



a RHODE TRIP PICTURES production

THE EXTINCTION OF FIREFLIES

a film by JAMES ANDREW WALSH

MICHAEL URIE/DREW DROEGE/KARIO MARCEL/and TRACIE BENNETT
 Written and Directed by JAMES ANDREW WALSH/Executive Producer KIMBERLY CHESSEY
 Director of Photography DAVID ZAPATKA/Production Designer KRISTEN VALLOW
 Adapted to the screen by JAMES ANDREW WALSH from his play "The Extinction of Fireflies"



Rhode Trip Pictures presents

"THE EXTINCTION OF FIREFLIES"

RHODE TRIP PICTURES

Running Time.....84 min

GenreComedy/Drama

Year2020

Language.....English

Country of Origin United States

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Official Facebook: www.facebook.com/theextinctionoffireflies

Twitter: www.twitter.com/theextinctionoffireflies

Instagram: www.instagram.com/theextinctionoffireflies

Hashtags: #theextinctionoffireflies, #whenalltheworldsastage, #rhodetripictures

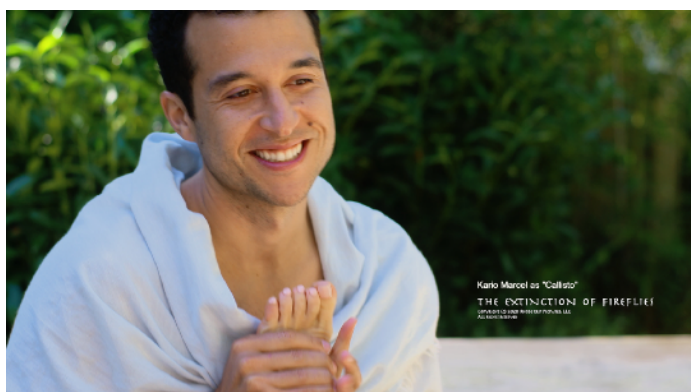
The Extinction of Fireflies was shot entirely on location at the director's home in Westerly, Rhode Island during the 2020 global pandemic. The film is executive produced by Kimberly Chesser and James Andrew Walsh for When All The World's A Stage (www.whenalltheworldsastage.com), a subsidiary of Rhode Trip Pictures, whose mission is to produce small screen adaptations of material written for the stage. This film is dedicated to all the fireflies extinguished by aids and by the corona virus.

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DOWNLOAD HI-RES IMAGES AT OUR VIRTUAL PRESS OFFICE: www.whenalltheworldsastage.com/extinction-of-fireflies

SYNOPSIS

Set over Labor Day Weekend in coastal New England, a middle-aged playwright invites longtime friend, legendary TV diva, Charlotte Christian, and occasionally-working actor friend, Jay Mulch, to read his latest dramatic effort, "The Extinction of Fireflies", a mythological comedy based on the epic romance of Roman Emperor Hadrian and his teenage lover Antinous. But when Jay brings along his new (and younger) lover Callisto, the feedback is spectacular. Starring Michael Urie, Tracie Bennett, Drew Droege, and Kario Marcel.



WRITER-DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



James is the 2019 Cannes Lions Silver Award winner for his co-creation and direction of the immersive theatre piece **As Much As I Can** at the Public Theater in NYC, and Grand Prize recipient at the Rhode Island Film Festival for his teleplay, **The Gods of Newport**. James is the co-creator/executive producer of the upcoming Hallmark Channel series *Gilded Age* Newport Mysteries. At Warner Bros, James executive produced: **A Fearful Joy: The Mother Teresa Story (ABC miniseries)**. A Broadway World award winner, James is a Columbia University graduate who lives in Los Angeles and NYC—and his beloved home in Westerly, RI.

I made this film during the 2020 global pandemic under my production company's **When All The World's A Stage** banner (<https://whenalltheworldsastage.com>). **When All The World's A Stage** is dedicated to producing screen adaptations of material originally written for the stage. "**The Extinction of Fireflies**" is our premiere film under this banner.

In light of the uncertain future of live theatre, I am keen to explore new ways to use the digital space in service of those stories traditionally told in the theatrical one. "**The Extinction of Fireflies**" explores a new format: dialogue driven, shot in a way that implies and breaks the fourth wall, with cinematography, production, and lighting design informed by the intersectionality of conventional theatre naturalism and realism.

