

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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TAG LINE

A coming-of-age journey centered around family and identity.

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.

GENRES & NICHES

Short, Drama, Comedy, Family, LGBTQ+, Female Filmmaker, Based on a Real Story

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

"Early Retirement" is a proof-of-concept for a larger feature film project tentatively titled "What We Build," a multi-generational family story that blends past and present.

"Early Retirement" is TRIPLE F-rated with a woman director, writer, and actor.

"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 in Avid.

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

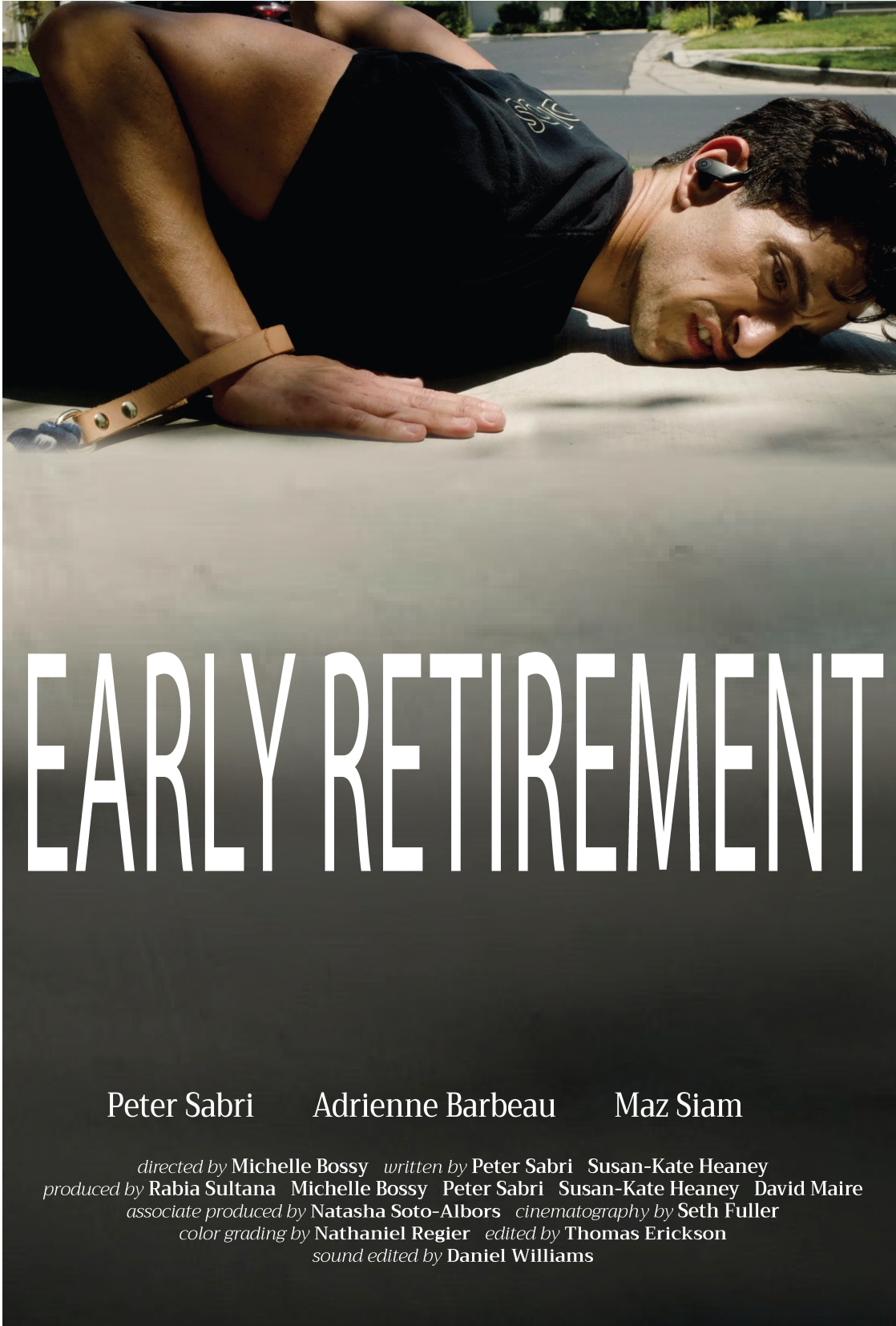
Co-Writers & Producers Peter Sabri and Susan-Kate Heaney have been close friends since their sophomore year of college in New York City!

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.

