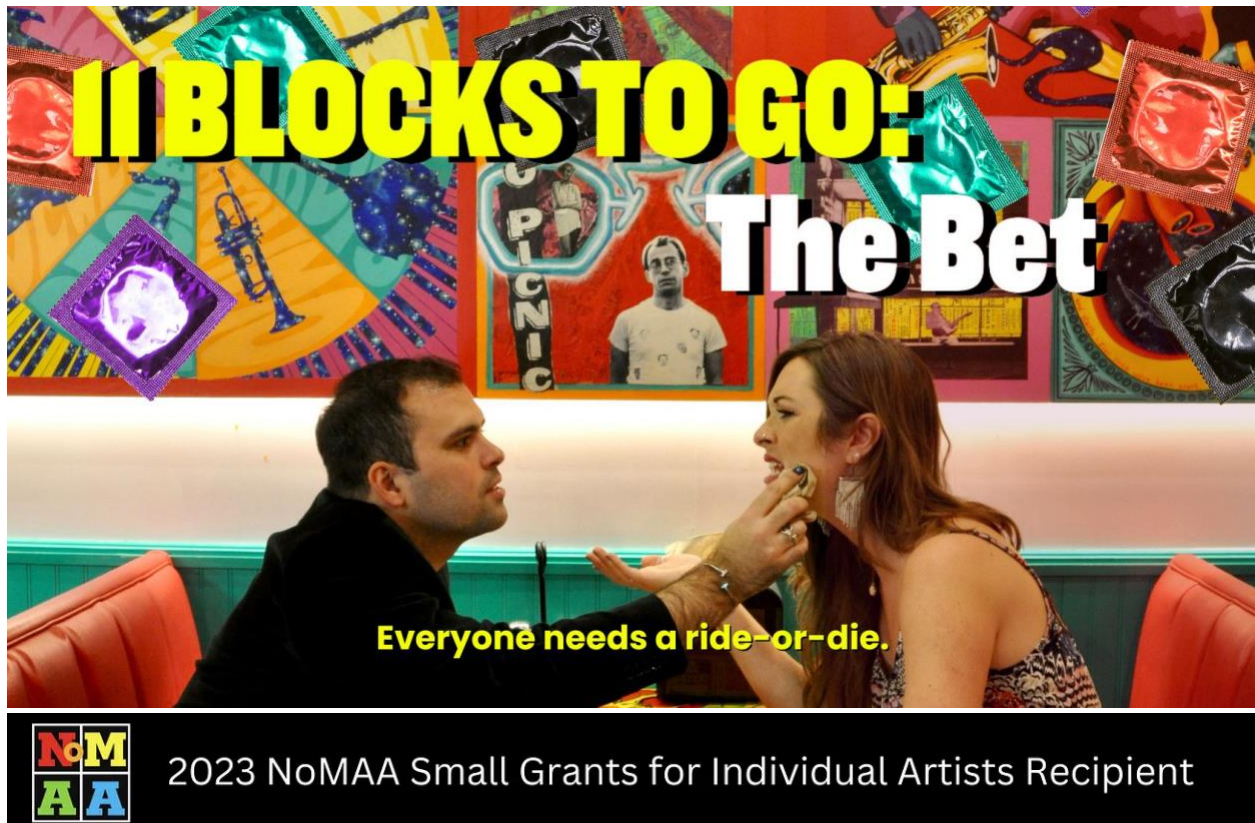


ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



DIRECTED BY:
NATHANIEL P. CLARIDAD

WRITTEN BY:
ASHLEY ALEXANDER & JACK UTRATA

PRODUCED BY:
ASHLEY ALEXANDER
JACK UTRATA
DAVID M. NIGHT MAIRE
NICOLE GUT

STARRING:
ASHLEY ALEXANDER – Samantha
JACK UTRATA – Drew
CODY LEROY WILSON – Gray

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TAG LINE

Everyone needs a ride-or-die.

