



SLASH

Written and Directed by Clay Liford

Starring Michael Johnston, Hannah Marks, Missi Pyle, Jessie Ennis, Peter Vack, Sarah Ramos, and Michael Ian Black



ACQUISITION TITLE
100 MINUTES / USA / NOT RATED

PUBLICITY CONTACT

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SYNOPSIS

Neil (Michael Johnston, *Teen Wolf*) is an introverted, questioning high school freshman. Lacking any friends IRL, his main social outlet is the steamy fan fiction he writes about Vanguard, the brawny, galaxy-hopping hero of a popular sci-fi franchise. When his stories are exposed in class Neil is mortified, but the slightly older, effortlessly cool Julia (Hannah Marks, *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*) comes to his defense. An erotic fan fic writer herself, Julia pushes Neil to publish his stories to an online "adult" forum, where they quickly grab the attention of the site moderator, Denis (Michael Ian Black). When Neil is invited to present his work at a comic con live-read event, he has to face the fact that Denis' interest in him may be more than simply professional... perhaps like his own feelings for Julia.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

There have been countless coming-of-age stories, but most of them reflect the era in which the filmmaker was raised, and as such they're basically period pieces. In the majority of them, the internet lies waiting in the future.

This is a story set firmly in the information age: an age when, for the first time ever, kids have more access to information in their own bedrooms than in the greatest of the world's libraries. This film is about getting your adult information from such a source, and how confusing and misleading that can be. Especially when it comes to sex. This is about social networking and how even though this technology theoretically brings us closer together, it actually seems to drive us further apart.

Most high school stories center on the idea of the "outsider," and the internet has given us unfettered access to the ultimate outsiders (and outsider artists). The writers of slash fiction are so below the radar, so maligned and so taboo, I can't think of another group more outside the mainstream. This is a coming-of-age story for kids who don't get their own coming-of-age stories.

The bizarre nature of this story, and the oft-maligned subculture it brings to the fore, provide an opportunity to really explore the notion of being a teenage outsider in a more honest and far less sanitized way than I've seen in many years. These kids are outsiders amongst outsiders. They have to fend for themselves. And that extends to their sexual awakening. It's not meant to be explicit, but it's also not dumbed down. If there's one thing I hate, it's movies about kids that are didactic at best, condescending at worst.

I've devoted probably way too much time to my research, and I've pretty much fallen down the rabbit hole with regards to slash fiction. My initial response to reading numerous selections on the internet was revulsion. I didn't really understand what drove these fans to write "dirty" stories with virtually no chance of gaining mainstream exposure. But then I kept reading. And I began to read correspondences between authors in this surprisingly tight-knit group. And it all started to click. Sometimes in the most apparently debase or taboo lands, you find an understanding of human nature lacking in the oft-sanitized mainstream. I have a newfound appreciation for this form of personal expression. It's something grossly misunderstood, a subject full of humor and pathos. Something I want to introduce evenhandedly to the world and, by extension, project the message that it's

okay to be unsure of who you are; to question. By embracing the most outre of outsiders, I feel we're embracing the part of ourselves we only reveal when the lights are out and we think nobody's looking. Let's light a tiny, 60 watt bulb here.

- **CLAY LIFORD**

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Clay Liford | Writer/Director

Clay Liford has written and directed three features, including WUSS (SXSW 2011, AFI 2011 Audience Award Winner) and EARTHLING (SXSW 2010). His comedy short, MY MOM SMOKES WEED, has played over forty festivals, including the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. As a DP, Clay has shot 20 features, including the award winning films ST. NICK and GAYBY.

