

TOMAS PAIS EDOUARD HOLDENER NORA ROTHMAN CHAD BORDEN

HOMME FATALE PRESENTS...

# HUNKY DORY

A MICHAEL CURTIS JOHNSON PICTURE



A COMEDY-DRAMA ABOUT A DRAG QUEEN AND HIS KID

HOMME FATALE FILMS presents

TOMAS PAIS, EDOUARD HOLDENER, NORA ROTHMAN, CHAD BORDEN in  
"HUNKY DORY"

director of photography **MAGELA CROSIGNANI** editor **MAX GOLDBLATT** production designer **GARY BARBOSA**

producers **BERNIE STERN, MICHAEL CURTIS JOHNSON, TOMAS PAIS**

written by **MICHAEL CURTIS JOHNSON, TOMAS PAIS** directed by **MICHAEL CURTIS JOHNSON**



# HUNKY DORY

Homme Fatale Films, LLC

2016 (USA)

85 Minutes

## CAST

Sidney	Tomas Pais
George	Edouard Holdener
Bunny	Nora Rothman
Diomedes	Chad Borden
Danny	Jeff Newburg
Glen	Peter Van Norden
Justin	Chad Hartigan

## CREW

Directed by	Michael Curtis Johnson
Written by	Michael Curtis Johnson Tomas Pais
Produced by	Bernie Stern Tomas Pais Michael Curtis Johnson
Cinematography by	Magela Crosignani
Editing by	Max Goldblatt
Production Design by	Gary Barbosa
Executive Producers	David Baumann Kathleen Olejnik
Associate Producers	Thomas Johnson Kathleen Johnson Ursula Wojciechowski Jeffrey Johnson Ramona Baumann Raymond Kass Margaret Rahr

*Nora Rothman*

# HUNKY DORY

## **SALES**

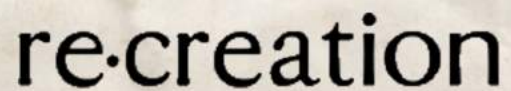
### **DOMESTIC**

**Will Lowery & Christina Campagnola**  
**APA / Independent Film Group**  
**(310) 888-4253**  
**wlowery@apa-agency.com**  
**ccampagnola@apa-agency.com**

The logo for APA (Associated Producers Agency) is displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters 'A', 'P', and 'A' are stylized with sharp, angular edges and a slight shadow effect, giving it a modern and professional appearance.

### **INTERNATIONAL**

**Ariel Veneziano**  
**Recreation Media**  
**(310) 305-1285**  
**arielv@recreationgroup.com**

The logo for re·creation is displayed in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font. The word 're·creation' is written in a clean, modern style, with a small dot between the 'e' and 'c'.



# HUNKY DORY

Co-writer/Lead Actor Tomas Pais

***“It seems to me that in the midst of great tragedy, there is always the horrible possibility that something terribly funny will happen.” -- Philip K. Dick***

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

After his ex-girlfriend disappears, Sidney, a grifting glam rock dilettante, is forced to look after his 11-year-old son full-time. His “cool dad” facade crumbles and his life goes into full tailspin as he struggles to let go of his rock-and-roll lifestyle.

## **LONG SYNOPSIS**

Sidney always wanted to be a rock star, but he ended working for tips as a dive bar drag queen instead. He manages to make his rent by swindling his friends and family. His life takes a dramatic turn when his ex vanishes after she unexpectedly drops their 11-year-old son off at his apartment. Sidney has always been best buds with his son George, but he’s never had to bear sole responsibility for him. Sidney has been able to hide his personal demons from his son for most of his life, but as the stresses of single parenthood take their toll on Sidney, his life starts to fall apart. George gets suspicious about his mother’s absence and Sidney lies to him. After Sidney learns that George’s mother might never return, Sidney falls into crisis. He binges on drugs and alcohol, lashes out at the only people who love him and George runs away to look for his mother. Can Sidney look after his son when he doesn’t have the power to save himself?



# HUNKY DORY

*Tomas Pais on the set of Hunky Dory*

## PRODUCTION

**HUNKY DORY** was originally conceived as a short film written by lead actor Tomas Pais. Pais gave it to Michael Curtis Johnson hoping Johnson would come on to direct the short. However, Johnson thought **HUNKY DORY** would work better as a feature. He expanded Pais' 10 page short into a 90 page feature-length screenplay in just four days. Then, Johnson and Pais reworked the script and developed their complicated protagonist. Pais jump into the role of Sidney and lived his life as the character until production started a couple months later. Working closely with Pais, Costume Designer Kaitlin Weichsel pulled clothing from thrift stores and dumpsters all over LA for Sidney's wardrobe and meticulously designed Sidney's elaborate drag costumes from scratch. Funding for the film came from family and friends. The casting process was short and serendipitous. We found our talented young co-star Edouard Holdener the first day of auditions for the role of George. Edouard is French-Swiss and English is his third language. Much of the supporting cast Johnson had worked with on previous short films. Bernie Stern came on as a co-producer and managed the production. Johnson's longtime DP Magela Crosignani flew in from the Amazon for the shoot. Production Designer Gary Barbosa took some convincing, but he came on board despite the fact his film **THE STANDFORD PRISON EXPERIMENT** was screening at the Sundance Film Festival during production. **HUNKY DORY** was shot on a microbudget in just eleven days in Echo Park, Silver Lake and Downtown Los Angeles. On the set the crew was amazed by Pais' transformative performance and mystified by Crosignani's audacious cinematography. Despite never cutting anything before in his life, Johnson put together an assembly to send to IFP's Narrative Film Lab and our film was, surprisingly, accepted. We worked with IFP to fine-tune our post-process and brought in editor Max Goldblatt to work on a final cut of the film. We are proud of our personal, yet unpretentious film.