"**The Extinction of Fireflies**" is the second play in a trilogy of plays that I began with "**Jimmy and Carolyn**", now in pre-production and set for an October 2021 start date with Mary Beth Peil and Gregory Harrison in the titular roles. These two plays and a third, "**Ode To A Renegade**", explore the generational issues and themes that are currently (and uniquely) manifesting in the lives of gay men of the pre- and post-AIDS cohorts.

This film is dedicated to all the fireflies extinguished by AIDS and by the corona virus.

James Andrew Walsh
Writer/Director

Rhode Trip Pictures
production@rhodetrippictures.com

When All The World's A Stage
Producing small screen adaptations of material written for the stage.
www.whenalltheworldsastage.com

PRODUCTION COMPANY

RHODE TRIP PICTURES

Rhode Trip Pictures slate of upcoming small screen projects includes:

- ◆ A three-part documentary series currently in post production based on architectural historian's new book, **"Newport, The Artful City"**
- ◆ Walsh is Co-Creator/Executive Producer of the upcoming **"Gilded Age Mysteries"** series on the Hallmark Channel, currently in pre-production
- ◆ Co-Creator/Co-Writer of a musical about the young life of Sir Isaac Newton, **"The Last Magician"**, currently in development at 20th-Century Fox Animation
- ◆ **"Jimmy and Carolyn"**, the prequel to "The Extinction of Fireflies", now in pre-production (Sept 1 start date)
- ◆ **"My American Renaissance"**, a new mixed media piece based on Oscar Wilde's 1882 tour of America, currently in development

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT



"Let's make a film!"

These were the words that James said to me about three months into the pandemic. Having come from the world of professional theatre, the entire life we knew had come to a screeching halt, and there was no end in sight. *"We don't know when theatre will be back, so what does theatre look like now that there is no theatre?"* When there is no more theatre in traditional houses and all the world becomes a stage, what does that look like?

James had written two plays of a trilogy, both of which had the elements we wanted and a story that had yearned to be told. So, we began our first film collaboration. The idea was to bring our small cast in and rehearse for a couple of weeks as you would do for a play. After these rehearsals and then camera rehearsals on set (James's house!) Where we would shoot large chunks of the film in order to have the continuity of a live production—which is how we shot an entire full length feature in five days.

Production began in September in Shelter Harbor, Rhode Island. The actors were housed up the street from the film location in a former artist's enclave. Due to Covid restrictions, and to ensure the utmost safety of everyone involved, we became our own little creative pod.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to our film and we truly hope you enjoy *"The Extinction of Fireflies"*.

Kimberly Chesser
Executive Producer

Rhode Trip Pictures

When All The World's A Stage

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www.whenalltheworldsastage.com

CAST: Michael Urie



MICHAEL URIE
as Jay Mulch

MICHAEL URIE was seen last season in back to back New York theatre productions beginning with the Public Theater's revival of Tony Kushner's **A Bright Room Called Day** and followed by the Broadway premiere of Bess Wohl's **Grand Horizons**. Prior to that, he starred in the Tony Award nominated Broadway revival of Harvey Fierstein **Torch Song**, following his critically acclaimed performance in the off-Broadway production at Second Stage, earning Lucille Lortel Award and Drama League Award nominations. Michael originated the role of Alex More in Jonathan Tolins' **Buyer & Cellar** Off-Broadway, on tour, and in London, for which he received the Drama Desk Award, Clarence Derwent Award, the Lucille Lortel Award, LA Drama Critics Award and nominations for the Drama League and Outer Critics Circle Awards.

More New York theatre credits include **How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying** (Broadway), **The Government Inspector** (Red Bull, Drama League, OCC nominations), **Shows For Days** (LCT), **Homos, Or Everyone In America** (Obie Award), **The Cherry Orchard** (CSC), **Angels in America** (Signature), **The Temperamentals** (Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk and Theatre World awards, Drama League nomination), **The Revenger's Tragedy** (Red Bull), and **Another Vermeer** (HB Playwrights).