Brock Williams | Producer

Brock Williams has produced dozens of short films and documentaries, as well as commercials and promotional videos, through his production company Boxcar Films. In 2008 Williams produced his first feature film, the micro-budget comedy BOX ELDER. In 2011 he was a co-producer on Adam Wingard's YOU'RE NEXT, which premiered at TIFF and quickly sold to Lionsgate, receiving a wide release in 2013. He produced Todd Sklar's Sundance short film '92 SKYBOX ALONZO MOURNING ROOKIE CARD (2012), and its feature film followup AWFUL NICE, which premiered at SXSW 2013 and was distributed by Screen Media. His first feature documentary as producer was KILLING THEM SAFELY, which premiered at Tribeca 2015 and was released theatrically by IFC Films/Sundance Selects in November 2015. Williams is a 2014 Film Independent Producers' Lab Fellow with SLASH, which also received support from IFP and Austin Film Society.

Jason Wehling | Producer

Jason's producing credits include the feature narratives AUGUST EVENING (Spirit Award Winner), THE HAPPY POET (SXSW, Venice), FOURPLAY (Sundance, Cannes Director's Fortnight), SATURDAY MORNING MASSACRE (LA Film Fest), GOOD NIGHT (SXSW) and THE RETRIEVAL (SXSW Jury Prize Winner) and the documentaries THE JONES FAMILY WILL MAKE A WAY, A PLACE TO DANCE (PBS), OUTSIDE INDUSTRY: THE STORY OF SXSW, AMERICA'S PARKING LOT (ESPN) and AN UNREAL DREAM: THE MICHAEL MORTON STORY (CNN). Jason was on the programming team at PBS headquarters, and he taught Journalism at the University of Texas.

Louis Black | Executive Producer

Louis Black is a co-founder and editor of The Austin Chronicle and co-founder and director of SXSW. Black is also an award-winning producer of documentary films like THE GREAT INVISIBLE, and THE ORDER OF MYTHS (Margaret Brown) and SIR DOUG AND THE GENUINE TEXAS COSMIC GROOVE.

ABOUT THE CAST

Michael Johnston | “Neil Shafer”

Michael Johnston has always been passionate about storytelling and performing. Growing up in rural North Carolina Michael didn't provide many opportunities to pursue a career in acting but luckily at the age of 12 Michael discovered the world of voiceover. With the help of the internet and his mom's credit card, Michael set up a recording studio in his bedroom and started auditioning for commercials and animations nationwide and before he knew it he was running his own business. After finishing high school early he moved with his dad to Chicago where Michael furthered his acting study at The Second City. The plan was for Michael to start college but 6 months after the move to Chicago Michael decided to go west to chase the dream.

Currently recurring on MTV's "Teen Wolf", Michael Johnston has had an eventful two years living in Los Angeles. Since moving from Chicago, Michael has starred in the indie features "Slash" and "Bornless Ones", appeared in MTV's "Awkward", and racked up numerous voiceover gigs, including the series lead of eOne's "Zak Storm", a recurring role in the Dreamworks/Netflix series "Home", and a regular on MTV's animated pilot "Hoops".

Hannah Marks | “Julia Jordan”

With six films slated for upcoming releases, including lead roles in Tim Blake Nelson's ANESTHESIA with Kristen Stewart and Glenn Close (Tribeca, distributed by IFC in 2016), SOUTHBOUND (Toronto, distributed by The Orchard in 2016), HARD SELL with Kristen Chenoweth, the sequel to Sundance cult classic SLC PUNK entitled PUNK'S DEAD (distributed by Cinedigm in 2016), and YOU CAN'T WIN opposite Michael Pitt, rising young actress Hannah Marks has a busy year ahead.

Marks most recently shot Clay Liford's independent feature SLASH with Missi Pyle and Michael Ian Black -- and is slated to star in THE EDUCATION OF TANIS KAHLIL. Prior to that, she starred in Rose McGowan's short DAWN, which premiered at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival where Marks also acted at the 2012 Writer/Director's Lab. Marks' previous film credits include THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE RUNAWAYS, and ACCEPTED. Her notable television credits include a series regular role for three seasons on the Golden Globe-nominated series NECESSARY ROUGHNESS and a recurring role for two seasons on the Emmy Award-winning WEEDS. On TV, she will next be seen with a recurring arc on ABC's upcoming show THE REAL O'NEALS.

