

**SELL BY:**

**A ROMANTIC COMEDY**

**Does every relationship have an expiration date?**

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# SYNOPSIS

**Sell By** is a romantic comedy about a group of friends navigating love, life, and relationships as they reach the mid-point. At the heart of the story is Adam (Scott Evans), a talented painter now stuck ghost painting for successful contemporary artist, Ravella Brewer (Patricia Clarkson). He and Marklin (Augustus Prew) are at the five-year mark of their relationship. They don't have kids, they're not married, and are face to face with the existential question "Is that all there is?"

Their friend circle is confronting the same question in a whole host of ways: Elizabeth (Kate Walsh), Adam's best friend, is at the 15 year mark of her marriage, ready to bail when she discovers her husband's inappropriate text relationship with a younger woman; friend Cammy (Michelle Buteau) is dating Henry (Colin Donnell), but they never leave the house; Haley (Zoe Chao) is trying to figure out if her feelings for Scott James (Christopher Gray) are maternal or something more. Everyone's a bit of a mess, but at the same time eternally optimistic at finding new ways to make things work.

**Sell By** has heart, humor, and takes a very realistic look at romance -- fusing together the communal charm of a movie like **The Big Chill** unfolding in front of the gorgeous backdrop of New York City.

<b>DIRECTOR:</b>	Mike Doyle
<b>STUDIO:</b>	Independent Picture
<b>PREMIERE:</b>	October 2018
<b>FILMING LOCATION:</b>	New York
<b>FILMING DATE:</b>	June 21st 2018 – August 2018
<b>PRODUCTION DATE:</b>	April 2018 – September 2018
<b>FINAL DELIVERY:</b>	September 2018
<b>GENRE:</b>	Romantic Comedy-Drama
<b>RATING:</b>	PG-13
<b>TARGET AUDIENCE:</b>	Families, Lovers, Adults, Couples

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



I am a child of divorce. My parents have five marriages between them. They married young, virgins, of course, and quickly realized maybe settling down wasn't the best idea; there was a lot of life yet to be lived, and there were a lot of people to meet. I clearly remember the moment they told my brother and five year old me they were going to divorce. My response... 'Now, can I marry you, Mommy?'

I didn't want disruption. I didn't want an endless parade of suitors. I wanted stability. I wanted relationships that worked.

I still do. But relationships are fucking hard! Gay, straight, doesn't matter. We all at some point find ourselves in a place we did not expect. The notion that the life we dreamed of is very different than the life we actually live...Peggy Lee crooning in the background "Is that all there is?" I don't know if it's a midlife crisis or simply a crisis that follows us through life: puberty, first love, college, first job, marriage, divorce, middle age, retirement. It goes on and on. It goes on but most importantly, we go on. Hopefully with a sense of humor.

There is something universal in the struggle to maintain something long term. How do we grow individually and as a couple? What do we reveal? What do we hide? Why, when everything is ostensibly okay in a relationship, does it erode in a war of attrition? When does a relationship go sour and pass its expiration date?

I love the films of Noah Baumbach, Whit Stillman, and Nora Ephron, to name a few. They create intimate ensemble films that deftly weave character and story with humor, heart, and depth.

