



PECKING WILDS PRESENTS

NAZ & MAALIK

ABOUT

Running time..... 86 min
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SYNOPSIS

Over the course of one meditative Friday afternoon, two closeted Muslim teens have their secretive lives rattled by lingering FBI surveillance. *Naz & Malik* examines the mysterious forces that animate teenage minds.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I first moved to New York in 2012, I sublet a room in Bed-Stuy from a Muslim graduate student in his late twenties. After hearing him talk around our dinner table about his teenage years as a closeted Muslim, I asked if I could interview him about his experiences. Through this series of conversations, I learned about life as a gay and Muslim man. His story is the basis of Naz & Maalik.

At the time, the NYPD and FBI were spying on Muslims across the country. In Bed-Stuy in particular, they would infiltrate mosques with undercover agents, coerce civilians arrested for petty crimes into becoming informants and conduct door-to-door interviews with Muslim citizens in front of their homes. The overbearing presence of the police created a charged environment almost ready-made for representation.

Naz and Maalik are characters underrepresented in film. Yet as a cast and crew we tried to present their particular problems as universal: intimate and soaked in youthful adventure and barely-restrained anger and meditative stillness and romantic passion. I'd like to think the film goes beyond social issues by exploring Naz and Maalik's private thoughts and reactions to the world around them.

The film doesn't set out to defy or define typical ideas of gayness or blackness or teen-ness. Identity, after all, is an ever-shifting circumstance, not a constant, inescapable state of mind.

-- Jay Dockendorf

ABOUT THE CAST

KERWIN JOHNSON, JR (Naz) makes his feature film acting debut in Naz & Maalik.

CURTISS COOK, JR (Maalik) is a New York-based actor making his feature film debut in Naz & Maalik. He starred in the 2013 short film Amateur, which was a Vimeo Staff Pick and featured on Jay-Z's Life + Times YouTube channel. He also starred in Salt Cathedrals' Holy Soul music video, which became another Vimeo Staff Pick. He has two other movies slated to come out later in 2015.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

JAY DOCKENDORF (writer, director) is a writer, director and composer. Naz & Maalik is his first narrative feature. His short documentary "Vigilante Copy Editor" (2013) was a featured Op-Doc of The New York Times. He co-composed the music for Naz & Maalik with Adam Gunther. Winner of Tribeca Film Institute's IWC Filmmaker Award for Naz & Maalik, Jay has two more features in development with producers Margaret Katcher and Jacob Albert.

MARGARET KATCHER (producer) is an LA-based writer and film producer. She began her career in film after spending two years in New Orleans as a Teach for America corps member, and hopes to produce material that presents beautiful writing and complex, diverse characters. She currently works for screenwriter Eric Roth.

JACOB ALBERT (producer) is a writer and producer. Currently a Fellow at the Michener Center for Writers in Austin, Texas, he is at work on several film projects and a collection of short stories.

LACEY DORN (co-producer) is a New York-based, Texan filmmaker, actress and artist. While a student at Stanford, she created two documentaries with James Franco. She has since directed, acted, written and produced two short narrative films: Frontera, a Texas-Mexico border story that premiered at film festivals in 2012, and Darknet Delivery, a film about millennials ordering from the Dark Website, Silk Road, that is also premiered at SXSW. She is currently working on several film and performance art projects.

JAKE MAGEE (director of photography) graduated from Bard College with a B.A. in Film and Electronic Arts. His film Apsis was awarded best cinematography at the Maverick Movie awards in Los Angeles and has recently screened at the Cambridge Festival and the Kino Der Kunst Festival in Munich. Jake recently finished shooting the feature Up the River with emerging director Ben Greenblatt. Magee has worked as an assistant and electrician under some of the best young DP's in New York's independent film world (most recently, Lyle Vincent, whose critically-lauded feature, A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night, will be released in the fall of 2014 by SpectreVision).

DYLAN METZGER (production designer) is based in Los Angeles. After receiving a degree in architecture from UC Berkeley in 2011, he began working in production design. This is Dylan's third collaboration with Jay Dockendorf. Dylan has worked on over twenty projects in two years ranging from AFI student films, to several full-length films, TV series, and numerous commercials for companies and events such as Apple and the Super Bowl.

ANDY HAFITZ (editor) has been editing films since 1995. Along the way, he's collaborated with some of the leading directors in the New York independent film scene, including Whit Stillman (Damsels in Distress, 2012; The Last Days of Disco, 1998), Lodge Kerrigan (Keane, 2004), and Larry Clark (Ken Park, 2002; Bully, 2001). Two of his films have premiered in competition at Sundance: Braden King's Here (2011), a metaphysical road movie filmed on location in Armenia, and Cruz Angeles' Don't Let Me Drown (2009), shot primarily in Brooklyn. Andy's documentary credits include the street

basketball movie *Soul in the Hole* (1997), directed by Danielle Gardner, and several David Schisgall films, including the feature *The Lifestyle: Group Sex in the Suburbs* (1999) and "True Life: I'm in Iraq," which won the Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Network News Documentary for MTV in 2005.