As a writer, her feature film *ESKIMO SISTERS* was optioned in 2014 and then featured on the 2015 Hit List of the year's best screenplays. A native of Los Angeles, Marks currently resides in both New York and Los Angeles.

Michael Ian Black | "Denis"

Michael Ian Black is a multi-media talent who's starred in numerous films and TV series, written and/or directed two films, is a published author and commentator, and regularly tours the country performing his ribald brand of jokes and observations. He's currently starring in TV Land's "The Gaffigan Show" and Comedy Central's "Another Period," both of which are about to shoot their second seasons. Last summer, he reprised his iconic film role in the first season of the Netflix series, "Wet Hot American Summer: First Day of Camp." This May, his third standup comedy special, "Navel Gazing," debuts on Epix.

Previously, Black released two stand-up specials, "Very Famous" and "I Am A Wonderful Man." He and Tom Cavanagh host the popular podcast, "Mike and Tom Eat Snacks." He also writes and hosts a podcast with Michael Showalter, "Topics," and his own interview podcast, "How To Be Amazing." He can currently be seen hosting "Easiest Game Show Ever" on Pop TV.

Sketch comedy fans know Black's work on "The State," "Viva Variety," "Stella" and "Michael and Michael Have Issues," all of which he co-created, wrote and starred in. Other TV credits include quirky bowling alley manager 'Phil' on the NBC series "Ed," and his witty commentary on cable's "I Love the..." series. He recently starred in two hit web series that migrated to cable TV: "Burning Love" on E! and "You're Whole" on Adult Swim.

Black's movie roles include "Smosh: The Movie," "They Came Together," "Hell Baby," "This is 40," "Wet Hot American Summer," "Take Me Home Tonight," "Reno 911!: Miami," "The Ten" and "The Baxter." Black wrote and directed the film "Wedding Daze," starring Jason Biggs and Isla Fisher. He also co-wrote the comedy "Run, Fatboy, Run," directed by David Schwimmer and starring Simon Pegg, Hank Azaria and Thandie Newton.

He recently released his well-reviewed second memoir, "Navel Gazing: True Tales of Bodies, Mostly Mine (but also my mom's, which I know sounds weird)," following on 2012's "You're Not Doing It Right: Tales of Marriage, Sex, Death and Other Humiliations." Also in 2012, he collaborated with conservative Meghan McCain on "America, You Sexy Bitch: A Love Letter to Freedom." He's the author of "My Custom Van (and 50 Other Mind-Blowing Essays That Will Blow Your Mind All Over Your Face)," and children's books "Cock-a-Doodle-Do-Boop!," "Naked," "Chicken Cheeks," "The Purple Kangaroo," "A Pig Parade Is A Terrible Idea" and "I'm Bored." He also writes book reviews for the New York Times.

Originally from Hillsborough, NJ, Black resides with his family in the wilds of Connecticut.

Missi Pyle | “Ronnie”

Born in Texas and raised in Tennessee, Missi Pyle attended the North Carolina School of the Arts and moved to New York after her graduation to pursue a career in theatre. While there, Pyle continued working in Off-Broadway theatre where she performed opposite John Malkovich in Steppenwolf Theater Company's "The Libertine." She soon made her film debut opposite Helen Hunt in "As Good As It Gets" and moved on to land major roles in television and feature films.

Pyle's film credits include 2012's Academy Award winner for Best Picture "The Artist," "Spring Breakdown" with Amy Poehler, Amber Tamblyn, and Rachel Dratch, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story," "Big Fish," "Bringing Down the House," "Feast of Love," and "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy." Pyle gained attention for her hilarious portrayal of the alien "Laliari" in "Galaxy Quest" with Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, and Tony Shalhoub." Pyle's resume also includes a number of notable television appearances, including a recurring role on "The Sarah Silverman Program," "Up All Night," "Shit My Dad Says," "Two and a Half Men," and "Friends" to name a few. In fact, David E. Kelley became so taken with Missi as a result of her work in an episode of "Boston Legal" that he crafted a role in his later series "The Wedding Bells" with her in mind.