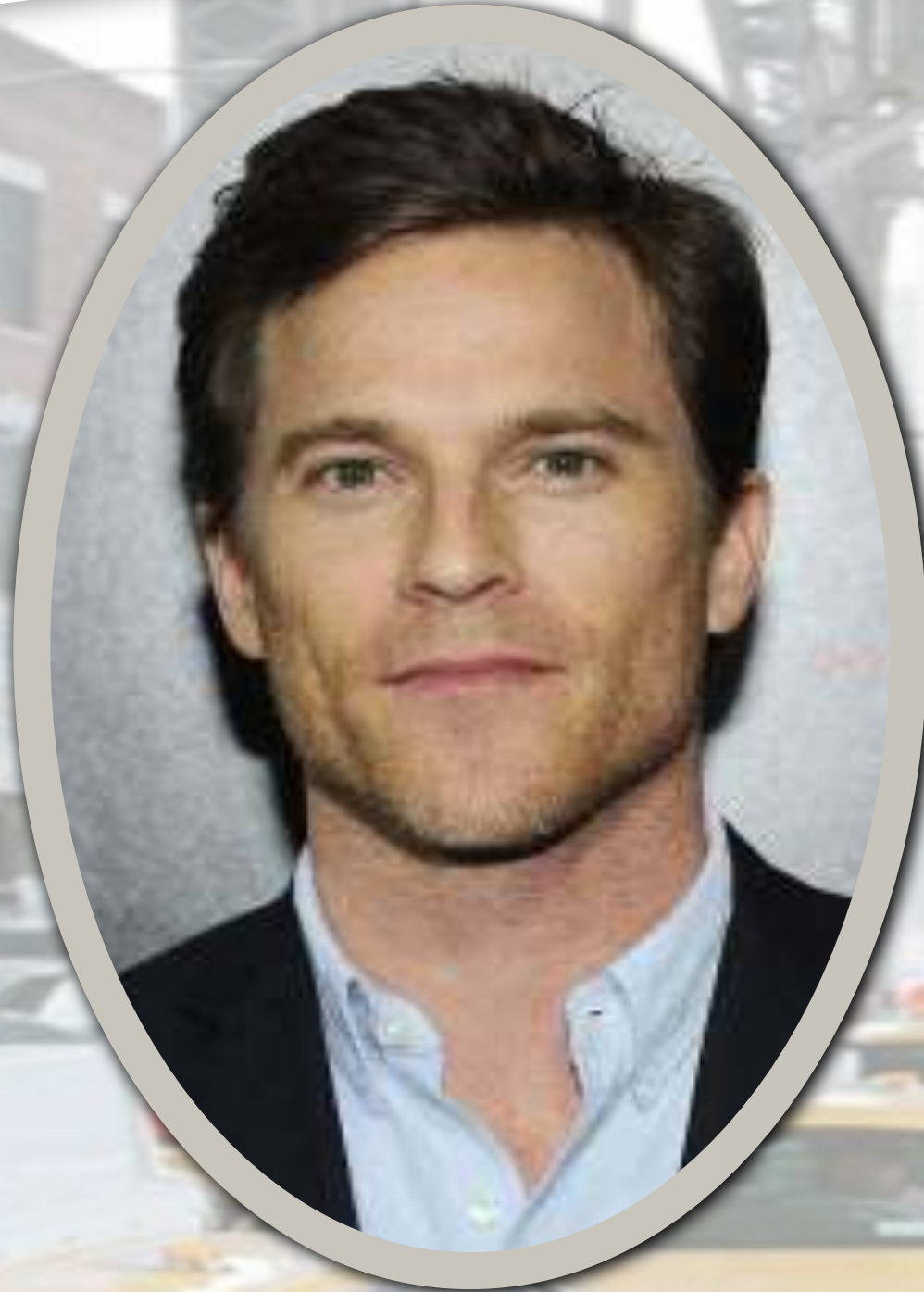
I set out to make a film about a gay couple that hopefully redefines what a gay film is. There are amazing films about what it is to come out, what it is to battle adversity, what it is to fight disease, but very few films which deal with the day to day struggle of being in a relationship. When I sit with my friends and we bitch about life, we talk of the triumphs and setbacks of being in relationship with another human being, of who is being considerate, compassionate, strong, weak, truthful, loving. We talk very little of what it is to be straight or gay. That is simply who we are. A big part of who we are.

I'm not trying to neuter the gay experience nor diminish it; I'm telling a story about couples, about how stuck they get, about the hope they have for a future, about triumphs and setbacks, about love and endurance. And one of those couples happens to be gay. And hopefully we can all laugh at how absurd it all is.

I also made a point of hiring 2 out, gay actors as my leads. Much progress has been made in casting, yet having out leads is still considered bold. It shouldn't be.