*Edouard Holdener and director Michael Curtis Johnson*

# HUNKY DORY

## FILMMAKER STATEMENT

I moved to the eastside of Los Angeles ten years ago. I didn't own a car for most of the last decade and, yes, I actually walked in LA. Walking gave me a great chance to see the hidden neighborhoods away from the main roads and get to know interesting people outside the film industry. Like Bukowski, I am inspired by this bittersweet and seedy side of town.

After graduating from the directing program of the American Film Institute, I was financially crippled by student loan debt. I was writing spec scripts that I really didn't believe in for a spec market that really doesn't exist anymore and shooting no budget short films that no one would ever see. But, I had also gotten married and had two amazing children. I was fulfilled in my personal life, but frustrated with my creative one. My repeated professional disappointments were really starting to affect my relationships. I wondered if I should just focus on being the best dad and husband I could be and put all this juvenile filmmaking nonsense behind me. If my debut was also my swan song, so be it.

My co-writer/lead actor Tomas Pais and I channeled our LA experiences into a project that took elements from both our lives to create a tale about an unconventional father who can't grow up and let go of his rock-and-roll dreams. A tale about a man who walks in LA, struggling with the fear of mediocrity and raising a child while coming-of-age himself.

The film was shot in eleven days on a shoestring budget. I didn't know just how in over our heads we were when we started production and how lucky we would be to come out on the other side with something that we could be proud of.

Your life should inspire your work, not the other way around. I never would have or could have made *Hunky Dory* if I hadn't had the support of my family. Being a father has made me a better storyteller and brought focus to my craft. Whether it's parenthood, traveling and/or spending time with the people you love, you shouldn't put any part of your life on hold for you art. Life is what takes your work to the next level. You don't give up any part of yourself for your work or your family, you just need to find balance -- **Director Michael Curtis Johnson**



*Co-Writer/Director Michael Curtis Johnson*

# HUNKY DORY

## FILMMAKER BIO

**MICHAEL CURTIS JOHNSON**  
**Producer/Co-Writer/Director**

Johnson graduated from the directing program of the American Film Institute Conservatory where he received the Bridges/Larsons Directing Award for his thesis film FLOTSAM. His first feature HUNKY DORY was selected for IFP's 2015 Narrative Film Lab and FALL RIVER, his follow-up feature with Tomas Pais, was in consideration for the Sundance Institute's 2016 Screenwriters Lab. His feature film SAVAGE YOUTH (in development) was one of twelve international projects selected for the Venice Film Festival's 2015/16 Biennale College Cinema.

**CONTACT: [mikecurtjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:mikecurtjohnson@gmail.com)**

# HUNKY DORY

## CAST



### **TOMAS PAIS (Sidney)**

Pais is a native of Portugal. He is a “leading character actor” who seeks out eclectic roles that let him bring eccentric characters to life. He starred in the films **GOODBYE CANARSIE**, **JESUS FISH** and the **SXSW** film **FIREFLIES**. He wrote and co-directed the short film **NIGHT SWIM** and co-wrote the upcoming short **THREE WOMEN**. He is also a producer and co-writer of **HUNKY DORY**. This is his third film with director Michael Curtis Johnson. Pais and Johnson are developing their second feature **FALL RIVER**, the story of an ex-con dragged back into a life of crime by a friend he knew in prison.



### **EDOUARD HOLDENER (George)**

Holdener is of Swiss-French origin and he is twelve years old. He starred in the short films **WIG** and **FAIT ACCOMPLI**. He played the young Thomas Archer, the protagonist of the TV show **FALLEN CARDS**. **HUNKY DORY** is his first feature film. He was recently featured on the German-Franco news program **ARTE: JOURNAL JUNIOR** and he is an avid writer. He is repped by Jason MaCray of MaCray Management.



# HUNKY DORY

## CAST



### **NORA ROTHMAN (Bunny)**

Nora graduated from Brown University. She starred in the short film **THE STORIES AND ADVENTURES OF ORMESAN, PART II: A GREAT FILM** and played a supporting role on **CRIMINAL MINDS: BEYOND BORDERS**. She is a talented jazz vocalist who has performed with such respected jazz stalwarts as Marcus Miller, Alan Pasqua and Bob Shepard. **HUNKY DORY** is her first feature film.