LOGLINE

Samantha, a free-spirited hopeless romantic, discovers her 30-something-year-old BFF Drew, a gay high-functioning drug-addled sex addict, is hosting an orgy in lieu of honoring his personal commitments.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Old flames Gray and Samantha track down their no-show mutual bestie, Drew, to his apartment, only to find him hosting an orgy in lieu of honoring his personal commitments. Tensions rise when Drew and Samantha confront each other's concerning choices, leading them to make a transformative bet.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Drew, a gay high-functioning drug-addled sex addict, hosts an orgy in lieu of honoring his personal commitments with best friends Samantha, a free-spirited wild child, and Gray, her old flame. Samantha has Gray help her track down Drew after his no-show and confronts his lack of consideration. While confronting Drew about his use of drugs and sex to avoid getting over a year-old breakup, Drew calls Samantha on her own avoidance, i.e., her hidden feelings for Gray. The evening comes to a head when Samantha and Drew, having never turned down a bet, agree to a mutual challenge of self-betterment. Samantha will focus on what she wants in life, and Drew will focus on only what he needs, making amends with his ex-boyfriend Henri.

RUNTIME

11 minutes 8 seconds

GENRES & NICHES

Short, Drama, Dark Comedy, LGBTQ+, First Time Filmmaker, Pilot

PITCH LINE

Broad City meets Looking.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

“11 Blocks to Go: The Bet” is a proof-of-concept pilot for a television series project titled “11 Blocks to Go.”

“11 Blocks To Go: The Bet” was a NoMAA Small Grants for Individual Artists Recipient, which provided the backing to produce the pilot/ film.

Co-creator Jack Utrata and director Nathaniel P. Claridad are husbands.

Director Nathaniel P. Claridad was named the Drama League’s 2024 Directing Fellow with New York City Center.

“11 Blocks to Go: The Bet” was shot on location in Jack Utrata and director Nathaniel P. Claridad’s Washington Heights apartment in New York City.

Filmed on a Blackmagic 6k camera over the course of two days and edited in Adobe Premier Pro.

“11 Blocks to Go: The Bet” was originally written as the third episode opening for the first season of “11 Blocks to Go” television series.

Co-creators Ashley Alexander and Jack Utrata met at a bar in Hell’s Kitchen in NYC, became fast friends, and signed up for improv together which led to their writing partnership.

“11 Blocks to Go: The Bet” is director Nathaniel P. Claridad’s directorial film debut.

“11 Blocks to Go: The Bet” is director Nathaniel P. Claridad and co-creators Ashley Alexander and Jack Utrata’s first film collaboration.

Director Nathaniel P. Claridad and co-creator Jack Utrata previously collaborated on the award-winning 2020 film “Shakespeare in Quarantine” film.

In 2021, co-creator Jack Utrata directed director Nathaniel P. Claridad in “Sonnet #154” for The New York Shakespeare Exchange sonnet project.

“11 Blocks to Go: The Bet” director Nathaniel P. Claridad and co-creator Jack Utrata first met and collaborated in 2013 at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They married in 2022.

WRITERS' STATEMENTS

11 Blocks was born out of the love Ashley and I have for one another. We met in December 2018 and shortly after took improv together at The PIT in NYC, and our friendship escalated FAST. We latched onto one another, laugh after laugh and knew that after class was through, our story was only just beginning. I had been told my whole life that I should write, but I never knew what form that would take or how to start. I knew it would be far less intimidating if I had a partner with whom to take on the creative world. And so we started writing using prompts, and after two rounds of that, we found something that slightly resembled alternate versions of ourselves, these loveable fools who took slightly more outlandish risks than us but possessed all of our heart, and the process quickly consumed us. The greater vision for this story is to honor platonic love between best friends in a television series that explores the extreme boundaries of what a friendship can and should be. We hope to find an audience who see themselves reflected back in this queer, feminist family of characters and who experience the joy that we have in creating them.