BIOS

## THE TEAM



### MIKE DOYLE • WRITER/DIRECTOR

Mike's film directorial debut *Shiner* premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival where it was in competition for best narrative short. It then toured the world garnering attention and nominations, notable for Best Narrative Short at the Atlanta Film Festival. Mike worked with Andrew Rannells writing the feature film, *Gay Wedding*, for Judd Apatow and Universal Pictures. Mike has extensive set experience as an actor in such films as *Jersey Boys*, *Green Lantern*, *The Invitation*, and the TV series *Law & Order SVU* and has used it to shadow established TV directors on shows such as *Girls*, *Smash*, *Brothers & Sisters*, *In Treatment*, and *Law & Order SVU* to name a few.



## THE TEAM

BIOS

### MANDY WARD • PRODUCER



Mandy has worked as a location manager and producer on many films. While at **Radioactivefilm**, some titles include: ***We Will Not Die Like Dogs***, ***Palestine Blues***, and ***Pennurst***. Mandy co-founded and launched First Time Fest, a showcase of original inspiring works by first time filmmakers where winners receive theatrical distribution & international sales representation. Mandy also worked in various capacities on the physical production of feature films, scripted TV, reality TV, and documentaries. After a long run on the show ***A Crime to Remember*** (Emmy Award) she produced the film ***The Man in the Woods*** directed by Noah Buschel.

### ELLYN VANDER WYDEN • PRODUCER



Ellyn is an award-winning independent producer whose projects have received both acclaim and distribution. She has produced a dozen feature and short films, including ***Spaceman*** starring Josh Duhamel, ***Gold Star*** starring Robert Vaughn and recipient of Big Vision Empty Wallet's Kickstart Diversity Program, ***A Tree A Rock A Cloud***, directed by Karen Allen, winner of the Best International Short Manchester Film Festival, and ***Sweet, Sweet Lonely Girl***, which was an official selection at the Sitges Film Festival. Her key focus is to balance creative expectations and financial resources.

### KAOLIN BASS • PRODUCER



Kaolin was an Executive Producer on the film ***Tu Me Manques***, He also secured funding, as well as, brand placements and locations. He recently returned from Bolivia where he produced the feature film, ***Blood Red Ox***, a psychological thriller. Kaolin has worked on several TV shows and commercials including ***As The World Turns***, ***Ugly Betty***, ***Verizon***, and ***L'Oréal***. He was on the producing team of ***Eastsiders***, an award winning web-series. Kaolin has helped secure funding for stage productions on Broadway and in Europe. Most recently the Tony Award winning revival of ***Angels In America*** on Broadway.

## THE TEAM

BIOS

### LUDOVIC LITTEE • DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Ludovic has been behind the camera for over 50 projects ranging from films to TV series. Currently he is the director of photography on the hit TV series *Orange Is the New Black*. He has also worked as the camera operator for *House of Cards*, *Begin Again*, *Blue Valentine*, *Room 304*, and *Thanks for Sharing*, just to name a few. Ludovic has a long list of other titles where he has worked as producer, writer, and director. His most recent film, *Lazy Susan*, is in post production and stars Sean Hayes, Allison Janney, and Matthew Broderick.

### MICHAEL BERENBAUM • EDITOR

Michael has won countless awards for his work as an editor. He received a Primetime Emmy for *Desperate Housewives* and two Eddies for *Sex and the City*, the series. He is best known for his work on *Sex and the City*, the series, and both *Sex and the City* movies. He has also edited the films *Mother's Day*, *What to Expect When You're Expecting* and *Factory Girl*, just to name a few. Michael has edited a number of hit TV series as well, such as *Divorce*, *Royal Pains*, *Happyish*, *The Americans*, and *Nurse Jackie*. Michael is currently finishing the film *In The Shadow of the Moon* for Netflix.