### **CHAD BORDEN (Diomedes)**

Borden starred in the films **LETTERS FROM A KILLER**, **LOOKING FOR SOMEONE** and **INFORMATION AGE**. He was nominated for LA Ovation Awards for his work in **HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING** and **KISS OF THE SPIDERWOMAN**. He starred in director Joel Zwick's (**MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING'S**) production of **SERRANO, THE MUSICAL**.

### **JEFF NEWBURG (Danny)**

Newburg has had various featured guest roles on shows such as **WEEDS** and **CRIMINAL MINDS**. His film credits include **BAND OF ROBBERS**, **SQUATTERS** and **OLIVER, STONED**. Newburg is also a director and writer. He wrote, directed and starred in **HOME BURIAL** which was scored by Arcade Fire's Will Butler.

### **PETER VAN NORDEN (Glen)**

Norden is a native New Yorker whose film credits include **THE ACCUSED**, **THE NAKED GUN 2 1/2**, **POLICE ACADEMY 2**, **AN INNOCENT MAN** and **DON'T CALL ME FRANKIE** which screened at the Cannes Film Festival. He appeared in five Broadway shows and various off-Broadway and Los Angeles productions.

# CREW



**BERNIE STERN**

**MAGELA CROSIGNANI**

**MAX GOLDBLATT**

**GARY BARBOSA**

## **BERNIE STERN (Producer)**

Bernie graduated from Oklahoma University. He was the producer of the films **THE WORST YEAR OF MY LIFE**, **THE DAY WE LOST GRAVITY**, **KIN**, **R.U.R: GENESIS** and the TV Series **THE KILL CORPORATION**. He worked as a visual effects coordinator on **BOARDWALK EMPIRE**, **IDENTITY THEIF** and **HEIST**.

## **MAGELA CROSIGNANI (Cinematographer)**

Magela holds a BFA in Film from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and an MFA in Cinematography from the American Film Institute. Magela was the director of photography on **THE IMPERIALISTS ARE STILL ALIVE!** (2010 Sundance Film Festival), **MOSQUITA Y MARI** (2012 Sundance) and **FERIADO** (2013 Berlinale).

## **MAX GOLDBLATT (Editor)**

Max Goldblatt is a second generation film editor and director. The son of Oscar-nominated editor Mark Goldblatt. Max recently cut the feature film **AVENUES** for director Michael Angarano. He also edited **THE ARM**, directed by Jessie Ennis, Brie Larson and Sarah Ramos, and the Vimeo Staff Pick **IN A RELATIONSHIP**, directed by Sam Boyd.

## **GARY BARBOSA (Production Designer)**

Gary was the production designer on the Official Sundance selections **C.O.G.** and **THE STANFORD PRISON EXPERIMENT**. He was the Art Director on the TV series **WEB THERAPY** starring Lisa Kudrow. He worked on the films **SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS**, **RAMPART** and **SUICIDE SQUAD**.

# CREDITS

# HUNKY DORY

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Sidney	Tomas Pais
Alexis	Dakota D'vil
Belinda	Barbie-Q
Glen	Peter Van Norden
George	Edouard Holdener
Justin	Chad Hartigan
Bunny	Nora Rothman
Danny	Jeff Newburg
Autumn	Julia Barna
Diomedes	Chad Borden
Bobby	Michael Thompson
Melissa	Melissa Simpson
Victoria	Joy Darash
Gabriel	Josh Fingerhut
Larry	Thomas F. Evans
Violet	Dianne Wampler
Laureline	Yasmine Kittles
Steve	J. Anthony McCarthy
Virgil	Brandon Tyler Skelner
Cyrus	Brandon Bernath

# CREDITS

# HUNKY DORY

## CREW

1st Assistant Director	Michael Thompson
2nd Assistant Director	Thealonius Dikerson
Asst. Production Manager	Lucia Uranga
Production Assistants	Lauren Byrd Casey Cordes Romina Canales
Art Director	Anthony Pearce
Set Dresser	Devynne Lauchner
Gaffer	Jonathan Mariande
Best Boy Electric	Jeff Kulig
Key Grip	Shai Keston Nix
Best Buy Grip	Devynne Lauchner
1st Assistant Camera	Erick Aguilar
2nd Assistant Camera	Vince Patin Seaton Trotter
Sound Mixer/Boom Operator	Nick Rumancik
Hair and Makeup Artist	Diana Oh
Hair and Makeup Assistant	Briana Garcia
Costume Designer	Kaitlin Weichsel
Assistant Costume Designer	Lisa Bae
Wardrobe Assistant	Constance Garcia
Wardrobe Intern	Ally Greven
Set Teachers	Jan Citron Charmaine Boos
Catering Coordinator	Jacqueline Johnson
Set Photographer	Sera Lindsey