-Jack Utrata

My ever quickly growing close friendship with Jack is what laid the foundation of our short. At the beginning of our friendship, we found an instant connection and unmatched chemistry that catapulted us into a deep desire to play and create together. 11 Blocks is essentially derived from an excuse for Jack and I to hang out and laugh more, however, it quickly became our passion project as we poured our hearts into these characters and discovered their platonic love story. Our writing sessions led us to deeper personal shares of our own real-life struggles and relatable challenges with “self,” and ultimately moved us to incorporate personal stories, quirks, and heartache to thicken our comedic characters’ lives and their backstories. As Jack and I experimented with weaving nuanced detail and these different dramatic plot lines into their lives, we knew our vision became the same when seeing how our characters loved each other in the face of messy truths and difficult choices. Their love and regard for one another highlights what I have found to be true: to have the partner in crime, the ride or die, the bestie-for-the-restie to see you through big decisions and everyday life is one of the best loves one can find. What started out as a lighthearted sketch comedy, morphed into a feature film, then a 3 season series, and finally our proof of concept short that we hope reaches audiences that crave a bestie love story and freedom for self-discovery.

-Ashley Alexander

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

ASHLEY ALEXANDER
as SAMANTHA and CO-WRITER, CO-CREATOR

Ashley Alexander is a bi-coastal actor, writer, and lighting designer, splitting her time between Honolulu and the Pacific Northwest. She grew up in Bothell, WA, and Sonoma, California where she followed her dreams of acting and writing for theater. Ashley graduated from UC Irvine with a B.A. in Dramatic Arts and a focus in lighting design, then later studied at American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. She is trained in Improv at The Pit in NYC.

IMDb: <https://m.imdb.com/name/nm16194179/>

JACK UTRATA
as DREW, CO-WRITER, CO-CREATOR, EDITOR

Jack Utrata is a Manhattan-based actor, writer, and filmmaker. He received his B.A. in Dramatic Art and Communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was raised in Charlotte, NC. He has improv training from The Pit in NYC and has acted in both plays and musicals off-broadway and off-off-Broadway. He originated the role of Chase in the premiere national tour of “Paw Patrol Live: Race to The Rescue.” Internationally, he joined Taylor Mac for "24 Hour Decade History of Popular Music" (Australia) and Paw Patrol Live (Canada); Film: Law of Attraction, My Father (Short) The Self-Tape (Short); TV: Extra Room: Awards:

website: <http://www.jackutrata.com/>

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm5068178/>

CODY LEROY WILSON
as GRAY

Cody Wilson is a Vietnamese actor, playwright and West Virginia native. He has a BFA Performance degree from West Virginia University. Off-Broadway credits: Handbagged E59E59 Theater. Other NYC credits include Prisoners of Quai Dong with Prism Stage, Midsummer and Titus Andronicus with NYSX. Regional: Curious Incident of the Dog at Night, Handbagged, Book of Will at Roundhouse Theater, As You Like It, and Measure for Measure at Hudson Valley Shakespeare. TV/Film: Hello Tomorrow, Russian Doll, Impractical Jokers, Money Monsters. Two-time playwright and performer of Pan Asian NuWorks 2023&2024: debut performances of Did My Grandfather Kill My Grandfather’s? and Halfanese: Two Halves of a Whole Idiot IG: @cody_leroy_wilson

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm16194180/>

KEY CREW BIOGRAPHIES

NATHANIEL P. CLARIDAD DIRECTOR

Nathaniel P. Claridad is a director and actor based in New York City. Other film credits as a director include "Shakespeare in Quarantine," in collaboration with Jack Utrata, which won Best Film at the 2020 Katonah Classic Stage Film Festival. Nathaniel primarily directs for the stage, and his NYC and regional credits include work at Weathervane Theatre (where his production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was nominated for Best Play at the New Hampshire Theatre Awards), Imagination Stage, Southern Rep., TheatreWorksUSA, Two River Theatre, PlayMakers Repertory Company, and Out of the Box Theatrics. In addition he has also been named a Drama League Resident both in 2016 and 2019 and the 2024 Directing Fellow with New York City Center. He has also worked at New York University, Marymount Manhattan, and the University of Maryland, College Park as a guest director. He is also co-founder of Broadway Twisted, an annual event in North Carolina benefitting the North Carolina AIDS Action Network and BC/EFA. As an actor, Nathaniel's numerous credits include the original company of "Here Lies Love" at the Public Theater, and "Taylor Mac's 24-Decade History of Popular Music" at St. Ann's Warehouse (he also appears in the HBO documentary). Other acting credits include work at The Kennedy Center, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Folger Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Portland Stage Company, Cape Fear Regional Theatre, Imagination Stage, Hangar Theatre, Barrington Stage Company, Hippodrome Theatre, and Florida Studio Theatre. International credits include work at the Brisbane Festival and the Sydney Opera House with Dead Puppet Society's "Laser Beak Man", and at the Melbourne Festival with Taylor Mac. TV: New Amsterdam, Harlem.