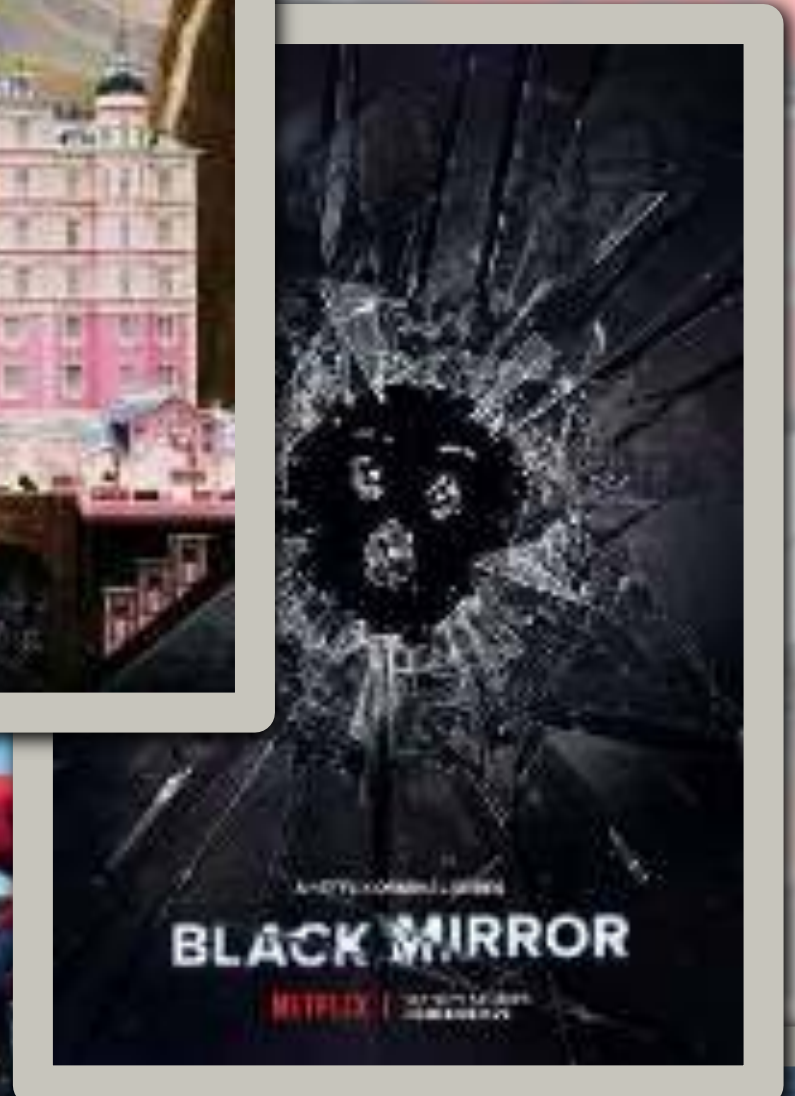
BIOS

# THE TEAM



## HENRY RUSSELL BERGSTEIN • CASTING DIRECTOR

Henry is an award winning casting director who earned honors for his work on *Manchester by the Sea* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. One of the best known casting directors in New York, Henry's resume includes *Mozart in the Jungle*, *The Sinner*, *Spider-Man Homecoming* and *Black Mirror* just to name a few. He is also the go-to casting director and associate for major New York directors such as Noah Baumbach and Wes Anderson.





