samaire then made her feature film debut with a breakout role in the teen-oriented spoof NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE in 2001.

Samaire was named Entertainment Weekly's Breakthrough Artist of 2004 for her work as Emily on ENTOURAGE and Anna Stern on THE O.C. and appeared as a guest star on a variety of shows such as JUDGING AMY, PARTY OF FIVE, C.S.I.: MIAMI, NUMB3RS and the THE X-FILES. In 2008, Samaire became part of the ensemble cast of the ABC drama DIRTY SEXY MONEY.

Brad William Henke

Brad William Henke is quickly making a name for himself as one of the busiest actors in Hollywood. Early assignments for Brad included bit parts in big-screen features such as THE FAN and MR. WRONG, plus guest spots on such series dramas as ER and SPORTS NIGHT. After a lead in the short-lived 2001 prime-time series GOING TO CALIFORNIA, Henke returned to small feature roles in such projects as THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON, MUST LOVE DOGS and THE ZODIAC.

During the last two years he has appeared in such acclaimed projects as ME YOU AND EVERYONE WE KNOW, NORTH COUNTRY," Oliver Stone's WORLD TRADE CENTER, SHERRYBABY co-starring Maggie Gyllenhaal and Hollywoodland opposite Adrien Brody. Henke will next be seen co-starring in the ABC mid-season drama OCTOBER ROAD and a guest starring role on the dark comic crime thriller series DEXTER.

John Gries

A longtime character actor with the unique ability to alternate between meek and menacing at the drop of a hat, Jon Gries can play a computer wiz (Real Genius, The Pretender) or a South American mercenary (The Rundown) with equal zeal and conviction. A native of Glendale, CA, and the son of Emmy-winning writer/producer/director Tom Gries, Jon launched his acting career with a small role in his father's made-for-television feature HELTER SKELTER (1976). His father unfortunately died shortly thereafter due to a heart attack, but the the groundwork for Gries' career had been laid. After moving to New York, the young actor studied under the capable tutelage of Stella Adler. Supporting roles in MORE AMERICAN GRAFFITI, JOYSTICKS, and HIGH SCHOOL USA segued Gries' career into the 1980s, with his role as the reclusive genius Lazlo in the brainy college comedy REAL GENIUS enduring him to a nation of moviegoers. If the remainder of the decade didn't offer Gries the sort of roles that would take him to leading-man status, they would at least find him cast in such high-profile releases as RUNNING SCARED, THE MONSTER SQUAD, and FRIGHT NIGHT PART 2.

After once again appearing opposite Real Genius co-star Val Kilmer in the 1989 noir thriller KILL ME AGAIN, Gries found a niche in television with roles in such series as Martin and THE PRETENDER in the 1990s. Of course, Gries also continued to remain active on the big screen throughout the 1990s, and after a bit role in the popular sci-fi comedy MEN IN BLACK, he would establish a fruitful working relationship with Mark and Michael Polish -- the filmmaking duo behind the quirky sleeper TWIN FALLS IDAHO. After turning in a memorable performance as a lawyer in that film, Gries became something of a stock player for the Polish brothers with appearances in both JACKPOT and NORTHFOLK and THE ASTRONAUT FARMER. Even outside of his work with the Polish brothers, Gries continued to gain indie credibility thanks to parts in such features as THE BIG EMPTY and NAPOLEON DYNAMITE, where he won an IFP Spirit nomination for his role as Uncle Rico. He also maintained a solid television career during this time where he appeared in popular television shows such as 24, ER, LAS VEGAS, CARNIVALE and LOST.

Crew Biographies

Jeremiah Birnbaum

Jeremiah Birnbaum is the Co-Founder and CEO of the San Francisco School of Digital Filmmaking. A native New Yorker, Jeremiah has worked as a producer, editor, director and educator in film and video for over seventeen years. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Film and Philosophy from Wesleyan University and attended the filmmaking program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

As a filmmaker, Jeremiah was a founding partner of Detour Pictures, a music-video production company specializing in rap and R&B artists, and has collaborated with many accomplished filmmakers, including Academy Award winner Barbara Kopple. As an

educator, he taught editing and media literacy to teenagers at the Urban League of Newark, and was Course Director of the Media Sound and Visual Program at Ex'pression College of Digital Arts, in Emeryville, CA. In addition to his duties as Course Director, Jeremiah was Director of Professional Services at Ex'pression and over the years has developed and taught many classes on the art and craft of filmmaking.

Jeremiah's recent credits include four diverse projects, three feature films and one documentary. Most recently he produced the feature film, *AROUND JUNE*, a love story and family drama set in the shadows of the shipyards of San Francisco, starring Samaire Armstrong, Jon Gries, and Brad William Henke. In 2006, Jeremiah produced *PRESQUE ISLE*, an HD feature written and directed by Bay Area filmmaker Rob Nilsson, which premiered at the Mill Valley Film Festival in 2007.

Jeremiah also directed and shot the feature-length digital film, *SO FRESH, SO CLEAN*, which premiered at the 2003 San Francisco Black Film Festival and won Best Feature Film at the Motor City Film Festival. The film played at festivals, colleges and art house theaters all over the country before being released by Warner Bros. Home Video in 2005. As a documentarian, Jeremiah produced and directed *AN INTRODUCTION TO MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS*, a film for people newly diagnosed with MS. This doc was produced in collaboration with the Minneapolis Clinic of Neurology and has been distributed to hundreds of people across the country diagnosed with this complicated illness. Jeremiah is currently in post-production on *MOONLIGHT SONATA*, the third feature he is producing in association with Bay Area production company Fog City Pictures.

Peter Hawkins

Achievements include *DRUNKS* with Richard Lewis, Faye Dunaway and Dianne Wiest, *BROKE EVEN* with Kevin Corrigan and Elizabeth Berridge, "The Four Corners of Nowhere" and two feature length projects for Damion Dietz, "Beverly Kills" and "Love Life." Work as second unit DP can be seen in Warner Brothers' "Spring Breakdown" directed by Ryan Shiraki, Tom DiCillo's "Delirious" and the Paul Reiser, Peter Falk film "The Thing About My Folks." His documentary work weaves through "End of the Century: The Story of the Ramones," "The Ballad of Ramblin' Jack," the NEA series "Tell About the South," Ric Burns' "New York, A Documentary" and "The Lifestyle, Sex in the Suburbs."

Charlie Canfield

Charlie Canfield has been animating, designing and directing in animation for over 20 years. He's worked with David L. Brown Productions, Mondo Media, MTV, Nickelodeon, Vinton Studios, Wild Brain Inc., Colossal Pictures and Industrial Light and Magic among others. Awards and selections include The International Film and Animation Festivals of Ottawa, Zagreb, London, Melbourne, New Zealand, San Francisco, KAFI, PLAT, Anima Mundi, The World Animation Celebration, Sundance and organizations such as Ad Age and The Addy's.

Alyssa Weisberg

Alyssa has been casting for the past 14 years in film, television and theater. Her film credits include studio films such as MISSION IMPOSSIBLE III, THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT, U-TURN and BOOTY CALL. She also worked extensively on the independent scene on such projects as THE HOUSE OF USHER, TELLING YOU, FREEWAY and THE HOUSE OF YES. Alyssa recently won an Emmy Award for casting the pilot of ABC's LOST, which has gone on to international acclaim.