website: <https://npclaridad.weebly.com/>

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3987755/>

CATALIN STELIAN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Born in Bucharest and based in New York City, Catalin Stelian is a media director, photographer, cinematographer, and video editor with a long history of award-winning work with both professional and personal clients. Specializing in product photography, portraits, music videos, and live events, some of his clients include Dallas BBQ, The Drama League of New York, Long Island University, Pace University, Proximo Spirits, Tony's Di Napoli, among others.

As an editor, his film and television series include COVERED, THE DAMNABLE DEPRIVATION OF DMITRI, HEY BABE, EXTRA ROOM, and SEASONS TO TASTE, among others. He was recently nominated for Best Editing at the 2020 Madrid International Film Festival.

website: <https://catalinmedia.com/>

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3172726/>

NICOLE GUT
PRODUCER

Nicole, owner and operator of Merciful Delusions Productions, originally from Switzerland, began her artistic journey as a keyboard artist, a career she pursued for nearly a decade. However, her passion for acting and film eventually led her to pivot towards a new creative path. She has produced numerous theatrical productions, including the return off-broadway engagement "Merciful Delusions: An Evening of One Act Plays by Tennessee Williams" and Arts & Eats Variety show in New York's Theatre District. In the 2023-2024 season, Nicole was an investor in the Broadway revivals of Cabaret, The Whos Tommy, as well as the off-off-Broadway production of Saw: The Musical. Upcoming Broadway investments include SMASH: The Musical, Purple Rain: The Prince Musical, and Buena Vista Social Club.

Her short film "LULLABY" has made waves on the festival circuit, earning two award nominations at "The Network Film Festival" in New York City, including Best Actress for Nicole herself and Best Cinematography for Jack Utrata. The film also won the Best Short Suspense Film award at "The Culver City Film Festival" in Los Angeles.

