



# *Cicada*

THE FILM COLLABORATIVE AN ASSOCIATION OF SFFILM AND TRIBECA FILM INSTITUTE PRESENTS A FILM BY MATTHEW FIFER  
DIRECTED BY ERIC SCHLEICHER WITH GIL TALI EDITED BY CISELA FULLA-SILVESTRE PRODUCED BY KYLE SIMS AND MATTHEW FIFER  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHRIS WEIHART PRODUCED BY JEREMY TRUONG & RAMFIS MYRTIL WRITTEN BY MATTHEW FIFER AND SHELDON BROWN  
SCREENPLAY BY MATTHEW FIFER PRODUCED BY MATTHEW FIFER & KIERAN MULLCARE

The Film Collaborative Presents

Matthew Fifer

Sheldon Brown

# *Cicada*

Written and Directed by Matthew Fifer  
Additional Story Inspired by Sheldon Brown  
Produced by Jeremy Truong & Ramfis Myrthil

Running Time: 93 Minutes and 33 Seconds  
Year: 2020

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## Logline

New York City, 2013. Somethings are worth waiting seventeen years for, others should have come out sooner.

## Synopsis

After a string of unsuccessful and awkward encounters with women, Ben goes “back on the dick.” CICADA follows Ben, a young bisexual man, as he comes out to the world and develops an intense relationship with Sam, a man of color struggling with deep wounds of his own. As the summer progresses and their intimacy grows, Ben’s past crawls to the surface.

## Notable Awards/Press

Awarded the 2018 SFFilm Rainin Grant  
Participated in the 2019 TFI Network  
Received the 2019 TFI Pond5 Grant  
[Indiewire’s 2020 Sundance Wishlist](#)

# Director's Statement

"Cicada" was the secret I never wanted to tell. It was born out of necessity. I was tired of seeing the same abuse story told over and over again— trauma for the sake of drama, pain without levity, filmmakers representing experiences they had no actual experience with themselves— traumavores. The fact is one in three girls and one in five boys will be sexually abused before the age of eighteen. The abused come in all shapes and sizes, abusers are still human beings not one-dimensional monsters. None of these narratives really come close to negotiating that truth.

I needed to tell a story that was closer to my own.  
I needed to make this film to heal.

Three months before production, my friend and co-lead Sheldon Brown was shot in Chicago. We didn't know if he'd be okay or if we should even continue. He was always an integral part of this story and he had been in my heart from the very first page.

The project fell apart overnight.

Over that time, I kept coming back to the same feeling. My experience felt inconsequential in the wake of his. His wounds were life and death, loved ones dealing with the very real possibility they'd lose their best friend. He had scars he could touch. A street he could refer to.

My pain felt distant and numb. It was now nothing but a bad dream.

It was spring. Sheldon came out of surgery, cicadas began to blanket the NY nights. I didn't know Sheldon's pain— I didn't even know if Sheldon knew his own pain, but at the heart this story was reconciling the truth. And I knew if he was healthy enough, we could do it together.

"Cicada" is a feature that toes the line between narrative and doc with the two actors you see on screen reliving their own experiences. It is a film of love and loss, great pain but also immense joy. And it has grown and evolved as many times as the ancient creatures it's named after. It's a film we hope inspires others to heal, and a story I wish I had growing up.

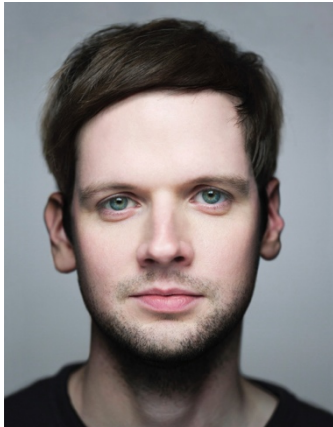
## CAST AND CREW BIOGRAPHIES

### MATTHEW FIFER | WRITER, DIRECTOR, ACTOR



Matt Fifer is a Brooklyn based filmmaker. He studied under Sherrybaby director, Laurie Collyer, and had an education in theory and philosophy. He's worked on shorts, commercials, and big budget features like "The Avengers" and "A Late Quartet." In 2016 and 2017, he made IndieWire's "Top 10" list for best web series of the year. Cicada is his feature directorial debut.

### KIERAN MULCARE | CO-DIRECTOR



Kieran Mulcare is a graduate of the UNC School of the Arts. He is best known for playing Ruben in Netflix/Marvel's Jessica Jones and the White Rabbit in Fox/DC's Gotham. Other credits include The Blacklist, Law and Order: SVU, Broad City, The Following, the independent shorts Olfactory, and Jewish Girls Ae Easy. He has a recurring role on Showtime's upcoming Untitled Roger Ailes project and this is his directing debut.

### JEREMY TRUONG | PRODUCER



Jeremy is a San Francisco transplant working as an LGBTQ+ film producer in New York. Attracted to films that feel true to life and focus on impactful, resonating moments, he often collaborates with LGBTQ+ and PoC filmmakers to tell stories that make a difference. Jeremy is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Art's and his work has screened all over the country including the Sundance Film Festival, SXSW, and Tribeca.