POSTER



www.dmnightmaire.com
dmnightmaire@gmail.com
 +1 (347) 366-1916

678 Rugby Road
 Brooklyn, N.Y.
 11230

FESTIVAL DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Number of Countries Screened In 12x

Events Screened at Per Country

16x	U.S.A.	1x	Germany
5x	India	1x	Malaysia
1x	Canada	1x	Peru
1x	Czech Republic	1x	Turkey
1x	England	1x	Ukraine
1x	Georgia	1x	*Virtual / Online
1x	Italy		

Number of U.S. States Screened In 8x

Events Screened at Per U.S. State

8x	California	1x	New York
1x	Florida	1x	North Carolina
1x	Georgia	1x	Texas
1x	Missouri	1x	Utah
1x	New Jersey		

Subtitled languages available 6x

English	Italian
French	Portuguese
German	Spanish

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)
4. Denver Monthly Film Awards 2023 (Western US Premiere)
5. Los Angeles Comedy Film & Screenplay Festival 2023 (US Pacific Coast Premiere)
6. Nassau Film Festival 2023 (Eastern US Premiere)
7. International Symbolic Arts Film Festival 2023 (International Premiere)
8. Los Angeles CINEVERSE Film Fest 2023 (California State Premiere)
9. Kobani International Film Festival 2023 (European Premiere)
10. Portobello Film Festival 2023 (United Kingdom Premiere)
11. Burbank International Film Festival 2023 (Southern California State Premiere)
12. Sugar Loaf Film Festival 2023 (Northeastern US Premiere)
13. San Antonio QFest-LGBT International Film Festival 2023 (Southern US Premiere)
14. David Film Festival 2023 (Middle Eastern Premiere)
15. Aasha International Film Festival 2023 (Asian Premiere)
16. Thilsri International Film Festival 2024 (South Asian Premiere)
17. Athvikvaruni International Film Festival 2024 (Indian Premiere)
18. A Royal Chance Film Festival 2024 (Los Angeles County Premiere)
19. Women's Comedy Film Festival in Atlanta 2024 (Southeastern US Premiere)
20. Kalaburagi International Film Festival 2024 (Karnataka State Premiere)
21. Rivne International Film Festival Dream City 2024 (Ukrainian Premiere)
22. OutfestPerú Film Festival LGBT+ 2024 (South American Premiere)
23. WideScreen Film & Music Video Festival 2024 (Canadian Premiere)
24. Pride Vision 2024 (Czech Republic Premiere)
25. Festival Internacional de Cine de la No-Violencia Activa – FICNOVA 2024
26. Newport Beach Film Festival 2024 (Los Angeles City Premiere)
27. Valle D'Itria Film Festival - Festival per la Pace (Italian Premiere)
28. Short Frame 2025 (Online Premiere) – watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiyIRord8bI
29. PNN Academy Comedy Track Film Festival (Florida State Premiere)
30. Ahmedabad International Film Festival 2025 (Gujarat State Premiere)
31. Festival Angaelica 2025 (Pasadena City Premiere)
32. Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival 2025 (North Carolina State Premiere)
33. Kuala Lumpur International Film Academy Awards 2025 (Malaysian Premiere)

NOMINATIONS

1. Outstanding Supporting Actor (Peter Sabri) – Nomadic International Film Festival 2023
2. Outstanding Supporting Actress (Adrienne Barbeau) – Nomadic International Film Festival 2023
3. Outstanding Lighting – Nomadic International Film Festival 2023
4. Best Short Film – Denver Monthly Film Awards 2023
5. Best Fiction – Honorable Mention – Nassau Film Festival 2023
6. Best US Writer – Los Angeles CINEVERSE Film Fest 2023
7. Best Short Film – Los Angeles CINEVERSE Film Fest 2023
8. Best Director – Los Angeles CINEVERSE Film Fest 2023
9. Best Short Film – Sugar Loaf Film Festival 2023
10. Best Short Film – A Royal Chance Film Festival 2024
11. Best Short Film – Semi-Finalist – Kalaburagi International Film Festival 2024
12. Best Short Film – Honorable Mention – WideScreen Film & Music Video Festival 2024
13. Best Comedy Short – PNN Academy Comedy Track Film Festival 2025
14. Finalist – Highlands-Cashiers Film Festival 2025

AWARDS

1. Best Actress in a Short Film (Adrienne Barbeau) – Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival 2023
2. Best Short Film – Los Angeles Comedy Film & Screenplay Festival 2023
3. Best Performance Actor (Adrienne Barbeau) – Los Angeles CINEVERSE Film Fest 2023
4. Best Short Film – Aasha International Film Festival 2023
5. Best International Short Film – Thilsri International Film Festival 2024
6. Best LGBT Short Film – Athvikvaruni International Film Festival 2024
7. Best Short Film – Pride Vision 2024

REVIEWS & INTERVIEWS

“**Powerful film** that you’ll want to **keep on your radar**. Great film.”

