

SHORT FILM ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



DIRECTED BY:

MICHELLE BOSSY

WRITTEN BY:

PETER SABRI & SUSAN-KATE HEANEY

PRODUCED BY:

MICHELLE BOSSY
PETER SABRI
SUSAN-KATE HEANEY
RABIA SULTANA
DAVID M. NIGHT MAIRE

STARRING:

ADRIENNE BARBEAU – Pat
MAZ SIAM – Farid
PETER SABRI – Alex

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LOG LINE

On the heels of a breakup with his boyfriend, 30-something year old Alex moves in with his parents who live in a community for 55+ year old adults.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

On the heels of a breakup with his boyfriend, 30-something year old Alex moves in with his parents who live in a community for 55+ year old adults. Forced to confront his own insecurities, and faced with his parents' own relationship dynamics, Alex wonders if he'll ever be able to move forward.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

The story behind "Early Retirement" is inspired by real events.

"Early Retirement" was shot on location in Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California of the course of 2 days.

"Early Retirement" was filmed with an *Arri Classic camera and was then edited with Avid.*

"Early Retirement" is Co-Writer & Producer Peter Sabri's first short film credit in both positions!

Co-Writers & Producers Peter Sabri and Susan-Kate Heaney have been close friends since their sophomore year of college in New York City!

Both Adrienne Barbeau (playing Pat) and Maz Siam (playing Farid) starred in the Academy Award winning feature film 'Argo' (2012)!

"Early Retirement" is the fourth collaboration between Director Michelle Bossy and Cinematographer Seth Fuller, and who have already worked on a fifth project together!

"Early Retirement" is an accredited signatory production under the SAG-AFTRA Short Film Agreement.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Early Retirement is a film about wanting to be seen and accepted by our families, despite our differences. Our hero, a 30-something gay man named Alex has broken up with his boyfriend during the height of Covid-19 and moved in with his parents, retirees living in an adult community. His mother Pat is open and loving, but his Egyptian born father, Farid, struggles to understand Alex's life as a gay man. Trapped indefinitely in their home, Alex wrestles with the loss of his relationship as well as feeling shut down by his dad. Early Retirement asks the question are we destined to become our parents?

Writing partners Susan-Kate Heaney and Peter Sabri penned Early Retirement as a proof of concept for their full-length feature, based on Peter's personal experience being a first generation Egyptian-American LGBTQ+ man. We all are former New Yorkers and share a theater background. I had worked with Peter previously, on a project called There's A Special Place in Hell for Fashion Bloggers. I knew he was an exceptional actor, and we brought on Adrienne Barbeau (Maude) and Maz Siam (The Affair) to round out this distinctive cast. Having an acting background myself, getting excellent performances from actors is always very important to me, but especially in telling this slice of life story.

I was drawn to the script because of my relationship with my own father, a Mexican immigrant who I don't always see eye to eye with. He and I differ in many ways: where I am liberal, he is conservative. He is a laborer, and I am an artist. He is guarded and I am emotional. Working alongside my frequent collaborator cinematographer Seth Fuller (14 Cameras), I wanted to show father and son in opposition and how Pat is caught between them. Alex is a disruption to their quiet retirement community. And Pat and Farid are an obstacle Alex must face to expose his truth and confront his broken relationship with his ex. And it never hurts to have an adorable dog as a co-star.

Ultimately, I believe we have created an important father-son story that shows the complexities of being seen as an adult by your parents. Even though it is specific in its circumstances, it is a universal desire, and the characters are recognizable. This film reflects real life, and therefore is not resolved at the end. After directing it, I feel like I understand my father's point of view and his struggles as an immigrant person to better understand and accept me. I hope that is what our audience will be left with as well.