## RAMFIS MYRTHIL | PRODUCER



Ramfis Myrthil is a New York-based filmmaker. He went to the 2018 Sundance Film Festival with *A Boy, A Girl, and A Dream* – which placed among the top 18 films for the entire festival. He has participated as a judge for the 2018 BAFTA Student Film Awards as well as a mentor for the Arts, Entertainment & Media Academy Field Day in Pasadena, CA. He has worked with Teach for America, Schools That Can, and Gold Coast Arts, where he taught students about the different stages of film production.

## ERIC SCHLEICHER | DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY



Eric Schleicher is a Brooklyn-based Director of Photography. His documentary roots helped inform his naturalistic filmmaking style. His film credits include the Vimeo's best of 2019 nominated, *Women are Mean* and the Comedy Central web series *Kate Berlant Teaches*. *Cicada* is his first feature film.



## CAST

### SHELDON BROWN | SAM



Sheldon D. Brown is a graduate of acting at Emerson College in Boston. This year, he has been cast as the lead in About Face Theater's *This Bitter Earth* and Red Tape Theatre's *The Shipment*. Credits include *Feral* with MPAACT Theatre Company, *American Revolution* with Theater Unspeakable, and the stage reading of *The Gospel of Lovingkindness* with Victory Gardens. He has numerous credits in Boston, including *The Grand Inquisitor* directed by Peter Brook and a collaborative work with friends, *The Shakespearean Jazz Show*, which turns Shakespeare into New Orleans Jazz.

### SANDRA BAULEO | DEBBIE



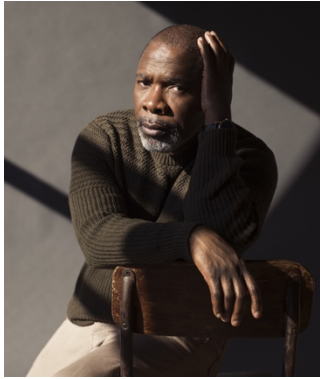
Sandra Bauleo is an American actress. A native of New York City, she is a graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She is best known for her sketch and character work.

### COBIE SMULDERS | SOPHIE



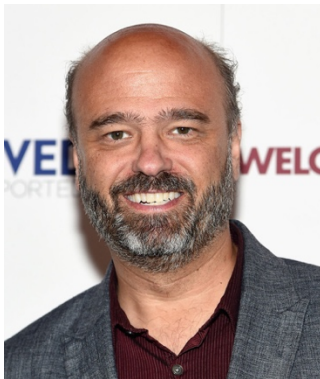
Cobie Smulders is a British Canadian actor in film, television, and theater. She currently plays Dex Parios in the ABC crime drama *Stumptown*. She has starred in *How I Met Your Mother*, *The Avengers*, *Spider-man* as well as Broadway's *Present Laughter*.

## MICHAEL POTTS | FRANCIS



Michael Potts is an American film, stage, and television actor and singer. However, his most extensive experience has been on the stage. He is best known for his performances as Brother Mouzone in the HBO series *The Wire* and *True Detective*. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

## SCOTT ADSIT | DR. DRAGONE



Scott Adsit is an American comedian, actor, and writer. He is known for his role as Pete Hornberger on the NBC sitcom *30 Rock*, which won a Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series. He also stars in *Veep*, *Appropriate Behavior*, and *Big Hero 6*.



# Credits

## CAST

Ben	MATTHEW FIFER
Sam	SHELDON BROWN
Debbie	SANDRA BAULEO
Amber	JAZMIN GRIMALDI
Sophie	COBIE SMULDERS
Dr. Dragone	SCOTT ADSIT
Francis	MICHAEL POTTS
Bo	DAVID BURTKA
Tracy	JO FIRESTONE
Theresa	JASON "FRECKLE" GREENE

## CREW

Writer/Director	MATTHEW FIFER
Co-Director	KIERAN MULCARE
Producers	JEREMY TRUONG RAMFIS MYRTHIL
Associate Producers	ADAM PERYER
1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Director	OWEN LAZUR BRANDON SCOTLAND
Production Coordinator	RAMIEL PETROS
Director of Photography	ERIC SCHLEICHER
Production Sound Mixer	VIVIAN GISLE TRAVIS SCOTT JONES
Hair and Makeup	LILY LI MIA VARRONE
Production Design	CHRIS WEIHART
Art Assistants	AZALEA AZNIDI

Set Production Assistants

IAN UDULUTCH  
WENDY CHEN  
KATIE DIONNE  
HENNA JOSHI  
MARIA LUIZA MUELLER  
ADAM ROAT  
MAC CURRY ROSS  
SULTAN ALI  
SHANEKA WILLIAMS  
RORI GOLD

Editors

KYLE SIMS  
MATTHEW FIFER

Supervising Sound Editor  
Sound Editor  
Re-Recording Mixer  
Foley Artist and Editor  
Score

GISELA FULLA-SILVESTRE  
BEN KRUSE  
GISELA FULLA-SILVESTRE  
TOMMY STANG  
GIL TALMI

Supervising Post Producer  
Colorist

AHMED BARBARY  
TAREK HEFNEY

## Stills



*Pictured: Cobie Smulders (left), Matthew Fifer (right)*



*Pictured: Sheldon Brown*





*Pictured: Sheldon Brown (left), Matthew Fifer (right)*



*Pictured: Sheldon Brown*

Behind the Scenes





The Cicada crew sets up at Coney Island in New York.



The team company moves to the next location on feet for this run and gun day.





Our DP, Eric, frames up for a golden hour shot during our pickups.



The team reviews the last take before moving on.



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