When she's not lighting up the big or small screens Pyle is working on her music and performing with her band. She released a debut album titled "It's Okay to Be Happy" with her band Smith & Pyle before hitting the road with her solo show "Sexy as Hell" which had sold out performances at Joe's Pub in New York, as well as several venues in Los Angeles. She's currently working on another album with her new group The Nice Ladies.

Missi Pyle received a lot of buzz for her flashy role in "Gone Girl" opposite Rosamund Pike and Ben Affleck. She is next due to appear with Viggo Mortensen in the feature "Captain Fantastic" which had its debut at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. She stars opposite Penn Jillette in the upcoming DIRECTOR'S CUT, in which she plays herself as an actress starring in a police drama who is abducted by a crazed fan who makes her "re-shoot" the film according to his creative vision. The film debuted at this year's Slamdance Film Festival.

Sarah Ramos | “Marin Shafer”

Sarah Ramos is a writer, director, and actress. She has appeared as a series regular on *Parenthood* (NBC), *Runaway* (CW), and *American Dreams* (NBC). Ramos starred in the

independent film *Why Stop Now* alongside Jesse Eisenberg and Melissa Leo. In addition to *Slash*, she will be seen in the upcoming independent films *We Don't Belong Here* and *The Boy Downstairs*, as well as Warner Brothers' *How to be Single*.

In 2011, Ramos co-wrote and -directed a short film, *The Arm*, which won the 2012 Sundance Film Festival Jury Prize for Comedic Storytelling. In 2015, she graduated from Columbia University with a degree in creative writing. Ramos is currently in pre-production on her feature directorial debut.

Peter Vack | “Mike Holloway”

Peter Vack is an actor and filmmaker from New York City. Vack was the lead on Doug Liman’s cult series *I JUST WANT MY PANTS BACK* for MTV and is on Amazon Studio’s Golden Globe winning *MOZART IN THE JUNGLE* starring Gael Garcia Bernal, Lola Kirke and Malcolm McDowell and created by Jason Schwartzman, Roman Coppola, and Paul Weitz. IndieWire named Vack one of “The 21 Biggest Indie Breakout Actors of 2014.” As an actor Peter’s recent film roles include: Anthony Onah’s *DARA JU*, Leah Meyerhoff’s *I BELIEVE IN UNICORNS* (SXSW 2014), Hannah Fidell’s *6 YEARS* (SXSW 2015), Sarah-Violet Bliss and Charles Rogers’ *FORT TILDEN* (Winner Narrative Feature Competition, SXSW 2014), Harrison Atkin’s *LACE CRATER* (TIFF 2015), Celia Rowilson-Hall’s *MA* (Venice 2015) and Nancy Meyers’ *THE INTERN* starring Robert DeNiro and Anne Hathaway. As writer/director Vack was named an RBC's Emerging Storyteller at IFP's 36th annual Independent Film week in 2014 and a Sundance Institute Feature Film Fellow for his upcoming film www.rachelormont.com, which received the Zygmunt and Audrey Wilf Foundation Award also through the Sundance Institute Feature Film Program. His award winning short film *SEND* screened at over a dozen film festivals including SXSW and AFI Fest. Vack is currently in postproduction on his debut feature, a comedy called *ASSHOLES*.

Jessie Ennis | “Martine”

Jessie Ennis is an actress and filmmaker living in Los Angeles. Her past television roles include Fox's *RED BAND SOCIETY*, FX's *MARRIED*, and a large recurring arc on HBO's award winning show *VEEP*. Jessie can currently be seen on AMC's *BETTER CALL SAUL* as Erin Brill. She starred opposite Will Ferrell and Amy Poehler in the feature film *THE HOUSE*. She also recently wrapped production on James Franco’s film *THE DISASTER ARTIST*. Jessie is currently in production on the Untitled Amy Poehler/Charlie Grandy pilot for NBC.