- Kyler Bingham, *Salt Lake Dirt Podcast – Episode 113*
<https://saltlakedirt.com/tv-%26-film/f/michelle-bossy---early-retirement---antisemite-short-films>

“The opening scene was great. **The acting is solid**, and the relationships are believable. The scene with the father and son had some **thought-provoking** points.”

- Judging & Programming Committee, *Dances With Films 2024*

“**A very well-done piece**... [that] has a super **grounded and relatable** feel that really works because of the acting. ... The parents are the highlight of the piece... but the dynamic between... **the characters in general, is very natural**. ... [The filmmakers] have a keen eye, a self-awareness, ... **a good sense of humanity**, a three-dimensional understanding of the kind of characters that would be here. It has **a surprising level of emotional range** combined with the humor. There’s **a good sense of comedic timing** and a good natural cadence between the characters that makes all **the dynamics of the scenes feel very natural**. An effective approach to a primer for a bigger idea. **It’s well acted all the way around, which gives it an emotional core**. It does **a great job** of tackling concepts such as family, relations, sexuality, and identity. It all feels very realistic... [with] a lot of very loaded perspectives. ... It’s **very complex and dynamic**. ... This is about relationships, intimacy, family. **This is about love**. This is about family dynamics. How at times we find ourselves in disagreements with family, and yet we find ourselves following in their footsteps, treating others in the way that we find ourselves at odds with them. **This is generational trauma at its roots** ... with some **really fun dialogue from fun characters**.”

- Judges & Jurors, *Diversity Film Festival 2023*
<https://www.wildsound.ca/videos/early-retirement-review>

Michelle Bossy - EARLY RETIREMENT - ANTISEMITE (short films)

- Host Kyler Bingham, *Salt Lake Dirt Podcast – Episode 113*
<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/saltlakedirt/episodes/Michelle-Bossy---EARLY-RETIREMENT--ANTISEMITE---Episode-113-e239lm7/a-a9ont58>

Interview with EARLY RETIREMENT filmmaking team

- Host Matthew Toffolo, *WildSound Comedy Festival 2023*
<https://matthewtoffolo.com/2023/04/18/interview-with-early-retirement-filmmaking-team/>

FRAME GRABS



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**

WRITERS' STATEMENTS

From as early as I can remember, I grew up with the story of how my parents met. It would always be accompanied with someone saying, "it sounds like a movie" which struck me because our lives felt so ordinary. One of three children, we were raised by hard working parents, in a middle-income household in suburban New Jersey. There was a lot of love, but it certainly wasn't the fairytale their courtship seemed to be. I wanted to tell their history while framing it with a contemporary story of the family they built together. With over twenty years of friendship, and a rich history of collaboration Sue-Kate was the perfect partner in this. She knew the voices of these characters as well as I did, and we shared a shorthand that often left us finishing each other's sentences.

- **Peter Sabri**

I've known Pete since sophomore year of college. He is a dear friend and collaborator, and I love each and every member of his family... which is why I was so thrilled to bring this story, inspired by them all, to life. We do not have enough films with LGBTQIA protagonists, full stop. I am thrilled to be telling this story about different cultures, identities, sexualities, wounds, and experiences, and ultimately, how love can transcend it all.

- **Susan-Kate Heaney**

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/

CONTACT INFO

SHORT FILM

“Early Retirement”

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

webpage: www.dmnightmaire.com/early-retirement

Short Frame screener: www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiyIRord8bI

IMDb: www.imdb.com/title/tt15939888

insta: @earlyretirementfilm

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Michelle Bossy & Bossy Productions

website: www.michellebossy.com

email: Michelle.Bossy@gmail.com

phone: (917) 721-2275

IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm7163402

insta: @mbossydirects

Theater Rep.- Leah Hamos: lhamos@gershny.com

Film and TV Rep.- Vern Co: VCo@gersh.com

The Gersh Agency phone: (212) 634-8153

Manager- Ethan Harari: eharari@luberroklin.com

Luber Roklin Entertainment phone: (310) 289-1088

ACTOR & CO-WRITER & PRODUCER

Peter Sabri

email: petersabri@gmail.com

phone: +1 (646) 246-8868

IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm4329936

insta: @petesabri

CO-WRITER & PRODUCER

Susan-Kate Heaney

email: susankate.heaney@gmail.com

phone: +1 (646) 228-8531

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

insta: @susan_kate

PRODUCER

David M. Night Maire

website: www.dmnightmaire.com

email: dmnightmaire@gmail.com

phone: +1 (347) 366-1916

IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm4731396

insta: @dmnightmaire