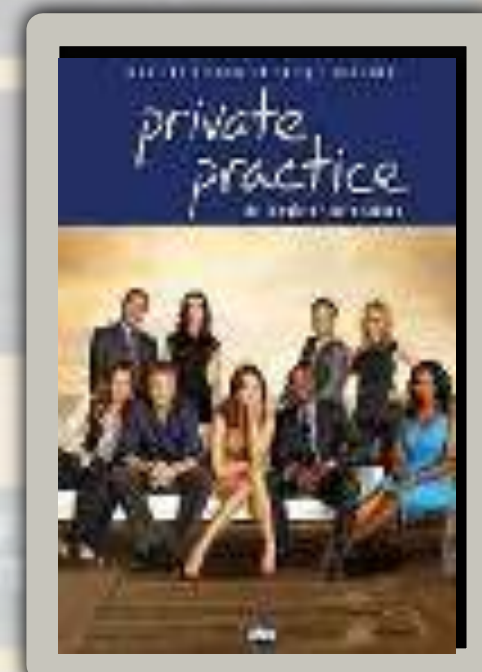
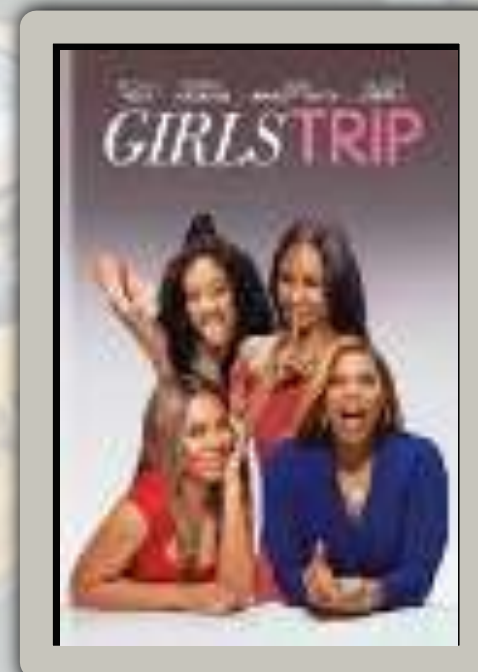
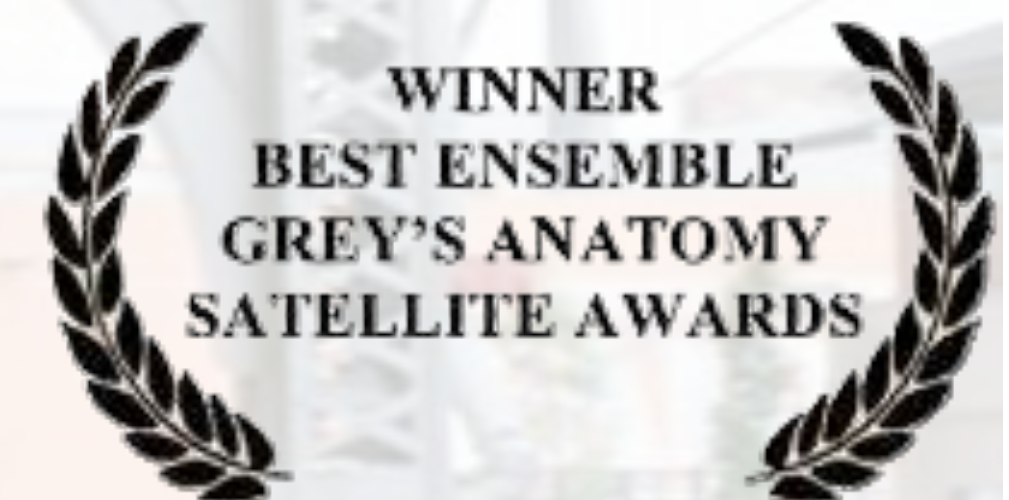