Regionally, Urie has worked for The Kennedy Center, Shakespeare Theatre Company (Wash. DC), Two River, The Old Globe, Vineyard Playhouse, South Coast Rep, Seattle Rep, Folger Shakespeare, Barrington Stage, Hyde Park (Austin), and The Blank (L.A.). Film: **He's Way More Famous Than You** (also directed), **Thank You for Judging** (co-director/exec. producer), **Beverly Hills Chihuahua**, **WTC View**, **Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life**, **The Decoy Bride**, **Petunia**, **Such Good People**, **The Hyperglot** (director), and **Grantham & Rose** (exec. producer). TV: Gavin Sinclair on **Modern Family**, **Younger**, **The Good Fight**, **The Good Wife**, **Hot in Cleveland**, **Workaholics**, **Partners** and Marc St. James on **Ugly Betty**. He hosted four seasons of Logo's **Cocktails And Classics**. Web series: "What's Your Emergency" (director). Training: Juilliard.

CAST: Tracie Bennett



TRACIE BENNETT
as Charlotte Christian

TRACIE BENNETT is best known for her many award-winning performances in the West End and on Broadway. She is a double Olivier Award winner and has been nominated on a further four occasions. She also received a Tony Award nomination for her extraordinary portrayal of Judy Garland in *End of the Rainbow*.

Theatre includes: **Mame** (Hope Mill Theatre); **Follies** (National Theatre – Olivier Award Nomination); **Ruthless The Musical** (Arts Theatre); **Mrs Henderson Presents** (Toronto/West End/Theatre Royal Bath – Olivier Award Nomination); **The Hypochondriac** (Theatre Royal Bath); **End of the Rainbow** (West End/Tour/Broadway, numerous awards including Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award and BroadwayWorld Award LA, nominated for a Tony Award and Olivier Award, Theatre World Award, Ivey Award for Best Actress in a Play and Angels' Night - Distinguished Artist Award 2013); **La Cage aux Folles** (WhatsOnStage Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical, West End); **Hairspray** (Olivier Award for Best Performance in a Supporting Role in a Musical and WhatsOnStage Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical, West End); **Les Misérables** (West End); **High Society** (Olivier Award nomination - Open Air Theatre); **Cash On Delivery** (Whitehall Theatre); **She Loves Me** (Olivier Award - Savoy Theatre); **Breezeblock Park** (Forum, Manchester); **Amid The Standing Corn** (UK Tour); **Carousel** (Best Actress at the Manchester Evening News Drama Awards - Royal Exchange, Manchester); **A Midsummer Night's Dream** (UK Tour); **Merchant of Venice** (UK Tour); **Much Ado About Nothing** (UK Tour); **Working Class Hero** (Library Theatre, Manchester) and **Educating Rita** (Sheffield Crucible)

Television includes: **The Bay**; **Casualty**; **Scott & Bailey**; **Burn It**; **New Tricks**; **Candy Cabs**; **Dalziel and Pascoe**; **Vincent**; **The Royal**; **The Court**; **The Long Firm**; **MIT: Murder Investigation Team**; **Heroes and Villains**; **Next of Kin**; **Joking Apart**; **Making Out**; **Brushstrokes**; **Alas Smith and Jones**; **The Brett**; **Putting on the Ritz**; **Boon** and **Coronation Street**.
Film: **Shirley Valentine**; **Deep Red** **Instant Love** and **Knights and Emeralds**.

CAST: Drew Droege



DREW DROEGE
as James

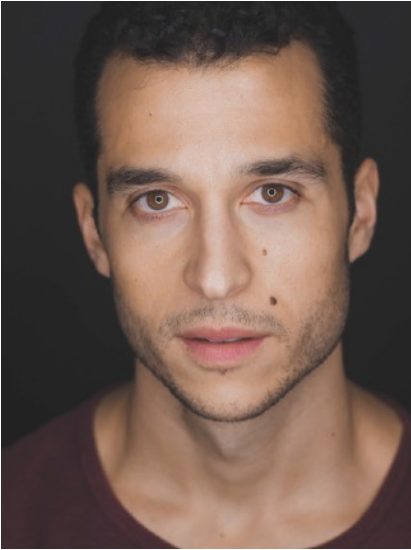
DREW DROEGE is best known for his online parody videos of downtown indie darling Chloë Sevigny, featured in Entertainment Weekly, The Advocate, TimeOut New York, OUT magazine's Out 100, Marc Jacobs' 2016 Spring campaign, and HBO's Wigstock documentary, "Wig".