ADAM GUNTHER (music) is a composer/producer from Los Angeles. He received a BA in music from Wesleyan University, CT. In 2014 he released a solo record, *XLO*, under the moniker Dzang. His music has been performed at the Hammer Museum (Los Angeles), the Hebbel-am-Ufer Theater (Berlin), and venues across the United States. *Naz & Maalik* is his first feature-film score and first collaboration with director Jay Dockendorf. In 2015, Adam will release new music as Dzang as well as new compositions and collaborations for stage, gallery, and screen.

HOLLY BUCZEK (casting) Joy Dewing Casting/HDB Casting is the resident casting director for Vital Theatre. Current and recent projects include: *Annie - National Tour 2014/15*, *50 Shades*, *The Original Parody - off Broadway* and *Touring Companies*, *Til Divorce Do Us Part - off Broadway*, *The Independents - Fringe 2012* (winner Best-of-the Fest), *The Brain That Wouldn't Die - In 3D*, *The Groove Factory* and *Pirates of Finance - NYMF*, and more. Holly also handles the casting for *Musicals Tonight!*, *Berenstain Bears, Live* and past seasons of *Millbrook Playhouse Summer Theatre*. Films include *Naz & Maalik*, *Diva*, and *Symposium*. Commercials include *Intel* and *Lipton*. For more information on Holly visit www.hdbcasting.com or www.joydewingcasting.com.

REVIEWS

"A refreshing and relevant cinematic representation, "Naz & Maalik" is an impressive debut for filmmaker and actors."

- IndieWire

"[Naz & Maalik] manages to provide a fresh look at young people in Brooklyn after 9 trillion films/TV shows about young people in Brooklyn."

- Ain't It Cool News

"Original stories about underrepresented characters are hard to come by these days, and Naz & Maalik succeeds at not just finding a niche, but rising above the clever concept and delivering a powerful treatise on what it is to be young and disenfranchised in New York City."

- Austin Chronicle

One of "12 Breakouts of the 2015 SXSW Film Festival"

- IndieWire

CREDITS

written and directed by JAY DOCKENDORF
produced by MARGARET KATCHER and JACOB ALBERT

KERWIN JOHNSON JR.
CURTISS COOK, JR.
ANNIE GRIER

executive produced by JAY DOCKENDORF, MARGARET KATCHER and NYLKOORB, LLC
co-produced by LACEY DORN
associate produced by STEVE AND CHERYL CROWE

Director of Photography	JAKE MAGEE
Production Design	DYLAN METZGER
Editor	ANDREW HAFITZ
Composer	ADAM GUNTHER
Casting Director	HOLLY BUCZEK
Art Director	HEESEUNG KIM
Art Supervisor	MAFALDA MILLIES
1st AD	NICOLAS DE MONES WARREN ELGORT
2nd AD	ALIX TWIN
Script Supervisors:	MAFALDA MILLIES CARLOS IBARRA

Naz	KERWIN JOHNSON, JR.
Maalik	CURTISS COOK, JR.
FBI Agent Sarah Mickel	ANNIE GRIER
Cala	ASHLEIGH AWUSIE
Daniel Al Azwar	ANDERSON FOOTMAN
Gun salesman/ Cop	BRADLEY CUSTER
Homeless man in scrubs	NILS RIESS
Potion Angel	LUCINDA CARR
Passerby #1	BARI HYMAN
Passerby #2	DEJA BUTTS
Imam	IBRAHIM MIARI
Homeless Woman #1	MONEE POTTER
Yuppie	DAVID FARRINGTON
Naz's Mom	K'SANDRA SIMPSON
Subway Bagman	JAMES ROACH
Maalik's Mom	MONCIANA EDMONSON
Wounded man	JONAH LARRAMA
Emergency Cop	STEPHEN TENNER
Subway Girls	SHOLANTY TAYLOR
	NIA NICOLE
	ALLURA LEGGARD
	TINA JETTER
	MERIDIAN TERREL
Mosque Congregants	ROY PHILLIPS
	RICH BIRD
	KHALIF TOPPING
	DOUG ROBBS
	DRE PARKER
	RICH POWERS
	KEVIN MACON
	CRAIG BANNISTER
	HASSAN HALIM
	LUIS GARCIA
	HASSAN HALIM
	HUSNAIN HASSAN
	CHRIS OGREN
	ANDRE IRVING

1st AC	RYAN NOCELLA BAYLEY SWEITZER
2nd AC	MATT COONEY BAYLEY SWEITZER SPENCER LAU
Steadicam Operator	KYLE FASANELLA
Sound Mixer	NICOLAS DO
Second Unit Sound Mixers	ALLISTAIR JOHNSON HAYLEY WAGNER
Hair/Makeup	EMILY SCHUBERT JENNIE JEFFERSON
Gaffers/Best Boy	CHRIS MCNABB STEPHEN RATHIER
On-Set Photographer PAs	CORA LEWIS EMMA SCHAIN JAMES PHILBIN CHARLOTTE-DAY REISS VALENE BYRD PAUL FRANK MALLON GIULIO POIDOMANI AMANDA KIM
Assistant Editor	ALEC STYBORSKI
Sound Design	MARK CORBIN
Color Post-Production	NAT JENCKS
Title/End Credits	COLBY MIERS