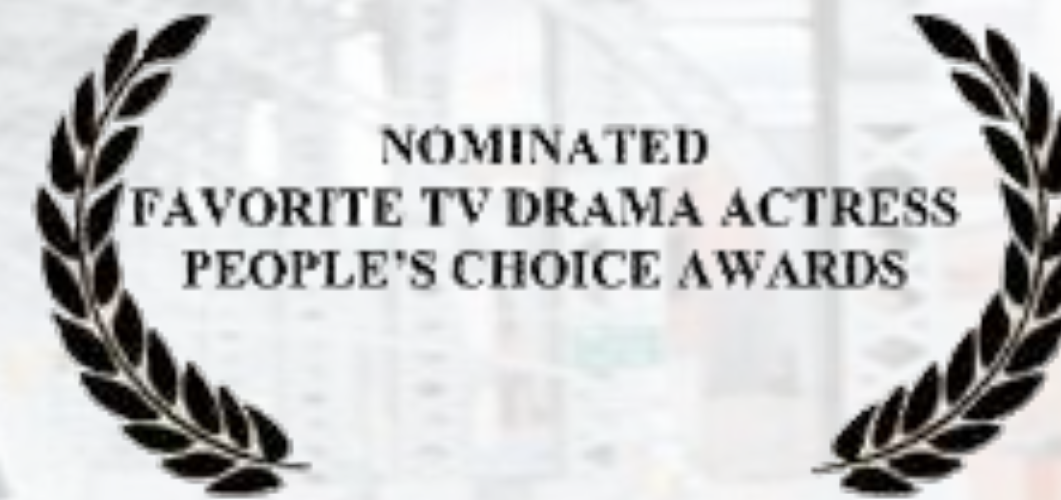
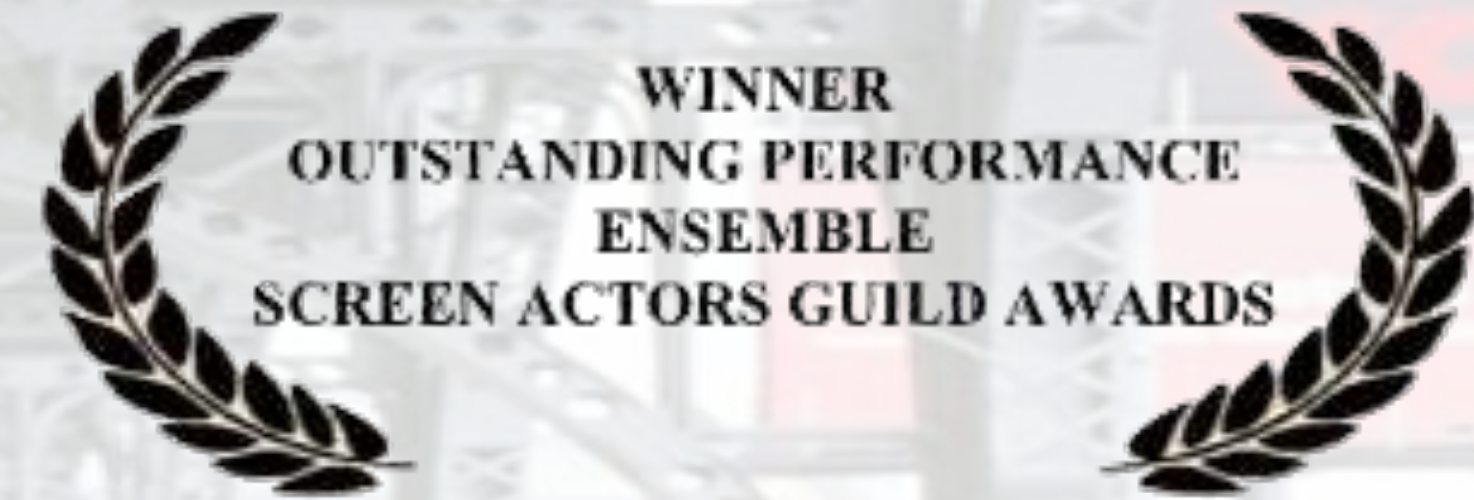
# THE TALENT