website: <https://www.mercifuldelusions.com/>

IMDb: <https://pro.imdb.com/company/co0742468/>

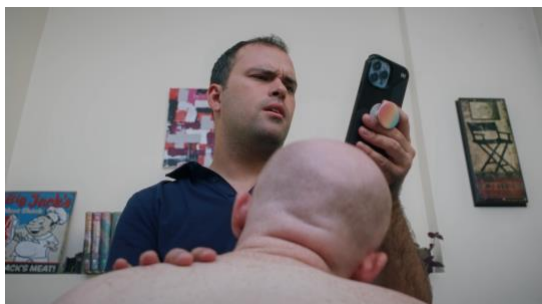
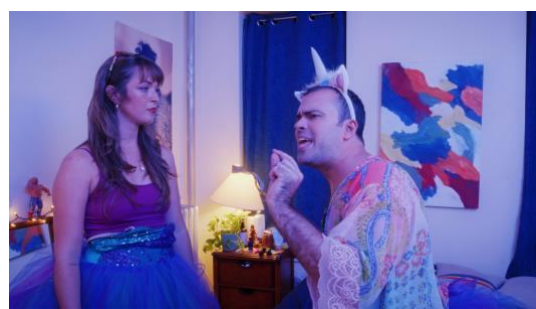
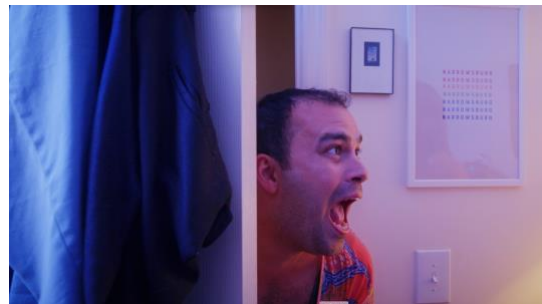
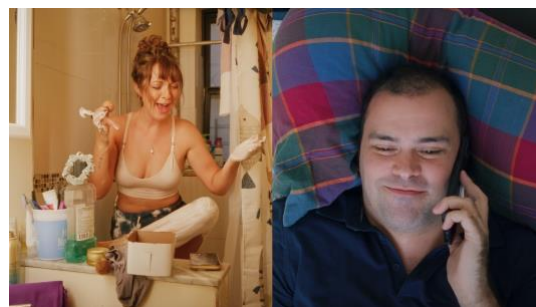
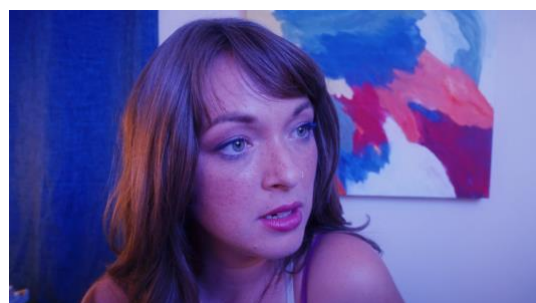
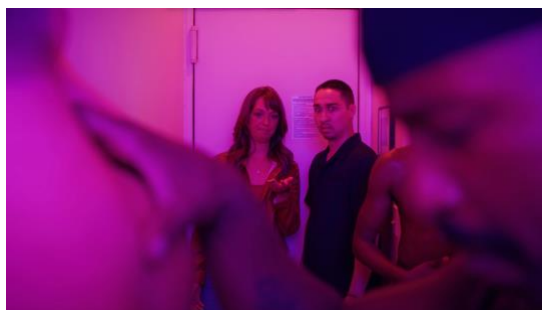
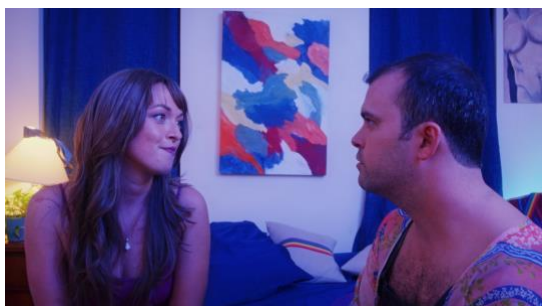
DAVID. M. NIGHT MAIRE
PRODUCER

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.