- Michelle Bossy

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

ADRIENNE BARBEAU

as PAT

Adrienne is best known for her roles in horror films, especially those directed by John Carpenter, with whom she was once married, such as 'Someone's Watching Me!' (1978), 'The Fog' (1980) and 'Escape from New York' (1981). Born in Sacramento, CA, she began her career in 1963 with the San Jose Civic Light Opera. In 1965, she moved to New York where she made her Broadway debut as Tevye's second daughter, Hodel, in 'Fiddler on the Roof.' A Tony nomination and a Theatre World Award for her creation of tough-girl Betty Rizzo in the original Broadway production of 'Grease' led her back to California and the role of Bea Arthur's daughter, Carol, in CBS's hit series 'Maude' (1972), which landed her a Golden Globe nomination.

Adrienne has over 450 screen performances to her credit. Early on in her career, she collaborated with George A. Romero on occasion, such as Stephen King's anthology 'Creepshow' (1982) and 'Two Evil Eyes' (1990). Daytime viewers know her as Suzanne Stanwyck on ABC's 'General Hospital'! During the 1990s, she became best known for providing the voice of Catwoman on FOX's 'Batman: The Animated Series' (1992). She appeared in the Academy Award winning 'Argo' (2012). She starred as Ruthie the Snake Dancer, on HBO's 'Carnivale' (2003), as well as Venus's mom on FX's 'Sons of Anarchy' (2008). Other recent television appearances of hers include CBS's 'Criminal Minds' (2005), ABC's 'Grey's Anatomy' (2005), FX's 'American Horror Stories' (2021), and Netflix's 'Cowboy Be-bop' (2021) starring alongside John Cho. Off camera, she also provides narration for the visually impaired on many films, documentaries, and television series; it's one of her favorite forms of voiceover work.

Website: www.abarbeau.com

IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm0000105/

MAZ SIAM

as FARID

Maz Siam decided to start acting at fifty years old! His television credits include FOX's 'The Mindy Project' (2012) and 'New Girl' (2016), CBS's 'Hawaii Five-O' (2010), 'The Mentalist' (2008), 'Madam Secretary' (2018) and 'NCIS: Los Angeles' (2009), ABC's 'Grey's Anatomy' (2005), 'Scandal' (2012) and 'Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.' (2015), NBC's 'Chuck' (2007), FX's 'American Horror Story' (2010), as well as Showtimes 'The Affair' (2014)! He's also been in movies, including the Academy Award winning film 'Argo' (2012), 'Nude Nuns With Big Guns' (2010), 'Full of Grace' (2015), 'Day of Reckoning' (2016), and many short films, including an AFI thesis short film 'From The Sky' (2014), which has won and been nominated for several awards including a Best Lead in a short as well as the Artios Award for Excellence in casting by the CSA. Nowadays, he gets to keep living the dream!

Website www.mazsiam.com/

IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm2087049/

KEY CREW BIOGRAPHIES:

MICHELLE BOSSY *DIRECTOR & PRODUCER*

Michelle Bossy is a Mexican-American award-winning film, television, and theater director. She has directed a couple of series, four feature films and seventeen shorts! Her films have premiered at the Austin Film Festival, Dances With Films, and the Female Eye Film Festival, among many others. She has also directed music videos for the band Yassou, and the singer/songwriter Brooke Josephson. Her next feature 'Copy Cat' will shoot in 2022, and she is also directing a new project for Disney, which she worked on last summer as well. Michelle was the Associate Artistic Director of the off-Broadway theater company Primary Stages, where she worked for thirteen years. Michelle holds the first undergraduate directing degree from Webster University's Conservatory of Theatre Arts. She teaches acting and playwriting for the Einhorn School of Performing Arts, playwriting and acting for NYU, acting for UCLA, and directing for Syracuse University's Tepper Semester. Michelle was a semifinalist for the HBO Access Program, and a finalist for the AFI Conservatory Directing Workshop for Women.

website: www.michellebossy.com

IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm7163402/

PETER SABRI *ACTOR (as ALEX) & CO-WRITER & PRODUCER*

Peter Sabri started his career in New York in theater, where he graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Among his many credits there, Peter had the incredible fortune of reviving the two hander 'Visiting Mr. Green' starring opposite legendary actor Eli Wallach. Since moving to Los Angeles, Peter's continued to work in theater while branching out more into film and television, performing in such features as 'Live By Night'(2016) and 'Warnings'(2019), as well as on such serialized shows as ABC's 'Grey's Anatomy' and Flyx's 'Grow The F*ck Up.' His writing career began with a one-man piece 'Sounds of Silence,' which premiered at ARULA's inaugural performance post 2016 election featured in the L.A. Times. He most recently co-wrote, produced, and starred in the short 'Early Retirement' which serves as a calling card for a feature film titled 'What We Build.'

IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm4329936/

SUSAN-KATE HEANEY
CO-WRITER & PRODUCER

Susan-Kate Heaney is a writer, actress and producer, currently living in Los Angeles where she focuses on film & television work. She grew up in Port Jefferson Station, NY, where her passion for acting began at a very young age and went on to receive her BA in Acting from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Susan-Kate can be seen on The CW's 'Crazy Ex-Girlfriend' (2015), FOX's 'The Mindy Project' (2012), and Showtime's 'Masters of Sex' (2013). Most recently, the short 'Buster, Baby' that she wrote, directed, and starred in, won the Best Short Short Jury Award at the Cannes Short Film Festival. She has created numerous one-woman shows, including 'Mop-oholic,' based on the true story of her mop collection, and 'Facebook with Mom,' the true and harrowing story of teaching her mom Facebook. These shows were performed at various theatrical venues including Fringe, UCB, the PIT, Second City, iO West, and the VS Theater. Susan-Kate is the co-creator of the webseries 'SK & J,' about writing partners who are complete opposites trying to break into Hollywood, and which just sold to Created by Women. She also co-created the webseries 'Gay Camp,' which was an Award Winner at the NY Fringe Festival, as well as 'The Openers,' which took home the Best Comedy Award from the Broad Humor Film Festival. Susan-Kate hosts a podcast called 'The Quirks' and writes for LadySpike magazine.

website: www.susan-kate.com

IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm2355503/

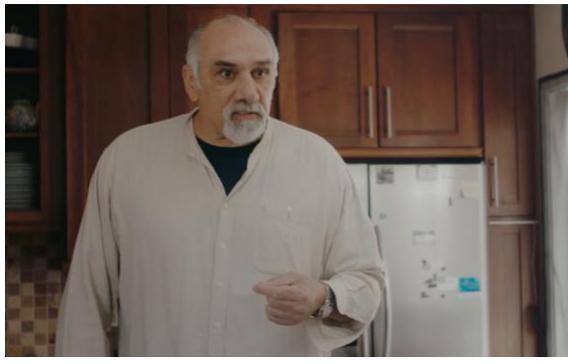
DAVID. M. NIGHT MAIRE
PRODUCER

Cosmopolitan in nature, David is an alumnus of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, earning his B.A. in Film & T.V. with a focus on Directing, and Minors in Producing and Psychology. This native Alpine's passion for directing led him to pursue a Masters in Live Action Short Form at SVA under famed music video and commercial director Bob Giraldi, and later a Masters in Screenwriting for Television and Film from Royal Holloway's University of London. He Co-Founded AireBedd, a banner under which he has garnered thousands of laurels and awards for his short films and music videos, as well as produced content for Louis Vuitton . Moet Hennessy, Red Bull and the Leslie-Lohman Museum, amongst others.

website: www.dmnightmaire.com

IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm4731396/

FRAME GRABS



ACCOLADES

Official Selections

1. QFest St. Louis 2022 (World Premiere)
2. Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival 2023 (North American Premiere)
3. Nomadic International Film Festival 2023 (USA Premiere)

AWARDS

1. Best Actress in a Short Film – Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival 2023

CONTACT INFO

SHORT FILM

“Early Retirement”

webpage: www.michellebossy.com/filmdrama#/early-retirement/

webpage: www.dmnightmaire.com/early-retirement

IMDb: www.imdb.com/title/tt15939888/

insta: @earlyretirementfilm

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