BIOS



## KATE WALSH • “ELIZABETH”

Ms. Walsh is perhaps best known for her acclaimed performance as Dr. Addison Montgomery in the award winning television series, *Grey's Anatomy*, for which she was recognized with Satellite, SDFCS and SAG Award wins. Additionally, she has appeared in the hit TV series *13 Reasons Why*, *Fargo*, and her own series, *Private Practice*. Her recent films include *The Perks of being a Wallflower*, *If I Forget*, and *Girls Trip*. Kate just wrapped *Honest Thief* with Liam Neeson.



# THE TALENT

BIOS



## PATRICIA CLARKSON • “RAVELLA”

Ms. Clarkson is a veteran of the stage and screen. She has starred in many films, including *The Station Agent*, *The Pledge*, *The Green Mile*, *Far from Heaven*, *High Art*, *Dogville*, *Good Night and Good Luck*, *Easy A*, and *Cairo Time*. She was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress and the Golden Globe for her performance in *Pieces of April* (2003). She twice won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series for her role in *Six Feet Under*. In 2015 she was nominated for a Tony Award for *The Elephant Man*. Patricia has just won the Golden Globe and the Critic's Choice Award for her work in HBO's *Sharp Objects*.



## THE TALENT

BIOS



**SCOTT EVANS •  
“ADAM”**

Scott is known for his work in *The Lovely Bones*, *Before We Go*, *Confessions of a Shopaholic*, and *Go-Go Boy Interrupted*, and for his role as Oliver Fish in the long running soap opera, *One Life to Live*. Scott most recently wrapped season 5 of the Netflix hit *Grace & Frankie*. He is also the youngest brother of actor Chris Evans, and is openly gay.