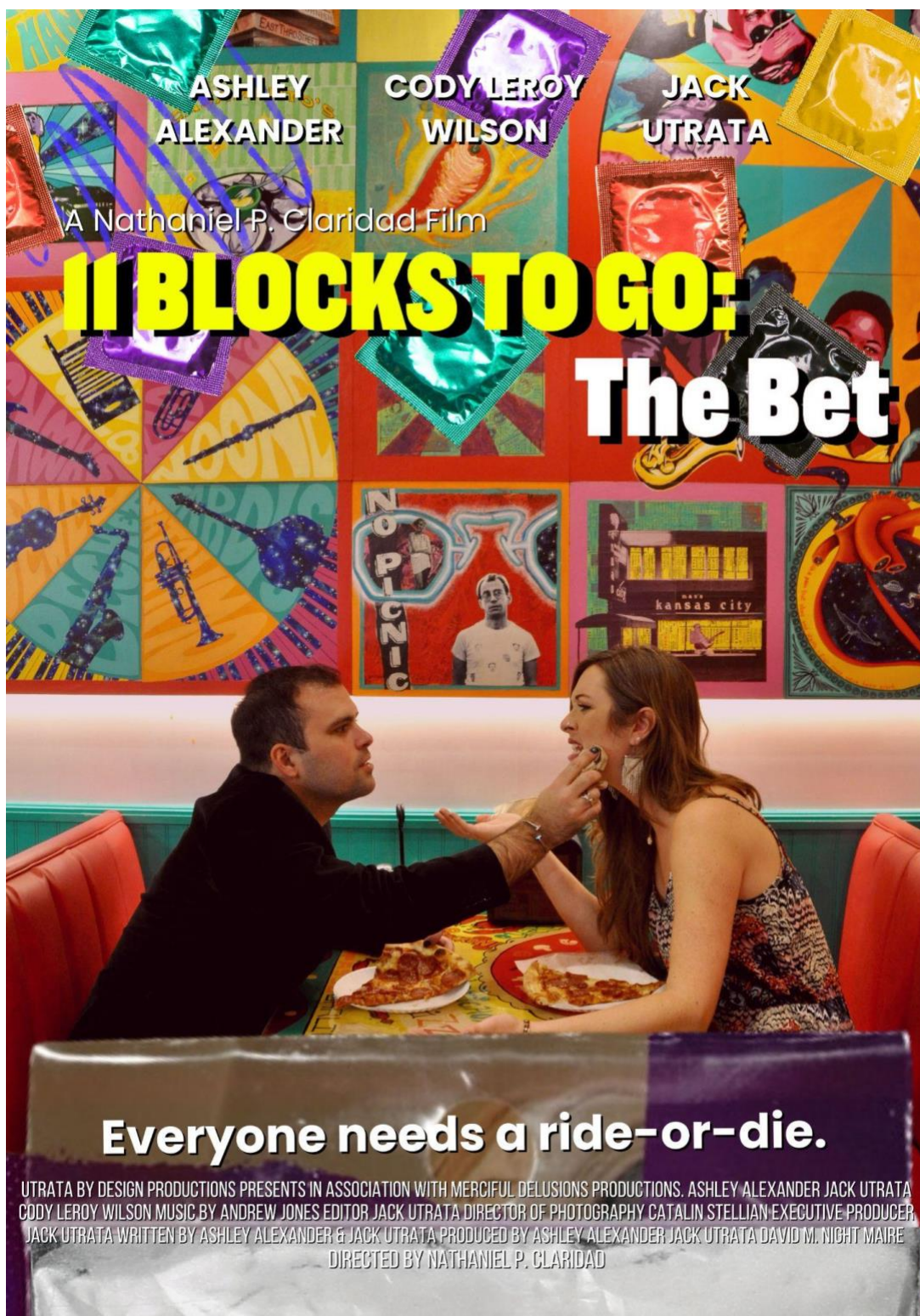
website: www.dmnightmaire.com

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

FRAME GRABS



POSTER



FILM ACCOLADES

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

1. Pride Vision Film Festival 2024
2. Fabulous Independent Film Festival 2024
3. Lavender Riot: An Unapologetic Queer Film Festival 2024
4. Hollywood Just4Shorts Film & Screenplay Competition 2024
5. FEEDBACK Toronto Comedy Film & Screenplay Festival 2024
6. Southeast Asia International Film Festival 2024
7. Night of Shorts 2024
8. The Argyle Film Festival 2025
9. First-Time Filmmaker Sessions 2025
10. Indogma Film Festival 2025
11. Athvikvaruni International Film Festival 2025
12. Thilsri International Film Festival 2025
13. Lit Laughs International Comedy Film Festival 2025
14. Festival Angaelica 2025

NOMINATIONS

1. Semi-Finalist - Jury Award - Best Television Episode/Series - Southeast Asia International Film Festival 2024
2. Best Comedy Pilot/ Webseries – Lit Laughs International Comedy Film Festival 2025

AWARDS

1. Best TV Episode - Hollywood Just4Shorts Film & Screenplay Competition 2024
2. Best Short Film - FEEDBACK Toronto Comedy Film & Screenplay Festival 2024
3. Best Short Film - Pride Vision Film Festival 2024
4. Best LGBTQ+ Film – Night of Shorts 2024
5. Judge & Audience Argyle Award Grand Prize – The Argyle Film Festival 2025
6. Audience Choice Winner – First-Time Filmmaker Sessions 2025
7. Best LGBT Short Film – Athvikvaruni International Film Festival 2025