Lucas Neff | “The Kragon”

Lucas Neff was the star of FOX's *Raising Hope*. Recently worked on AMC's *Preacher* and ABC's *Downward Dog*. His film *Fear Inc.* Is set to premiere at Tribeca later this year. He

is an award nominated playwright. And has written other stuff, a decent portion of which he now regrets.

CREDITS

Written and Directed by Clay Liford

Casting by
J.C. Cantu, CSA

Original Music by
Curtis Heath
Lauren Sanders

Costumes by
Nichole Hull
Annell Brodeur

Production Designer
Chelsea Turner

Edited by
Bryan Poyser
David Fabelo

Director of Photography
Ellie Ann Fenton

Associate Producers
Jeryll Adler
Melissa Breaux
Scott Colquitt

Co-Executive Producer
Kevin Green
Morgan Coy
Kristin Johansen-Berg
Neil Wilson

Executive Producers
Randy Sinquefeld
Jesse Lyda
Louis Black

Co-Producers
Traci Carlson

Steven J. Berger

Produced by
Brock Williams
Jason Wehling

CAST
(in order of appearance)

Vanguard	Tishuan Scott
The Kragon	Lucas Neff
Ullich Slave Girl	Courtney Bandeko
Neil	Michael Johnston
Jack	Dalton Phillips
Bill	Ben J. Pierce
Jessie	Allie DeBerry
Lindsay	Violet Beane
Drama Girl	Jackie Palacios
Mr. Ford	Matt Peters
Edward	Dustin Ballard
Julia's Lab Partner	Sharmita Bhattacharya
Julia	Hannah Marks
Marin	Sarah Ramos
Blake	Robert Longstreet
Mr. Snow	Burnie Burns
Receptionist	Cyndi Williams
Martine	Jessie Ennis
Mike Holloway	Peter Vack
Mike's Friend Greg	Reece Everett Ryan
Daron Zaxa	John Ennis
Senator Silva	Jonathan Lisecki

Anglaxia Supremacy IV	Angela Kinsey
Laylanath Inquisitrix VII	Laura Bailey
Luxalia Contendrax III	Luciana Faulhaber
Merculliax Pernicious IX	Liza Oppenheimer
Pan Galactic Council Alien 1	Jennifer Prediger
Pan Galactic Council Alien 2	Mark Hosack
Tech Director Kid	Phillip Clement
Ms. Lewis	Susan Burke
Cheryl	Brandy Burre
Hotel Receptionist	Amy Edwards
Denis	Michael Ian Black
Freddie	Nate Rubin
Toho	Kelli Bland
Hot Dog Paul	Robert Cownie
Spirit Hood 1	Erica Alcocer
Spirit Hood 2	Layne Edwards
Raver Girl	Nikki Loehr
Nintendo DS Kid	Isaac Ireland
Sci Fi Author	Sam Eidson
Ronnie	Missi Pyle
Beth	Kerri Lendo
Proxon Boy	Dakota Morrissiey
Security Guard 1	Heath Young
Security Guard 2	Karen Burke
Julia's New Boyfriend	Coulter Adams

CREW

Casting Associate	Travis Zahodnik
Transmedia Producer	Morgan Coy
	Monofonus Press
Art Director	Scott Colquitt
On Set Dresser	David Cole
Camera Operator	Chris Archer
Camera First Assistant	Lauren Pruitt
Camera Second Assistant/DIT	Chad Kohl
Camera Intern	Kirby Tucker
Gaffer	John W. Knudsen
Key Grips	Alex Diamond
	Carmen Hilbert
Company Grips	Ivan Salazar
	Drake Howard
Swing	Charlie Pearce
	Michael Deitch
	Morgan Bond
	Reed Smith
Sound Mixer	Renée Stairs
Additional Sound Mixer	Paul Toohey
Boom Operator	Aidan Murphy
Script Supervisor	Brett Hamann