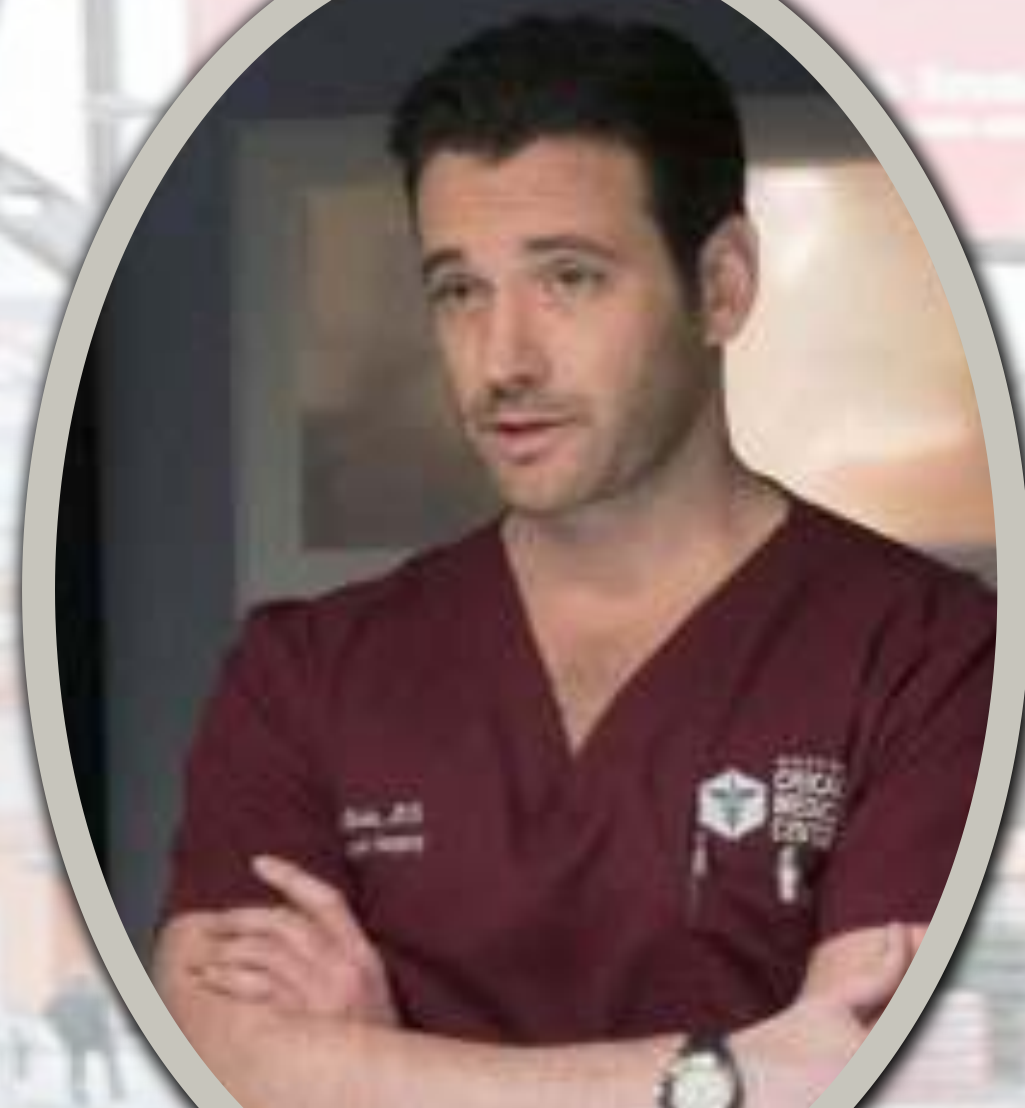
**AUGUSTUS PREW •  
“MARKLIN”**

Augustus most recently appeared in the film *Ibiza*. He is known for his roles in the films *About a Boy*, *Charlie St. Cloud*, *The Borgias*, and *Kick-Ass 2*. He was the star of the CBS medical drama *Pure Genius* and the Fox crime drama *Prison Break*. Augustus will next be seen in *Special*. He is openly gay and married to fellow actor Jeffery Self.



**MICHELLE BUTEAU •  
“CAMMY”**

Michelle just wrapped *The First Wives Club* and *Tales of the City*. She hosts the popular podcast *Late Night Whenever*. She can be seen on Comedy Central as well as HBO's *Two Dope Queens*. She has also appeared in such TV comedies as *The Tick*, *Broad City*, *Enlisted* and *Key and Peele*. Michelle will next be seen in the film *Isn't It Romantic*.



**COLIN DONNELL •  
“HENRY”**

Star of stage and screen, Colin is best known for his performances as Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes*, Tommy Merlyn in the television series *Arrow*, Scotty Lockhart on the Showtime drama *The Affair* and as Dr. Connor Rhodes in the NBC medical drama *Chicago Med*.

## THE TALENT

BIOS



**CHRISTOPHER GRAY •  
“SCOTT JAMES”**

Christopher is best known for his performance as Tyler Denton in the TV series *The Mist*. He has also appeared in *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *Unforgettable*, and *The Americans*. He just wrapped shooting the comedy *A Boat Movie*. Christopher's film *Harpoon* is set for release in 2019 after premiering at The Rotterdam Film Festival.



**ZOE CHAO •  
“HALEY”**

Zoe is best known for her role as Shayna in the HBO hit show *The Comeback* starring Lisa Kudrow. She has also appeared in *God Particles*, *The Protector*, and *Hart of Dixie*. She just completed filming *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*, playing opposite Cate Blanchett and Kristen Wiig. Zoe is currently filming *Downhill* with Will Ferrell and Julia Louis-Dreyfus.



**BRIAN MARC •  
“GUILLERMO”**

Brian is an American actor, musician, and writer. He is best known for his role in Marvel's *Luke Cage* on Netflix. Marc was recently seen in the Sundance hit *White Girl*, and on TNT's *Major Crimes*. He also portrays JP Guerrero in the film adaptation of *Nerve*.



**JOHN DOMAN •  
“TOMMY”**

John is an actor, known for *Mercury Rising*, *Mystic River*, and *You Were Never Really Here*. Most recently he has appeared in the TV series *The Affair*, *Berlin Station*, and *Instinct*. His most popular role has been as Carmine Falcone in the hit TV series *Gotham*.

# LOCATIONS

**New York. New York. New York...**  
(With a brief jaunt to the country)

It sounds cliché, but New York is its own character. For most of us, we love her and we hate her. New York can be a demanding partner, challenging you to push yourself places you never thought imaginable. New York is full of contradiction, chaos, and connection.



Far West Chelsea captures so much of what makes New York unique, the intersection of young and old, rich and poor, art and commerce. There is a feeling here at the edge of the West side that if you don't make your dreams and ambitions a reality, you might just get pushed right off the island into the water. It's where city housing butts up against \$20 million condos, where the Folsom Street East leather fair frolics beneath the family friendly Highline, a place where somehow all the difference and juxtaposition make sense. It's the reason why we will be filming here, because the city is like most of relationships... a sprawling beautiful mess that somehow works.

# LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION



# LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION



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