FESTIVAL DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Number of Countries Screened In	7x
Events Screened at Per Country	5x U.S.A. 3x India 1x Czech Republic 1x Canada 1x England 1x Italy 1x Thailand 1x Virtual / Online*
Number of U.S. States Screened In	4x
Events Screened at Per U.S. State	2x California 1x Florida 1x North Carolina 1x Tennessee
Subtitled languages available	6x English French German Italian Portuguese Spanish

FILM REVIEWS & INTERVIEWS

"A lot of fun. ... A really funny start and the laughs keep on going. ... Gratuitously gay. ... Great characters, great writing. ... Absolutely delightful. ... You feel like you're one of the gang hanging out with them. ... It's sharp. It's witty. It's playful. A really, thoroughly, enjoyable short film. ... Takes you by surprise. ... The ending was really heartbreaking. ... It's a very awkward situation but it makes you laugh. ... It's a very fun movie that makes you feel better about life. ... Very sexually charged. ... Very bright, colorful characters. ... Similar tone, similar mess, similar comedy to 'Broad City'. "

- *Audience Feedback & Comments, WILDsound Feedback Film Festival*

"Good chemistry between the friends. Great moment with the bet, the handshake and the reveal."

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

"This [was] too much for our audience."

- *Judging & Programming Committee, BBR Indie Films 2024*

"Y'all's filmmaking is really superb. It is so intimate and hilarious, and it drives you right in —you want to be in the room with everyone on that screen. "

- *Ginger Grace, Actress, 2025*

"'11 Blocks' was cute! Voted for it. I like the other actors in it as well. Kicking off the short with a conversation while getting blown. Hysterical. And Ashley's fantastic!"

- *Daniel Tobias, Playwright, 2025*

" This was a delightful watch! Do you have plans to make it a series? I want to know what's going to happen with Henri and Drew!"

- *Kevin R. Free, Playwright & Director, 2025*

" This was a delightful watch! Do you have plans to make it a series? I want to know what's going to happen with Henri and Drew!"

- *Kevin R. Free, Playwright & Director, 2025*

SCREENPLAY ACCOLADES

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

1. Austin Comedy Film Festival 2021
2. Big Apple Film Festival and Screenplay Competition 2021
3. Los Angeles Film Awards 2021
4. Hollywood Just4Shorts Film and Screenplay Competition 2021
5. Montreal Independent Film Festival 2021
6. International TV Pilot Awards 2022
7. Georgia Comedy Film Festival 2022
8. Houston Comedy Film Festival 2022
9. Texas Short Film Festival 2022
10. Reno Comedy Film Festival 2022
11. Hollywood International Diversity Film Festival 2022
12. LGBTQ Unbordered International Film Festival 2022
13. Georgia Shorts Film Festival 2022
14. Austin After Dark Film Festival 2022
15. Portland Comedy Film Festival 2022
16. Los Angeles International Screenplay Awards 2022
17. International New York Film Festival 2022

NOMINATIONS

1. Best TV/Web Series Pilot Script (Comedy) - Semi-Finalist - Big Apple Film Festival and Screenplay Competition 2021
2. Best TV/Web Series Script - Semi-Finalist - Hollywood Just4Shorts Film and Screenplay Competition 2021
3. Best Unproduced Feature Script - Montreal Independent Film Festival 2021
4. Best One Hour Comedy Pilot - Finalist- International TV Pilot Awards 2022
5. Best Teleplay - Finalist - Texas Short Film Festival 2022
6. Best TV Script - Semi-Finalist - Hollywood International Diversity Film Festival 2022
7. Best Dark Comedy Series Episode - Finalist - Austin After Dark Film Festival 2022
8. Best Teleplay: Romantic Comedy Series Episode - Nomination - Portland Comedy Film Festival 2022

AWARDS

1. Teleplay: Best Romantic Comedy Series Episode - Austin Comedy Film Festival 2021
2. Best Television Script - Los Angeles Film Awards 2021
3. Best Teleplay: Romantic Comedy Series Episode - Houston Comedy Film Festival 2022
4. Best Screenplay - LGBTQ Unbordered International Film Festival 2022
5. Best Screenplay: Feature Length Comedy (41-150 pages) - Georgia Shorts Film Festival 2022

SCREENPLAY REVIEWS

“The dialogue in this script was especially strong throughout. This story has the heart and the characters to be seen and heard by a mass audience and the ending shows us clearly where the story is going and this will be a show that teens/adults 13-30 could easily enjoy.”