Office Intern	Shelby Jay
Key Hair & Makeup	Amy Wilson
Makeup Assistant	Erin Klarer
Wardrobe Assistant	Alexandra Susholtz
Wardrobe PA	Stacey Trove
Local Casting	Brad Burton
	Kim Williams
Background Casting	Phoebe Waldron
Set Medic	William Wehling
Craft Services & Product Placement/Donations	Jeryll Adler
Craft Services Production Assistant	Roy Salmon
Researcher	Ramona Flume
Set Photographers	Patrick Rusk
	Whitney Devin
	Corey Hale Ransberg
	Andrea Kinneson
Catering by	Dine by Design
	El Chilito

Assistant to the Producers	Christian Berg
Talent Production Assistant	Adam Goetz
Production Assistants	Daniel E. Martin
	Emeka Uwazurike
	Taylor Calfee
Set Intern	Victoria Chapa

VANGUARD UNIT

First Assistant Director	Andrew Turner
Second Assistant Director	Nick Kohut
Stunt Coordinator	Anthony Nanakornpanom
Assistant Stunt Coordinator	Jawed El Berni
Art Director	Drew Cookson
Construction Coordinator	Nick Cinelli
Prop Master	Jessie Chaffin
Set Dresser	Wilson Bessinger
Costumer	Paula Gallucci
Vanguard/Kragon Concept Art	Skip Harvey
	Amalia Litsa

Vanguard/Kragon Armor Fabrication	Joe Carrera
A Camera Operator	Chris Archer
A Camera First Assistant	Yoshi Kinoshita
A Camera Second Assistant	Kirby Tucker
B Camera Operator	Donald McKinnon
B Camera First Assistant	Matt Berbano
B Camera Second Assistant	Brett Roedel
Digital Image Technician	Jason Wehling
Gaffer	Jose Barocio, Jr.
Dimmer Operator	Matt Heinz
Key Grip	Cameron Jones
Best Boy Grip	Ty Eddingston
Dolly Grip	Ely Gonzalez
Company Grip	Carlos Chavez
Swing	Victor Want
Sound Mixer	Thomas Cassetta
Boom Operator	David Griesinger
Script Supervisor	Caitlin Kelly Singh
Hair and Makeup Designer	Chia-Chia Feng
Assistant Makeup Designer	Margaux Rocher
Assistant Hair and Makeup	Joann Shih
Sponsor for Makeup Material	Makeup & Effects Laboratories, Inc.

Drivers	Chris Wieland
	Robert Wong
Set Photographer	Michael Rababy
Vasquez Rocks Representative	Debbie Goodwin
Laurel Canyon Stages Representative	Mary Claypool
Catering by	Impeccable Taste
Security and Medic Provided By	A1 Crew & Alanna Shimel
Set Security	Whyatt Lee
Set Medic	Joe Bravo
Production Assistants	Dakota Morrissiey
	Jordan Mitchell
	Justin Madsen
	Kyle Vorbach
	Laura Stoddard
	Mara Whitehead
	Sam Hall
	Taylor Mechlinski

POST-PRODUCTION

Assistant Editor	Lauren Sanders
Post Production Sound provided by	Friendo Sound
Sound Re-Recording Mixer	Eric Friend
Assistant Sound Editor	Sarah Malika Boudissa
Colorist	Joe Malina
Additional Music by	Sarah Malika Boudissa
	Matthew Antony

POST-VFX

Visual Effects Supervisor	Jason Wehling
Graphic Artists	Jen Piper
	Wylie Earnheart
	Kirby Conn
Fonts For Onscreen Typing	Data Control
Publicity	Brigade Marketing
Poster Design	Yen Tan
Marketing Interns	Annie Tadvick
	Shannon Cloud