He played Mr. Dennis, the drama teacher, on Paramount Network's "Heathers" and has recurred on "Search Party", "Bob's Burgers", "Drunk History", "Gloop World", "IdiotSitter", "Key and Peele", "Comedy Bang! Bang!", and Logo's "Cocktails And Classics". Other TV credits include "Bless The Harts", "Q-Force", "Now Apocalypse", "Teachers", "Transparent," "Life In Pieces", "Nobodies", "Bajillion Dollar Properties", "2 Broke Girls," "House Of Lies," "Kroll Show," "New Girl," "Happy Endings," and "How I Met Your Mother". He is also the voice of Pia, one of the villains, on the reboot of the popular video game, "Battletoads". He's appeared in the films "El Tonto", "The Never List", "Ideal Home", "The 4th", "The Circle", "Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse", "You're Killing Me", and "Eating Out: Drama Camp". Web series: "The Disgustings", "Eastsiders", "#Adulting" (Indie Series Award, Best Guest Actor), "Not Looking", "Matt & Dan", "GoGo Boy Interrupted", "Planet Unicorn". He also wrote for Netflix's "AJ And The Queen" and "Big Mouth".

Drew has written and performed five solo shows, including "Happy Birthday Doug" (Off-Broadway, Soho Playhouse 2020, directed by Tom DeTrinis), "Bright Colors And Bold Patterns" (Off-Broadway, Soho Playhouse 2017-18, directed by Michael Urie), "Bad Education", "Drugs!", and "Good Evening America". He received the Outstanding Performance award at Outfest Los Angeles in 2018 for the BroadwayHD capture of "Bright Colors And Bold Patterns" (available to watch on broadwayhd.com).

He is an alum of The Groundlings and Upright Citizens Brigade theaters in Los Angeles, where he performs regularly. Other LA theatre credits include Charles Busch's "Die, Mommie, Die!", Justin Sayre's "Ravenswood Manor", Matt Wilkas & Mark Setlock's "Born To Win", Julie Brown's "The Homecoming Queen's Got A Musical", long-running drag "The Golden Girlz", and musical parodies of "Troop Beverly Hills" and "The Devil Wears Prada". He hosted two podcasts, "Glitter in the Garbage" for EarWolf and "Drew Droege's Minor Revelations", which will be coming back soon.

CAST: Kario Marcel



Kario Marcel completed his MFA from the prestigious NYU Graduate Acting program in 2018. He has since appeared in *DIVORCE* (HBO), *BROAD CITY* (Comedy Central) & *ELEMENTARY* (CBS). Kario completed a recurring arc on *CHICAGO FIRE*. He lives in New York City.

KARIO MARCEL
as Callisto



CAST

Jay Mulch	MICHAEL URIE
Charlotte Christian	TRACIE BENNETT
James	DREW DROEGE
Callisto	KARIO MARCEL

PRODUCTION

written, directed, and edited by	JAMES ANDREW WALSH
executive producers	KIMBERLY CHESSER, J.A. WALSH
director of photography	DAVID ZAPATKA
production designer	KRISTEN VALLOW
landscape artist	WILLIAM J. SOTO MÉNDEZ
production coordinator	MICHAELA BROWN
production manager	ERIC WALLACE
location sound mixer	IRIN STRAUSS
produced by	SHAWN QUIRK
casting	tbd Casting
	STEPHANIE YANKWITT, C.S.A.
	MARY BAYNARD

CREW

post production sound by	TRANSPORTED AUDIO
supervising sound editor	ERIC MARKS
re-recording mixer	ADAM PARRISH KING
sound designer	BRANDON SHUSTER
gaffer / key grip	DAVE TAYLOR
grip	RICARDO VACA
wardrobe designers	KIMBERLY CHESSER, JAMES ANDREW WALSH
wardrobe supervisor	SARAH PRINCE
men's hair designer	JOSHUA MCARTHUR
hair / makeup supervisor	SARAH PRINCE
graphic designer	AMBER CHESSER
additional artwork	ERIC WALLACE
property masters	ERIC WALLACE, MICHAELA BROWN
press representative	JACKIE GREEN (Boneau/Bryan-Brown)
production insured by	GREAT AMERICAN
legal services by	JOHN OTTAVIANI
cast payroll services	PRODUCTION PAYROLL SERVICES
catering	JOYCE'S EVERYDAY GOURMET
equipment rentals	ROR PRODUCTIONS, RULE/BOSTON CAMERA
sag-aftra rep	ANNY EDINCHIKYAN
in memory of	BILLY DEACUTIS
	CHRISTINA LYONS