- *Television Feedback Screenplay & Web Series Festival (2021)* (Pilot Script)

“11 Blocks to Go is an engaging pilot episode. It seems to take cues from other comedic/drama series about dating like *Sex And The City* and *Girls*, while also adding new elements and dynamics that make it feel fresh and new. The strongest aspect of the episode is the "pact" that Drew and Samantha make in the episode. Samantha is quite strong as a character. She is clear and her motivations are set up well.”

- *LGBTQ+ Toronto Film Festival (2021)* (Pilot Script)

“From the very first scene, the writers vividly paint the characters. The next scene then launches us into their lives— we immediately know the kind of show we’re watching. As the story unfolds it gets funnier and funnier. There’s a brilliant dynamic between the duo and you want to get more and more of Samantha and Drew.”

- *International TV Pilot Awards (2022)* (Pilot Script)

“The dialogue is one of the best parts of the script, without question. It is hilarious and often laugh out loud funny, as well character-defining, and unique to every person. There is no use of melodrama or over expositional speech, and everyone talks in their own defined voice that is charming and warms you to their character.”

- *Golden Script Competition (2022)* (Pilot Script)

“This is a fun script! Lots of juicy relationship minefields and complications while these friends navigate a night at Halloween and the aftermath, a year later. This world is entertaining to be emerged in, you may have the next great Search Party. Keep going!

- *Slamdance Submissions Team (2022)* (Pilot Script)

“The structure of this pilot is playful and exciting. It has a unique tone that is consistently humorous and leads the structure choices to pay off well. The pace of the story is good - the content is well developed and spreads throughout the story to be consistent and build upon itself. No dull moments exist within the plotline, there is always something to do or watch for that helps tell the story later. The dialogue has a unique tone to it and a very comedic style. Overall this is a great piece and shows strong writing ability - the comedic aspects are consistent and show a particular style to the writer's voice and the structure in which the story is told shows that the writer knows how to tell a story in a way that is most exciting for their audience. ... Great marketability - could see these being loved by teens and young adults particularly streaming or on tv. The comedic choice in dialogue has similar lingo to *Broad City* or *Shrill* in the way characters communicate with each other - it’s not universally relatable but a niche target drawn to “millennial/Gen-Z” culture.”

- *Georgia Shorts Film Festival, Jennifer G (2022)* (Pilot Script)

“The fast-paced, clever repartee between the characters is definitely the highlight of the material, the writer certainly has the witty dialogue down pat. There is a healthy dose of laughs courtesy of shared dialogue and amusing scenarios”

- *Scriptapalooza (2022)* (Pilot Script)

CONTACT INFO

SHORT FILM

“11 Blocks To Go: The Bet”

webpage: <https://www.11blockstogo.com/>

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt32491081/>

DIRECTOR

Nathaniel P. Claridad

website: <https://npclaridad.weebly.com/>

email: nathanielpclaridad@gmail.com

phone: +1 (301) 233-8671

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3987755/>

insta: @npclaridad

ACTOR & CO-CREATOR

Jack Utrata & Utrata By Design Productions

webpage: www.jackutrata.com, www.utratabydesign.com

email: jack.utrata@gmail.com, utratabydesign@gmail.com

phone: +1 (704) 236-6852

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm5068178/>

insta: @jackutrata

ACTOR & CO-CREATOR

Ashley Alexander

email: casias.a@gmail.com

phone: +1 (707) 721-2633

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm16194179/>

insta: @trailyourbliss

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

PRODUCER

Nicole M. Gut & Merciful Delusions Productions

website: <https://www.mercifuldelusions.com/>

email: nicolemgut@gmail.com

IMDb: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10626665/>

insta: @mercifuldelusions